

# BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

Volume 25 - Issue No. 2, 2017-2018

*In the Holy Land*



**In this issue:**

- Education For All
- Books Not Walls
- Catholic Identity



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

# Dream Big

In 1973, no one could have imagined what Bethlehem University has become today. What began with only three classrooms and 112 students, has evolved into a bustling campus with state of the art facilities that is home to over 3200 students. Bethlehem University has persevered through many challenges over the past forty-five years, which is a testament to the resilience of the university community and the Palestinian people. The continuous growth of Bethlehem University in the face of adversity is the clear manifestation of a deep-rooted commitment to providing a world-class education for our students. Brother Thomas Scanlan, the second Vice Chancellor, was instrumental in the early days for setting that direction and we are very conscious that his death leaves a significant gap, but we are deeply grateful for his contribution to the development of Bethlehem University.

We are the only Catholic University in the Holy Land, but our doors are open to students of all faith traditions, and our community here works hard to match the education we provide with the actual needs of Palestinian society. We are focused on the future, and we are always looking for better ways to develop, improve and facilitate the teaching and learning process. As a community and as an institution, we strive for excellence. Our Facilities Master Plan is designed to respond to the needs of the Palestinian people by providing facilities that will enable Bethlehem University to achieve that excellence. This plan is being followed with the three projects about to commence: the conversion of the abandoned hospital into a teaching hotel and teaching restaurant, the new facilities for the Faculty of Nursing, and the facility for the Visitors and Athletic Center. This plan also includes developing the present car park area for future facilities. We certainly have big dreams!

We are very conscious that all of you have played an integral role in Bethlehem University's miraculous growth and this support makes a tremendous impact on the people of Palestine. In the following pages, you will read about just a few of the many activities and achievements of our faculty, staff, and students that your generosity continues to make possible. In this issue, we are featuring our Resource Center for Students with Disabilities. The tireless work of the people in the University Resource Center epitomizes our dedication to ensuring access to quality higher education for all Palestinians, regardless of background or abilities.

Bethlehem University exemplifies hope, renewal and a promise for the future. With your prayers and support, Bethlehem University continues to move ahead in its mission to educate the next generation of critical thinkers who will be both creative and compassionate Palestinian leaders. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD**  
Vice Chancellor



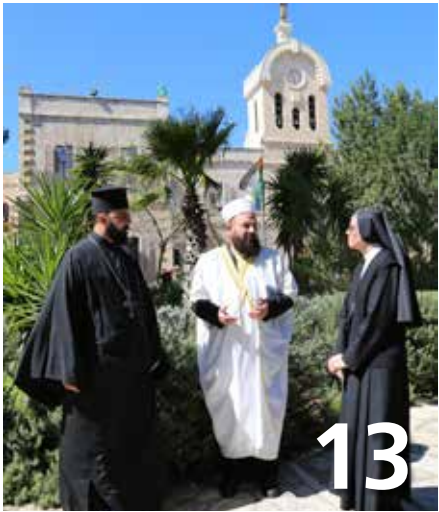
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**Published by the  
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Bethlehem University extends a very warm welcome to H.E. Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, the newly appointed Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine. Among his many responsibilities in Jerusalem, Palestine, Israel and Cyprus is his role as Chancellor of Bethlehem University. His first official duty as Chancellor was a Board of Trustees meeting in December.

## Alumni Children's Christmas Party

On Thursday, 4 January 2018, about 200 children enjoyed a fun afternoon celebrating the joy of Christmas. The function organised by Haneem Musleh, the Alumni Relations Officer, brought together many recent graduates with their children for some games, singing and drama.

Highlight for the children was the presence of Santa Claus, ably filled by student ambassador, Khalil Barakat.



# In Memory

## Brother Thomas Scanlan

With sorrow, Bethlehem University mourns the passing of Brother Thomas Scanlan former Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University. Brother Thomas died on 4 February 2018 at the age of 72, in New York, USA. Brother Thomas, a De La Salle Christian Brother, was appointed by the Sacred Congregation of the Oriental Churches as the second Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University and served from January 1982 to December 1986, succeeding Brother Joseph Loewenstein (Apr 1980-Jan 1982). He was also on the founding board of the Bethlehem University Foundation.

## Sister Aida Velasco

Sister Aida Velasco, former faculty member in the Shucri Ibrahim Dabdoub Faculty of Business Administration, passed away on 11 September 2017 at the age of 68. Sister Aida also worked in the Library and the Finance Office serving for 13 years (1992-2005) at Bethlehem University. She had been in Religious Life for 40 years with the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres.

## Sister Rita Meagher

Sister Rita Meagher, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition, passed away on 24 September 2017 in England at the age of 96. Sister Rita served Bethlehem University for 15 years, (1979 -1994). She taught English from 1979 to 1989 and worked in the University Archives from March 1989 until 1994.

## Rimon Makhoulouf

Rimon Makhoulouf, former faculty member of the Institute of Hotel Management and Tourism, passed away on 3 October 2017. Rimon was a part time faculty member from 2005 to 2012.

## Bethlehem University Video Wins in ASHA Conference

In ASHA's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, a video submitted by Bethlehem University about its Library Renovation Project was one of five Video Contest Winners.

The contributions USAID-ASHA has made to Bethlehem University over the past forty years have enabled the university to fulfill its mission statement which is to provide quality higher education to the people of Palestine.

To see video, please scan the QR code.





# Gala Dinner

On Friday 24 November 2017, a Gala Dinner was held to raise funds for a new building to be called the John Patrick Cardinal Foley Hall which will house the Tarek Ahmed Juffali Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The event was held at Nissan Hall in Bethlehem and attracted Palestinian business people and officials, faculty, staff and friends of Bethlehem University.

Brother Peter Bray expressed the hope that the new building will take the nursing program to a much higher level in terms of learning and practice, while also providing extended health services to the local community.

This year, the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences interviewed 1126 applicants, but was only able to accept 191 students due to the lack of facilities and space. The new building will have a range of facilities including teaching and seminar rooms, laboratories, and will also house the Samir Aweidah Clinical Simulation Center, the first of its kind in Palestine.



# Special Visitors



**His Eminence Cardinal Sandri**

Bethlehem University was pleased to welcome His Eminence Leonardo Cardinal Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches of the Holy See, on Monday 16 October 2017.

Brother Peter Bray welcomed His Eminence and affirmed the importance of such visits as Bethlehem University is an oasis of peace and hope. He thanked the Cardinal for the financial, moral and spiritual support that Bethlehem University receives from his Congregation and the Vatican. This enables the university to continue as an icon for this society and to carry out its mission to serve the Palestinian people through education.

Visibly heartened by the positive atmosphere and Palestinian style hospitality within Bethlehem University's walls, Cardinal Sandri lavished praise on the Brothers and the local Christian community for being able to create a space of learning and growth.



**EOHSJ's New Governor General**

His Excellency Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Madrone, the new Governor General of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, with a delegation of Knights visited Bethlehem University on Tuesday, 12 September 2017.

The Order has traditions dating back to the time of the First Crusades to Jerusalem, and seeks to support the work of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. For more than two decades the Order has been one of the main supporters of Bethlehem University for all kinds of projects - including buildings, and faculty and student support.

John Patrick Cardinal Foley, after whom the new Nursing Building is to be named, was the previous Grand Master of the Order.



**Australian Representatives**

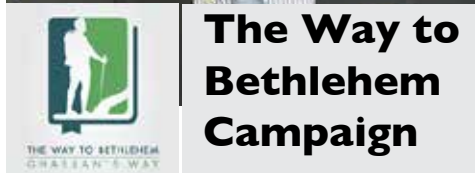
On 4 October 2017, Dr. Irene Hazou, Academic Vice President, and Brother Denis Loft, Vice President for Advancement, welcomed and briefed H.E. Alessandra Viezzer, the Head of Cooperation, Office of the European Union (West Bank, Gaza, and UNWRA), and Ms. Marzia Dalla Vedova, EU Project Manager.

Separately they also welcomed and briefed H.E. Marcia Pius, the Head of the Australian Representative Office, Ramallah.



**European Union Representatives**





## The Way to Bethlehem Campaign

Ghassan Salameh, a successful Palestinian-American, and member of the Board of Directors of the Bethlehem University Foundation, has launched The Way to Bethlehem Campaign to benefit Bethlehem University. Ghassan will begin the Campaign by walking the 800 kilometers (nearly 500 miles) of the Camino de Santiago from Saint Jean Pied de Port, France to the city of Santiago de Compostela, Spain from May 15 to June 27, 2018.

The goal of the Campaign is to generate global awareness through social media, and to raise funds for Bethlehem University to enhance, improve, equip and expand facilities to help students excel. To learn more, visit: [TheWayToBethlehem.com](http://TheWayToBethlehem.com)

All are invited to join in the last week of Camino. The Bethlehem University Foundation has arranged a package tour for anyone interested in walking the last 100 kilometers (62 miles) with Mr. Ghassan Salameh. The Camino Tour will be June 20 – 28. Please go to [TheWayToBethlehem.org](http://TheWayToBethlehem.org) website for further information and to register.

The tour is for people who will walk the Camino, as well as non-walkers. A tour leader and bus are included. A party is planned for June 27 in Santiago de Compostela to celebrate Ghassan Salameh's entire walk on the Camino.

Ghassan, together with the Bethlehem University Foundation, will use the Campaign and Pilgrimage to tell anew the story of Bethlehem University – its mission, educational accomplishments, and students.

Follow "The Way to Bethlehem Campaign" on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Baaz.com and Allmuze.com.



## Vatican Embassy Hosts Reception

Bethlehem University Foundation invested new Patrons of the Foundation at a reception at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC, on the 9th of November. The evening was hosted by His Excellency Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America. Pictured are Sister Irene O'Neill, CSJ, Chair of the Board of Directors of Bethlehem University Foundation; Archbishop Pierre; and Brother Peter Bray, FSC, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University. The Reception was the most successful in the Foundation's history, raising over \$270,000.

In addition to announcing the creation of the Theodore Cardinal McCarrick Endowment, Archbishop Pierre and Brother Peter Bray presented Mr. Frank Jungers with a Doctorate of Humanities, Honoris Causa, from Bethlehem University in recognition of his leadership, and his outstanding support for education and Bethlehem University.



## Recent Endowments

Bethlehem University Foundation is proud to announce the recent creation of two new endowment funds, and an endowed scholarship fund for nursing students.

The Theodore Cardinal McCarrick Endowment to support the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences at Bethlehem University was established by Mrs. Sandra Andreas McMurtrie on behalf of the Andreas Foundation.

Dr. Frank and Mrs. Julie Jungers have established the Frank and Julie Jungers Clinical Supervision of Nurse Trainees Endowment whose purpose is to support Clinical Supervision of Nurse Trainees.

Dr. Samir Zaki Abu-Ghazaleh has established the Mary Westhoff Abu-Ghazaleh Endowed Scholarship named for his wife, Mary, who is a retired nurse.

Endowments enable a lasting and sustainable future for Bethlehem University.

Bethlehem University Foundation is the U.S. registered not-for-profit corporation entrusted with the sole mission of supporting and promoting Bethlehem University. [www.bufusa.org](http://www.bufusa.org)



# Education For All

In keeping with its mission to serve the Palestinian people by providing the utmost quality in higher education, Bethlehem University is deeply committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all students. The University’s Resource Center for Students with Disabilities ensures that every student on campus has access to the programs and services they need to succeed. The Center serves as an advocate for students with disabilities and provides them with a variety of services designed to coordinate their academic accommodations, enhance their academic success, and ensure their access to all phases of university life.

The Resource Center currently provides services to 32 students (about 1% of the student body), and is committed to ensuring the success of each student it serves. Towards this end, the Center has a variety of specialized equipment to meet students’ needs. An important feature of the facility is that it is always meticulously arranged in exactly the same way. This consistency allows visually impaired students to use resources and equipment without assistance. Shahd Irfa’i is a third year Arabic Education major from Hebron with a severe visual impairment. She said, “I decided to come to Bethlehem even though it is far away from my home. There is a university in Hebron, but Bethlehem University helps students with disabilities, and the teachers here teach us to be critical thinkers. Bethlehem University has a supportive environment that helps students deal with any difficulties.”

Most recently, the Center received a generous donation of iPads for disabled students to use while attending lectures. They can now record lectures, take notes, and carry one iPad to every class instead of toting a heavy pile of books. The Center’s most pressing need is funding to train interpreters who are proficient in both Arabic and sign language, so that they can expand their services for students with hearing impairments. Hind Zahdeh, who received her degree in Occupational Therapy from Bethlehem University in 2009 and now works as the University’s Resource Officer for Students with Disabilities, explained that “no other university in Palestine has a designated lab with specialized equipment to serve disabled students. We give our students equipment and resources – a personalized study space, assistance from student volunteers, and a community of fellow students who face unique challenges.”

Zayd Hamadeh is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Occupational Therapy student who volunteers at the Resource Center. He stated, “Our first priority is the students we serve, and the Center ensures that they can blend into university life and reach their full potential.” The Resource Center views every student as a unique case, and goes above and beyond to ensure that students are provided with the services they need to succeed academically and socially, and graduate from Bethlehem University fully prepared to integrate into society.





Imad Abu Dayyeh (BU'86), a full-time lecturer in the English Department, has been teaching English and Translation courses in both English and Arabic Departments over a period of thirty years. A licensed legal translator since 2004, he has done extensive translation work for various international and local institutions. He has been the simultaneous interpreter for a substantial number of local, regional and international conferences, with many of his written translations and articles published. His research interests include Semiotics, Culture, English for Specific Purposes (ESP), Action Research, Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies.



## Use of Computer-Aided Translation Tools (CAT) in Palestine

We depend on the use of technology in many aspects of our lives. In the translation industry, companies have worked on software to facilitate the process of translation since the 1980s. More recently, up to date Computer-Aided Translation (CAT) Tools were introduced into the translation market and now provide a partial alternative to human resources. This development dictates that academic institutions start to change their curriculum and introduce technology in the different fields of knowledge in order to equip their graduates with the necessary tools to compete in the labor market.

At Bethlehem University, Mr. Imad Abu Dayyeh is currently conducting research to identify the use and evaluation of CAT tools in the translation of Arabic and English words from the perspective of Palestinian translators and translation trainees. The research sample of about 400 translators and translation trainees was selected according to their own experiences in using CAT tools. In addition, 15 interviews were conducted with randomly selected translators from the sample.

Although there have been previous studies that address technology and translation in general, and the use of CAT tools in particular, there are no studies which address evaluation of Arabic English CAT tools. A similar study was done with the Chinese language and Mr. Abu Dayyeh adopted its questionnaire after contacting the researchers. He has also compared results between Palestinian and Chinese translators. The study reveals significant differences between Chinese and Palestinian translators in relation to dictionaries, search engines and translation teachers.

There were several interesting primary outcomes in relation to perspectives of Palestinian translators regarding the use and evaluation of CAT tools in their work. Some translators highly recommend using CAT tools and indicate that they are fast and convenient, while the majority considered them unreliable and recommended using them with caution. Not all CAT tools are used by the translators either because they are new or not compatible with Arabic.

In its academic translation program, Bethlehem University offers its students the necessary translation tools during the teaching process so as to prepare them for the labor market. CAT tools are introduced in each written translation course. Moreover, there is still a significant need for digital language laboratories, and one simulation room. On campus, the Br. Joe Lowenstein Hall needs renovation, insulation, and refurbishing as well as simultaneous interpretation facilities to be ready for student practice in mock conferences. We believe that the availability of Computer Assisted Interpreter Training (CAIT) would greatly contribute to the development of this profession in Palestine.







“Books Not Walls” started in September 2016 as a small student reading group, and even its founders did not foresee how much the group would accomplish over the next year and a half. Although Ahmad Abu-Monshar is an accounting major and Mira Amr received her degree in physiotherapy, both students share a passion for reading, and they decided to start “Books Not Walls” as an initiative to encourage their fellow students to pursue knowledge by cultivating a reading habit.

The establishment of the group brought together a previously disparate community of readers on campus to discuss books and share ideas on a regular basis. In addition to increasing awareness about the importance of reading, Ahmad and Mira wanted to encourage more volunteer activity among the student body and provide students with a safe space to express themselves freely. The name “Books Not Walls” comes from their shared belief that both literal and figurative walls between people can be brought down by the purposeful acquisition and exchange of knowledge. Every day under occupation, Palestinian students experience both the physical presence of the apartheid wall that surrounds the West Bank and the many figurative walls built by prejudice. Through a variety of initiatives, the “Books Not Walls” team is working to tear down these barriers and replace them with common bonds.

As the group has gained traction and increased in size, their capacity to sponsor activities that further their goals has also expanded. “Books Not Walls” has run several successful campaigns,

not only on campus but also within the broader Bethlehem community. One of their recent campaigns was called “From You to You.” Group members solicited book donations from their fellow students, and then organized all of the donated books into a free lending library and book exchange for students at the entrance to the university cafeteria. Another endeavor, entitled “A Smile and a Tale,” was funded by many generous members of the Bethlehem community. Donors provided both books and toys so that Bethlehem University students could hold interactive reading sessions with local children being treated for cancer at Al-Hussein Hospital.



The students’ most recent initiative, “The Letters’ Whisper,” is a testament to their commitment to inclusivity. Recognizing the importance of ensuring that people who live with disabilities can access literature, students volunteered to convert written works into digital audio files. This successful project has granted individuals with various reading disabilities and visual impairments free access to a growing library of audiobooks.

Although the scope of “Books Not Walls” activity is constrained by financial limitations, the students who comprise its membership have shown perseverance and ingenuity in the course of a remarkably successful effort to positively impact society and empower others to gain knowledge through reading. In the face of all obstacles, these students continue to strive for a world where people build bookshelves instead of walls, and a society that is empowered by knowledge and defined by mutual respect.

## International Students on Campus

### USA



I chose to come to Bethlehem University because I thought the nature of its location, both religiously and politically, would provide for a unique study abroad experience and add a fascinating perspective to my studies of theology, science, and peace studies.

- Genevieve Streich

I'm excited to learn about this land from the people who call it home.

- Maddie Thompson

I felt a warm welcome at Bethlehem University. I believe attending this university adds tremendous value to my experience abroad and allows me to understand different perspectives between United States and Palestinian cultures.

- Janne Fuss

Bethlehem University’s mission to foster values of service and discovery have been important parts of my development as a student within the United States. A semester in this region encompasses the cultural traditions of people with whom I have had little interaction.

- Sonia Gonzales

### Norway



For some years now, my interest has been in psychological trauma and therapy/counseling about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Bethlehem University provided me with the opportunity to do my training here which transformed my interests to focus on how social workers in Palestine apply psychological trauma methods in their cultural context.

- Elena Haraldsson

I was very curious to come and experience the profession of social work in the Middle East, what kinds of social issues Palestinians are dealing with compared to Norway, and how culture affects both formal laws and social norms.

- Thea Skádinn



## Being a Refugee is not a Limitation...

in the camp, to love education and to use their brains. Schools were far from luxurious at the camp, but they were a place for freedom of thought.

As a teenager, Dr. Al-Issa was involved in voluntary work, helping to clean the streets and to distribute food during curfews, as part of her involvement with the Palestine Women's Union and Students' Union. She feels that voluntary work was a powerful aspect of political movements, emphasizing a real sense of belonging.

Her journey towards getting her PhD began through Bethlehem University where she studied social work and psychology. She felt very fortunate to complete her undergraduate degree here, especially considering that she then had two children. She was mentored by a number of excellent teachers who served as role models for her.

Despite the challenges, she was able to continue her studies, achieving two Master's degrees and her PhD in Mental Health. It was not easy, and as she says, everything has a price, but social constraints did not stop

her from achieving her goals. She is grateful for the role her loving husband played in her success, as he was always supportive. She waited until her three children had finished high school, working in order to support them, before going on to pursue a PhD. Then they were her support while she studied. We all know that having a home involves chores and cooking, and Dr. Al-Issa says she was grateful to her family for managing the house while giving her space to study.

Dr. Al-Issa believes in the value of her knowledge in serving the needs of the community in general, and individuals who are victims of traumatic experiences. She also hopes that her work on trauma and human rights will be remembered for its positive energy and transformative change. Her research calls attention to injustice and seeks to empower individuals who have been harmed or are marginalized.

Dr. Ferdoos Al-Issa is an example of what can be achieved under exceedingly adverse circumstances, and is an important member of our university community.

“A lot of Palestinian women are exposed to difficult circumstances because of the political or social situations that lead to marginalization. Determination can change any difficult reality.”  
*Dr. Ferdoos Al-Issa*

She spent her childhood in the alleys of Duheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem. Dr. Ferdoos Al-Issa didn't feel any gender difference between herself and her seven brothers, and she gives her father credit for shaping her views on women and the feminist struggle. “He raised me as an important kid... I never felt marginalized”, she told us when we visited her in her office as the chairperson of the Department of Social Sciences at Bethlehem University.

“To build on capacity was the only thing we owned as refugees,” Dr. Al-Issa continued as she explained that her parents raised her, like many others







The first cohort of nurses from the program

## Oncology and Palliative Care Program

According to the latest Palestinian Ministry of Health report, the total number of newly reported cancer cases in 2016 in Palestine was 2,536. This represents an increase of 5.7% from the 2,400 reported cases in 2015, and the incidence rate of cancer in Palestine is currently 86.4 new cases per 100,000 Palestinians. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Palestine.

The local community's obvious need for quality healthcare for cancer patients is what prompted Bethlehem University to develop its High Diploma program in Oncology and Palliative Care. The program, which accepted its first cohort of students in 2016, addresses the shortage of nurses specializing in Oncology and Palliative Care in Palestine. Additionally, as there are currently no professional palliative care services in Palestine, Bethlehem University graduates will fill this crucial role for late-stage and terminal cancer patients who are in need of palliative care.

Mariam Awad, Dean of the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences, and Gerry O'Hare, Oncology Nurse Specialist from Glasgow and member of the Clyde Health Board, developed their curriculum using the European Oncology Nursing (EONS) curriculum, and the program was designed with the support of Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP). Bethlehem University and MAP provide scholarships to several Oncology and Palliative Care students every year to encourage exceptional students to study for the diploma, and the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences is currently working to convert the High Diploma into a master's degree.

The program aims to enhance Palestine's skilled nursing workforce and to ensure that Palestinian nurses are provided with the specific skill set needed to care for cancer patients, but it faces two challenges: offering a cutting-edge curriculum so that working nurses can continue to develop their knowledge after receiving their bachelor's degree, and ensuring long-term program sustainability. Because there are no local professionals who can teach the modules, securing funding for instructors to travel to Palestine and stay in Bethlehem for a semester is an imperative need. Currently, all of the Bethlehem University's Oncology and Palliative Care professors are guest lecturers who come from the United Kingdom. Eventually, Bethlehem University graduates will possess the professional experience and knowledge to teach future generations of Palestinian nurses.

To ensure the sustainability of the program, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Palestinian Ministry of Health to send 12 to 15 nurses to study for the diploma annually. The University is also exploring the possibility of future cooperation with the King Hussein Cancer Center in Jordan in order to provide students with internship placements and crucial on-the-job training opportunities. This year marks the graduation of the first cohort of nurses from the program. The Glasgow Lord Provost, Eva Bolander, will be attending.



## Bethlehem University's Catholic and Lasallian Identity

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10. Our Mission is akin to Christ’s, that is to empower students to have a better life themselves, and for them to make the lives of others better. The core tenet of Bethlehem University’s educational paradigm is that our graduates “enter to learn and leave to serve.”

It is precisely because of our identity as a Catholic university that Bethlehem University welcomes people of all faiths. Because all of humanity is made in God’s image, the human person deserves to be honored and respected regardless of religious beliefs or social-cultural background. Therefore, our university welcomes students of diverse backgrounds to grow in knowledge of themselves and others, to discover their purpose in life, to work together, and to contribute to the common good of Palestinian society and the world.

The diversity of our students is seen in their faith orientation, their socioeconomic situation, and the locale from which they come. On campus, approximately 25% of the students are Christian and 75% are Muslim. Most students come from Palestinian cities, towns, and villages surrounding Bethlehem; some students hail from other countries.

For some years now, every student has been required to take a Cultural Religious Studies course which focuses on the three major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The course takes an unbiased approach in presenting each faith's traditions, history, beliefs, moral precepts, and rituals with the goal of reaching a deeper appreciation of the vital role faith plays as a pillar of contemporary society. This fosters interfaith discussions on campus that contribute to the rich and active communal life which is essential for the well-being of any Catholic institution.

Recently, Dr. Michael Sansur, Executive Vice President, proposed the formation of a committee chaired by Brother Peter Iorlano, Coordinator of Institutional Values. The committee was tasked with developing a program to help all Bethlehem University freshmen attain a deeper understanding of the vision and mission of a Lasallian university. The program will encompass both the University’s Catholic heritage and the attributes expected of graduates of a Lasallian institution. It is truly inspiring to see that fourteen teachers and staff who participated in an international Lasallian formation program have volunteered to teach this course.







## Father Issa Thaljieh

Every day, before heading to his classes at Bethlehem University, Fr. Issa Thaljieh used to stop at the Church of the Nativity to pray. As a young man, his interests were focused not only on his studies in Travel Agency Management, but also on growing spiritually. For about ten years after graduating from Bethlehem University in 2003, Fr. Issa worked with his diploma in tourism. Then he changed his path, and studied theology at the Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary in New York. He was ordained a priest for the Greek Orthodox Parish at the Church of the Nativity in 2012.

As a devout priest, his passion has been working with youth. He established a parish-based youth group that provides the opportunity for young people to gather for a wide variety of experiences. The group meets regularly and is focused on fellowship and faith formation. Fr. Issa considers that Bethlehem University has been his key to success – his starting point towards helping people.



## Sister Rita Karkar

In 2008, Sister Rita Karkar was valedictorian at Bethlehem University, where she had taken her Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies. She had joined the Teaching Sisters of St Dorothy, also known as the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts, before coming to the university, but she grew more confident as the university freed her from preconceived ideas and increased her self-reliance. She feels that the university's openness, based on dialogue and acceptance, has helped her in opening up to others.

She was called to help in the spiritual formation of new members of her Order, and helped young women discern their vocation. She is currently a consultant to the Mother Superior, and volunteers caring for children of immigrants in Jerusalem.

"Bethlehem University is not limited to providing education, but it teaches students about life and raises awareness of their role in society based on love, respect, and openness to others," she said. Studying at Bethlehem University reminded her of the Founder of her Order, as her teachings are similar to the mission of the university to help young Palestinians have a better education.



## Sheikh Abdul Majeed Amarna

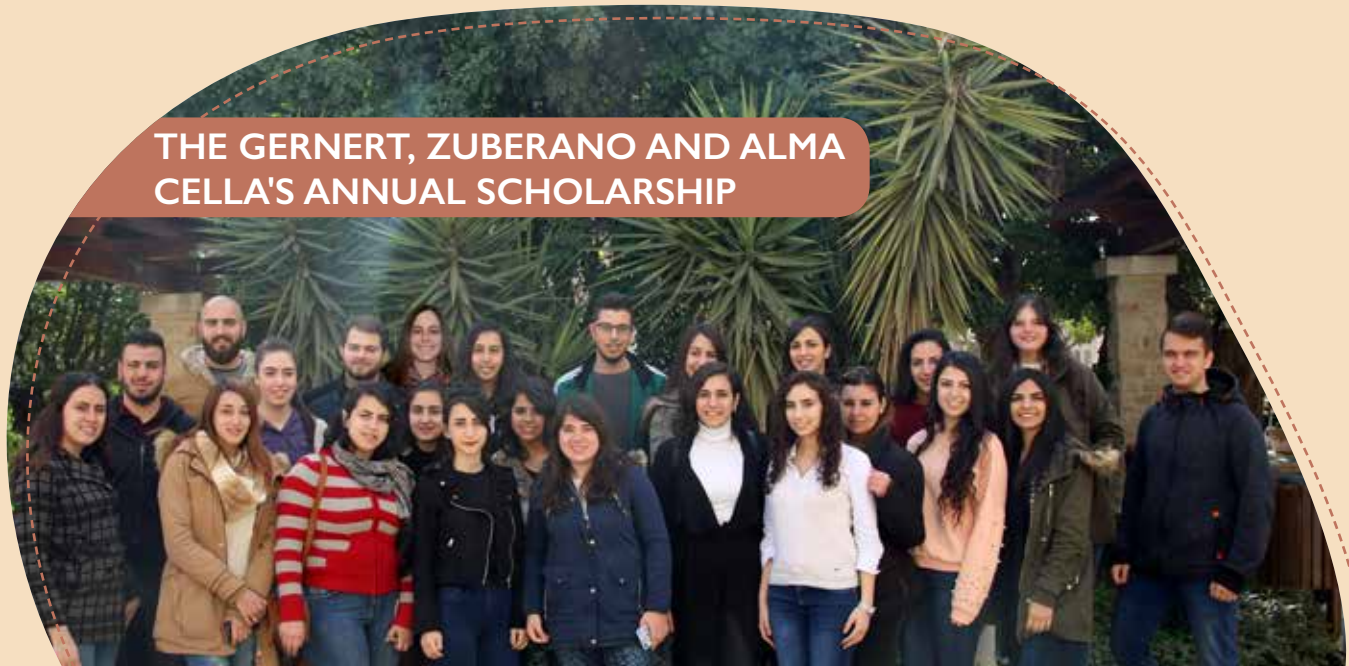
"Bethlehem University was my lever for success." Earlier in his education, at the Jordanian University where he received his BA in Islamic Law, Sheikh Abdul Majeed Amarna participated in many activities, but he credits the more open environment at Bethlehem University, where he achieved a Higher Education Diploma in Methods of Teaching, with exposing him more to the culture of coexistence. His experience at the university enriched his religious and social culture, as well as developing his ability to speak English. All of this has added to his ability to solve societal problems today, as he continues to be the Mufti of Bethlehem, a position he has held since 2004.

He urges peace. His Master's thesis was entitled, "Peace between Islamic thought and practices of Islamic groups in Palestine after the Israeli occupation in 1967". He has worked with the Ministry of Tourism to promote and to advocate for coexistence and religious tourism in the Holy Land, and has also worked in many different mosques, including Al-Aqsa Mosque.

# SCHOLARSHIPS - GIFTS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

An annual scholarship, through a gift of \$4000, is one of the best ways our friends and donors can support both needy students and Bethlehem University.

## THE GERNERT, ZUBERANO AND ALMA CELLA'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP



The Gernert, Zuberano and Alma Cella's Annual Scholarship was established by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem-USA Western Lieutenancy through the Grand Magisterium in the Fall 2007 semester. Since then, ninety four needy students have been supported by this most generous scholarship. Pictured above are the 24 scholarship recipients in the Spring 2018 semester.



I'm a third year student majoring in business administration. My father is a maintenance worker. I'm a deacon at the Syrian Church in Bethlehem where I help my parish and serve at the Sunday School. When I decided to study business administration, I immediately thought of Bethlehem University, as its graduates are the first choice of Palestinian employers. This wonderful university makes sure that finances are never an obstacle to completing your studies. The support of the Equestrian Order enables Bethlehem University to provide quality higher education to students like me and many others in the Holy Land.

*Lahdo Shio*

I'm a first year student majoring in software engineering. I will always be grateful to Bethlehem University and its administration for standing by me from the moment I was accepted at Bethlehem University. My father is from Jerusalem and works as a driver, and my mother is from Bethlehem and works as a secretary. I do not know if it is a grace or a curse to have one of your parents from Jerusalem. Because the Israeli authorities refuse to grant us official documentation of our Jerusalem residency, my siblings and I are unable to obtain an identity card and a passport. Our family rents an apartment in Jerusalem, which turned out to be very expensive. Without the scholarship I received from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, I would not have been able to pursue my education here at Bethlehem University. Thank you for your support which enables me to stay in my homeland, Palestine.



*Nicola Zreineh*



## SMOTJ ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP



The SMOTJ Annual Scholarship was established in 2011 through the Raymond Davis Foundation. Seventeen students, from the Faculty of Nursing and Health Sciences, received this scholarship including the ten recipients pictured above. Their sponsors, from the USA, recognize the Gospel precept of helping those in need.



I'm a third year student majoring in nursing. I am from Beit Sahour, and I have two sisters and two brothers. My parents work with the Latin Patriarchate in Al-Mafraq, Jordan. They serve the refugees with the help of the Church and they visit us every two months. My life is not easy without them but I thank God for everything in my life. I would have never been able to continue my education at Bethlehem University if I have not received this generous scholarship.

*Angella Abed Rabbo*



I'm a first year nursing student at Bethlehem University. I live with my mother and sister in Bethlehem. I chose to study nursing at Bethlehem University because I have always wanted to become a nurse and Bethlehem University is well known for its prestigious nursing program. I'm a Student Ambassador at the university and I'm also a member of the Local Youth Council of the Bethlehem Municipality. I feel honored to receive a scholarship from a very special order that has a mission to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

*Leen Hamati*

## Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir Scholarship

Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir Scholarship was established in the Fall 2016 semester by Major Issues and Theology Foundation in honor of Professor The Honorable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO, the former and second longest serving Governor of New South Wales.



I'm a third year student majoring in Nursing. I live in the beautiful village of Battir, 6.4 km west of Bethlehem. My father is a worker and my mother is a housewife. I feel proud to be the recipient of the Professor The Hon Dame Marie Bashir Scholarship. Nursing has always been my passion profession. I'm currently doing my clinical training at the Health Center of the UNRWA Bethlehem Office. I help in screening tests and in spreading health awareness among the surrounding refugee camps. My ambition after graduation is to pursue a Master's degree in Community Nursing.

*Maryana Al-Shami*

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 memory of David DeMassey,  
 grandson/veteran  
 Mr & Mrs Geoffrey Verhoff  
 Mr Lester A. Wagner  
 Ms Mary Walkinshaw  
 Mr Brian Walsh  
 Lady Carol Ann Walton, LGCHS  
 - In memory of John H.  
 McGuckin, KM  
 Patrice M. Ward  
 Mr & Mrs Daniel F. Warden - In  
 memory of Yvonne Warden  
 Mr & Mrs Dale Weitekamp  
 Mr Michael J. Westerfield  
 Mr Philip Wilcox  
 Mr & Mrs Joe Wildman  
 Maria T. Wilms, LHS  
 Christy Wise & Robert Axelrod  
 Bernard W. Wolff, KGCHS  
 Ms Johanna L. Worley - To  
 celebrate Jessie & Mazin  
 Qumsiyeh  
 Mr Chang-huey Wu

## Up to \$99 Silver Anniversary

Mrs Donna I. Abramov  
 Deacon & Mrs Ryan Adams  
 Ms Cynthia Adcock  
 Ms Ghada Alphons  
 AmazonSmile Foundation  
 Mr G. M. Anderson  
 Anonymous - Canada  
 Anonymous - Malaysia  
 Anonymous - Palestine  
 Anonymous - UK - In memory of  
 my great friend M A Qavi  
 Anonymous - USA - In honor of  
 Sister Kathy McGrath  
 Anonymous - (5) USA  
 Ms Amy Antonucci  
 Mrs Doua Aqel  
 Susan Archambault, LC\*HS  
 Mrs Anne Badrock  
 Mr William Bault  
 Mr Bruce Baumgarten  
 Wilma C. Berkeley  
 William & Diane Biggs

Mr Gary Blair - In memory of  
 Maureen Blair  
 Dr Sidney J. Blair - In memory of  
 Lamoyne Blair  
 Mr & Mrs Roy Breaud - In memory  
 of Hilda Breaud  
 Mr Robert Cable - To celebrate the  
 birth of Jesus  
 Mr Sam Caldwell  
 Juan C. Catapang  
 Mr Johny Fernando Chavez  
 Ms Natalie Chavez  
 Mr Salvatore P. Ciampo  
 Ms Walda W. Cobain - In honor of  
 Father Adam Forno  
 Colleen Conway & John G. Cooney  
 Ms Mary Corey  
 Mr & Mrs Mariano Corpuz - In  
 memory of Mr & Mrs Zoilo A.  
 Corpuz  
 Mr Robert Craig  
 Deacon & Mrs Pedro L. Cuellar  
 Rev. Monsignor John R. Dale  
 David J. Dewep  
 Sister Lisa Marie Drover, OSF  
 Beverly & Gerald Dubie - In  
 memory of Father Steven Moore  
 Mr & Mrs Terrence Earls  
 Sir Richard & Lady Kathleen  
 Ellenbecker  
 Ms Susan Etscovitz  
 Dr & Mrs Peter T. Eudenbach  
 Lucy Fallon  
 Rev. Chorbishop John Faris  
 Mr Thomas J. Fastl  
 Claire A. Fordrung - In memory of  
 Br Brendan Fitzgerald, FSC  
 Craig & Dolores Foster  
 Rev. Stan & Jeanne Fowler  
 Deacon Tom Fox, KHS & Mary Jane  
 Fox, LHS  
 Mr Adrian Frohlich  
 Mrs Mary Gaines  
 Mr MJ & CA Gallen  
 Ms Jennifer Garcia  
 Camille Gedeon  
 Br Richard Geimer, FSC - In  
 memory of Br Nicholas Geimer,  
 FSC  
 Sister Barbara Gfeller, SNJM  
 Mr & Mrs Frank Giannantonio  
 Dr & Mrs Dennis C. Golden  
 Mr Anthony S. Graefe  
 Mr & Mrs Edward D. Grayson  
 Dr & Mrs John C. Greenwood  
 Prof. Emeritus Mary Grey  
 Mr & Mrs Paul B. Grun  
 Chris & Gem Guylar  
 Ambassador Jay Hamburger - To  
 celebrate Mazin Qumsiyeh for  
 indefatigable strength  
 Sister Canice Hanrahan  
 Dr Dirk-Michael Harmsen  
 Ms Erin F. Hayden  
 Maryann F. Hayward  
 Dr Annette Herskovits - In memory  
 of Mario Herskovits, Holocaust  
 victim  
 Dr Iman Hilal, '02  
 Mr & Mrs Edward B. Hoff  
 Ms Sherrill Hogen  
 Vera Masrieh-Homsi  
 Mr Enrico Huneborg  
 Mr & Mrs Eugene Iannotti  
 Johannes Zang Group members -  
 Germany  
 David & Polly Johnson - In honor  
 of Mazin Qumsiyeh  
 Mr & Mrs Richard Jones  
 Dr Raimund Joos



Mr & Mrs William R. Jorgensen  
 Ms Petra Kaiser  
 Mrs L Kamnzeh  
 Most Rev. Francis J. Kane  
 Ms Adele M. Kasinskas  
 Cheryl Kawola & Linda Cairns  
 Mr & Mrs Michael Keleher  
 Ms Kathleen Kelley  
 Dr David H. Kelly  
 Mr Haitham Khalilieh  
 Mr Fritz Kitowski  
 Very Rev. George M. Kloster  
 Miss Julianne Knaggs  
 Mrs Mary Knight - In memory of  
 John & Dante Taddea  
 Sarah Kohles. OSF  
 KSHG Münster Group, Germany  
 Rev. Roger Labbe  
 Mr David Lacheck  
 Ms Mary Lane  
 John & Emily Lang  
 Ms Sarah Lazenby  
 Mr John Lemkul  
 Ms Kay Lingeman  
 Ms Jane Lingua  
 James A. & Kathleen S. Ludwiczak  
 Mr Hilal Malawi  
 Mr & Mrs James Marinos  
 Rev. John P. Martin, M.M.  
 Br William Martin, FSC  
 Rev. Brian McCarthy  
 Dr Maggie W. McCarty & Dr Robert  
 J. McCarty  
 Mrs Sally E. McClean  
 Br Joel William McGraw, FSC - In  
 memory of Br Vincent Malham,  
 FSC  
 Ms Teresa McLaughlin  
 Mr William K. McLoughlin - In  
 honor of Rev. Adam Forno  
 Br Dale J. Mooney, FSC - In  
 memory of Br Denis Murphy, FSC  
 Br Frederick Mueller, FSC  
 Deacon Roger P. Mullaney  
 Dr Patti J. Mullins, D.D.S.  
 Ms Gwendolyn O. Murphy  
 Carel Nielsen  
 Madame Germana P. Nijim - In  
 memory of Basheer K. Nijim  
 Ms Linda Nishi - In memory of  
 Donna Reschke  
 Sir John H. Nutley, KGCHS  
 Jack & Honey O'Leary - In memory  
 of Br Luke Salm, FSC  
 Mr & Mrs Geoff Orchison  
 Br Leonardus Paauw, FSC  
 Mr Kenneth Padgett - In memory  
 of James P. Cullen  
 Mr Neil M. Pagano  
 Mary Patania  
 Prof. Dr John Durham Peters  
 Mr Stephen Petter  
 Ms Margaret M. Pheasant  
 Pilgrim Center of Hope  
 Ms Lea Pisacane  
 Sir Richard & Lady Katherine  
 Pizzato  
 Mrs Heather Preimesberger  
 Mrs Barbara Preziosi  
 Joan Pritchard  
 Mr & Mrs John M. Puppo  
 Chad & Lucy Quaintance  
 Rev. Jerry Ragan, VF - In honor of  
 Father Peter Vasko  
 Ms Joan U. Rebholz - In memory of  
 James Rebholz  
 Commissioner Edward F. Reilly, Jr.  
 Miss Kathleen Reville  
 Ms A Rix  
 Margaret Robbins

Ms Susan M. Roland  
 Ms Gayle L. Ruedi  
 Mrs Elaine Jiries Rumman  
 Rev. Tony Saab  
 August Miller Salameh  
 Mr Bassam Salameh  
 Mr Elias Salameh  
 Mrs Linda Salameh  
 Mr Ramzi Salameh  
 Mrs Raymonde Salameh  
 Mr Sam Salameh  
 Mr Tarek Salameh  
 Louis A. Santalesa  
 Mr John L. Schlageter, Esq.  
 Nancy L. Schrenk  
 Mrs Antoinette Schroder  
 Sister Eileen Schuller, OSU  
 Sir Michael Sedgwick, KHS - In  
 honor of Sudaad Shahin  
 Dr.h.c. May Seikaly  
 Ms Clare M. Sheridan  
 Mrs Carol A. Smith  
 Mr M.J.M. Smits  
 Mrs Margaret Snowden  
 Anna Sokolski - In memory of  
 Wanda & Bill Bialecki  
 Mr Kenneth J. Solak  
 Mr & Mrs Michael J. Sovel  
 Mr Angelo Mark Spadavecchia  
 Phillip & Alison Sparti  
 St. Andrew The Apostle Group  
 Mr & Mrs Edwin Stenard  
 Mrs Jean Stout  
 Dr Eric Swanson  
 Mr & Mrs John Sylvester  
 Rev. J. Edward Szendrey  
 Ms Jennifer Thomas  
 Dr & Mrs David Toorawa  
 Mr & Mrs Michael Toso - In  
 memory of my family  
 Ms Margaret M. Trepal  
 Mr Roy & Mrs Eva Tuff  
 Mr Bill Tunilla & Mrs Sherry  
 Tunilla  
 Jerry & Doris Turner  
 Ms H. Tyrell  
 University of Winnipeg group  
 members  
 Ms Cornelia Van Thiel - In memory  
 of Rosalie Rienzo  
 Mrs Marilyn K. Vierra  
 Most Rev. Gerald T. Walsh  
 Prof. Dr Kanji Watanabe  
 Rev. Joseph A. Weber, Jr., KHS  
 Br Robert Werle, FSC  
 Mr Richard Wogisch  
 Ms Mary Wolfe - In honor of  
 Brenda Vesprini  
 Rev. Michael A. Wright - In  
 memory of Katherine L. Wright  
 Dr Kathleen C. Yosko  
 Robert & Dianne Younklin

## Gift in Kind

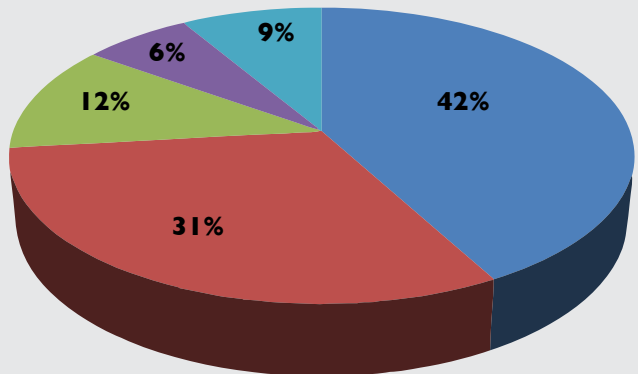
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 Mr Maikel Canawati  
 Mr Maher Canawati  
 Eco for Medical Equipment &  
 Supplies  
 Mr Sharbel I. Handal '88  
 Hanna Mitri & Sons  
 Ms Elsa Y. K. Hazboun  
 Mr & Mrs Elias J. O. Al Hazin, '98  
 H. E. George Jabra (Peggy)  
 Mr Maurice Khamis  
 Mr Charly Lama

# Bethlehem University

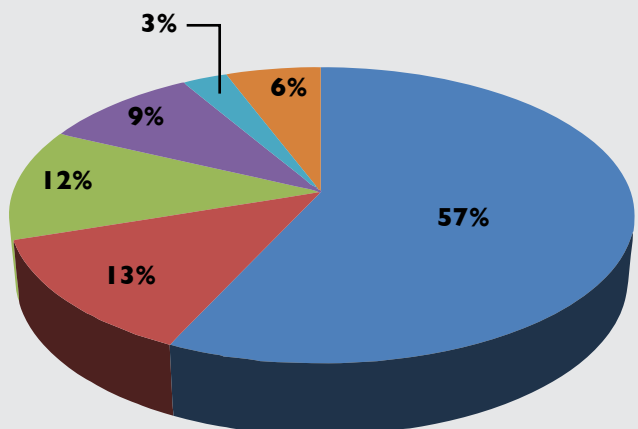
## 2016-17

### Financial Statement

<b>Income (USD)</b>	<b>12,525,355</b>
<b>Tuition and Fees (Student Paid)</b>	<b>5,269,079</b>
<b>Subsidy, Donations &amp; Scholarships</b>	<b>3,899,332</b>
<b>Projects and Research Grants</b>	<b>1,466,454</b>
<b>Public Service</b>	<b>817,698</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	<b>1,072,792</b>



<b>Expenses (USD)</b>	<b>12,913,284</b>
<b>Instruction</b>	<b>7,349,468</b>
<b>Institutional Support</b>	<b>1,673,237</b>
<b>Plant Operation and Maintenance</b>	<b>1,572,268</b>
<b>Projects and Research Grants</b>	<b>1,224,891</b>
<b>Public Service</b>	<b>349,074</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>744,346</b>



# Visitors

September, October 2017



MISSIO, England and Wales



FMPO Franciscan Group, USA



EOHSJ- South Western Group, USA



Fr. Peter's Group, Canada



Oslo University, Norway



East Anglia Diocese, UK



EOHSJ- South Africa



Swedish Falu fri Group, Sweden



Bastoli Family, Australia





USAID-ASHA, USA



Costa Neno, USA



Theology Training Group, Denmark



Taawon's Group, USA



Social Workers Group, Belgium



New Zealand Group



Shrewsbury Diocese Group, UK



Salt and Light Group, Canada



# Visitors

October 2017



Gregor Schroeder Group, Germany



Sacred Heart Church, UK



MSGT Challahan, USA



BK Hinzen, Knights, Germany



Fr. Michael Jones Group, Ireland



Johannes Zang, Germany



EOHSJ- Queensland, Australia



Harvest- Walking in the Steps of Jesus, Australia



Fr. Paul Marshall's Group, Australia





Fr. Alex Group, USA



EOHSJ - Belgium



Basel Group, Switzerland



EOHSJ- Alaska, USA



EOHSJ- England and Wales



Cardinal Lacroix Group, Canada



Ecce Homo Group, International



EOHSJ- Northern Lieutenancy Group, USA



# Visitors

November, December 2017



Catholic Legatus, USA



YMCA-YWCA Group, Norway



Experience Travel Tours, UK



Rev. Jillard Group, USA



EOHSJ- Western Lieutenancy, USA



HCEF Delegation, USA



Kunish-Catholic Group, USA



EOHSJ - Eastern Lieutenancy, USA





EOHSJ- Western Lieutenancy, USA



Konrad Schmidt, Germany



Sir Tiago Teles De Abreu, EOHSJ- Portugal



Compton Group, USA



SMOTJ Group, USA



January 2018, CRS Bishop's Group, USA



Kath Group, UK



Baton Rouge Diocese, USA



# Visitors

January, February 2018



Holy Land Experience Group, Australia



University of San Diego's Group, USA



Wollongong Diocese Group, Australia



Parish of Saint Andrew Avellino, USA



Ms. Tallon's Group, Italy



Mundelein Seminary Group, USA



Bishop, Riekel's Group, USA



Msgr Vaccari's Group, USA





Hetta Oschlie's Group, Germany



Bishop Beisner's Group, USA



Bishop Coerver's Group, USA



University of Winnipeg, Canada



Norwich Anglican Diocese Group, UK



Tekton Ministry Bagnoli Group, USA



KSHG Münster, Germany



Kairos Fr. Matthew O'Leary Group, USA



North Central Lieutenancy, USA



MSGR. Lang's Group, USA



CRS Delegation Group, USA





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P.O. Box 11407 - 92248 Jerusalem

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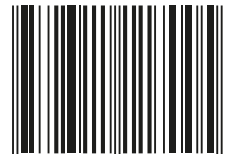
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