



NEWSLETTER OF JERUSALEM

LOVE THE HOLY LAND AND BE LOVED

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Editorial

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of Jerusalem

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« *I would walk the earth* »

The relics of St. Therese of Lisieux will arrive in the Holy Land on March 14 for two months. She who was proclaimed patron saint of missions in 1927 by Pope Pius XI, even though she never left her convent, never ceases to circumnavigate the world. The relics have traveled thousands of kilometers through five continents. Now, St. Therese comes to visit the Christians of Israel and Palestine.

There is no need to introduce and present Therese. She is one of the most holy, familiar and popular saints of our time. Christians in the Holy Land have prepared to welcome and pray with her. Young and old will gather with her to open their hearts and in her, place their burdens, their joys, their sorrows and their hopes.

She who loved and infinitely lived the Gospel longed to learn the biblical languages to better enjoy the Word of God, her daily bread. The Carmelites of the Holy Land reminds us of her full name: Therese of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. It was in Bethlehem where the baby



Relics of St. Therese in the Latin Patriarchate

Jesus was born, in Nazareth where the child grew, in Jerusalem where the face of Christ suffered under the spittle and the crown of thorns, “for the love of everyone and each of us, became a face disfigured.”

In receiving the relics of the saint, it is also an opportunity for the Holy Land to welcome one of her great intuitions: charity. St. Therese often exclaimed without concealment that Jesus was the greatest love of her life. She loved him unceasingly. Her charity unfolded in two major directions: the first was her great sisterly empathy and affection towards the sisters of the convent – a charity which made it effortless to overlook any and all offensive characteristics which the sisters might naturally possess. The second was Saint Therese’s great charity toward the world: a charity which she was able to practice and come to realize through her vocation within the framework of the Church. She felt her vocation was a vocation of love. The Church recognized this charisma and designated her Patroness of Missions.

“I would walk the earth” she once said. And today, St. Therese will consummate her journey to the Holy Land. Before departing to heaven, St. Therese confided in her sisters: “I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth.” The Holy Land, with her intercession, awaits the roses of grace and of peace.

Christophe Lafontaine



St. Therese of Lisieux
is in the Holy Land from March 14 to May 31

Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher resigns

His Eminence Cardinal John Patrick Foley has resigned from his position as Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher. In spite of his long illness, he served the Holy Land and its Christians with zeal to the end of his mission.



On November 24th, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Cardinal Foley with the title of Cardinal-Deacon of Saint Sebastian of the Palatine, and named him Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem in place of Cardinal Carlo Furno. He was appointed to this position after serving as Director of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications for 23 years.

Because of his state of health, Cardinal Foley, at age 75, presented a letter of resignation to the Secretary of the Vatican State on February 8. After meeting with Pope Benedict XVI on February 10, he joined the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia February 12. He now resides at Villa St. Joseph, the retirement home for the priests of Darby.

Cardinal Foley was a great patron of Bethlehem University. The Latin Patriarchate is grateful for all that he gave to the Christians of the Holy Land. They are sure to pray for him as he bears the cross of his illness with courage.

C. L.

Diana Safieh conferred title of Lady of the Holy Sepulcher

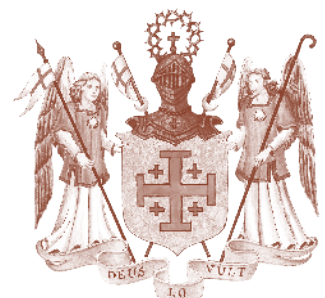
His Beatitude Patriarch Fouad Twal conferred to Diana Emile Safieh the title of Lady of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem in recognition of her services to the Holy Land.

Diana Safieh had, in the footsteps of her parents, continued to care for the poor of St. Vincent of Paul.



After some years, she was elected President of the Society. She never hesitated to donate funds to the Society when it was in need. Diana gave much of her time and effort to the Society of the Arab Orphan, of which she was elected Vice President. She also justly supported the Society of Dar Al-Awlad (The Children's House) which cared for the children of Palestinian refugees since 1948.

Diana Safieh has been conferred the title of Lady for having given an enormous amount of support to her country, its institutions, and its citizens. She did this without any discrimination between peoples or race, as in keeping with the teachings of the Church.



Editorial team

A bridge to Bethlehem

More than half a thousand faithful gathered under the symbol of the Cross and olive branches for a March for Peace in Bethlehem on Tuesday, March 1st.

"A Bridge to Bethlehem." These words were chosen to express a burning desire and a call to demolish the wall that divides and separates the city of the Nativity from that of the Resurrection.

Recalling the death of Christ who came to the world to eliminate any kind of wall, the crowd came from Beit Jala, Beit Sahour and Bethlehem followed the way of the Cross through the streets of Bethlehem. Pax Christi, an Italian group currently on pilgrimage organized this initiative to share in the hope for peace and unity.

An upbeat evening concert with an international dimension closed the event, echoing with one voice: "Against all the walls."

Alban Vallet



The Way of the Cross for Peace

President Mahmoud Abbas meets leaders of Christian Churches

The President of Palestinian Authority (PA), Mahmoud Abbas received the heads of the 13 Christian churches on Thursday, February 16th, in Ramallah. He explained that the PA would encourage the Christian community, to "*play a role in Palestinian society.*" Moreover, the Palestinian Authority recently approved a plan, with the help of "*several friendly countries*", to renovate the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem, and would at hand agree to any new project "*preserving the Christian presence in the Palestinian territories.*"

He thanked the Church leaders for their schools and hospitals and also welcomed residential projects to contain the exodus of Christians. The President confirmed the preparedness of the National Authority to support all projects that aim at sustaining the Christian presence in Palestine and urged the development of lands owned by the Churches for the benefit of the members of the Christian communities.

The Patriarch thanked the President on behalf of all the Bishops present for his expression of support for Christians, for his message of confidence, and for making the Church representatives aware of the political projects of the Palestinian Authority for peace."

C.L.



President of the Palestinian Authority commits to support Christian communities

Bethlehem to Unesco?

Palestinian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities proposed on February 7th, 2011 to include Bethlehem and Church of the Nativity in the UNESCO Register of World Heritage of Humanity. The decision will be made in 2012.

Feast in Tiberias

Sunday, February 17th, Bishop G-B Marcuzzo presided over a solemn Mass at Saint Peter's Church in Tiberias. The Mass marked the occasion of the first official pastoral visit of the Bishop to the community of Koinonia.

Miners of Chile in the Holy Land

Twenty four of the thirty three Chilean miners who survived the ordeal of being trapped in the mine collapse for 17 days visited the Holy Land in February after an invitation from the Ministry of Tourism.

French Parishioners in Ramallah

On February 24 - 28, seventeen parishioners including their priest Father Jacques Biels of the Good News of Marcq in Baroeul, in the northern part of France, visited the parish of the Holy Family of Ramallah. They were housed by the faithful. The sister parishes have maintained close ties for eleven years.

The United European Front

On February 21, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Europe, reaffirmed that the European Union (EU) was very concerned with the protection of religious freedom. The adopted text also invites the High Representatives for External Foreign Affairs of the EU, "to render account of measures taken and the concrete proposals made to strengthen further action of the EU in the field."

Ordination to the Diaconate

Friday, February 25, 2011, in a solemn Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – el Tela Ali – in Amman, Patriarch Fouad Twal ordained Hayil Issa Alamat permanent Deacon.

Schools

Directors of Palestinian Culture and Education have announced the results of the national assessment of academic achievement for the school year 2009/2010. The results placed the Latin Patriarchate schools remarkably high in achievement in Qabatia in the north, and in Bethlehem in the south.

Tunisia

A Tunisian carpenter was arrested for the murder of a Polish priest. Father Marek Rybinski was found with his throat slit on Friday, February 18th. The arrested suspect was employed at the school where the priest's body was found.

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has a Newly Appointed Liturgical Committee

On Friday, February 25th, the first meeting of the new Liturgical Committee of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem took place, chaired by Bishop William Shomali. The Committee will be responsible for updating the liturgical books and to implement commissions for liturgy in every parish of the diocese.

This committee has not met since 1995. Now, Bishop Shomali's team will manage and oversee the publication and renewal of liturgical texts, books of songs, Altar Missal and the Book of Sacraments. It will also delegate the appointment of team members in the various parishes of the Patriarchate, ensuring the proper implementation of the liturgy.



The Liturgical Committee Meets After Fifteen Years

Marie Malzac



Focolare President visits the Holy Land



Maria Voce, President of the Focolare, spends three weeks in the Holy Land

Maria Voce, President of the Focolare Movement, completed a twenty-day visit in the Holy Land early in March. She met with members of her community present during the last 30 years throughout Israel and the Palestinian Territories, particularly in Bethlehem.

Maria Voce was warmly welcomed by the local Church leaders starting with the Apostolic Nuncio, Mons. Antonio Franco; Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Patriarch Fouad Twal; and the Custos of the Holy Land Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM. She also met with representatives of new communities present in the Holy Land. Ecumenical meetings were held with the Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church, Theophile III; Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan, President of the Lutheran World Federation; and the Armenian Apostolic Patriarch Bishop Aris Shirvanyan, and the primary associate of the Patriarch, Torkom I Manughian.

At the conclusion of her well received tour, she met with environment representatives at the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace. At Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she spoke with leaders from the Jewish community about the importance of dialog to promote peace.

M.M and C.L.

Projects Supported by the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher

We could never overestimate the importance of Latin Patriarchate schools. Education is the very key in preserving the identity of Middle Eastern Christians in their home countries. We acknowledge with deep gratitude the help of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher in completing the renovation of three such schools in Jordan. Another project still in progress is the renovation of a convent in Galilee.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem owns and operates 45 schools for 19,000 students and employs 2,000 people. These schools are fundamental and central to the Christian community. They not only provide an education, but also lay a groundwork for the

encouragement and growth of religious and priestly vocations. Consisting mostly of Christian students, these schools welcome students of different faiths, most notably Muslim students. This is an invaluable contribution to early education and to the coexistence of different communities. We hear His Beatitude Patriarch Fouad Twal repeating with perseverance that “the vocation of the Diocese has evolved into one of global and ecumenical significance.”

The Vicariate of Jordan itself has 32 parishes. Three schools have recently been restored. The restoration took place during the summer of 2010.

The Kerak School

The Latin School of Kerak has 300 students from kindergarten to third grade (ages seven to ten), 15 teachers and a director.

For this school, renovation entailed the installation of the kindergarten on the ground floor of the convent, and two building structures were connected by an overhead pedestrian bridge. Three classrooms

increased the number to six in total. All rooms were renovated. Science and computer labs, and library, have been renovated, including doors, windows, bathrooms, electrical and heating system. New tiles, fresh paint on the walls, adequate sealing of the roof were completed.



Before



After



The Wahadneh School

The restoration of the Wahadneh school comprises the development and establishment of science computer labs, as well as three new classrooms. The kindergarten was in an unhealthy area in the basement, so it was transferred to the ground floor

next to the church. The freed space is now used for science and computer labs. The school has been completely renovated and now accommodates 200 students from kindergarten to grade 6 and employs 15 teachers and a director.



The Naour School

The renovation of the school in Naour, Jordan, involved strengthening the structure of the school building, improving a system against infiltration, and refurbishment of the kindergarten. A sanitation system was installed. Renewal and development of structural work made it possible to accommodate the new science and computer labs, in addition to a space for a library and meeting room. To do this, an extension of about 95 square meters was added to the ground floor. The school has 8 classes of students: from kindergarten to grade 8, and employs 11 teachers.



Before

After



The Convent of the Rosary Sisters of Reineh

The last project that is being implemented in Galilee is the renovation of a convent which provides accommodation for three Sisters. These improvements are essential to the daily lives of the Sisters in their work. This old residence had not been renovated for over 20 years. The restoration is a matter of urgency in order to provide the Sisters with the minimum requirement of comfort and privacy. Everything is being changed to improve these quarters: Electrical and heating systems, bathrooms and new paint for the walls. A balcony allows additional space and creates a corridor, a breeze-space, which not only connects the rooms of the Sisters, but also provides better insulation from the elements.

In conclusion, all these projects have effectively contributed to improving the lives of the inhabitants of the Holy Land: the religious of Reineh, the families of Kerak, Naour and Wahadneh. Both parents and students express their deep gratitude and appreciation at the achievement of these projects. The teachers also share the same view, and recognize this as a real benefit for their teaching and fulfillment of their educational work. All express their deep and heartfelt gratitude to the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher for their generous donations and practical help in facilitating education and improving the necessities for everyday life.

Pilgrim Shell, decoration of the Order of Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, presented in February



- ◆ 01-02 – Southwestern Lieutenancy – USA : Frank J. Baeza, Valery y G. Baeza, Ernest Neal Charlesworth, Margaret Gay Charlesworth, Robert H. Le Grand, Jean Ann Le Grand, Bob G. Thomas, Lucy Thomas,
- ◆ 04 – 02 – Northeastern Lieutenancy – USA : RP Michel F.Kierman, SE Mgr William K.Weigand, Johannes
- ◆ 08- 02 – Deutsche Statthaltereï : Johannes Mülders,
- ◆ 10 – 02 – Deutsche Statthaltereï : Annelie Vehr, Manfred Erkens,
- ◆ 14 – 02 – Luogotenenza – Italia Centrale: Tchalakova Svelta Vassileva, Franco Castellini
- ◆ 21 – 02 – Luogotenenza per l'Italia Meridionale Adriatica : Aldo Imbo, Oronzo Zecca
- ◆ 21 – 02 – Luogotenenza per l'Italia Sardegna : Pani Walter Oreste
- ◆ 21 – 02 – Northeastern Lieutenancy, USA : RP William Ledoux
- ◆ 22 – 02 – Deutsche Statthaltereï : Vergroesen RA, Theodor Baars, Axel Birk, Dieter Blumenstein, Joachim Desprez, Monika Desprez, Ludwig Leiskau, Anna-Margaretha Schober, Swen Schultheub, Hubert vicomte de Zélicourt, vicomtesse Evelyne de Zélicourt,
- ◆ 25 – 02 – Southwestern Lieutenancy – USA : Patricia Z. von Dohlen
- ◆ 25 – 02 – Philippines : RP James Benavente
- ◆ 28 – 02 – North Central Lieutenancy, USA : Jeffrey M. Abood



The Patriarch Fouad Twal and Johannes Mülders

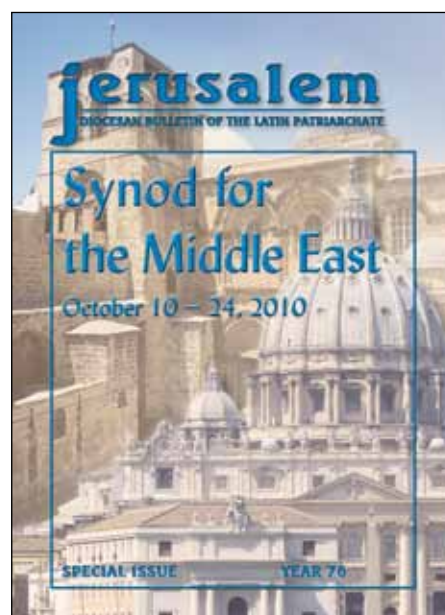
Synod revisited

What does the future hold for Christians of the Middle East? That was the question – discussed at the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East. Pope Benedict XVI presided over the Synod in the two weeks of October 10–24, 2010, in Rome.

Since then two deadly attacks on Churches have occurred. On October 31st in Baghdad, Iraq; and in Alexandria, Egypt. The Special issue on the Synod is available on our website www.lpj.org. The Bulletin will help clarify the critical issues facing Christian Churches of the Middle East: *emigration, Islam, communion, ecumenism, the Israeli-Palestinian problem, and Jerusalem*.

His Beatitude Patriarch Fouad Twal, in his editorial for the special issue, extends the following invitation: «Dear faithful, dear priests, seminarians, men and women religious! In this special issue we offer you the final message and forty four concrete proposals, the fruits of the Synod. This Bulletin is not an archival document to be forgotten on a dusty shelf. It is a vital work document, a product of deep reflection, so that together we may renew and invigorate our Christian church in the Middle East, in the glorious light of the Holy Spirit! The success of this renewal will depend on our joint and binding work, and our docility to the Holy Spirit. We urge you to read these documents, in particular the last two. Meditate on them, pray that the Lord brings the fulfillment in this land of what his will is from us: real Christians, fervent, faithful, devout and proud, and most of all, filled with charity! (excerpt from editorial by H.B. Fouad Twal) Happy Reading!

Bertrand du Rusquec



«Synod for the Middle East: Special Issue» is available in English, Italian and Arabic translations.

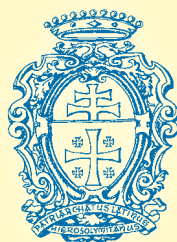


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