



Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

The Youth of Jesus' Homeland - Palestine

**"I come so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly."** John 10:10

ANNUAL REPORT



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Acknowledgements

We are happy to report that last year was a very successful year! We achieved many goals and influenced many people. That is, of course, as result of countless hours of hard work and dedication. That is why it is necessary to thank everyone who helped us make this success a reality.

First of all, a huge thank you to all the people who supported YJHP either financially or by their physical presence. Many people offered us either space for meetings, venues for activities, accommodations for prayers and meetings, not to mention all the wonderful hospitality we were extended. You have helped us reach a milestone in Youth activities ensuring a well formed and engaged future generation. Thank you to all consecrated religious from different churches and dominations for their continuous support, especially in facilitating our activities and helping us to develop our ideas; of course for their huge commitment in attending and speaking at various activities. Thank you to all the lay people and YJHP families for their trust and support of our work. A very special thank you to all the current and former YJHP committee members too. We also thank all the volunteers for their hard work and commitment.

Thank you to our YJHP members and participants who devoted their time to join our activities, gain knowledge and deepen their relationship with God and the local church community. We are grateful for all the generous donations we have received during the year. These activities and meetings would not have been possible without your support.

Brief Background about YJHP

The Youth of Jesus' Homeland (YJHP) The Christian Youth Ministry - Palestine

Patriarch Michel Sabbah brought his experience of working with Middle Eastern and international youth ministries to the Holy Land in 1964, working in the parishes under the umbrella of the Assembly of the Catholic Ordinaries of Holy Land (A.C.O.H.L) and under the administration of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. YJHP serves about 3000 Christian children and youth (ages range, more or less, between 7-35 years old) belonging to different catholic parishes, schools and churches in five Palestinian governorates and divided into 58 active Christian youth groups.



YJHP is founded on missionary and voluntary work, and adopts ***"I have come so that they might have life and have it more abundantly"*** (John 10:10) 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 and the word of God. Thus, Catholic Christian Youth of Palestine will eventually transform the lives of others within the Palestinian community, which will reinforce their values in a way that can transform their reality in all life aspects.

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 change will be possible if the youth apply the taught faith values within society.

Description of the Youth Ministry Body

The General Secretariat of the Ministry has 12 secretariat members (SM), among them one consecrated person. All members are volunteer based work and do not get paid except the secretary.

The General Chaplain, the consecrated, and the General Secretary, who is layman, is nominated by the Patriarch. The General Chaplain and the General Secretary choose the rest of the secretarial body members, as a deputy of General Secretary is also anointed when needed. 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;



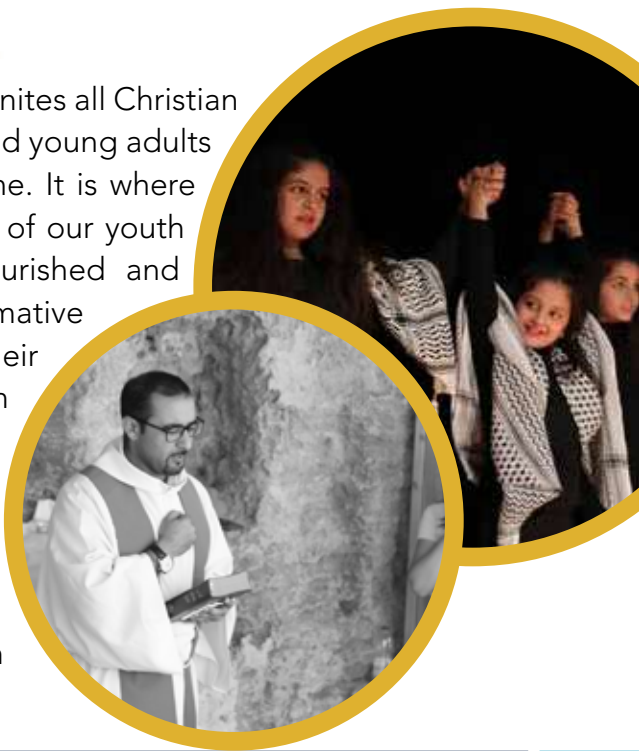
Children, Elementary, Secondary, Youth (university students), Young Adults (Workers). Then we have three committees that supports the programs implementation; media committee, development and coordination committee, prayer committee. Each committee has five committee members (CM), all members are volunteers.

Regular meetings are held by YJHP'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 secretarial 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

YJHP is an umbrella that unites all Christian children, youth groups' and young adults in our parishes in Palestine. 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, and economic sectors in the Palestinian society.



Statement by the Former General Secretary

Letter of Love and Appreciation

“If you do not want to know the truth, you will never know it; thus, you should seek to obtain it ”

*My dear Christian brothers and sisters,
Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe;*

I bend in front of my Lord, King of the Universe, because He gives me the great privilege of serving His beloved ones. I Follow in His footsteps by carrying His message and cross, while walking the path of the Stations of the Cross and the Resurrection. I learned in more depth the meaning behind leading the Servants of the Lord, and growing with them in love, wisdom and grace. I also learned to walk together and become one spirit with Him. Little Jesus grew within me to reach an understanding which brought me closer to the meaning of given love of a loving God.

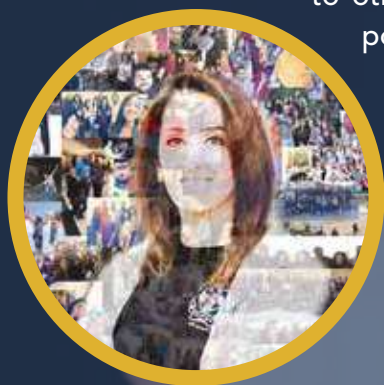
It has been my supreme privilege to have a deep and profound insight into the characteristic and entity of Jesus through His life due to His infinite compassion. This compassion towards His beloved ones urged Him to call humanity to adhere to His message and seek divine love fearing that they might fall into a thorny path.

A question was raised in my mind. “How did we focus on Jesus’ physical sacrifice and suffering undermining His internal suffering of expressions of worries, courage and love?” With all the mental fatigue and exhaustion He was surrounded with, He had to give love until His last breath. I wish we had such bravery! His divinity was complete with the peak of His suffering and two natures. Meaning that an enormous power changed history and the fate of humanity; its source is summarized in two words “A True Love”.

Jesus Christ has given us the holiest message because He knew our desperate need to have it. It is a message that lies in front of us, but yet we often fail to see. It has cues that allow us to reach our true entity, which our tangible or materialistic shell has covered, just as the Bible refers to it; the temple of the Holy Spirit. Christ calls us to free ourselves from such shells in order to know ourselves better. We are born in the image and likeness of God and this is what we must bravely seek to live as we become one with our Heavenly Father and His creation.

Jesus is our truth; with every word and motion He gives us the key. He invites us to embrace His image and likeness that is implemented in us to use it and revive the work of the Holy Spirit. This action will make us take a step forward and get closer to endless love because He calls you by your name.

I learned from Jesus Christ that leaving does not necessarily mean abandoning, but it is giving freedom to oneself and the other to bloom. Jesus provided us the meaning of freedom when He sat a time frame for His earthly life and His service to the people, handing His message with love and total trust to His Disciples to light the entire world. At this moment, I am walking in His footsteps; handing in the service to a new generation of leaders trusting that they will continue, enhance and live the message of love as well as give life to others under the hand of God and His powerful grace that He came "[for] they might have life, and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)



**General Secretary for The Youth of
Jesus' Homeland–Palestine 2016-2018**

Ms. Rawan Zahran

Christ the King Bookstore

The bookstore was established in 2011 by YJHP Palestine Youth Ministry, which functions under the Diocese of Jerusalem umbrella. This bookstore "Christ the King" took its name for YJHP's intercessor.

Today, reaching the end of 2018, YJHP Palestine Youth Ministry is proud to mention that this bookstore function with high proficiency, serving all the Christian community, and is one of the main sources to cover the costs of many of its programs and activities, which are executed during the year.

During the past years, the bookstore offered spiritual, cultural, historical, and philosophical materials to serve Christian families, youth, parishes, educational institutions, priests and nuns. It has also raised awareness of the importance of increasing ones knowledge of faith.

In December 2018, we extended the bookstore and opened the door for a unique and the only section in Palestine and Jordan called "Sacrum".

This section provides different altar furnishings and church supplies including Mass kits as well as Liturgical vestments and sacred vessels.



YJHP Activities throughout the year

Activities during Lent:

Children's Group:

On March 11th, 2018, 120 children gathered in the Greek Catholic Church in Ramallah for an activity entitled "Who am I?" The main purpose of this activity was to introduce the children about Jesus and the reason behind Lent. Many parishes participated in this event including Al-Maghar (North Galilee). The children enjoyed ice breaker games and the activities that involved questions about Lent, as well as making some handicrafts. Besides, the committee performed a play with a clear message about the passion of the Christ which engaged all the children as it was related with the Mass and the prayers.





Elementary Group:

150 people gathered in Beit Hanina, Jerusalem for an activity entitled "Towards your Resurrection?" on March 17th, 2018. This activity was very beneficial because it allowed them to live the experience of Christ starting with welcoming Him with palm fronds and continuing till the moment of Palm Sunday until Holy Thursday; when Jesus Christ shared with His Disciples the final meal (The Last Supper). This activity supported them to understand the resurrection in another point of view and to build a better idea about this amazing endless love story. The event was successful in engaging all participants to welcome Jesus with palm fronds while others experienced foot washing. They were able to live the last stage of Jesus' life on earth and His suffering, starting with passing by the crowds and their demand of crucifying Him, the crucifixion, the torn of the veil of the sanctuary, and the earthquake ending with His death on the cross. There were several competitive games between the teams and a gift was distributed to all participants for their active participation. As any other activity, it included Mass and prayers. Finally, every participant took a balloon, which they wrote on their prayers and the sin they wished to dispose. At the end of the countdown, everyone shared their prayers and shouted "Christ is Risen, Yes Indeed" shooting their balloons up the sky.

Secondary Group:

On 9 March 2018, 100 people ages from 16 to 18 years old gathered in Beit Jala to join the activity "4 Letters & You'll Arrive". The aim of this activity was to prepare the participants for resurrection of Christ. In specific, it will prepare them to live the entire 40 days of Lent in a meaningful and spiritual method. Of course this is in addition to the entertaining activities the participants were involved in. The used technique in this activity was the puzzle. In order to reach Jesus, there were 4 letters the participants must unlock;

C for Conflict: the conflict we go through during the entire six weeks of Lent,

D for Decision: take the decision to commit to Lent spiritually and physically,

H for Harvest: the result I receive and become after Lent,

S for Start: start my new journey in life and share my faith and the essence of Christianity with the entire world.

The applied technique was executed to connect each of the abovementioned letters with a short play followed by Fr. Bashar Fawadleh as the spiritual speaker to clarify those letters and their main idea to the participants connecting them with the Bible and getting closer to God. Treasure game, which included egg hunt for Easter, was conducted during the second part of the day in a different way to entertain the participants.





University Group:

80 people joined the university activity “Comma, Dot and New Line” in Aboud, Ramallah on March 23rd, 2018. The activity focused on addressing people who are desperate and those who do not see other solution or point of their life in order to change something in them and make them more aware of the importance of their life and trusting God in times of distress. The day started with some energetic hymns to revive the soul of the participants. They then studied the different personalities in the Bible who are associated with despair, hope and new opportunities, in which some spiritual lectures were delivered so that they can link the previous personalities with theirs. Finally, the university group had a biblical competition that focused on pain and resurrection. The participants also visited St. Barbara Church in the village to be introduced to the village and reserve historical places. The activity eventually finished with walking the Stations of the Cross between the woods and the beautiful nature and silence of the village of Aboud.



Workers' Group:

On 15 March 2018, 35 people gathered in Oasis Emmanuel, Tiberias to celebrate Lent activity "He is not far From each of us". This activity concentrated on knowing yourself in a deeper sense as well as accepting not only yourself but also the surroundings to reach and get closer to God. It also tackled a simple comparison between your true self and the fake one. In fact, knowing yourself allows you to dig deeper and understand God and the situations around you. Lectures and writing workshops, and Eucharistic adoration and meditation sessions were executed too. The retreat began with a Eucharistic adoration on the outskirts of Sea of Galilee accompanied with a religious choir called "the UCO Band". A spiritual and reverence atmosphere dominated, which influenced and encouraged participants to confess. On the second day, Fr. Issa Hijazin gave a lecture about the idea of knowing and understanding oneself in a religious sense, as it was associated with some biblical verses and examples. Participants had some time to reflect all what they learned and heard on the beautiful creation of God and His word near Sea of Galilee.

Camps Activities:

Children's Camp:

60 people gathered in Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Beit Sahour to live a 4-day camp starting on June 26th, and continuing till the 29th of 2018 under the title of "With & Without You = Where am I?" The main purpose of the camp was to focus and understand the importance of the Bible in the life of our children. Seven Parishes participated in this camp and joined its activities. The program had many diverse activities precisely for the ages from 6 to 12 years old, to help them understand the main idea of the camp and to live upon this idea during their life after the camp, like reading the bible and accepting other people's differences. This committee did some new techniques, e.g. making a booklet for the kids, in which it contained all the prayers, hymns, the camp program and coloring sheets which, as a matter of fact, caught the children's attention. They carried this booklet with them all the time to color during their free time in the camp. Plays, too, played an essential role where the children passionately participated in. The treasure hunt map represented St. Paul's trip meanwhile, the treasure represented the bible; it was a brilliant idea and the kids interacted with

great joy. Next, the Palestinian Medical Aid Organization gave the children a summary of First Aid techniques. In the end, they had a field trip where they walked to the Orthodox & Catholic shepherds field in Beit Sahour.

The spiritual part included Mass, spiritual prayers, Eucharistic adoration with hymns and confession.



Elementary Camp:

The camp duration was 4 days, starting on July 26th, and continuing till the 29th of 2018. 80 people with ages from 13 to 15 years old gathered in Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Beit Sahour to live and experience the "Cup of Heaven" camp. The main goal was to reach the cup of Heaven; achieve Holiness, as we are all winners by God's grace. Eight Parishes participated in this camp and joined the activities that were prepared by the committee. The program had many diverse activities precisely for the above-mentioned ages to help them understand the main idea of the camp and to live upon it during their life after the camp. The main focus was on the competition between the different participants' groups. The camp was the first of its kind as it was full of challenges, but all participants won at the end. Therefore, this is only a reminder that whenever we try our best to reach The Kingdom of God, we will never lose. The program had some visits to one of the ancient villages and to the museum next to Solomon's Pools to introduce them about our culture. The spiritual part of the camp included Mass, spiritual prayers, Eucharistic adoration with hymns, and confession.





Secondary Camp:

70 people joined a 4-day camp in Catholic Monastery in Beit Sahour starting on August 1st, and continuing till the 4th of 2018 under the title of "Make a Turn". The main goal was to always have the courage to change our lives towards a better self or reality at any time. This can be done by seeking to know Jesus in a deeper level of understanding, and to strengthen our relationship with him; Jesus is our friend. Ten Parishes participated and joined the prepared activities in this camp. The program had many diverse activities to help them understand the main idea of the camp and to live upon it during their life after the camp, along with discovering their talents. The spiritual part of the camp included Mass, spiritual prayers, Eucharistic adoration with hymns, lectures and confession, as well as biblical & cultural competitions. The activities included workshops to explore kids' talents, do arts and handicrafts, along with written and performed hymns by the committee. Different spiritual leaders joined the youth and shared their spiritual encounters, in addition to the social gatherings that were always present in the discussions to help them take the right path in order to change themselves to become better.

University Camp:

70 participants with ages from 18 to 22 years old and from twelve parishes gathered in Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Beit Sahour to live a 4-day camp under the title of "Yes Followed by a Blessing". The camp started on June 26th, and continued till the 29th of 2018. It aimed to let the participants gain a deeper understanding and know more about the Mother of God. This camp gave them the space to take a moment, stop and notice the main life phases of Virgin Mary. The program offered a wide variety of spiritual, cultural, and social development activities precisely for the above-mentioned target, in order to help them choose the right path in their lives, and spread good and positive Spirit to others. The spiritual part of the camp included Mass, spiritual prayers, Eucharistic adoration with hymns, rosary prayer, lectures and confession. The activities included plays, voluntary work, which was executed through renovating the ministry that hosted our camp, hosting other spiritual groups to share their experience with participants, handicrafts, contests, and visits to Cremisan Monastery & the Walled off Hotel. Moreover, Secularism and Church sessions took place in this camp as well as a discussion about some of the main points in relation to the church's point of view, which the youth should know.



Workers' Camp:

The camp duration was 4 days, starting on June 14th, and continuing till the 17th of 2018. 60 participants with ages from 23 to 35 years old gathered in Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Beit Sahour under the title of "And Darkness Shall Shine like the Light". The purpose of this camp was to deliver new techniques and ideas to the workers' group on how to transfer darkness & evil to light & goodness; by learning how to read the Bible, and how to understand it in a way that will empower us to face all imposed life challenges, which is politically influenced. This means that encouraging positive approach, awareness, increasing their sense of belonging to their country, and limiting immigration will help in creating a better life for our Christian youth. Nine Parishes participated in this camp. The program had many diverse activities targeting the abovementioned age group. It was designed to enable young adults to have a better understanding of the general goal of the program's content in order to apply in their lives and share with others. Daily Mass, spiritual prayers, Eucharistic adoration with hymns and confession were displayed within the program. The activities included live videos with leaders & lecturers from abroad who were able to deliver the desired idea smoothly. It also included plays that were nicely performed by the participants. A meaningful movie, handicrafts and arts, and a visit to The Walled Off Hotel were carried out too. Moreover, the hosted priests from various dominations: Roman Catholic Church, Melkite Greek Catholic Church, Orthodox Church & Lutheran Church shared their experiences, while others presented various contents that reflected the main goal of the camp. They also stressed on the importance of Christian youth perception and accepting others, who are different from us in many ways, such as having different political affiliation or religious beliefs. On the last day of the camp, the youth visited Jaffa & prayed with the Franciscan parish.

Christ the King Event:

Children's Group:

On 9 November 2018, 570 children participated in Christ the King Event in St. Joseph School, Ramallah under the title: "Come to me". The main purpose of this activity was to help the kids get to know Jesus better and search for the King of Kings; the one and only Jesus Christ. In addition, the program was designed to create a talent show to focus on their talents. This part was entitled "You're A King in Your Own Talent". A number of techniques have been used to support the program. One of the most important techniques was a playbook entitled "Come to Me" which concentrated on the objects that keep the children away from The Real King. At the end of the program, the Palestinian Circus put on some entertainment shows that included acrobats.

Elementary & Secondary Groups:

720 people of both groups joined together to attend this event in Ramallah Palace on November 16th, 2018 under the title: "The Code". The main point was the strategy of solving the code to help participants reach the main goal: Christ the King. A small play was presented and the code was decoded by the end of it. The answer was the word "Love" in which each letter was presented and symbolized in its own unique way. The summary was to show participants that living love is one of the keys to reach Jesus, King of the Universe. The idea of this activity was to go back at the times of the Romans and its kingdom.



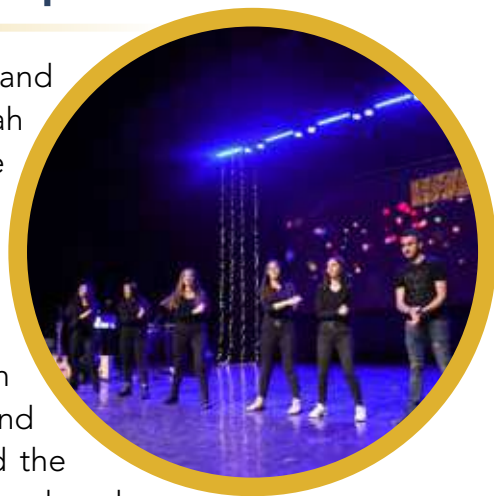
The officer in charge of the King's Landing presented himself to the audience and started the play. In order to break the routine, be creative, and attract a larger number of youth, this play was performed in this technique. The audience engaged in the play and helped in solving the code to achieve the goal: "Love". After the code was solved, the audience was able to meet Jesus Christ by presenting the Eucharist. The applied technique in the play represented a new method of thinking and decoding to finally achieve the answer; The King. Later, Eucharist was received by adoration and followed with the Divine Liturgy. Later, the former General Secretary Ms. Rawan Zahran shared her life experience and spiritual path highlighting her voyage in India, and the singer Amjad Khair joined the final part of the activity.

University & Workers' Groups:

On 23 November 2018 the main and central event occurred in Ramallah Palace gathering 400 people from both groups under the title: "Young man, I tell you, arise!" The main celebration of Christ the King activity for university and workers' groups aimed to encourage them to live the word of the gospel and achieve the true meaning behind the

chosen verse. Participants were introduced to youth activities such as the Synod and World Youth Day in Panama. Multiple videos were presented, and produced by the media committee, starting with the following:

1. Countdown video with the slogan of the activity;
2. Video that promotes Christ the King Bookstore as it is the main source for the youth activities;



3. Preparatory video about World Youth Day in Panama;
4. Video summarizing the activities of university and workers' groups during 2018;
5. Video about the biblical exhibition, which will be implemented in Palestine during 2019; (see paragraph below for more details)

A group of youth performed on stage and engaged the audience, and two new hymns were published in this event (see link below)¹. Theatrical performance talking about a young Christian person who faces difficulties in his life was held too. In fact, during his internal dialogue, some angels with a nun (St. Mary of Jesus Crucified) enter and start speaking with him till they reach the phase when Jesus is on the cross. A dialogue, then starts between the young man and Jesus until he reveals a crown of thrones and places it on the head of Jesus. The role of the nun is essential in this play as she illustrates her importance as the daughter of our country when she speaks with the young man. The play concluded with hymns sung by the choir and the entrance of the Eucharist, which clarifies that Jesus Christ is present with us and He is always here to accept our wounds and pains. Afterwards, an hour of Eucharistic adoration, repentance and confession occurred.

Arts

Throughout the past three years, our youth have been introduced to different forms of arts; music and plays. Last year have been a transitional stage as they were able to improve in the aspect of arts and culture. Each committee performed a play in this event, respectively titled "Come to me", "The Code", "Young man, I tell you, arise!"², and "Arise; Act" in accordance with the aforementioned groups. The university and worker's groups had two plays in their event; one was performed by the committee itself and the second by the administrative General Secretary along with the producer and actor Mr. Imad Atallah.

1: YJHP Official YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCY87VkOs32IS67DiRJuv8YQ>
2: Original text is taken from Lebanon.

Moreover, songs were composed by Fr. Bashar Fawadleh and produced by Maestro George Salsa' in the local community and in Lebanon. In fact, our Media committee played an important role in recording, filming and producing all of these four plays with the help of Shepherds Studio, which now you may find in the aforementioned link (YJHP YouTube official page). This form of art shall encourage youth to present themselves and their talents in society, as it will cherish the traditional and standard methods of serving the church and the community, and shift it towards a method that is more consistent with the current modern standards to develop successful and sustainable youth groups.

The Biblical Exhibition:

Jesus Christ the Ultimate Purpose of the Sacred Scripture

A unique journey through 220m² through Sacred Scripture – The biggest interactive exhibition in Arabic through the verse of the Old and New Testaments engaging its versions in the world of the Bible and enabling them to understand the story of God's covenant with his people through the figure of Jesus Christ.

The Features of This Exhibition:

The first exhibition made in Arabic about the Sacred Scripture, remarkably collected, designed and printed to present authentic information about the Bible accumulating years of research, studies and exegesis prepared by Biblical theologians, religious, and lay youth members of the Church in Lebanon.

The exhibition narrates the passage of Biblical figures through a consistent timeline beginning from the book of Genesis up till the book of Apocalypse. In addition, the exhibition reveals how the Word of God was proclaimed to the World through the early evangelization until nowadays.

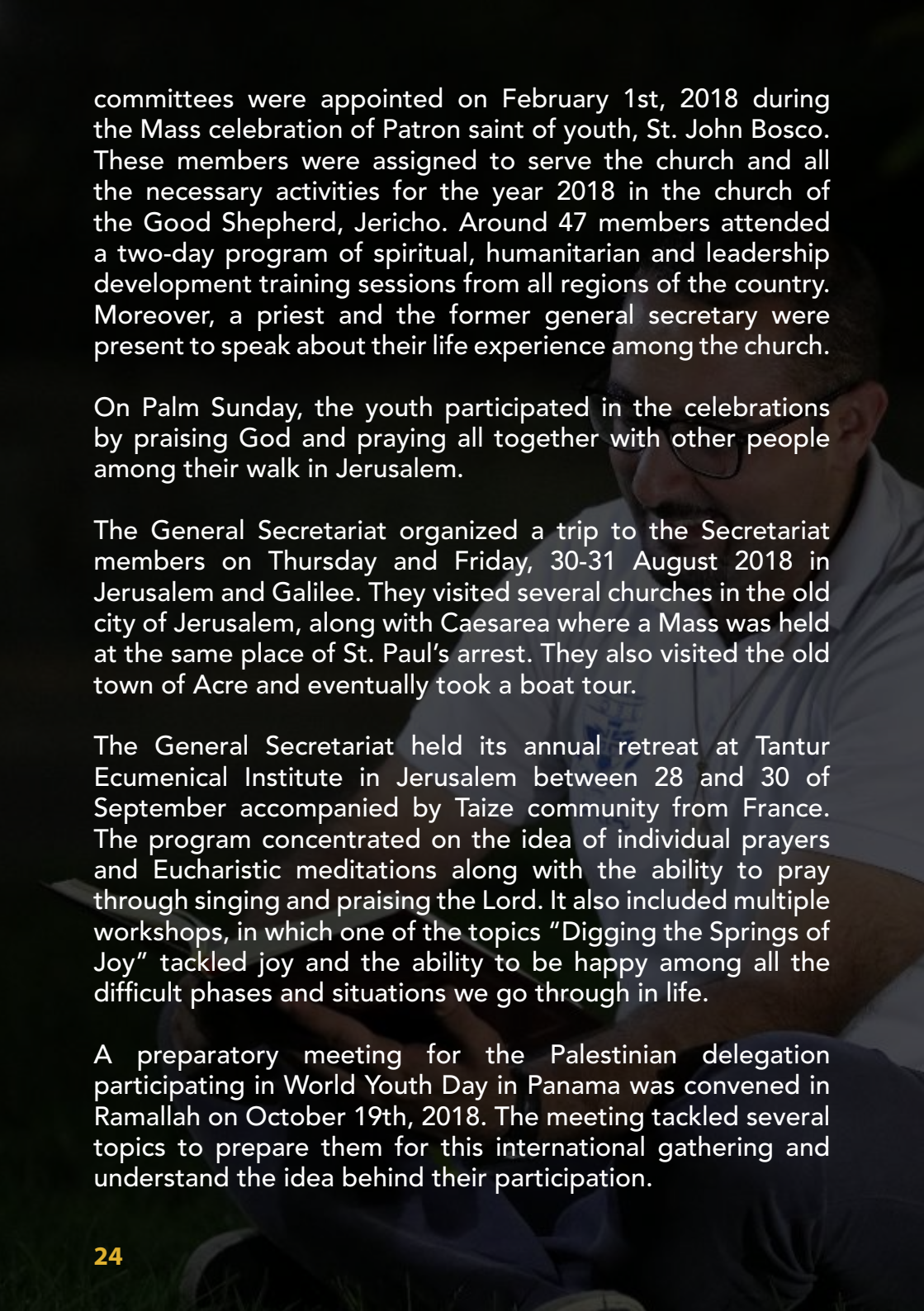
A tour shall start in 2019 in all Palestinian cities and villages along with Galilee so that people everywhere can visit and understand the Bible in a very unique and creative way.

Other activities throughout the year

A group of the General Secretariat members met the Bishops of Holy Land Coordination on January 14th, 2018 during their annual visit to the country. The meeting tackled youth's lives, the challenges and their work in Palestine. They also discussed the challenges and difficulties young people face, as well as the realities of their daily lives living in a country that lacks peace, justice and instability which was and still is under occupation. The members focused on all the social, political and ecclesial realities and challenges to give the Bishops a glimpse about living in the Holy Land.

During the first quarter of the year, a survey was conducted to identify the needs of the youth. The survey was distributed among Christian youth ministry for secondary age, youth and young adults in all parishes of Palestine including Galilee and Gaza. It was conducted and analyzed electronically, and eventually summarized with all the findings and results in a small booklet in both languages, Arabic and English. This booklet was distributed to the youth who participated in the main celebration of Christ the King event, Ramallah as well as other Christian places.





committees were appointed on February 1st, 2018 during the Mass celebration of Patron saint of youth, St. John Bosco. These members were assigned to serve the church and all the necessary activities for the year 2018 in the church of the Good Shepherd, Jericho. Around 47 members attended a two-day program of spiritual, humanitarian and leadership development training sessions from all regions of the country. Moreover, a priest and the former general secretary were present to speak about their life experience among the church.

On Palm Sunday, the youth participated in the celebrations by praising God and praying all together with other people among their walk in Jerusalem.

The General Secretariat organized a trip to the Secretariat members on Thursday and Friday, 30-31 August 2018 in Jerusalem and Galilee. They visited several churches in the old city of Jerusalem, along with Caesarea where a Mass was held at the same place of St. Paul's arrest. They also visited the old town of Acre and eventually took a boat tour.

The General Secretariat held its annual retreat at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem between 28 and 30 of September accompanied by Taize community from France. The program concentrated on the idea of individual prayers and Eucharistic meditations along with the ability to pray through singing and praising the Lord. It also included multiple workshops, in which one of the topics "Digging the Springs of Joy" tackled joy and the ability to be happy among all the difficult phases and situations we go through in life.

A preparatory meeting for the Palestinian delegation participating in World Youth Day in Panama was convened in Ramallah on October 19th, 2018. The meeting tackled several topics to prepare them for this international gathering and understand the idea behind their participation.

Prayer Committee in 2018

- Nearly 40 people from different cities of Palestine participated in the monthly prayer meeting on February 23rd, in Ein 'Arik under the title: Silence Will Make Me Hear. The prayer included 4 different stages of life; starting with walking up the mountain on foot to feel and react in silence and pray, Repentance and the hymns stage. The last stage involved a spiritual participation from Sr. Ghada from Rosary Sisters about having spiritual fulfillment during Lent.
- The committee conducted their monthly prayer meeting with about 60 participants on May 25th, 2018 along with the rosary prayer in the Latin Church in Aboud. The meeting was entitled: Virgin Mary, daughter of God, Mother of Jesus and Spouse of the Holy Spirit. During the Homily, the priest focused on the idea of trying to be devoted just like Virgin Mary within the challenges we face in this world.
- 80 people participated in the monthly prayer meeting on September 21st, 2018 in St. Justin Church, Nablus, where "Your Cross is My Salvation" was the title of this gathering. People from different parishes (Ramallah, Birzeit, Beit Jala, Rafidia, Jifna and Jenin) were present and they fully participated in the program.
- The final monthly prayer meeting of 2018 was held on October 26th, in Queen of Peace Church - Guadalupe, Birzeit, under the title of "In You is Our Victory". More than 90 people from different parishes participated in this meeting which included Eucharistic adoration, Rosary prayer, and hymns.



Outcomes and Success Stories

The following points are a summary of the main outcomes:

1. Enhance and develop new techniques to engage youth and help them express themselves. For example, the General Secretariat encouraged individual talents and engaged youth to work in teams through drama, music, and singing; accordingly the results were astonishing. We will keep working on developing these talents and make sure they will be reflected in our future activities.
2. Strengthen new approaches for youth to read the Bible and use it in their daily lives by using biblical text in drama.
3. Enhance and develop new techniques of approaching youth and teaching methods, away from the traditional techniques; the programs that included spiritual, entertainment, cultural and social content, which mainly focused on creation, composition and life, biblical utility and its applicability in real life, listening to real life personal experiences, leadership skills, and partnership and marriage. The content of the programs was conducted through workshops, contests, games, reflections, prayers, demonstrative approach and presentation, social media and applications such as Snapchat, field visits and voluntary work.
4. Work on new ideas related to the participant's spiritual life, which can allow many of them to confess, probably, after years of not doing so.
5. Conduct Christian youth camps in various locations to geographically cover a wider range; just like the previous years, where the camps were executed in Ramallah.
6. Network and collaborate with other NGOs to conduct some of the program, ex. Palestinian Medical Aid Organization.

Success Stories:

One of the youth in the camp for secondary group was playing outside during Mass. One of the committee members of this group saw him and asked if he can join the Mass but the young individual refused and said that he does not prefer to do so. Somehow, she, the committee member, was eventually able to convince him to join the Mass. That same night, she saw him going to confession, in which after he confessed he told her that the Mass and the camp has changed something in him and he was able to feel the presence of God. The important and impressive part of this story is that this boy did not enter the church since 5th grade; the time he received confirmation.

Another female narrated: "God loves you", "God died for you", "You are the daughter of God" are all expressions I heard and learned when I was a child, but I never understood their deep meaning. Getting used to these phrases made me stop thinking of the message behind them. Although I grew up in faith, there were plenty of things I did not understand. For example, if God frees us, then where is He to free us from the occupation? Or how does He heals all the wounds? Or even, I used to look around searching for Him because they said He is always with us. The moment I joined the ministry, YJHP, I became more aware of myself and the world around me. I stopped listening about God and started living for Him; I started applying faith in my daily life; I stopped reading the bible just to know stories that occurred two thousand years ago and started reading it to know what God has to say to me today. YJHP has introduced me to the most important person in my life and accompanied me on this journey. They took me to a level that is rich in its understanding and wondering. This made me live with great joy as if I am in Heaven on Earth. That moment, I knew there was someone who adores me when I was searching for love; someone with me when I felt lonely; someone who is loyal all the time when others failed me; someone who loves me with all my weakness and flaws when I was not able to love myself. YJHP has also taught me that I

am valuable; I am the daughter of God. God created me in His image and likeness, died for me, and His spirit lives in my weak body. Thus, I must speak about Him, share the happiness He brings, serve the ministry, help people become closer to God, and guide them to search for Him in their lives, not the stones of the church. Those who think that the stone of the church represents God in the world are wrong. 8 months ago I traveled and lived in Barcelona for half a year. During this period, I visited more than 10 Cathedrals in many various European countries. The churches were real masterpiece; however, deep down, I was still convinced that my church is the most beautiful one. At first, I thought I did not have taste, but then I realized that the church is not about the stone or quantity of gold. The church is us; it is the spirit of God in us and in our country. Our church is beautiful in its simplicity and ours; therefore, it is now my priority to beautify this young church in which my service in the ministry will help me achieve this message. YJHP is a great message that keeps Jesus alive in 2018.

Other indications:

We are receiving more and more requests from youth to join our Ministry. Numbers of youth are increasing every year, and new parishes are showing interest in joining our umbrella.

Our Dream

YJHP is massively growing every year with more youth who are interested in knowing Jesus Christ and His eternal love for His children. YJHP currently has more than 3,500 members (aged between 7 – 35 years old) from different parishes, schools and churches Latin and Greek Catholic) from five Palestinian governorates. It is also divided into 58 active YJHP youth groups, who annually attend youth activities, workshops,

summer camp and retreats, Mass, Middle East Coordination meeting and World Youth Day gathering throughout the year. Therefore, it is very important for YJHP to have its independent place for regular meetings, workshops and different activities at any time without having difficulties to contact people and ask for an empty space. For this reason, building Al-Hayat HQ (see paragraph below) is the dream we are looking forward to. This place will enable us to continue sharing the message of Jesus Christ to His children in order to build and develop a Christian community who have more faith and love towards our Lord and the country; the Holy Land. With your help, we can achieve this goal and leave a little sparkle to help them find the right path.

"Al-Hayat" YJHP Headquarter

Al-Hayat Headquarter project is a starting point that represents our Youth Ministry dream of building a center for youth. This headquarter will provide an opportunity for a centralized office space and a meeting point for all YJHP activities and programs concerning children and youth members across the West Bank. It will also offer a working space for YJHP leaders and staff.

With great generosity, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem offered us an office space in Ramallah city in 2017 to use. The space requires significant rehabilitation and remodeling



work; thus, we immediately conducted mapping the interior design of the place imagining that it shall be the main center for the ministry to implement their activities and programs. We are currently fundraising by making a donation that will directly benefit Al-Hayat and help us achieve our vision and goals of this implementing YJHP activities and programs in this HQ.

Al-Hayat HQ will include facilities and services to create a safe environment of learning, building up talents, socializing and better self-expression. It will include offices for staff and administrative work, storage and meeting rooms. Building such place will help youth continue to grow in the word of God through the Bible and other creative programs. We believe it is essential to plant a seed in children's hearts as they are the coming generation for a better change. Hence, this HQ will enable them to cherish and acquire these religious touches in their lives to continue growing in the love of Jesus Christ. This place will be the youth's second home to freely come, spend their free time with their friends, reflect and release their stress and strains from their daily lives, and read books and be more educated; academically and theologically.

Financial Statement of 2018

Revenues

Currency in
Dollars

International Donations

caritas of poland

7,760.00

Pilgrims

343.50

Local Donations

Dormition Abbey

12,439.20

Christ The King Bookstore

33,003.96

Pontifical Mission - Jerusalem

35,000.00

LPJ - Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

2,694.94

Korean Brothers

2,554.94

Non Knights Donors

100.00

Subscriptions Income

4,090.96

Total Revenues

97,987.50

Expense

Admin Expense

Medical Care

326.30

Transportation & Documentation

11,948.20

Accommodation & Lodging

4,264.83

Permits

2,167.84

Spiritual Retreats and Pastoral services	1163.45
Alimentary (Food & Beverage)	25,970.11
Clothing & Miscellaneous	4,071.59
Employee Salary Payroll	3,915.76
Electricity	634.05
Hospitality and Gifts	1,149.08
Internet Subscription	82.3
Printings& Printed Matters	8,332.87
Freight Delivery & Customs	1,654.52
Stationary	2,333.21
Supplies	32,100.79
Cleaning Supplies	1,101.34
Church Supplies	274.49
Purchases	566.31
Rent	2,165.17
Furniture	114.04
Equipment	1,426.50
Maintenance & Repairs	247.74
Vehicles Fuel	850.48
Vehicles Maintenance & Repairs	275.79
Vehicles Purchase & Rental	627.92
Vehicles Parking & Penalties	222.82

Total Expenditure	107,987.50
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Net Surplus / Deficit	10,000.00
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