



*Marian Evangelization Centers : centers with a multimedia presentation on Salvation History, to transmit the catholic faith in a beautiful and modern way, in main Marian shrines and in important cities throughout the world.*

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## THE CHALLENGE

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Millions of pilgrims converge to Marian shrines all over the world each year to honor the Virgin Mary. Just to name a few: Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, Aparecida in Brazil, Lourdes in France, and Fatima in Portugal. **These places of worship and prayer often do not have educational facilities where pilgrims and visitors can (re)discover the core tenets of their faith, presented in a simple, yet impressive and attractive way.** The absence of similar centers is equally felt in large urban areas.

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## OUR PROJECT

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Mary of Nazareth Association's ambition was initially to create the concept of a site dedicated to the Virgin Mary, where visitors could discover the beauty of their faith through a multimedia presentation using today's technological tools. This concept has been developed into a franchise, throughout the world, in three stages :

**Phase 1 (completed): Creation of a prototype center in Nazareth.**

The International Mary of Nazareth Center opened in 2011, with further construction projects still planned.

**Phase 2 (in progress): Creation of Marian Evangelization Centers (MEC) at the major Marian shrines around the world.** We foresee the creation of about 15 similar Centers. Two are already being built, at the shrines of Guadalupe and Aparecida, among the most famous and visited shrines in honor of the Virgin Mary. Another project is also partially completed in Lebanon.

**Phase 3 (initiated): Creation of Marian Evangelization Centers in large urban areas.**

This project will reach a larger population, including people from non-Christian environments. A Marian Evangelization Center near Vienna, Austria, is currently being considered as well as in Moscow and other large cities in Russia.

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## OUR KEY STRENGTHS

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The **project is now at a very advanced stage**, with the completion of the already applauded International Mary of Nazareth Center. The launching of the second phase is underway in well known places such as Guadalupe (Mexico), Aparecida (Brazil) and Qattara (Lebanon). Marian Evangelization Centers are currently under study in Austria, Russia, the US, Italy, France, Rwanda, the Philippines, and Poland.

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## WHAT IS AT STAKE ?

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The need of an attractive and updated catechesis through images has often been expressed by bishops of all continents. The astonishing success of Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" shows that the general public is hungry for beautiful visual productions portraying the faith. **The habitual contrast between the excellence of secular productions and the mediocrity of Christian movies makes it extremely urgent to produce top quality movies like the ones already produced for the International Center of Nazareth.**



EMC are projects of the Foundation for Evangelization through the Media.

FEM is an ecclesial collaboration composed of major church movements working together with entrepreneurs and experts in implementing concrete projects to evangelize through the media, within the support of an international organization.

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