This is the story of two Jewish brothers, Alphonse and Théodore Ratisbonne. Born early in the 19th century in Strasbourg, Alsace, they went to Rome, converted to Catholicism, and founded a French religious order. In Jerusalem, they established the Convent of the Sisters of Sion by the Arch of Ecce Homo on the Via Dolorosa, the Convent of St. John in Ein Kerem, and the Ratisbonne Monastery in Rehavia. This is also the story of the Sisters of Sion, who ran girls' schools and orphanages at both Ratisbonne convents, and managed a medical dispensary serving the impoverished people of Jerusalem. This is, finally, the story of two French women, Sister Marie Godeleine (1879-1960) and Sister Marie Aline de Sion (1911-1971; Ph.D., Sorbonne, 1955), who lived at the Convent of the Sisters of Sion. The story of their exploration of the Arch of Ecce Homo and the Lithostratos, which tradition holds is where Pontius Pilate condemned Jesus, is virtually unknown among archaeologists.

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