

Pave the Way Foundation Recognizes the Historic Significance of Assisi in Protecting Jewish Refugees with Upcoming Exhibition

Wantagh, NY, January 27, 2022—Pave the Way Foundation (PTWF), an international organization whose mission is to initiate historical projects and remove obstacles between religions, is sponsoring an historic presentation in New York with the Diocese of Assisi, Italy, recognizing the brave lifesaving actions taken by the clergy and citizens of Assisi in protecting Jewish refugees during the Holocaust.

With Northern Italy occupied by German troops in 1943, the historic town of Assisi, home of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, found itself thrown into the atrocities of war. Archbishop Nicolini, acting on requests from Rome, rallied Assisi's citizens and clergy to come together and save the lives of their Jewish brethren, being hunted down by the Nazis.

Elliot Hershberg, Chairman of Pave the Way Foundation, remarked "at a time in history when forces around the world would strive to divide rather than unite, we are reminded by this exhibit of the historic, lifesaving acts of conscience Roman Catholics performed, at their own peril, to help and save so many Jewish victims of Nazi barbarism."

Gary Krupp, President of Pave the Way Foundation said "it is our mission to promote international gestures of goodwill between the world's religions and people of faith, in order to further our motto: Embrace our Similarities and Savor our Differences."

The exhibit will utilize panels from Museo della Memoria Assisi (The Museum of Memory) and will feature a roundtable discussion featuring Professor Johan Ickx, Archivist for the Historical Archives of Vatican Secretary of State, and Elizabeth Bettina, author of "It Happened in Italy ". Attending will be the Archbishop of Assisi, Domenico Sorrentino, Monsignor Anthony Figueiredo Assistant Rector of the Basilic of St Francis, the museum's curator, Marina Rosati, along with the mayor of Assisi, Stefania Proietti. Two events will take place, the first at Temple Israel in New Rochelle Tuesday, April 5, 2022 and the second at St. John's University in Queens Wednesday April 6, 2022.

"Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum and Temple Israel of New Rochelle stated "We are honored to host The Assisi Museum Exhibit, and excited to lead the roundtable discussion. The congregation of Temple Israel of New Rochelle and I welcome this unique opportunity to fulfill the Mitzvah of Zachor, remembrance of the Shoah in a world seemingly filled with moral amnesia. With this exhibit, we not only memorialize the 6,000,000 Jews who were murdered by the Nazis, but the righteous of Assisi who risked everything to save innocent Jewish lives. May their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life, as we honor them through this project of reconciliation and hope with the light of love.

"It is a privilege and honor to welcome the Assisi Museum of Memory Exhibit to St. John's," commented Joseph Sciamé, Vice-President for Community Relations at St. John's University. "By doing so, we honor the memory of so many who afforded our Jewish sisters and brothers in those dark days in Italy, what one might call 'the gift of life' from the citizenry in that area, as well as so many other communities in Italy at that time. Our Judeo-Christian history impels us to not forget, but also reconciles us with a sense of solidarity and dialogue."

All are welcome and are encouraged to attend. Public is asked to register for the in person event or the webcast at assisievent@desalesmedia.org

About Pave the Way Foundation

PTWF operates in 19 countries around the globe as nonsectarian public foundation whose mission is to identify and work to resolve obstacles between religions. We achieve our goals by establishing foundations of trust through cultural, educational and technological gestures between the faiths. Please visit our website www.ptwf.org