

125th Anniversary



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Filippo De Grazia, Communication Coordinator
media@myfranciscan.com

Carmen E. Rodríguez, Development Director
carmen@myfranciscan.com
Tel: (202) 526-6800

The Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America Celebrates its 125th Anniversary

WASHINGTON, DC – This year marks **125 years since the establishment of the Franciscan Monastery**, as the Inaugural Mass was celebrated on September 17, 1899, on the Feast of the Stigmata of St. Francis. To commemorate this historic occurrence, a **week of special events** that will deepen the spiritual and institutional connection between the Franciscan Monastery and Jerusalem have been planned. As guardians of the **Holy Land**, the Custody of the Holy Land is the Catholic Religious institution that for 800 years has protected and preserved the Holy Sites where Our Lord Jesus Christ lived and worked.

The media is encouraged to join throughout the week for this momentous occasion, especially for the following events:

- **Conference and Q&A Session with the Custos of the Holy Land**, Guardian of the Holy Shrines of Christianity, **Fr. Francesco Patton, OFM**, September 19, at 6 pm.
- **Thanksgiving Mass presided over by H.E. Wilton Cardinal Gregory**, on Sunday, September 22, at 11 am.

FULL EVENT SCHEDULE | THE FRANCISCAN MONASTERY | 9/15 - 9/22:

9/15/2024 | 4pm | Music at the Monastery: A musical event in the Main Church on Sunday, September 15 at 4 pm, will kick off the week of events and celebrations, featuring six renowned organists from the DC area.

9/17/2024 | 5:30pm | Mass for the 800th Anniversary of the Stigmata of Saint Francis and Meeting with American Pilgrims: On Tuesday, September 17, at 5:30 pm, a special Mass will be celebrated honoring the Feast of the Stigmata of Saint Francis on its 800th Anniversary, and will be followed by a meeting with American pilgrims who, over the years have traveled to the Holy Land through the Washington Commissariat of the Holy Land.

9/19/2024 | 5:30pm | Conference and Q&A Session with the Custos of the Holy Land, Guardian of the Holy Shrines of Christianity, Fr. Francesco Patton, OFM: Fr. Patton, OFM the Custos of the Holy Land, will join for a special conference, having come from Jerusalem. On Thursday, September 19, at 6 pm, he will share his personal testimony and will provide an update with a unique perspective on life in the Holy Land during the recent months of conflict. The Conference will take place at Saint Francis Hall and will be followed with refreshments.

9/21/2024 | 10am – 3pm | Family Day: A day filled with inclusive activities for young and old, fostering community spirit and joy. On Saturday, September 21, from 10 am to 3 pm, all are invited to join many planned festivities.

9/22/2024 | 11am | Thanksgiving Mass presided over by H.E. Wilton Cardinal Gregory, on Sunday, September 22, at 11 am.

Ongoing | Daily: 9am – 4pm | 125th Anniversary Exhibition: An ongoing exhibition of the Monastery's 125-year history with artifacts, photos, and documents. The exhibition will take place in our Visitor Center.

Main Church and Visitor Center: 1400 Quincy St. NE, Washington, DC 20017

Saint Francis Hall: 1340 Quincy St NE, Washington, DC 20017

All Media events are outlined above.

For more details & to access the **full schedule**, please [click here](#).

For media accreditation and additional information, please contact:

Filippo De Grazia at media@myfranciscan.com

Carmen E. Rodríguez at carmen@myfranciscan.com

Tel: (202) 526-6800 | myfranciscan.org

