The Franciscan presence in the Holy Land goes back officially to 1217. In that year many Brothers were sent to the missions as a result of the decisions of the General Chapter of Pentecost, held at the Portiuncula on 14 May 1217.

According to a well established tradition, the first Brothers arrived at the Crusader port of Acre under the direction of Brother Elias of Cortona. For this reason he is considered as the first Minister Provincial of Syria or of the Holy Land or of Outremer, as this entity of the Order was called during the first century of its history.

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The image of the miniature “Arrival of Saint Francis in the Holy Land” used for the production of the logo is taken from the Major Legend of Saint Bonaventure (382). With the kind concession of the Historical Institute of the Capuchins - Franciscan Museum - Rome.
**Monday 16 October**

**Morning**
- 9.00 Hall of the Immaculate
  - Conference: *The Partners of the Custody*
  - Meeting of thanksgiving to the Organisations and Institutions which support the multiple activities of the Custody
  - Greetings and thanksgiving: Minister General, Custos, Custodial Economo
  - Moderator: Fr. Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land

**Afternoon**
- 16.00 Church of Saint Saviour
  - Liturgical ceremony for the opening of the celebrations of the Anniversary
  - President: Fr. Michael Perry, Minister General of the Order
- 17.30 Hall of the Immaculate
  - Fraternal meeting with Fr. Michael Perry, Minister General and Fr. Julio César Bunader, Vicar General of the Order

**Tuesday 17 October**

**Morning**
- 8.00 Church of St. Saviour
  - Eucharistic Celebration
  - President: His Eminence Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches
- 9.30 Hall of the Immaculate
  - Conference: *Always preach the Gospel, and if it is necessary preach it also with your words! The Franciscan Presence in the Holy Land and in the Middle East*

**Afternoon**
- 16.00 Church of St. Saviour
  - Concluding celebration and Solemn Vespers
  - President: Father Custos Francesco Patton

**Wednesday 18 October**

**Morning**
- 8.00 Church of St. Saviour
  - Holy Mass
  - President: Fr. Julio César Bunader, Vicar General
- 9.30 Hall of the Immaculate
  - Conference: *The Giotto frescoes of the Upper Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi: analyses and interpretations*
  - Speaker: Prof. Don Lorenzo Cappelletti, Pontificia Università Antonianum
  - It will be possible to visit the copy of the frescoes in the exhibition at the entrance hall of the Custodial Curia

**Afternoon**
- 16.00 Church of St. Saviour
  - Concert of thanksgiving for the 800 years of Franciscan Presence in the Holy Land
  - Performance by the musicians of the Magnificat Musical Institute of Jerusalem
  - Refreshments will follow