

The **STUDIUM BIBLICUM FRANCISCANUM** of Jerusalem (SBF) is the Faculty of Biblical Sciences and Archaeology of the *Pontificia Universitas Antonianum* in Rome. In 1901, the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land began planning a center for biblical studies in Jerusalem and these plans led to the establishment of the SBF in 1924. Located in Jerusalem's Old City, the SBF offers degree and non-degree programs of studies in biblical interpretation and in archaeology. Associated with the SBF is the *Studium Theologicum Jerosolymitanum*, the Custody of the Holy Land's school of theology.

Research Center

While the SBF supports research and publication in all areas of biblical studies, a particular focus has been on the archaeological excavation of sites associated with the New Testament and early Christianity in the Middle East. The SBF also carries on the tradition of the Franciscans who have helped write the history of the Christian shrines and places of pilgrimage in the Middle East through archaeological excavation and the study of Jewish and Christian literary sources including pilgrims' diaries. Among the sites that have been excavated by the SBF are Bethany, Bethlehem, Bethphage, Cana, Capernaum, Ein Karem, Emmaus (el-Qubeibeh), the Herodion, Machaerus, Magdala, Nazareth, Mt. Nebo, Tabgha, and Mt. Tabor. In Jerusalem, the SBF has sponsored excavations at the Mt. of the Ascension, Gethsemane, the Holy Sepulchre, the Tomb of Mary and Dominus Flevit.

Results of these excavation projects have been published in the *Liber Annuus*, the SBF's journal, and in its *Collectio Maior* and *Collectio Minor* monograph series. The SBF also publishes monographs on biblical and patristic studies in its *Analecta* series, and on archaeological materials from its collections in the *Museum* series.

Academic Center

The SBF is a pontifical faculty that offers courses leading to both the licentiate (S.S.L.) and the doctoral (S.S.D.) degrees in Biblical Sciences and Archaeology. The program of studies leading to the licentiate includes two semesters of introductory studies and five regular

semesters. The program of studies leading to the doctoral degree requires four additional semesters and the writing of a dissertation.

Other programs of studies lead to diplomas in Oriental Biblical Studies and Archaeology and in Biblical Formation. Each involves two semesters of studies. Also offered is a program of continuing education for those who serve as guides to pilgrims. The SBF offers the student the unique opportunity for a direct, personal, and extended study of the Bible in its cultural context.

Faculty and Courses of Study

The SBF offers courses in biblical and oriental languages, methodology, history and geography, archaeology, as well as a range of courses in exegesis and biblical theology. Integral to the program of studies are field trips to historical and archaeological sites in Israel, Sinai, Jordan, Egypt and other biblical lands. The usual language of instruction for the courses is Italian, but for written essays and dissertations other languages are accepted. At the time of registration students are expected to show a sufficient knowledge of Italian to be verified by a specific certificate or by an oral conversation.

Students

The SBF is open to all—men and women, clerical and lay—with adequate preparation to begin the academic study of the Bible on the graduate level. Students fall into three categories: *ordinary*, students in a program leading to an academic degree or a diploma; *extraordinary*, students taking courses for credit without being enrolled in a degree or diploma program; *auditors*, students who take courses but not for academic credit. It is also possible for students to participate in the excavation projects of the SBF.

The SBF's tuition and fees are relatively modest. Accommodations at the Monastery of the Flagellation are available to "ordinary students" who are Roman Catholic priests by arrangement with the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land.

Museum

Attached to the SBF is a museum housing the more significant artifacts from the excavations sponsored by the

SBF. Founded in 1902, the museum is designed to serve not only students but also visitors to the Holy Land. Individual rooms in the museum are devoted to some of particularly important sites such as Nazareth, Capernaum, Mt. Nebo, the Herodion, and the monasteries of the Judean desert. Also noteworthy are the Museum's collection of coins from the cities of Palestine and Jordan (Decapolis and Provincia Arabia), a series of Byzantine oil lamps with Greek inscriptions, and a collection of ceramics from the 16th to the 19th century school of Savona that belonged to the ancient Pharmacy of St. Savior's Monastery. The museum is open to the public (on request).

Library

The library of the SBF specializes in holdings in archaeology, the ancient Near East, biblical studies, patristics, early Judaism, and itineraries of the Holy Land. Its collection numbers about 50,000 volumes including 420 journals. It is open to the public daily except Sunday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Publications of the SBF (up to 2005):

<i>Liber Annuus</i>	54
<i>Collectio Maior</i>	45
<i>Collectio Minor</i>	43
<i>Analecta</i>	67
<i>Museum</i>	14

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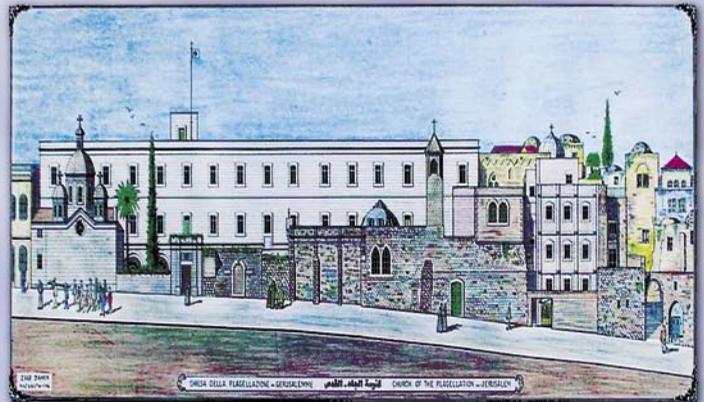
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STUDIUM BIBLICUM FRANCISCANUM



Faculty of Biblical Sciences and Archaeology
of the Pontifical University "Antonianum"



JERUSALEM