



The story of a husband and wife, Knight and Dame of the Order, volunteers in the Holy Land

Carola and Henrique Abreu, Dame and Knight in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, left their home in Brazil to place themselves at the service of the Church in the Holy Land.

"When we joined the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem we took an oath of devotion and allegiance to the Catholic Church and the Holy Land. We first arrived in the Holy Land as pilgrims, an important first step for every Knight. We realized then the extent of our responsibility towards Christians present here. We discovered their needs, i.e. school education, to have a home, a family, a job, and a life of freedom. It was at this time that we took the decision to engage in this mission to help, support, and serve, the communities present in the Holy Land".

"After the visit of the Holy Father to Brazil last year and his frequent gestures of humility, simplicity and attention to the poor, we received a strong spiritual call to come to the Holy Land as a family, to serve the Church and the local Christians. We had a comfortable situation in Brazil. As a family we reflected on the possibility of dedicating a few years as volunteers in a more modest setting. We sold the car and the house and we left with only four suitcases for Jerusalem".

Carola and Henrique settled in Jerusalem in February 2014 after having travelled in the Holy Land for the previous 5 years, and having discovered what they describe as "the great and heroic work of our priests, who face many difficulties and challenges". They made available their time, energy and professional expertise following various projects and visiting parishes, hospitals and homes for children with disabilities in their free time.

The couple, who responded to the vocation to marriage fifteen years ago, joyfully emphasize that they are experiencing this call as a family.

"Our relationship is even stronger than before, because we are working together daily with a common goal: to serve our brothers and sisters of the Holy Land as best we can. Being involved in a mission together as a family brings unity, strength, and faith, to our lives and helps us to appreciate the simple things, to focus on the suffering of others, and to understand that there is nothing more beautiful in life than to help others and enable them to be happy".

For more information:

Communications Service of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre
comunicazione@oessh.va