



THE ALTAR OF THE CHURCH AT CHRISTMAS. **BELOW:** A TRADITIONAL MANGER SCENE SET UP INSIDE THE CHURCH.



**BELOW (VIEW NORTH):** KEFAR KANNA (LOWER LEFT) OVERLOOKING THE TURAN VALLEY WITH MT. TURAN (CENTER).







THE FRANCISCAN WEDDING CHURCH IS IN THE CENTRAL PART OF KEFAR KANNA. IT COMMEMORATES THE MARRIAGE OF CANA ATTENDED BY JESUS, HIS MOTHER MARY, AND SOME OF HIS DISCIPLES (JOHN 2:1–11).

## KEFAR KANNA

(TRADITIONAL CANA OF GALILEE; SEE MAP ON PAGE 119)

A wedding had just concluded the day I visited Kefar Kanna and the Franciscan Wedding Church (*above*). The lights were still on inside the church, the ropes were down, and I was free to walk about. For a more complete set of photos, visit the book's website, [BibleLandImages.com](http://BibleLandImages.com). What is true of Kefar Kanna is true of all the sites presented in *Blessed Pilgrimage*. You will also find photos and maps with overlays that you can toggle off and on and enlarge for better views of the subject.

When I visited Kefar Kanna for the first time in 1975, I walked up to the church via a dirt road. Since then, the city has grown up around the church, which was built about 1881 and expanded between 1897 and 1905. The current facade was built in 1901. Bishop Angelo Roncalli dedicated the altar in 1906. It is worth noting that a Jewish synagogue dating to the fourth and fifth centuries AD was uncovered in the excavations below the current church.

Most tour guides will tell you this is the site of Cana of Galilee, where Jesus turned water into wine, and maybe it is. It is certainly the one you can get to by bus. Most archaeologists will tell you Cana of Galilee was north of here at Khirbet Qana, east of Kefar Manda at the western end of the Beit Netofa Valley (cf. the maps on pages 108 and 111). Khirbet Qana is beautiful and the archaeology is revealing, but you can get to it only by car on rough dirt roads or by hiking (see "Cana of Galilee" on page 105). You can see the modern city surrounding Kefar Kanna in the bottom photo on page 114 (lower left), in front of Mt. Turan (center). Khirbet Qana is just out of view on the other side of the mountain.

The association of Kefar Kanna with Cana of Galilee dates to the eighth century AD, making it a very late tradition. The consensus view shifted to Khirbet Qana from the twelfth to fourteenth centuries, then back to Kefar Kanna, where it remains to this day.



THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN BELOW THE FRANCISCAN WEDDING CHURCH. IT REPRESENTS A SMALL SECTION OF THE EXCAVATIONS THAT HAVE UNEARTHED POTTERY FROM THE NEOLITHIC TO THE MAMLUK PERIODS.

**BELOW (VIEW NORTHWEST):** THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW, WHO WAS FROM CANA OF GALILEE (JOHN 21:2, "NATHANAEL OF CANA"). IT IS NOT FAR FROM THE FRANCISCAN WEDDING CHURCH.







**VIEW WEST:** THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE (TOP LEFT) IS NEXT TO THE FRANCISCAN WEDDING CHURCH IN THE COURTYARD ON THIS SIDE OF THE WALL.

**BELOW (VIEW SOUTH):** FROM THE SIGN: "THE GREEK ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM, SAINT GEORGE CONVENT AND THE FIRST MIRACLE CHURCH IN CANA OF GALILEE 1885." NOTICE THE CHURCH TOWERS BEHIND THE CONVENT.

