

JEC PALESTINE
Christian Youth Movement
Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

Internal Report 2017



Brief Background of the Youth Ministry Movement of the Diocese of Jerusalem in Palestine

Patriarch Michel Sabbah brought his experience of working with international youth movements to the Holy Land in 1964, working in the parishes under the umbrella of the Latin Patriarchate—the diocese of Jerusalem, which has been reactivated in 16 November 2004. The Ministry serves about 3000 Christian children and youth (ages range, more or less, between 7 – 35 years old) belonging to different parishes, schools and churches (Latin, Greek Catholic) in five Palestinian governorates and divided into 58 active Christian youth groups.



The basis of this ministry is missionary and adopted John 10:10 “I have come so that they may have life, and have it more abundantly” as its verse from the bible; believing that Jesus is life and invites us to live life to its fullest supported by our Christian faith and values, thus Catholic Christian youth of Palestine will eventually transform their lives and carry it out to transform the lives of others within the Palestinian community. One's involvement within community and church will be enhanced, stamping one's faith in an applicable way in all the aspects of their lives.

Our children and youth, who will be our future parents and leaders, will act out of their nourished Christian heart and faith rather than being directed by the harsh environment they live in. The youth will implement their values in their society, they will make change possible.

Description of the Youth Ministry Body:

The General Secretariat of the Ministry has 11 secretariat members (SM), among them one religious representative and 10 laymen. All members are volunteer based work and do not get paid except the secretary.

The general Chaplain, who is religious, and the general secretary, who is layman, is nominated by the Patriarch. The secretary who has a stable job and the only paid facility in the group to maintain office requirement and communications. Each of the rest of the SMs' lead a committee that represent one of the following categories; Children, Elementary, Secondary, Young Adults (university students), and Adults (Workers). Then we have three committees that supports the programs implementation; media committee, development and coordination committee, prayer committee. Each committee has five committee members (CM), all members are volunteers.

Regular meetings are held by the Ministry's secretariat office to arrange the programs and evaluate the process and activities of the various groups depending on the reports prepared by the secretariat member responsible of each area.

In between the Ministry secretariat meetings, the SMs meet up regularly with their committees to build up and prepare their programs. This process goes under the supervision of the general secretary; the programs content and the committees function.



Mission

The Youth Ministry in Palestine, JEC, is an umbrella that unites all Christian children, and youth groups' in our parishes. It is where Christian faith and values of our youth and children will be nourished and thus become transformative in their lives and their community. The Youth Ministry is a bridge to encourage the youth's active involvement within community based services, social, political, economic sectors in the Palestinian society.

Goals & General Aims

1. Providing a suitable catechism for youth in order to achieve a conscious faith by assisting them to discover a practical and vital faith through tracking their daily life, and practices of Jesus Christ teachings.
2. Creating capable Christian Youth leaders to bear the responsibility of a conscious faith in their Palestinian society.
3. Helping the youth to find the way to their future.
4. Serving their local community.
5. Unifying their activities, sparking team spirit between them, and harmonize their souls to work as one hand groups.
6. Encourage volunteer work and projects, which can build up and influence the Palestinian society.

Areas of work/ main field of work:

Religious, cultural, social, community based services, and voluntary work.



General Activities:

1. Spiritual training camps for all ages, and conduct spiritual retreats.
2. General meetings on various Church solemnities; Diocesan feasts celebration, such as the feast of "Christ the King" – patron of the youth ministry, "Don Bosco", "St. Francis of Assisi".
3. Mutual visits and activities between various ministry groups.
4. Participating in International meetings and workshops.
5. Conducting training and awareness sessions for leaders.
6. Promoting new programs and curriculum for the weekly meetings of the children and youth ministry groups, within all the parishes in Palestine.
7. Journeys and trips that has religious, cultural, community based services aspects.



Main Functions:

Our mission is to empower Christian Youth in spiritual and positive transformation of the words of Jesus Christ by being representatives for:

1. Prayer and celebration
2. Theological reflection
3. Study and analysis of social and cultural processes
4. Solidarity and action across boundaries of culture, gender.

General overview of the functional and spiritual progress of work during 2016, 2017

In order to understand the achievements done by the youth movement, it is important to highlight how the new hierarchy and strategy of work that was proposed and implemented by the new team has caused a positive change, jumping into a higher scale of proficiency, within the last two years. Although the team is looking forward to keep enhancing the work, despite the challenging lack of resources.

The progress was formed in various levels:

JEC secretariat function of work;

During 2016 we established five main leading committees; Children's committee, Elementary committee, Secondary committee, Young Adult committee (including University students and workers together), Coordination and Media committee. Each Function was led by one SM and had up to five CMs, in addition to two volunteers if needed.

CMs had to sign up an official commitment document that includes all the responsibilities and tasks, thus committing themselves 100% to the service. On the other hand volunteer members are those who can't commit for their limited time

or availability but still can add a value to the work using their specific skills and are called upon request when needed only.



By the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017 the progress of work enhanced and a more specific approach became needed for our ministry work; during the service we sensed an urgent need within each age category to focus on its own needs and interests in a deeper level, this led us to a major act of separating two committees; Young Adults (University students) and Adults Committee (Workers). There is however several joined activities for both committees, which are conducted when common issues interest both categories.

The Coordination and Media committee was also split into two; the Media Committee and Development and Coordination Committee. The Media Committee specified its work and focused more on documentation and news coverage, pre-activities posts and other social media publicity. The Development and Coordination committee focused on providing logistics needed for activities, development of programs content, follow up on trainings, coordination in general, providing suitable places for the programs being conducted.

Most importantly we formed a core committee that we call the heart of our work, the Prayer Committee. This committee focuses on forming a 24/7 chain of prayers for the youth ministry work and all prayer requests, it also encourages and works on rooting prayer in a deeper level within all our activities and within separated activities and days of prayers.

JEC secretariat members:

In General, we worked on building the capacity and empower SM and CM body, and eventually they are showing a deeper understanding of their spirituality, more commitment in their work, becoming skilled in working in teams and in coordination.

SM and CM body started out with minimum experience in leading their children or youth categories in such big numbers, now they conduct their programs very well and can function under pressure in a very good means.



Programs content:

We believe that Program's content must be worked on all the time, seeking continuous progress, it definitely enhanced a lot since we started two years ago, partially because SM and CM body leading those programs became experts in their work and can assist what type of program should be presented to the category addressed, and also choosing proper techniques for the implementation.

Christ the King- JEC Bookstore:

The book store was established in 2011 by JEC Palestine youth ministry, which functions under the Diocese of Jerusalem umbrella. The book store "Christ the King" took its name for JEC's intercessor.

Today, reaching the end of 2017, JEC Palestine youth ministry is proud to have the book store functioning with high proficiency, serving all the Christian community, and one of the main sources to cover the costs of many of its programs and activities, which are offered to the youth during the year.

During the past years the book store offered spiritual, culture, historical, philosophical, material to serve Christian families, youth, parishes, educational institutes, priests and nuns, and had raised awareness of the importance of increasing one's knowledge of faith.

This year, 2017, we extended the book store and add a section "Sacrum", which will provide all priest related wear and church utilities. The work is still in progress and will open its door by the first quarter of 2018.



Leadership and Training sessions:

Caritas Jerusalem and Caritas Española partnered with JEC Palestine in 2017; the parties functioned in one body to enhance and empower their pastoral and social act, by offering training sessions for JEC youth groups in the 20 identified parishes. The training aimed for 140 participants but only reached about 90 youth in west bank and Gaza.

The main challenge lack of cooperation from some parishes, youth distracted by other activities and not being able to continue sessions, the political situation and restriction of movement imposed.

Main goals of the training focused on the following;

1. To strengthen the character of Christian youth by empowering their social and communicational skills by introducing management skills and encourage youth social action.
2. Supporting the youth knowledge by highlighting catholic social teaching and Palestinian Christian theology.
3. To understand better the Catholic-Palestinian reality so that the youth will strengthen their belonging and contribution to their society and Church.
4. Decrease youth immigration and increase Christian-youth pastoral and social action and involvement in all sectors of Palestinian society.



Pilgrimage to Lebanon:

It is essential for our catholic youth in Palestine to reach beyond their own holy grounds and break the limitation of oneself, by getting outside the box, youth will be introduced to a new language in which they can use to live and implement acts of mercy, Nourish the spiritual, emotional and cultural aspects in their lives, and it will also give the youth a sense of affiliation and belonging to their church.



JEC Palestine was able to conduct a successful and spirit lifting pilgrimage experience to Lebanon. 33 pilgrims participated, including youth members, priests and parents, to Lebanon pilgrimage, which took place from 30 August 2017 to 6 September 2017.

The pilgrims visited spiritual sites where they were able to take time of prayer and meditation. Also the program contained visiting rehabilitation and orphanage centers, where pilgrims were able to help and learn how to relate to different realities than their own. In addition to having fun time visiting touristic and entertainment sites.

Upon arrival the participants shared their increased desire to contribute and create initiatives to nourish the work of the youth ministry.



“Al-Hayat” Christian Youth Centre Head Quarter

Al-Hayat Head Quarter project has thought of as a starting point that represents our youth ministry bigger dream of building a compound of youth; The Palestinian Christian Youth Center for Life (PCYCL), which was drafted in 2016. The youth ministry Palestine think of Al-Hayat HQ, thought of and drafted in 2017, as an opportunity to centralize our office and become a meeting point for children and youth, and offers a working space for the leaders.

With great generosity the Latin patriarchy offered us an office space in Ramallah city in 2017; we are currently fundraising to be able to implement our vision of this HQ. We already worked on mapping inner design of the place, thinking of it as a center for children and youth to meet and have some activities, also as a base office for SM and CM body, a branch for our library, and small projects for self-pay our running cost of the place. This HQ will be our starting point from which we can step by step reach our dream of building the youth compound in Ramallah city.

“ I Have come
that they
may
have life ”

john 10:10

Al-Hayat HQ will include facilities and services needed to create a safe environment of learning, building up talents, socializing, and better self-expression along with the space and resources to reach this goal.

Al-Hayat HQ will be used only as a center for meeting up and planning our activities in, as offices and administration, but also for it to hold much more benefit for the children and youth. We thought to conduct a project that provides tools for children to help them be introduced to the word of God and the bible, and other child-protection program and awareness, using creative programs and using technological means. We think it is essential to plant a seed in children's heart, so for them to cherish and adopt it in their lives as they grow up.

There will also be space to include workshops and awareness sessions that can support youth, each according to their category, and also by initiating other activities, that will be described under the project's activities. Will also provide a place apart from the stress and strain of daily living where such reflection can take place in an atmosphere of peace and safety.



The Beneficiaries:

Direct Beneficiaries:

Al-Hayat HQ will directly benefit The Palestinian Christian children and Youth. Providing safe environment and means for meeting and learning, and thus building up their spiritual, social, political and psychological being.

Indirect Beneficiaries:

1. Parents of youth and children; when they have safe environment where they can send their children and youth too.
2. Al-Hayat HQ will create a chance to cooperate with different entities from the Palestinian society; they can use our space for holding meetings and certain activities and programs, and also will be a meeting point for inter-religious and cultural dialogue focused approach.



Activities and programs conducted during 2017

The following sheet describes in short the categories and numbers of beneficiaries of our conducted programs during 2017.

Children (6–9 years)

Activity Name	Date	Place	Activity Type	Participants
Let's Walk Together towards Resurrection	12 March 2017	Taybeh	Activity	230
She Said Yes, And there was Life	21–24 June 2017	Beit Sahour	Camp	80
Baby Jesus, Is my KING	05 November 2017	Aboud	Celebration	360

Secondary Age Youth (10–14 years)

Activity Name	Date	Place	Activity Type	Participants
I Deeply Miss you	27 February 2017	Beit Sahour	Jericho	180
Hug me so I can Live with you	4–7 August 2017	Beit Sahour	Camp	70
Because you're my father, I'm a KING	10 November 2017	Ramallah	Celebration	300



Youth (15-18 years)

Activity Name	Date	Place	Activity Type	Participants
With you toward Calvary	13 March 2017	Jerusalem	Activity	150
Hug me so I can Live with you	13-16 June 2017	Beit Sahour	Camp	80
Your Steps are my path	17 November 2017	Zababdeh	Celebration	350



Young Adults (19-22 years)

Activity Name	Date	Place	Activity Type	Participants
A New Path, for a new ERA	24 March 2017	Jericho	Activity	70
One Heart One Voice = The World Hears Us	7-10 September 2017	Ramallah	Camp	60
What's your Plans?	6 October 2017	Birzeit	Activity	60
Jesus is MY KING	24 November 2017	Ramallah	Celebration	400



Workers (23-35 years)

Activity Name	Date	Place	Activity Type	Participants
Carry Your Cross and follow me	07 April 2017	Jericho	Activity	60
Palestinian Marathon	31 March 2017	Bethlehem	Activity	50
My Love to You, is an Endless life	24-27 June 2017	Haifa	Camp	65
Jesus is MY KING	24 November 2017	Ramallah	Celebration	400



Prayer Group

Activity Name	Date	Place	Activity Type	Participants
Are you Happy?	30 July 2017	Ramallah	Activity	50
Mary, our Mother	25 August 2017	Bethlehem	Activity	70
Send Your Spirit, Jesus	24 September 2017	Jerusalem	Activity	60
You Are SALT, You Are LIGHT	27 October 2017	Zababdeh	Activity	100

Other Activities

Activity Name	Date	Place	Activity Type	Participants
Palm Sunday	9 April 2017	Jerusalem	Activity	100
Pilgrimage to Lebanon	30 August – 6 Sept 2017	Lebanon	Camp	32
Welcoming the new students of Birzeit University	19 September 2017	Birzeit	Activity	80
Camp for JEC members and committees	20-21 sept 2017	Jericho	Camp	35
Participation in the feast of Our Lady of Palestine	29 October 2017	Jerusalem	Activity	90
Participate in Christmas Tree Lightening in Al-Quds University	28 November 2017	Abu Dies	Activity	20
Participate in Christmas Tree Lightening in Birzeit University	14 December 2017	Birzeit	Activity	50



Based on these activities and programs we achieved the following main Outcomes and Achievements:

1. Enhanced and developed new techniques of approach and teaching, away from traditional techniques; all applied through workshops, games, reflections, prayers, demonstrative approach, social media and applications such as snap chat, field visits and volunteering.
2. The programs' content contained spiritual, entertainment, cultural and social material; mainly focused on creation, composition and life and bible utility and its applicability in real life, listening to real life personal experiences, leadership skills, partnership and marriage.
3. Building team spirit, leadership skills and individual capacities; we had direct and indirect results that indicated the youth enriched their experience; some indicators were reflected by the youth leaders' capacities in forming programs and implementing it developed. Team work became smoother and team spirit was clearly reflected in the activities, which created a healthy space, encouraging enough for other youth to ask us to volunteer and join the service.
4. The joy of interaction of participants and leaders during the camps; which opened various communication channels, for example Facebook groups were initiated; to better communicate to those who participated and encourage them with daily posting. We received many messages from the social networking pages thanking the camp administrators for the beautiful days they spent during activities.
5. The programs and activities were conducted in various locations to cover a wider range geographically.

6. During the end of 2017 we were able to set up the main theme for our website, it will however be launched for sure during 2018. The website has many interactive ideas, which will allow youth and leaders to communicate with each other, obtain material needed for their activities, and post their own news.
7. We witnessed an increased requested of partnerships and we also sought to open new ones, listed the main partners beside the diocese of Jerusalem; "Afkar" organization, Pontifical Mission Jerusalem, Caritas Jerusalem, Caritas Espanola, Open Doors, Korean Brotherhood, Marshall office of Poland and Caritas of Poland.
8. We witnessed an increased number of participants during our activities. We received a positive feedback from parishes, and partners; we have received thanks and appreciation and initiation of support from many priests, nuns and youth in various parishes.
9. New group of young adults, Birzeit university students, asked to be guided under umbrella; we conducted a one day activity in partnership with "Afkar" organization, and lead Christmas activities.

Constrains/ Limitations:

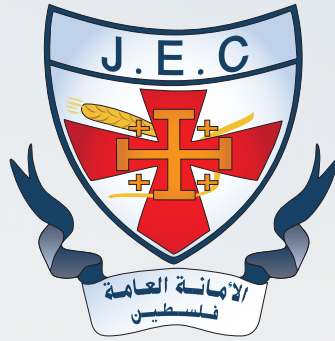
1. Difficulty of having the right place to conduct the camp. (it took a long time, effort and money to find the places) most of them didn't meet our expectations and needs; some spaces were too limited for our programs, and the number of youth/children attending.
2. Visitors to the camp; sometimes if visitors came during programs this draws the attention of the participants and breaks the bonding of the group.

3. Local leaders lack of experience; number of leaders was good and many were positively supporting the programs, but some of them need to enhance their proficiency of work.
4. Increasing number of participants; we are very encouraged by the increasing number, yet it creates a challenge for us when it comes to finding a place to host the event, and re-modify the programs' implementation technique.
5. We are not always met with cooperation by priests or the religious order, this causes stressed and hinders our work, and makes it harder to serve the youth group of such parishes. We tried to communicate to such personals, some we got in good terms with, but others are still not cooperating.
6. The increase emerge of new non- church related Christian based groups, which are not being monitored and put t its limits, are defiantly causing a threat by trying continuously to recruit young youth who are still building their faith and character.

Conclusion:

The youth ministry in Palestine appreciates all material and moral support offered by all parties. Our body takes serving the word of god in a serious manner, and always witness the blessing of God forming miracles in youth's lives and ministry work. It is through Jesus our Christ and savior that we gain strength to love and give and to create unity out of our difference.

State of Revenues & Expenditures (2017)				
Description	Account	Account (USD)	Account	Total
	Name	Summer	Youth	
Other Revenues	Local Donations	0.0	0.0	0.0
	- Koren Brothers	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	-pontifical mission	35,000.00	0.00	35,000.00
	-Open Doors	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	-LPJ-Latin patriarchate	6,000.00	5,000.00	11,000.00
	Christ the King BookStore	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
	Subscriptions Income	4,928.89	0.00	4,928.89
Total Revenues		47,428.89	35,000.00	82,428.89
Expenses Admin Expense	Medical Care	285.05	7.08	292.13
	Transportation & Documentation	6,863.43	7,427.12	14,290.55
	Accommodation & Lodging	13,762.18	0	13,762.18
	Permits	2,171.48	247.87	2,419.35
	Spiritual Retreats & Pastoral	0.00	278.96	278.96
	Alimentary (Food & Beverage)	3,937.67	13,021.97	16,959.64
	Clothing & Miscellaneous	0.00	5,229.06	5,229.06
	Employee Salary Payroll	683.50	226.44	909.94
	Hospitality and Gifts	143.02	3,223.87	3,366.89
	Internet Subscription	0.00	82.00	82.00
	Printings& Printed Matters	948.78	2,894.93	3,843.71
	Freight Delivery & Customs	11.18	1,073.04	1,084.22
	Stationary	603.55	849.74	1,453.29
	Supplies	776.87	1,906.35	2,683.22
	Cleaning Supplies	223.85	285.90	509.75
	Church Supplies	18.71	0.00	18.71
	Rent	557.41	998.26	1,555.67
	Equipment	905.75	680.11	1,585.86
	Maintenance & Repairs	169.34	4.87	174.21
	Vehicles Fuel	85.81	509.41	595.22
	Vehicles Purchase & Rental	0.00	378.42	378.42
	Bank Service Charges	0.00	392.07	392.07
	Humanitarian Aid	0.00	911.73	911.73
Operational Expense	Equipment	8,666.95	0.00	8,666.95
Total Expenditure		40,814.53	40,629.20	81,443.73
Net Surplus / Deficit		6,614.36	5,629.20-	985.16



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