



CUSTODIA TERRÆ SANCTÆ

Jerusalem, 16 May 2018

Prot. n. BA-220-RT/18

To all the Brothers of the Custody,

Dear Brothers,

The Lord give you Peace!

Yesterday, following upon the acts of violence of these last days, the Apostolic Administrator Monsignor Pierbattista Pizzaballa has written to the faithful of the Patriarchate and also to us: *“In these days we are witnessing another outburst of hatred and violence, which is once again bleeding all over the Holy Land. The lives of so many young people have once again been shut down and hundreds of families are mourning their loved ones, dead or wounded. As in a kind of vicious circle, we must condemn all forms of violence, any cynical use of human lives and disproportionate violence. Once again we are forced by circumstances to plead and cry out for justice and peace.”*

We are all invited *“to join in prayer for the Holy Land, for the peace of all its inhabitants, for the peace of Jerusalem, for all the victims of this interminable conflict.”* We are also invited to join and *“to pray more for peace and our conversion and for all.”*

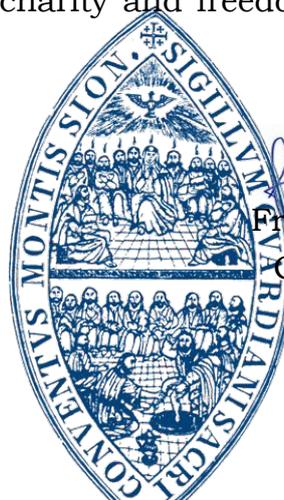
For this reason, as brothers of the Custody of the Holy Land, we are to join in the vigil of prayer for peace, which will be celebrated in the Church of St. Etienne (École Biblique) **next Saturday, 19 May, vigil of Pentecost, at 5,00 p.m.** Our Prayer for peace will then continue in the vigil of Pentecost which will be celebrated in the Hermitage of Gethsemane **at 9.00 p.m.** While adhering to this initiative **I invite** our communities and each and every brother to participate, according to his possibilities, to these moments of prayer and **to dedicate the Vigil of Pentecost to fasting and prayer for the peace of Jerusalem and of all the Holy Land.** I invite you to insert in the Liturgy of the Hours and in the Eucharistic Liturgy of Pentecost a special reflection and prayer for peace.

May the Holy Spirit truly enlighten the hearts and minds of each and every one of us, of those who hold civil and political responsibilities in this land and on the international level, so that through conversion of hearts, through dialogue and openness to reconciliation, we might arrive at an authentic peace, in justice, truth, charity and freedom (cfr. St. John XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*).

Fraternally,

Fr. David GRENIER OFM

Secretary of the Holy Land



Fr. Francesco PATTON OFM
Custos of the Holy Land