

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN PALESTINE



THE YEAR OF COVID-19
2020 - 2021

"I STAND
AT THE DOOR
AND KNOCK"

(Rev. 3:20)

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"A HEART OF HEAVEN"

The Christian youth of "Jesus' Homeland" has completed another year. It was a year of action, prayer, hope and faith in God. As every year, the young have put their trust in God. They have put in His hands, all their concerns, those of the Church, of the society and the nation, as well as the concerns of each one of its members.

Jesus' homeland, in which we live, is under mountains of difficulties as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is full of never-ending grievances. In addition to all of these difficulties, the pandemic arrived and caused death and anxiety in the whole world, and in our lives as well. The youth lived this tragedy, in one's own person, with their families and with all their people. In these difficult days, the young are a message to their society; a message of hope, dreams and high aspirations. They are a message of hope for their homeland; the homeland of Jesus and the homeland of their tormented people in quest of life, freedom and sovereignty.

The Christian Youth of Jesus' Homeland (YJHP) has completed a year full of good works, thanks to the Goodness that God has placed in the heart of every young man and woman, and with the grace that God has bestowed upon them. Young people are the hope of the Church and the nation; they are the hope of the universe wherever they

are. They are the bearers of hope because their dreams meet with God's love for all His creation.

In the face of all difficulties, and against all odds, the heart of the Christian youth remains full of life and power. Jesus said: "if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Mt. 17:20). He also said: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these" (Jn. 14:12).

The young believer carries in himself/herself a tremendous power; a spiritual power that works everywhere and in all aspects of human life. Jesus said that the believer can move mountains, that is, s/he is able to change conditions of life. With his/her patience and work, which relates to God's patience, work and Providence; difficulties will pass, but their dreams, aspirations, and their ability to move mountains and to change realities will remain. The change begins first with oneself; a change of fear and weakness, arrogance and pretension, or wrongdoing to



become a strong humble human being full of love, in order to contribute towards twisting human reality and fill it with God's Goodness, just as God created it: "God saw that it was good" (Gn. 1:25). The young believer can make this life change because the roots of the spiritual power is embedded in him/her who is created in the image of God (Gn. 1:26).

Saint Paul said: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God" (Rom. 8:28). This is also a guiding principle for young people to face all kinds of challenges. Everything turns to be good for those who love God. In the light of God and His eternal wisdom, after Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection; suffering is transformed into a source of life and redemption. Through the death of Jesus and His suffering, we received a new life and a new humanity. With the Triumph of Christ over death, every human pain and suffering has become a source of redemption and renewal of humanity, in which it constantly needs to renew itself, its spirit, and its vision of the universe.

Our sufferings are a lot, but when we transform them into power of redemption, forgiveness and love, they become the hidden treasure in us, which the young extract from the womb of their daily life with all its events. Difficult times are God's time. It is the time of power and transformation; of changing evil into good, pain into power of redemption and salvation. It is the time of turning everything into a prayer that we raise to God Almighty asking Him to look upon us and have compassion as we pray and cry out with the Psalmist: "God of hosts look down from heaven and

see" (Ps. 80:15), and "The Lord looked down from the holy heights, viewed the earth from heaven, to attend to the groaning of the prisoners to release those doomed to die". (Ps. 102: 20-21). We are sure that God hears our prayers and answers, as says the Psalmist: "The eyes of the Lord are directed toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. The Lord's face is against evildoers to wipe out their memory from the earth. The righteous cry out, the Lord hears and he rescues them from all their afflictions. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted, saves those whose spirit is crushed." (Ps. 34: 16-19).

The young carry "eternity" in their hearts, as the Book of Ecclesiastes says "God... has put the timeless into their hearts so they cannot find out, from beginning to end, the work which God has 'done' (3:11). Accordingly, the heart that has eternity is a heart of heaven, open to God's Spirit. This is exactly what we need in the reality that we live in; the earthly reality that is full of evil caused by those who have lost sight of eternity in themselves.

The pain and suffering that was brought to the entire world, as well as our homeland "Jesus' Homeland" is in great need for eternity and God's Spirit. The world needs love that builds and gathers all people of God. Let young people always remember that they are messengers of eternity, hope, and power that is led by the love of God and neighbor in our society.

† Michel Sabbah
Patr em

PRAYER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The beginning of a new year always brings new goals, ideas, energy, and fresh opportunities for a change. Imagine though, if this year started with a prayer! YJHP this time had the blessing to begin its year with a prayer that gave us the courage to start strong and grasp new opportunities to change ourselves and others for a stronger deep relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Prayer Meeting "Don Bosco, Patron of Young People"

Nearly 70 people from different parishes along with minor Seminary students participated in the monthly prayer meeting organized by YJHP prayer committee on the last day of the first month, Friday 31 January 2020 in Cremisan Monastery, Beit Jala under the title "Don Bosco, Patron of Young People". The meeting included prayer and reflection in the life and call of St. John Bosco, and his message for young people today. Then Fr. Pierro Giorgio, from the Salesians of Don Bosco, spoke about St. John Bosco. He pointed out that in order to be good Christians and faithful citizens, we need to follow three steps:

1. Religion
2. Mind
3. Love; which links religion and mind

At the end of the meeting, the participants visited the winery with Mr. Fadi Batarseh, the administrator of the winery, and saw the production process and its inception.



"اعطني النفوس وخذ الباقي"

دون بوسكو شفيخ الشباب

ندعوكم للمشاركة في

لقاء الصلاة الشهري

يوم الجمعة 2020/01/31

الساعة الرابعة مساء

في دير الكريمزان في بيت جالا



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1. GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF YJHP AND ITS MEMBERS

On Thursday 6 February 2020, a workshop for the General Secretariat and the members of YJHP started, where the members with their committee leaders began working and preparing for the activities throughout the year. This workshop began with the Holy Mass headed by Fr. Remon Haddad, the deputy of the General Chaplain, and Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, the General Chaplain of YJHP. During the Homily, Fr. Bashar mentioned that "God looks at one's heart not at his outward appearance", recalling the story of King David from the Old Testament, and how the Israelites asked for a king in which David, a young shepherd, was chosen, leaving all his brothers. King David later sinned and did not keep God's grace of becoming a king. "The same goes with everyone; we sin, but God is always waiting on us." Then, he touched upon the new biblical verse of the year 2020 that will be announced the day after during the mass in Ramallah. After mass, the General Secretary Mr. Rafi Ghattas briefly explained the structure of the General Secretariat



of YJHP and its relation with the church as well as its work in Palestine. Afterwards, every category had its own meeting to plan and prepare for the activities of the year 2020. An expert of social media, Mr. George Halabi, met with the media committee to think and search of a way to develop YJHP media work. The first day was ended by an adoration evening and biblical reflection.



members in parishes. This year, we seek to reach all Christian youth in the country reminding them that Jesus is always waiting and knocking at the door of our hearts hoping we open and let Him come in. The Holy Mass was headed by Fr. Jamal Khader, Priest of Ramallah parish, along with his assistant Fr. Suliman Haifawi, Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, the General



The second day was mostly committee meetings and sharing the outcomes, as the participants had a First Aid course with Mr. Fadi Kreitem from Jerusalem. However, and more importantly, the General Secretariat of YJHP announced the new biblical verse of the year 2020 "I stand at the door and knock" (Rev 3:20) during the Holy Mass in Ramallah. Mr. Rafi Ghattas, the General Secretary, pointed out that YJHP vision for this year is beyond targeting committed members in parishes. Fr. Jamal welcomed the General Secretariat and assured that problems and challenges in our lives should not split us apart from Jesus' life as the paralyzed man who was lowered down from the roof to be healed. He added that apathy of youth in today's church is the reason they are apart.



2. YJHP SERVANTS FOR CHILDREN AND ELEMENTARY CATEGORIES

On Thursday 13 February 2020, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" organized a two-day workshop for leaders of children and elementary categories in the parishes under the title "YJHP Servants", where more than 10 parishes participated. This workshop aimed at helping the leaders develop methods of working with the abovementioned categories to receive and promote God's Word in their hearts. After ice-breaking games between all participants, the General Secretary, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, presented a brief explanation about the General Secretariat of YJHP. He emphasized on the important role it plays with the parish, as well as its work in the parishes with various youth ministries to properly reach and achieve the mission and vision of the General Secretariat of YJHP. Then, the participants were divided into groups in accordance with their category;





children or elementary. The children leaders started their meeting with Ms. Nadine Bitar, a member of the prayer committee, under the title "From verse to game". At the same time, the elementary leaders met with Deacon Wajdi Twal for a topic called "Blow your mind". In the evening, all participants gathered for adoration and prayer time around the cross, headed by the Deputy of the General Secretariat, Fr. Rimon Haddad along with the prayer committee. The participants contemplated the Word of God, thanking Jesus Christ for all His gifts and blessings. At the end of the first day, both committees: the children and elementary, gave an evening of entertainment to all participants celebrating St. Valentine (Valentine's Day).

The second day began with a meeting entitled "Simple, but do not oversimplify it", for elementary servants (leaders) with Sr. Shatha Hadaddien from Rosary Sisters; meanwhile, the children servants debated in panel discussions the method of handling children. Later, the General Chaplain, Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, illustrated the method of dealing with and understanding the Bible; emphasizing that it is a base for any youth ministry activity. Ms. Nisreen Qawwas gave, in the second half of the day, a meeting about "Elementary and his/ her psychology". She explained about the psychological changes this generation goes through, and the best way to deal and cope with them to deliver the desired objective. Simultaneously, Ms. Sandy Totah presented the topic "Access his heart" to the children leaders, in which she focused on the sensitivity of this category clarifying the correct methods of dealing with them. At the end of these meetings, each committee gathered with the leaders of the related category to discuss the problems and solutions the Christian Youth Ministry faces. Later, YJHP Servants workshop ended with a Holy Mass headed by Fr. Bashar Fawadleh.

3. YJHP SERVANTS FOR SECONDARY, UNIVERSITY AND WORKERS CATEGORIES

On Thursday 20 February 2020, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "YJHP" began its second "YJHP Servants" workshop. This two-day workshop was dedicated for secondary, university and workers' categories, where more than 10 parishes from various places participated. The purpose of this workshop was to help Christian youth leaders develop and enrich the method of attracting youth to church and youth ministry. Following ice-breaking games, the General Secretary of YJHP, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, presented a brief explanation of the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland", focusing on its role with the parish. He, then, emphasized on the importance of working with various youth ministries in the parishes to properly reach the mission and vision of the General Secretariat of YJHP. Afterwards, the former General Secretary of YJHP, Mr. Mughannam Ghannam, gave a lecture entitled "Serving is leadership", where he tackled the method of being an influential leader through your work. In the evening, YJHP servants gathered to reflect the Bible, as they contemplated the Word of God thanking Jesus Christ for all His gifts and blessings. The evening was headed by the General Chaplain,





Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, along with the prayer committee. At the end of the first day, the three committees: secondary, university and workers, gave an evening of entertainment to all participants, which included recreational games and karaoke.



The second day began with a meeting with Fr. Bashar Fawadleh under the title "Is the Bible mine?" A discussion, later, followed between the participants and the lecturer concentrating on the nature of the Bible and the method of dealing with and understanding it. Afterwards, the participants were divided into two groups in accordance with their age group. In specific, Ms. Laila Daibes worked with the leaders of



the secondary category on the method of handling such category; meanwhile, the leaders of the university and workers categories met with Fr. Khaled Ghammo and Deacon Wajdi Twal. In an interactive session, the participants of the latter categories were able to understand the method of attracting Christian youth as well as the significance of bringing the spiritual and recreational aspects besides the cognitive in their meetings. In the second half of the day, Ms. Nadine Bitar, a member of the prayer committee, spoke with the university and workers categories around building our various activities on the Bible. Simultaneously, Sr. Muna Totah worked with the secondary category on turning traditional and popular games into games with Christian goals. This workshop ended with a Holy Mass headed by Fr. Bashar Fawadleh.



VERSE OF THE YEAR

"I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK" (Rev. 3:20)

OUR REALITY TODAY:

In a world where everything is conveniently available and with a fast-paced life, human being has reached a reality that was a long-term dream not long ago. The incessant noise of modern life has increased! Political events that ravage the atmosphere, and social problems that invade the minds, cause the family to be sometimes scattered and destroyed in another.

Between the lines, there are epidemics and wars that are almost threatening human life everywhere, to make him/ her stand helpless accompanied by what s/he has made.

Difficult days pass in the midst of real darkness we live in everywhere; constant anxiety; growing fear; evil permeates the atmosphere; love is gone; selfishness spread; consumed technology; deadly atheism; and indifference is the master of the moment.

War drums are beating; new maps are distributed; deadly promises and deals; history of lies is sanctified; heartbeats accelerate; and moments of fear in which time freezes and words disappear.

WHO HEARS?

Far away from the loud voices and the great noise, a voice breaks the silence as knocking on wood, rising and accelerating with time closer to be heartbeats. The

«واقف
على الباب
أقرع»

(رؤيا ٣: ٢٠)

more intense the noise, the higher the voice. The more the fear, the more the voice is. A voice waiting for a respondent; a voice without despair. Non-stop knock after another with continuous chant: "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Mt. 11:15). What are you waiting for? Come closer to this voice. Yes, you! Forget about those around you and listen to these unceasing knocks. Read slowly and carefully, take a deep breath, place your hand on your chest and feel your heartbeats. Can you hear? Your pulse beats in a steady, regular rhythm, right? Unceasingly, one after another. He is also "standing at the door and knocking" says the Lord.

AND YOU WONDER, WHERE IS ALL THAT?

With every heartbeat, He is standing at the door knocking waiting for the person who will open the door, so He enters and sits down in the Kingdom of God. You might wonder and ask: "But how can I find Him?" The answer is very simple, everywhere and at any time. He is knocking all the time in the church during prayer, in the neighborhood while playing, in the office while working, at home while resting, or you might listen His voice from an advice, a cry, a reading from the bible, a sermon from a faithful priest, a Christian youth meeting, or a discussion between friends. You might even hear His voice from a wise old man, an innocent child, your spiritual director, your teacher, your parents, or yourself.

"واقف على الباب أقرع"
(رؤيا ٣:٢٠)

شبيبة موطن يسوع - فلسطين

YJHP jeccpalestine@gmail.com YJHP خبيبة موطن يسوع - فلسطين WhatsApp 0569317953 yjhp.palestine YJHP

ندعوكم للمشاركة في
قداس إطلاق آية العام 2020
وذلك يوم الجمعة الموافق 2020/2/7
في تمام الساعة 5:00 مساءً
في كنيسة العائلة المقدسة - رام الله

WhatsApp 0569317953 yjhp.palestine YJHP jeccpalestine@gmail.com YJHP خبيبة موطن يسوع - فلسطين YJHP خبيبة موطن يسوع - فلسطين



MY MESSAGE IN MY COUNTRY!

He is here, everywhere around us. Go to Bethlehem, place your ear on the Nativity (birthplace of Jesus) and you shall hear His heartbeat. Then, walk up north to Lake Tiberias and you shall hear His voice within the waves. Then come back to Jerusalem and smell Him through the scent of the old city markets. Afterwards, walk up to Gethsemane because the earth there is still shaking from the earthquake, and the tears of Mary are not yet dry. Finally, walk with Peter and John towards the tomb to find the light of the Resurrection and the stone is rolled back.

OUR CALL TODAY!

We, the Youth of Jesus' Homeland in Palestine, are called to open the door to our Lord to come into our hearts and families so He can come back again to His Homeland to establish peace and stability in our hearts, families, and hometown.

Therefore, He is passionately "standing at the door knocking"; and out of His love, gave you free will to choose either to open the door and let Him in, or leave Him standing at the door, with no despair waiting for your answer.

Think, choose, decide, and go because He repeats:

*"I stand at the door and knock",
what is your decision?"*



COVID-19... THE SURPRISE OF THE YEAR

2020 had barely begun when the surprise of the year hit. COVID-19 Pandemic hit the newswires and the entire world at a snap of a finger. The virus forced us to use and depend on the internet as it was always meant to be used – to connect with one another, share information and resources, and come up with collective solutions to urgent problems. However, due to the lockdown, people depended more on social media and the internet that they lost the meaning of connecting with each other and the importance of relationships even within a small group. The pandemic has turned our lives upside down, affecting everything from the way we work to family and personal relationships. As a result, some people struggled in their relationship with God as they had a religious routine, but never a true personal relationship with Him. On the other hand, this crisis was an opportunity to develop a deeper relationship with God and draw closer to Him as He is our refuge and strength. For not even COVID-19 can separate us from the love of God. This surprise reminded us as youth that we “are the salt of the

earth... [and] the light of the world” (Mt. 5:13-16). No matter the surrounding materialistic world changes, we are created in God's image and likeness and so we are the change of this world. Therefore, at this time of the crisis, Jesus wanted us to be “the salt” and “the light”; to preserve the purity of the world and “see that God is good” (Ps. 34); to lead people to the right path through God's grace and the Holy Spirit; to be the “eyes of faith” in a world that lost faith and hope. He wants us to take the time and remember that God is with us through all the events of our lives; hence, all we need is to “trust in the Lord with all [our] hearts” (Prov. 3:5). Let's face it, COVID-19 has redefined life, but this does not mean that we will stop being “the salt” and “the light” of this world. The Lord led us to another path to walk through towards people's hearts and minds so that they “hear [His] voice and open the door, [then] [He] will enter [their] house and dine with [them], and [they] with [Him]” (Rev. 3:20). As a result, The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP) decided to continue sharing its message and help people open the door to Jesus through electronic activities.

PSALMS PRAYERS

Who would have thought that a small Pandemic would stop the whole world from its business and chaos? Who would have thought that such a virus would have changed people's perspectives of life and their faith? Who would have thought that people will grow deeper in their relationship with God, their families, and loved one?

When the Pandemic of Covid-19 started, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" saw that fear is taking over people, as they started losing hope; hope of relying on Jesus and His will. Since the youth of Jesus' Homeland are the light and the hope of their country, we started the initiative of sharing a video from one of the members praying one of the Psalms for a certain intention every day. During Lent, and since people were in quarantine, this idea pleased Christian families, members, priests, nuns, children and youth. They took this advantage as a time of prayer for certain intentions and turned their homes into a real Christian home. This initiative started with the members of the General Secretariat for around the first week, and then was opened for more people of different ages and talents to share too. We were able to pray Psalms for almost a month throughout the whole month of Lent; 24 videos to be exact. At the same time, and with very few and simple equipment, the General Secretariat filmed stages of the cross and shared it on their social media along with a contemplation for one to reflect on during the day. Not to forget the weekly Sunday contemplation.



FACEBOOK FRAME

Bethlehem has gone through a lot of difficulties and struggles, but this time, a new challenging enemy tried to defeat her; COVID-19. Multiple cases were recorded with corona-virus, which spread fear all over the country back again. Therefore, The General Secretariat created a facebook frame template for people to use, encourage and show solidarity and love with the beloved city, Bethlehem to remain strong and stand again as it always has been doing. The phrase of the frame was written in both languages; Arabic and English to reach the whole world. It says "Be Strong Bethlehem" with the logo of the General Secretariat of YJHP as well as the Star of Bethlehem to emphasize the pain that the city has carried through centuries and still is. As Jesus Christ, our Lord, has lived, suffered and loved in this city, so do its people follow. The filter was shared worldwide.



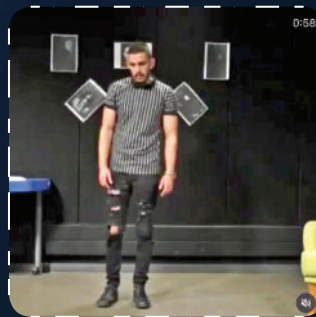
MOVIE LIST

Of course we cannot forget that due to the Pandemic of Covid-19, Christian families became stronger. Therefore, the General Secretariat shared a list of Christian movies to plant seeds of faith and hope to light their home and that can explain the Bible and God's message in an understandable way for all family members.



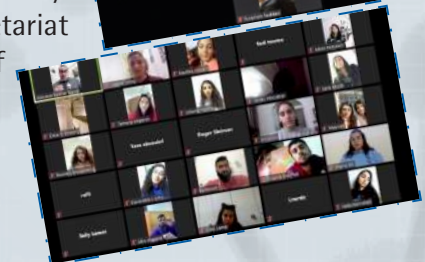
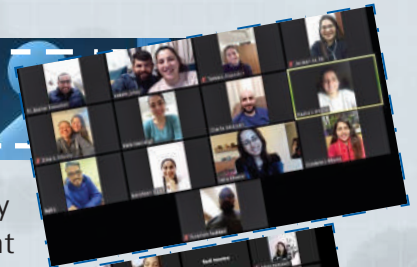
SHARE YOUR TALENT

Since Palestinian people were in quarantine, and for a long time, the General Secretariat saw that some youth have been discovering themselves and their talents. Therefore, we asked our youth and children to share us some of their hidden talents and see the creativity of the Palestinian Christian people.



ZOOM PRAYER MEETING

During this time of crisis, we believe that there is an urgent need to pray individually and collectively. Therefore, on Saturday, 28 March 2020, the General Secretariat members gathered online via zoom application to pray together for the healing of all sick people and especially those affected by the virus. Then, on Friday, 3 April, the 55 members gathered to pray again for the same purpose.



STORIES OF IBN-EL BALAD (SON OF THIS LAND)

As churches and Sunday Schools had to close due to the quarantine, the Children Committee shared performed and recorded four videos of when Jesus entered Jerusalem as well as other important moments in His life throughout Holy Week and Resurrection Day. These videos were specifically filmed for children to emphasize the importance of Holy Week especially that children are forced to stay home and cannot celebrate the week as they used to. The first episode covered the entrance of Jesus to Jerusalem and the raising of Lazarus (Ref. Gospels Jn. 11, and Lk. 19); the second episode focused on the night of last supper (Maundy Thursday) (Ref. Mt. 26, Mk. 14, Lk. 22, and Jn 13); the third episode tackled Good Friday (Ref. Mt. 27, Mk. 15, Lk. 23, and Jn. 18); Meanwhile, the fourth episode was all about Easter Sunday (Ref. Mt. 28, Mk. 16, Lk. 24, and Jn. 20). At the end of each of these four videos the children were asked few questions related to the video itself along with the reference to make them go back to their Bible and read the intended chapter for that day, and answer these questions by commenting on the video itself.



RELIGIOUS CULTURAL COMPETITION

The University Committee executed a religious cultural competition for all University group members that lasted from 18–24 March 2020 in order to search and increase one's knowledge in the Bible. In addition, the competition aimed at increasing interaction between the members on social media and enhancing their cultural information on various levels. The winners were as following:



- ① Beit Jala Parish ② Beit Sahour Parish ③ Nablus Parish

PEACE AND LOVE MESSAGE

In the middle of this crisis, most people got tired of watching the terrible news of more people getting affected by the virus. Therefore, the Elementary Committee started a simple initiative of sending a short message to 5 different people wishing them a blessed day and just telling them the reason of loving them. This simple message started with the 55 General Secretariat members and was shared with various people, friends and families. Although it took no more than 5 minutes, it boosted and lifted everyone's spirit to just get back to life again.

PALM SUNDAY MASS

Due to the lockdown, YJHP members could not participate this year in the yearly procession; therefore, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine: Mr. Rafi Ghattas, delivered the following speech during the traditional Holy Mass at Co-Cathedral of Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Two thousand and twenty years ago, here in Jerusalem, few meters away from this place, and a week after Jesus' entry into the city as a Victorious King, the disciples were hiding in the Cenacle; terrified, horrified, and anxiety is killing them.

On the third day, after the crucifixion of Christ, the disciples received the good news of the Resurrection as He previously said. The apostles rejoiced and prayed as one family from their small room. They did not hold any ceremonies or marches but were united in prayer and waited for the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them.

It's just like old time...

Today, we gather from our homes as one family, praying and asking God, our Father, to consolidate and rescue us from this danger. On this day –Palm Sunday– all

churches celebrate youth day remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, amid a great crowd of people and certainly the youth were all chanting and shouting in a loud voice greeting a King of kings.

Today, we; the youth, the living youth of the church, are Her pulse, hope and present. We are the light, comfort, and peace that derive from Her the joy, and gets attached to hope in the middle of this darkness. We carry the worries of our churches and parishes, and we innovate in our activities and adventures. As the Pope of the Youth, St. John Paul II says: "Dear young people, be holy because lack of holiness makes the world sad! The saints whom you draw inspiration from are still exceptional because they tirelessly consecrated their life to Jesus Christ. Unintentionally, they created evangelical 'revolutionary' lifestyle that still fascinates many young people until today but not exclusively the young."





We are the revolutionaries; the ones who should arise after this pandemic to restore to our church her beauty in all regions of the world, to bring and give hope instead of despair; happiness instead of grief; and sacrifice instead of selfishness.

Here in Palestine, the Holy Land, we, the youth of Jesus' Homeland always used to carry the message of Jesus in all aspects of our life. And today, we deliver a shared message from Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Jenin, the mourning city: Gaza, as well as the wounded city: Jerusalem, to all the world saying: trust that God is with us and will never leave us. Always remember that he who is sick of pain, is blessed with hope.

We live today in a rough time that one would not wish for his enemy; however, two thousand years ago Jesus lived this experience. Here, in Jerusalem, He carried His cross, walked in its alleys, was beaten and whipped, mocked and crucified in front of everyone. He knew the suffering He was about to go through, but He was not afraid of it. On the contrary, He said "not my will but yours be done" (Lk 22:42), and after the torment He reached the Resurrection, stepped on the sting of death and triumphed! And so are we. Soon, we shall reach Resurrection and victory, and everything will be as it was.

Bells of joy will ring loud, and the closed doors of the churches will open wide.

As Christ entered Jerusalem today, we will enter our churches in triumph and praise shouting: "Glorify the Lord, Jerusalem; Zion, offer praise to your God. Hosanna to the Son of David»

HOLY MASS AND ROSARY

On Monday 4 May 2020, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine YJHP conducted an online Mass in Jerusalem headed by Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, its General Chaplain, and then for around 33 minutes, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, the General Secretary of YJHP, introduced the rosary prayer that was held in the Church of Dominus Flevit that overlook at the Old City of Jerusalem. In the Month of Mary, this prayer was dedicated especially for the intention of this Holy city, peace in the Middle East, and peace in our hearts, families, and homes. Fr. Bashar Fawadleh started the rosary prayer by reading the biblical text of this same location. The prayer was recited by members of YJHP who were able to be present at that location since everything was closed and due to the quarantine. It was streamed live on the formal page "abouna.org", which is a religious site that issue documents and news on the Catholic world in Arabic in the Arab land. The rosary was then ended with the Youth prayer, hymn, and a blessing. The live show reached around 6200 views.



CANONIZATION OF ST. MARIE-ALPHONSINE AND ST. MARIAM BAOUARDY MASS



تحتفل الوردية بذكرى تقديس
الأم ماري الفونسين


 يوم السبت
 ٢٠٢٠/٥/١٦

 كنيسة ماميلا

 القداس مباشرة
 الساعة ٢:٠٠ ظهراً

 عبر صفحتنا على الفيس بوك
 شبيبة موطن يسوع
 - فلسطين YJHP


On Saturday 16 May 2020, the General Secretary of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" celebrated Holy Mass of 5 years for the canonization of St. Marie-Alphonsine and St. Mariam Baouardy live online via YJHP Facebook page with the Rosary Sisters of Jerusalem and few number of YJHP members. The mass was headed by Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, the General Chaplain of YJHP. He emphasized in his Homily that holiness is all about being humble, simple and surrender to God's will. He mentioned that prayer in difficult times is



the greatest, and this is exactly what St. Marie-Alphonsine did. She completely surrendered to God's will, and trusted and relied on His mercy and love. Fr. Bashar shortly explained about the humble and simple family this Saint lived in, and how she had the same life as any young individual in the present moment. "Holiness is a path; it is obedience and offering; love and humility; work, patience, and hope; holiness is purity, happiness, and life; holiness is meekness, sacrifice, and joy; holiness is youth; holiness is affiliation; holiness is home; and Palestine is the land of holiness", he adds. Holiness is still possible even in this present moment, in the midst of all the difficulties and troubles times, it is always possible. He also mentioned some of

her characteristics such as listening to others with joy, and with that he ends saying that we as youth of this century “are the new hope in the heart of this world, if we work and listen with joy and in holiness”. At the end, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, the General Secretary of YJHP, highlighted that we, young people of Jesus' Homeland, are also invited to live holiness just as these two saints have lived. He, then, mentions that in her early life, she also started in a way such Christian Youth Ministries do; in their meetings, meditations, and discussions. At the same time, he brings attention to the idea of celebrating 72 years of Al-Nakba (Palestinian exodus); to be specific, the famous phrase of “a land without a people for a people without a land” is not true because our Palestinian lands have always been inhabited by people, and those people had saints too like St. Marie-Alphonsine. He, eventually, gives thanks to the Rosary Sisters whom are always ready for any help, and as they work together with YJHP to deliver Jesus' message to the youth. “YJHP is always ready; and is always ready to be saints”. The live was watched by around 1.6K views.

NOVENA PRAYERS

- Saint Joseph
- The Holy Spirit
- Dana's special Novena
- Christmas Novena with St. Joseph

SOCIAL MEDIA WEEK

The committees of the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP), starting from Children committee to the Prayer committee dedicated an entire week, from 25 to 30 May 2020, to social media as each category had its own day to share various activities, competitions, videos, games, and zoom lectures and discussions. The week went by as follows:

■ Children Group:

On 25 May 2020, the Children committee started the day with a prayer then sharing some photos from various activities to remember all good times. Afterwards, the committee recorded a video entitled "With our Saints",



which aimed at introducing the children to saints starting with the Blessed Virgin Mary, since she is the daughter of Nazareth. This video helped the children know more about our Mother, Mary, and emphasized her importance



and presence in each one's life, even in difficulties. Around 6,000 people watched it. Then the committee shared a worksheet that included various activities and games from the Bible and the life of the Church along with a specific purpose to reach. At the end of the day, a short prayer video was shared.



■ Elementary Group:

On 26 May 2020, the Elementary committee started the day with a short prayer video recorded by elementary youth members of YJHP to the entire world; then they shared another short video remembering all the good memories for the past year when everyone was able to physically meet. Afterwards, Fr. Bernard Boggi shared a life testimony entitled "A Message of Joy and Hope in Today's World", where he first advised youth "not to be afraid while living a certain difficulty in life", and then emphasized on three important points starting with the importance of the community in one's life as it plays an essential role in hope and joy. Afterwards, he focused on the idea of hope saying that "having have hope means that there is something greater coming, and that the difficulties and challenges I am living today could give me a new meaning tomorrow. Therefore, if I do not have hope in the present moment and in difficulties, this would mean that there is no tomorrow". At the same time, his last point concentrated on stretching one's arm to the other. Fr. Boggi illustrated this point saying that "no matter the difficulty or the challenge a human goes through, Jesus is our perfect example in living a life full of hope and joy especially in stretching His arms on the cross". At last, he summed up his life testimony with the following message: "the world needs our help in stretching our arms, for the joy of giving is greater than taking... [as at the same time] difficulties come and go, but human being remains to stretch his/her arm for others". During the day, another short video was shared. The video had various Elementary members recording themselves answering two questions: "What did the quarantine change in you?" And "What is the most thing you love in Virgin Mary?" At the end of the day, the committee shared a video of elementary members from various parishes recorded themselves dancing on the most famous hymn "Youth of Jesus' Homeland", as it was also shared on Tik Tok application.



■ Secondary Group:

On May 27, 2020, the Secondary Committee started their day on social media by sharing a video of a member of YJHP from Jericho praying the Youth Prayer. Then each member of the committee focused on his/her occupation or talent and shared different information about it. To demonstrate, Ms. Kasandra Lolas shared various information about First Aid, and how to deal with injuries; Ms. Lourde Salameh gave health tips and advice and shared a well-balanced nutrition program; Mr. Roger Sleiman shared tips on dealing with animals and taking good care of them; Ms. Yara Abu Zuluf shared tips on having a healthy skin and the best way to take care of it. Then, Deacon Ramez Twal went live stream on "Self-Love", where he first differentiated between self-love and selfishness. Afterwards, he focused on the idea of love by saying that "it is the internal feeling of a human being to like and admire someone / somewhere / something". At the same time, he explained Self as "my footprint in life or in another words, how I express myself". Eventually, he illustrated that we need to know and understand ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses so I can be a good model for others to help them because self-



love means to go out and know others too. At the end of the day, the Secondary Committee shared a Tik Tok video focusing on remembering Almighty God who gives us all the talents and personality we have as well as the energy to keep up in life and daily activities.



■ University Group:

On May 28, 2020, the University Committee started their day on social media with a short morning prayer. Then they shared a message in a short video focusing on the idea of being the salt and light of this world because God has sent the Holy Spirit to give us strength. The committee aimed at reviving spirit of optimism and hope in all YJHP members in

these difficult times. They then shared some photos of the last year's activities along with some memories from The Story of "Ibn El-Balad" Festival. Afterwards, a special poster was trending between all University members on all Instagram and Facebook stories. The poster was entitled "Let us retrieve our memories with YJHP" which included 9 personal questions to be shared with everyone as they mention more friends. At the end, Fr. Remon Haddad went live stream on "My Failure Vs. My Strength", where he focused on the idea of learning from failure. He illustrated that failure should not control our lives just as Jesus overcome all failures and death. He, eventually, emphasized on the idea of willingness and God's grace in one's life to rise and walk forward in strong faith because failure is part of our lives as we remember that we are created in the image of God to reach success. At last, the day was ended with a short prayer of gratitude.

■ Employees Group:

On May 29, 2020, the Employees Committee started their day on social media with a hymn of Immaculate Heart of Mary. Then, they shared a short clip of a person having an internal argument about sin and confession. Later, a video entitled "Why does sin taste good?" was shared. The video included multiple videos of YJHP members sharing various personal answers. Afterwards, Fr. Iyad Twal went live stream on "Sin", where he tackled its definition, cause, types and how to face sin and live in the fullness of Salvation. He also tackled the idea of willingness, selfishness and the freedom of choosing in the matter of sin and its relation to humanity. After all, he summed up this topic by saying that "Sin is treason. God created us and gave us abundant life. When we leave Him by sin, we move away from Him. Therefore, let us live life away from sin". At the end of the day, the Employees Committee shared a motivational video concentrating on "rejoic[ing] in hope, endur[ing] in affliction, [and] persever[ing] in prayer".



■ Prayer Group:

On May 30, 2020, the Prayer Committee started their day with a short video containing some hints from the Bible so that the audience can know the character the committee will be tackling. Then a member of the committee, Mrs. Samia Shaheen, shared her life testimony with the rosary and its importance in her daily life in a video filmed in Church of Nativity, Bethlehem. Another video was then shared focusing on the role of living silence and its method compared with the way Virgin Mary lived it. Later during the day, Fr. Mario Hadchity went live stream on



Sous was shared. She narrated the various blessings and miracles she experienced in her life because of her daily rosary prayer. In fact, she stressed on praying the rosary by advising all audience: "pray the rosary. Never be bored! Do not say that I ask, and no one is answering because one day the miracle will happen – Pray, pray, pray!" At the end of the day the virtue of faith in Virgin Mary was shared in a short video.



"Why the Rosary?", where he tackled its importance and influence on the church and on Christians through history. Furthermore, he illustrated the relationship between praying the rosary and the role of Jesus in one's life. He, then, emphasized the role of Virgin Mary in leading Christians to Jesus and demolishing the devil as she makes Christians closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.

Meanwhile, on May 31, 2020, the Prayer Committee continued sharing virtues of Virgin Mary. Thus, they started the day with a short video about Humility of Virgin Mary so we can learn from her and walk the path of holiness. Then, during the day, another life testimony from Mrs. Salwa



MARY HARP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

On Sunday 31 May 2020, and on the occasion of the end of the May devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" went live on their Facebook page with a spiritual evening and adoration with hymns played by the Shepherds Band in Fatima Church, Beit Sahour with the presence of YJHP members and a number of citizens of Beit Sahour city. The live show was also shared on the Facebook page "citizens of Beit Sahour", and Orient Radio 98.7FM in Bethlehem. The evening was headed by Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, the General Chaplain of YJHP. He emphasized on the importance of our mother, Mary, who was and still is, the reassuring comfort heat; the calm and peace of the Apostles and all of us. In addition, he points out the importance of the church's role; where our Mother Mary who was present with the Apostles prayed together "continuously", and we as young people with her presence are still praying "continuously" to declare to the world the work of the Holy Spirit in each one of us. He adds that "in Jerusalem, and in this Holy Land, we declare and announce that Jesus Christ is life; and He is the most priceless gift to the world." He, then, finishes by mentioning the intentions of this evening prayer for; our parishes, youth, families, and especially Tawjihi students. Also, this evening prayer is



dedicated for all people who are affected by the Corona virus. Eventually, Fr. Bashar gives thanks to Fatima Church in Beit Sahour presented by its Parish priest, Fr. Issa Hijazeen, and the Rosary sisters there along with all the participants. The readings and meditations were recited by YJHP members, and the live had about 5900 views.

"DON'T BE AFRAID" HYMN

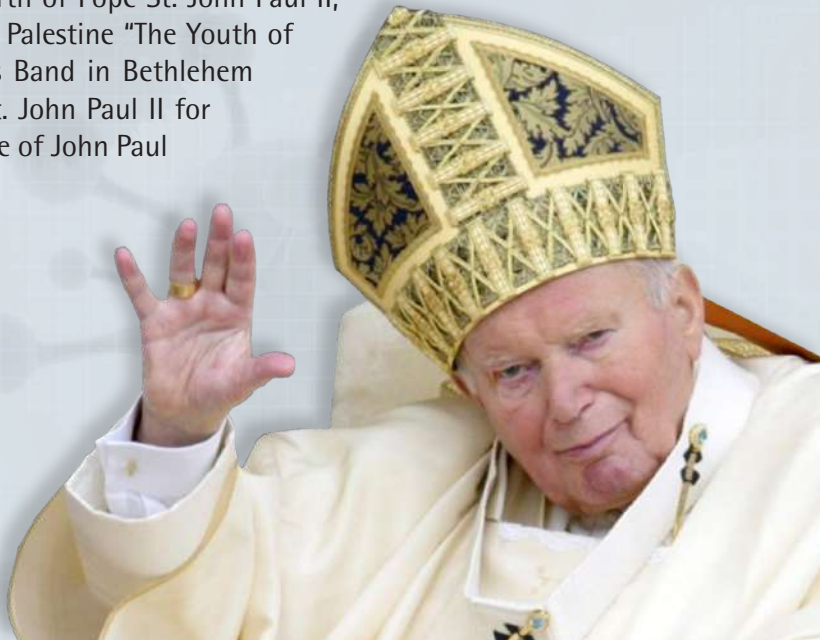
On the occasion of 100th anniversary of the birth of Pope St. John Paul II, The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" in cooperation with Shepherds Band in Bethlehem released a new hymn inspired by the words of St. John Paul II for youth. The hymn was shared on the official website of John Paul II too. The lyrics are as follows:

*"Don't be afraid, open up your hearts
He is among you, open your doors*

*He is calling you, listen to Him
He is for yours, so come on rise up*

*His love embraces you, His heart beats in you
Pray, adore Him... in Him your comfort*

*Be courageous and stand up, spread out, declare
Announce and shout, peace in His name forever"*





"FROM JERUSALEM, A GREETING OF PEACE TO BEIRUT"

"In hope, we win" Rosary Initiative:

With all the chaos the world is currently going through, and in response to the call of the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem issued on August 5th 2020, we, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" lifted our heartfelt prayers with his Excellency and the Bishops' council of the Holy Land to our Lebanese brothers and sisters who were affected and harmed by the unfortunate catastrophe in their capital Beirut, which we watched and followed with deep sorrow. More than 300,000 of Beirut's population were displaced from their homes; most houses are ruined by this explosion and brutally destroyed and in danger of collapsing.

Since the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" have participated throughout the years in various national and ecclesiastical occasions and celebrations in Lebanon, we have decided to start a spiritual initiative that can bring back people's trust in the Almighty God and support Lebanon. Therefore, we ought to focus on the last and most important event that shook everyone and made fear, unfortunately, come over faith. In such situations,





prayer is the strongest weapon that we have, and faith can make miracles happen! For this reason, we focused on Beirut and its people who were affected and harmed by the unfortunate catastrophe; and as children of God, we are here to help and build our brothers and sisters in every possible way.

Therefore, in a show of solidarity and support to the afflicted Lebanese nation who are experiencing the devastating aftermath of the Beirut

blast that took place on August 3, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" has launched an initiative called "From Jerusalem, a greeting of peace to Beirut", which consists of selling rosaries in all parishes and churches. Through this initiative from Jesus' Homeland to Lebanon, we were able to send various peaceful messages to all Christian people. These messages were filled with prayers of hope and trust to revive and live again our Christianity as we should. Our main focus was to help Lebanon to stand on its feet again to rise and smile, and spread the Word of God as it has been doing.

As a result, 6,300 rosaries were created; these rosaries had the drawing of the Olive wood tree with Jerusalem writing on one side of the cross and the Cedar tree drawing with Beirut on the other side. This image illustrates the idea behind our initiation: no matter where you are, or who you are,





we all share our crosses during our way towards Heaven. Thus, "In hope, we win" and together we reach the resurrection. This image reminds us of the importance of love to reach peace. For this purpose, this initiative helps various sides. It supports and encourages every Christian to hold the rosary and pray; to ask the help of our Lady, Mother of God to carry with us our crosses and burdens, to be able to stand and rise again from the dust and shine through remembering and contemplating Jesus' life in Jerusalem.

His Excellency Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa called everyone to pray this rosary before buying it. He even mentioned that "[he] appreciates this initiative executed by the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine to prepare this rosary and distribute it to all parishes, churches and all Christian communities; whether they are Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Melkites, or Protestant, to first express our solidarity with people of Lebanon through prayer then our tangible closeness to our brothers"

This initiative also helped more than 30 Palestinian families whose shops and jobs have been affected by the Corona Virus that impacted the tourism industry. These Palestinian hands were working on its production to earn their living. A special prayer for Lebanon is also attached with the rosary on a bookmark.





The 6,300 rosaries were distributed throughout all Parishes in Palestine and the Holy Land, and sold with a starting price of 10 NIS for the rosary. Just like the widow's offering, we ask people to offer as much as they can give with hearts filled with love and praise for the Lord for all the graces in their lives. People from various places in the whole world such as Spain, Madrid, Italy, Belgium, France, etc. contacted us too.

The initiative was on process for around one month and was able eventually to gather a total number of 30,187 thousand Dollars. This amount was sent to the competent bodies in

Beirut to help the families and rebuild the neighborhoods affected by the blast.

In addition, a video was filmed in Jerusalem especially for this initiative to express the same pain and hope that both countries are going through. The lyrics of the song were created out of the title of this initiative "From Jerusalem, a greeting of peace to Beirut".

It is worth mentioning that Noursat Channel interviewed the General Secretary of YJHP, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, where he passed on the warm greeting from the Christian youth of Jesus' Homeland to all Beirut. He also expressed the solidarity from the people of the Holy Land saying that "despite the difficult economic situation the Palestinian people are going through,





a huge number of people asked to help in this initiative." Meanwhile, The General Chaplain of YJHP, Fr. Bashar Fawadleh treasured this initiative expressing that "the idea came out from the heart of the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine (The Youth of Jesus' Homeland) as a small contribution and solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Lebanon; in the same places that we were hosted at as we, then, felt home. We have not, and will not, forget this reception and the kind and spiritual relationship that gather all of us. Although we live in difficult economic situations, this initiative resembled the Widow's Offering, who out of her poverty, put in everything into the treasury (Mk 12:41-44). It is true that we live in difficult situations, but our penny makes a difference. I would also like to mention that we did not forget our brothers and sisters in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and the locations that are facing huge challenges and difficulties. They are in the heart of our rosary prayers. They have always been, still are, and will always remain our dear beloved brothers and sisters, whom we provide and give all we can. In addition, Jerusalem Church, with all its big life challenges and difficulties, never, even for once, have forgot all her brothers and sisters, and the churches in the Middle East countries, as she always gives her support, and if in a simple way. We, eventually, do not discriminate or base our help on Race, Color, Religion, etc. We focus on events related to humanity, and if this initiative was the first, it certainly won't be the last."





Spiritual Cure from Palestine to Lebanon

I am glad to renew my gratitude, appreciation and brotherly love on behalf of "The Youth Pastoral Department in the Maronite Patriarchal Curia-Bkerke" (Bkerke Jeune) and The Youth of Hope Association and their initiative "We are All Beirut" for the initiative "In hope, we win" that was launched by The Youth of

Jesus' Homeland – Palestine (YJHP) in solidarity with the affected by the devastating blast in Beirut's port.

This exceptional initiative of solidarity had a distinctive and influential impact on all families which have benefited. It was a sign of hope in the heart of their plight, in which it gathered them together on a single and unified opinion that appreciated and valued the support of the Palestinian Youth Ministry despite all the challenges and difficulties they face. The initiative was also a cure that healed the wound of the memory of many Lebanese that discovered the nobility and originality of their brothers: The Palestinian Youth.

However, the greatest influence of this initiative was its deep spiritual meaning. The rosary was the cornerstone of the initiative, which was a token of the spiritual solidarity

through prayer, and the peaceful bond between the Youth of Jesus' Homeland – Palestine and the people of Beirut. Meanwhile, the icon of relics from the Holy Land imprinted on the heart of all who received it saying: "Our dream and hope was to make pilgrimage to the Holy Land, but the Grace of God brought the peace of Jerusalem and Bethlehem to our land, this Christmas."

Therefore, it is a great pleasure to express our deep gratitude to the General Chaplain of YJHP, Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, the General Secretary of YJHP, Mr. Rafi Ghattas and all youth members of Jesus' Homeland as well as the parishes of the Holy Land who generously contributed to the purchase of the rosaries, and everyone contributed to the success of this initiative. Most importantly, we cannot forget the blessing, support, and recommendation of the Archbishop His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa thanking him for his paternal love and guidance.

There is no doubt that this blessed initiative will build a new path in the journey of the Youth of the Holy Land, Palestine and the country of holiness, Lebanon. It will be a path of shared fraternity in which we hope that it sparks a dynamic core for the meeting of youth of the Middle East in the midst of existential challenges that require them to be witnesses of faith and hope.

Monsignor Toufic Bou Hadir

*Director of Youth of Hope Foundation
Supervisor of the Patriarchal Youth Pastoral Department*



From the Land of Jesus to the Land of Saints

For the first time, I celebrated Christmas away from home with people who were desperate for God's Grace and His blessing in their household at the time! This experience is one of the hardest but the most beautiful one I have ever witnessed.

After the explosion, Beirut is not the same again. Beirut is scattered, wrecked and damaged. Aside from all the support it needs, Beirut needs love the most. The Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP) first initiative was prayers for Lebanon's recovery and healing. In times of despair, hope was our only anchor. The rosary has a spiritual and hopeful impact the youth was keen on providing and sharing from the land of Jesus to the land of Saints.

Every house we visited, our special Christmas gift of an icon and rosary from Bethlehem to the Lebanese families contributed in spreading love between the two countries. I could feel the abundance of love and warmth from each family exactly as if baby Jesus was born in their houses this Christmas. We brought Bethlehem to each house this year. I was joyful to see others smile and regain some of

their faded hope. Walking the path of Jesus is our only way to overcome any traumatic disaster.

On the other hand, this experience was severe since Beirut was already bleeding due to the downfall of the economy and the political situations; the last thing that its people needed was an explosion! Pain, despair, destruction and trauma was how I felt during our visits, specially that I come from a place that made me highly value freedom, peace and life. Moreover, we tried to pacify their catastrophe and I was able to receive the love they had for Palestine, to its people and to their daily struggles.

I have undoubtedly lived the Christmas Spirit in Bethlehem, but this year was different. I felt the real meaning of Christmas; of giving, drawing a smile on people's faces, and giving them hope for brighter days to come to our blessed country!

The message we sent from the Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP) to the Lebanese is another asset to strengthen the spiritual bond and heal the past memories between the two sister countries which we love the most despite any circumstances!

Ingrid Khoury
from Beit Sahour

Thank you Letter

*The Secretariat Nationale Jeunesse Etudiante Chretienne
in Lebanon sent a thank you letter for the initiative that
the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine
has conducted mentioning that this action gave them
hope that they are not alone.*

thank you

MEETING WITH THE LOCAL MEETING WITH THE LOCAL

SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS



On Wednesday, 23 September 2020 a meeting was held in the presence of 12 representatives of different local society institutions along with members of YJHP. This meeting tackled various topics such as the Annual Report of the year 2019, activities conducted by YJHP prior Covid-19, and the Initiative of "From Jerusalem, a greeting of peace to Beirut". Mostly, the meeting focused on the idea of Christian Youth development during Covid-19 and thoughts of the future for the year 2021. In the end, the attendees reached a consensus that the General Secretariat should work on a strategic plan to build and develop itself.



A Heavy Loss



Rip

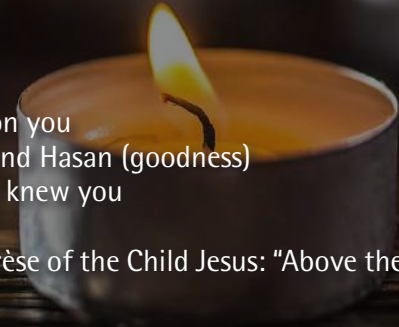


With all this Pandemic crisis that took over the whole world and its negative influence on people, economy and life in general, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP) received an unexpected news! Within a month, YJHP lost two beautiful active young female members: Dana Salah and Dana Hasan. The death of a loved one is always painful, but when this loved one dies unexpectedly it is an intolerable pain that tears one apart. One might consider it as a nightmare that s/he will wake up from it any moment, but unfortunately, it is real.

YJHP members felt a deep and aching pain. This loss brought dozens of emotions that came with grief – sadness, anger, guilt, fear, loneliness, blame and more that can possibly be listed. However, with all these emotions, YJHP members did not lose hope! The idea of seeing Dana and Dana again, and that they are in a better place gave YJHP members and their families some comfort. Through this grief, the Lord offered us himself as "the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement, who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be able to encourage those who are in any affliction" (2 Cor. 3-4). This was the relationship between belief and grief, for death is not a wall but a doorway. Death doesn't have the last word. Jesus has defeated it, and this is our faith.

Below is a thought that Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, the General Chaplain of YJHP, delivered at their funeral:

- ✦ Between Dana and Dana, a month
- ✦ Between Dana and Dana, days and nights were spent in hope
- ✦ Between Dana and Dana, sadness, pain, and death or even longing and nostalgia for salvation
- ✦ Between Dana and Dana, the Stations of the Cross and the pain of a loved one
- ✦ Between Dana and Dana, the pain of separation and difficulty of loss
- ✦ However, both of you, in particular, taught us to be joyful in all circumstances
- ✦ We will rejoice because we celebrate a feast day in heaven
- ✦ We will rejoice because we have two angels in Heaven
- ✦ We will rejoice because the cross is our joy and salvation
- ✦ We will rejoice that the Lord of Life defeated death and has bestowed upon you
- ✦ At the end of the names Dana and Dana, there are Salah (righteousness) and Hasan (goodness)
- ✦ God's Righteousness and His big creation filled the heart of everyone who knew you
- ✦ God's Goodness is that He bestowed upon you many blessings
- ✦ We say farewell with the Immaculate Heart of Mary repeating with St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus: "Above the clouds, the sky is always blue. One touches the shores, where God reigns."



THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



4 members of YJHP participated in TOB virtual conference that began on Friday May 8 until Sunday May 10, 2020. Almost 80,000 people joined this conference and about 70 various prominent speakers and artists shared their joy "showing how St. John Paul II Theology of the Body applies to everyday life, how it will transform your prayer life, how it can bring healing of the deepest wounds in yourself and with others, and how it will bring your Catholic faith alive in new and brilliant ways." Below is a short testimony from two of the members:

"I attended the Theology of the Body Conference and watched some videos of the conference. There were various topics for the same subject, which is the body, but every guest spoke about the area of his/ her study. From what I watched, there was a priest who was talking about the Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph; how they loved each other and loved baby Jesus. I learned a lot of things from the conference especially how religion treats the body. It was useful for adults and people who are going to marry as they talked a lot about the marriage life.



RASHA ODEH
FROM JIFNA



was able to get a glimpse of the whole idea behind TOB and how interesting for a young Christian female living in the Holy Land. The conference had many outstanding speakers with various inspiring topics. It was a spiritual nourishment experience! The great thing about this conference that it helps all categories of people: priests, nuns, laymen, youth, etc. The conference was very powerful, and I enjoyed every bit of the videos I was able to watch. I totally recommend others to participate and learn more about The Theology of The Body and its powerful message."

All of the speakers that I watched had a unique way of giving the information and they studied the information and did research before doing the conference and there was a variety of people (priest, layman, university doctors who teach this subject. Also there was a section for singers and artists to show their talent.)"

"This is my first time hearing about Theology of the Body. It was very interesting to get into this huge topic and learn only bits of it. Due to time difference, and not having much time to watch all the videos played on the virtual conference, I



TAMARA ALQASSIS
FROM BEIT JALA

INTERNATIONAL FIAC MEETING

On September 4, 2020, the General Chaplain of YJHP Fr. Bashar Fawadleh participated with more than 200 participants from 29 countries on a Zoom meeting entitled "The courage to change to emerge from this pandemic better". The meeting contained prayer, reflection, and sharing experiences. Affected by Covid-19, the world is trying to respond positively with a view of hope to the great challenges we all are facing in our daily life at all levels; locally and internationally. Below is the speech he delivered at this meeting:

In response to the call of Apostolic Administrator of The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem "LPJ" on August 5th 2020, the General Secretariat of the Christian Youth of Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" held a meeting to discuss the best possible manner of helping the youth of Palestine participate in alleviating the suffering of the people of Lebanon in the midst of their tragic circumstances.

As a result of the meeting, we came up with an idea for a spiritual initiative that can bring back people's trust in God during this difficult time which financially helps Lebanon. The tragedy of the deadly explosion last month at the port of Beirut is a dark and pervasive travesty which led to the detonation of 2,750 tons of explosive ammonium nitrate.



The tragedy has brought unrest to an already tragic situation which includes political unrest and a financial downfall. In such situations, prayer is the strongest weapon that we have, and faith can make miracles happen.

Through the initiative which we named **"In hope, we win"** we worked with local Christian artisans in Palestine to create 6,200 custom made olive wood rosaries. The cross of the rosary bears an image of an olive tree on one side with the inscription (Al-Quds) and on the other side, an image of the majestic Cedar tree which is so emblematic of Lebanon, with the inscription (Beirut). The cross bearing both images illustrates the idea behind our initiative: in the midst of the tragedy, Jerusalem shares same cross with its sister Beirut. In the solidarity of the two peoples under God, hope is restored and "in hope, we win". This image reminds us of the necessity of love in the attainment of peace.

In this manner, the initiative has gone to provide support to all those who participate. It supports local artisans who are suffering from a lack of tourism in the Bethlehem area due to the Corona Virus closures. Over 30 Palestinian families have been included in this initiative, by making the rosaries. It also supports the suffering people of Lebanon by raising funds for the massive

rebuilding project. It encourages everyone to pray during these difficult times and lastly it empowers the youth to take initiative despite their own modest means. Every Christian can hold the rosary and pray, asking for the divine assistance through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God. May she continue to help us as followers of her divine Son, to remain standing at the foot of the cross (ref. Jn. 19:25) with our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

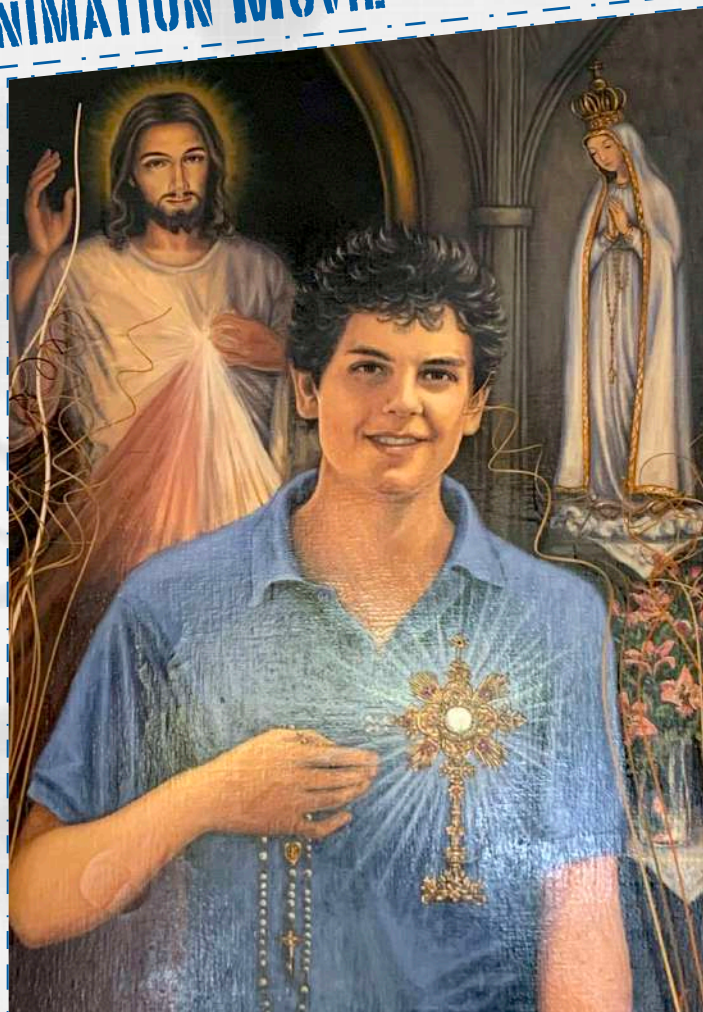
Included with the rosaries is special prayer for Lebanon written by the youth of Palestine. They continued participating in the effort over the entire territory by distributing and selling them after mass at the Parishes in Palestine and the Galilee Region. Through people of good will, the rosaries have also been purchased and shipped to the Gulf States, Spain, the United States and Canada. Each rosary is sold for a modest amount, just 10 NIS. Much like the widow's offering, we ask people to offer as much as they can give; they give with hearts filled with love and in solidarity with their suffering brothers and sisters.

We would like to expand this initiative throughout the whole world so we can join together in one prayer lifting up those most in need and restoring the hope which can only come through Jesus Christ.

BEATITUDE CARLO ACUTIS

ANIMATION MOVIE

On October 10, 2020, Carlo Acutis was beatified at the basilica in Assisi. He was born in London in 1991 to Italian parents. Carlo moved to Milan with his parents shortly after his birth. He had a deep faith from an early age, pure devotion to the Eucharist, and a love of praying the rosary and a routine of weekly confession. After celebrating his First Holy Communion, at the age of seven, he rarely missed an opportunity to receive the Eucharist at daily Mass. He said, "By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy." He was very gifted with computers and put his talents to good use. He created a website which catalogued Eucharistic miracles recognized by the Church. He wanted more people to recognize how Jesus was truly present in the Eucharist, in fact, he said: "If we get in front of the sun, we get suntans... but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become saints." For the celebration of his beatitude, The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" dubbed a short animation video on the life of Carlo Acutis created by Catholic Youth Ministry Federation CYMFed) to Arabic. The video reached 30.8K views. You can watch the video on our youtube channel: YJHP.



CHRIST THE KING EVENT



Message from the New Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem to the Youth:

Approaching the Feast of Christ the King, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa shared the following message with the Youth of Jesus' Homeland:

"We are approaching the Feast of Christ the King; the feast of all the church, and of the youth of Palestine. It is the feast of the youth in our diocese, not just Palestine but also in Jordan and everywhere. I want to say to our youth: we trust you; we need you. We need your enthusiasm; we need your commitment; we need you to help all of us to look forward. We have some years in our background in which we look backwards; therefore, we need you in order to help us look forward; ahead. Problems might occur, but we keep our commitment and hope together in Jesus Christ, our King."



"FOR YOUR REIGN, WE REMAIN"

In response to Covid-19, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" celebrated the feast of

Christ the King live online under the title "For Your Reign, we remain", on 19 and 20 November 2020. The live stream went on several international TV stations such as Noursat and Musawa channels, in addition to YJHP social media platforms and the multimedia center: The Christian Media Center (CMC). Although this year the celebration was totally

different, the General Secretariat was able to reach more views and participants in comparison with previous years, which is consistent with the biblical verse YJHP adopted for the year 2020 "I stand at the door and knock" (Rev 3:20). The feast was divided into two shows; the first was dedicated for children and elementary groups, and the second episode was presented for the groups secondary, university, and employees, as well as families. They both had spiritual, entertaining, and social shows, along with hymns sung by Shepherds Band.





The first episode was dedicated to Children and Elementary groups, where the hosts: Mr. Boulos Yuwakim and Ms. Karoleen Diab hosted Sr. Muna Totah from Sisters of St. Joseph to speak about "the way of living the majestic life of Jesus Christ in the midst of difficulties and challenges that each go through, and especially in Palestine". The episode included exciting competitions, in which Children of "Jesus' Homeland" participated through phone-calls and their names were entered in the Wheels of Names and get valuable prizes from YJHP.

Meanwhile, the second episode of "For Your Reign, we remain" program was dedicated to youth and families. The hosts, Mr. Rafi Ghattas and Ms. Mira Khader, hosted Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and interviewed him differently with many creative young games. His Beatitude touched upon the importance of letting the church give more roles to youth. He, then, emphasized on the necessity of speaking up in front of political matters that are taking place in the Holy Land, and that it should stand with what is right. At the end, His Beatitude Patriarch Pizzaballa gave three important recommendations to Christian youth in Palestine: prayer, commitment, and affiliation; expressing how proud he is for all the efforts YJHP



is making to serve youth. During the second part of this episode, the program hosted the Lebanese artist Mr. Joseph Attieh, where he discussed his spiritual life to which he is committed in, emphasizing on the importance of the relationship with God in his entire life situation. At the end of the episode, the General Chaplain of YJHP Fr. Bashar Fawadleh gave a message to all Christian Youth saying that "despite the pain, struggles, and challenges that humanity went through this year, hope is still present and we need to believe in salvation so that then, pain turns to hope, which is our victory."

The two episodes included various beautiful hymns that were performed by The Shepherds Band led by the Maestro Mr. George Salsa', and with the presence of the two Palestinian artists Mr. Waseem Abdallah, and Ms. Mary Musallam.



Children Bible Competition

The General Secretary of Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP) executed Children Bible Competition "Step for Grace" for the second year. Unlike last year, the competition was held during the Children and Elementary episode of Christ the King Event. The aim of this competition is to encourage children to read the bible and enhance and increase their religious information. This year, the competition was characterized by the participation of the Elementary group in addition to the primary group (Children group). The competition was shared on all social media for one week, where 192 members from the Children group and 182 members from the Elementary group participated. At the end, there

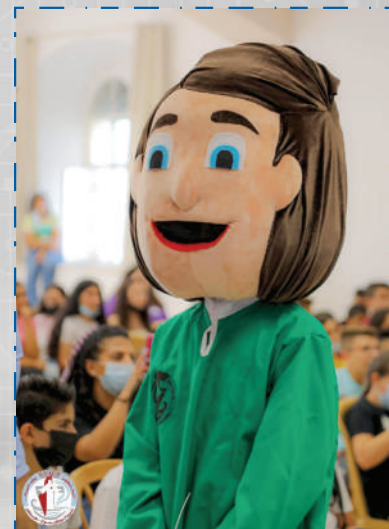


were only two winners; one from each group. Ms. Christina Sa'adeh from Nablus was the winner from the Children group, and Mr. Joseph Najm from Ramah was the winner from the Elementary group.

Cartoon Character "Zaytoun"

The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" needed to create a more creative and practical method for children to continue to communicate with them as it is used to be in our routinely meetings, due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic crisis, and the global closure and general shutdown of the entire world that included Palestine, and especially the cease of its activities.

Accordingly, we set off on a fantasy voyage and drove to the deepest part of ourselves until we reached the idea of creating a cartoon character inspired by real life in order to reach the hearts of children, stimulate their age and ideas, speaks their language, carries their intellectual, cultural and national identity. Thus, Palestine was the source of this cartoon character; as we have drawn in our minds a rooted character to this land; deeply rooted from the time of our ancestors.



This character is from the beating heart of Palestine, and so it was named Zaytoun (Olive). Zaytoun existed since ancient times, rooted to this land and refuses to surrender. A character that is rich with cultural ideas in general, and Palestinian in particular. It's a character that is in love with the story of the Son of this land Jesus; for Zaytoun is a sea of information that answers all questions; a giving and generous character in its love, ideas and affiliation. The moment that Zaytoun was implemented into reality; his outfit was similar to the olive tree, inspired by the colors of our Palestinian heritage. The size of his head is big because he is loaded with concerns, challenges, and difficulties, but at the same time, he is filled with hope, defiance, and resistance. He is very smart and challenger; courageous and analytical; rooted to his land and remains just like Olive trees; giving character as his Teacher Jesus Christ.



MAKANI PROJECT (My Place)



subdued successful personality, and to be protected from violence to find alternatives creative solutions. The following was her comment:

"The first phase of this project focused on the basic methodology of violence. It covered violence in general, the reason behind it, determining a nervous person and the best way to avoid the usual solutions such as beating. In the end, the trainer did some activities to know each person's strengths and positivity. Meanwhile, the second phase tackled the advanced alternatives to violence. This phase mainly focused on finding new positive methods for their lives to live in a nonviolent secure place to build their society."

Ms. Rasha Odeh, a member of the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP) participated in Makani Project, which was initiated by YWCA Palestine. This project is a learning opportunity that motivates youth from various places in the West Bank to enhance the methodology of alternatives to violence, which will eventually help in the conversion of manpower to the individual and society including the local environment. Ms. Odeh, hence, joined the two phases of this project which provided valuable skills such as building a





Pax Christi International is a Catholic Nonviolence Initiative that promotes peace and justice worldwide. As usual they dedicate a period of time during the year for peace and nonviolence. Therefore, during 21 September until 2 October, 2020, Pax Christi International focused on the following question: "What can believers of this land provide to the world inspired by our faith and in accordance to the teachings of our Savior that is built on love and nonviolence?" For this reason, they cooperated with The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" to activate and execute "Catholic Nonviolence days of action: Following the Nonviolent Jesus". It's an invitation to study, pray, act and celebrate the power of nonviolence with Pax Christi International. Hence, young members of YJHP decided to focus on and film three main scenes in the bible that follow the below goals to remind the world that we choose love, mercy and forgiveness instead of violence because Jesus Christ taught us the difficult but not impossible non-violent way of life:

1 Mercy

This video recalls the scene of Jesus saving the woman who was caught committing adultery from being stoned to death. Jesus had to choose between mercy and violence; either to forgive the woman or allow the crowd to kill her. He chose mercy and gave the woman a second chance. He also saved the crowd from committing a sin.

2 Love

This video highlights the love of Jesus who died on the cross for our salvation. Jesus is the son of God: He could have easily eliminated anyone who violated Him, but instead He chose to tolerance over everything through love.

3 Forgiveness

This video focuses on the story of Saint Stephen who faced violence with forgiveness.

OLIVE HARVEST SEASON

OLIVE HARVEST SEASON



This season marks a traditional family gathering and earth bondage as families usually gather for the weekend, sing traditional songs, and have traditional light meals in the field. Palestinians head to their trees to pick olives, gather and sort it, and send it off to local presses to make olive oil and handmade soap. This season is very special as olives mean much more than tasty cooking; it is an ancient symbol of Palestine. Olive trees remind every Palestinian with the importance of their lands and their historical bond and root to Jesus' Homeland, as well as a symbolic token of peace and prosperity as it is mentioned in the Bible. Therefore, members of The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" took part in assisting Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Beit Jala pick Olive oil from Wednesday 28 October until Saturday 31 October 2020.

THE PEOPLE'S PATRIARCH

REFLECTIONS WITH PATRIARCH MICHEL SABBAH

On December 12, 2020, the film "The People's Patriarch: Reflections with Patriarch Michel Sabbah" was released during a meeting organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center and with the participation of Al-Liqa' Center for religious and heritage studies in the Holy Land, The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland", Kairos Palestine, and many Palestinian national, religious and academic figures in the diaspora and the homeland. This virtual meeting was led by Mr. Sami El-Yousef, CEO of Latin Patriarchate. The film is a modest contribution made for the aim of honoring Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah and to shed light on some of the important milestones in his life, his thoughts and his passion with the consolidation of love, justice, and peace. He shares the history of the Palestinian struggle, his views on the current situation, and his uncompromising commitment to the truth. The release of the film aimed to celebrate the person and heir of Patriarch Michel Sabbah and document his pioneering role in defending the Palestinian people, based on his Christian faith and spiritual message.

The film was directed by Mr. Mohammad Alatar and produced by Dr. Lily Habash. An intervention from Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, said: "the election of Sabbah as Patriarch of Jerusalem as first Palestinian and Arabic Patriarch marked a very clear way in the life of the Church of Latin Patriarchate. It was a turning point! I think all of us, when we think of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, we think of Patriarch Sabbah because not only of his political statements and political attitude towards justice and peace; justice for Palestinian people, but also for the life of the church, the Synod, and many other initiatives. For several generations, Sabbah, was the pastoral who marked the life of the church and was the voice of the Palestinian Christians and the voice of the Church. I think it is important in the movie to mark these activities in the life of the church. Now, Sabbah, leaves to the church and the Christians a legacy: how to talk about peace, how to talk about justice; how to be a church here in the Holy Land, in Jerusalem in our days. These are important questions that I am sure that together with Sabbah will try to answer them."

بطريرك الشعب

محطات مع البطريرك ميشيل صباح



CHRISTMAS TRAILER

On December 14, 2020, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" asked all Christian youth to participate in a contest entitled "Christmas Trailer". The contestants needed to record a short video for the period of 1-3 minutes inspired by Christmas. Around 15 Christians; between kids and youth, participated, but three finalists were announced on 31 December, 2020. The purpose of this idea is to remember and remind people the importance of living Christian spiritually as we basically should have. It is basically about feeling with Jesus' birth and others who are in need.

The winners are as following:



First Place

Tamer Shaheen from Jericho



Second Place

Mariam Obaid from Zababdeh



Third Place

Erica Fawadleh from Ramallah

CHRISTMAS GIFT CHRISTMAS GIFT

On 19 December 2020, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine "YJHP" distributed simple gifts for the children – ages 3 to 7 – all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. YJHP were able to reach a total of 982 children. The gifts were blessed in Bethlehem, and were taken from the place of Jesus' birth, the Nativity, to each child's house and heart.



A Burt of Joy



Christmas Magic



"With COVID-19 pandemic impact on people's livelihood, health, education, economy and many other factors that have increased our burden, we would like to thank you for your generous Christmas support as it boosted all our energies and brought laughter into the children's faces and spirits."

It was a challenging time for all of us! Although the situation in Gaza was risky, we could not help but to continue your message in sharing this beautiful gesture in spreading joy to our children. Therefore, we took into consideration all safety procedures while distributing the gifts to ensure the safety of our children, the community and ourselves. This gesture really made a difference for all children of our community as well as their parents."

Fr. Gabriel Romanelli, Gaza

"Celebrating Christmas is not complete until you make a child happy. This year, YJHP decided to make its children happy with a simple gift, and therefore, we placed the gifts in vehicles and traveled to all houses. We felt Christmas spirit when we heard the children shouting with joy once they hear the

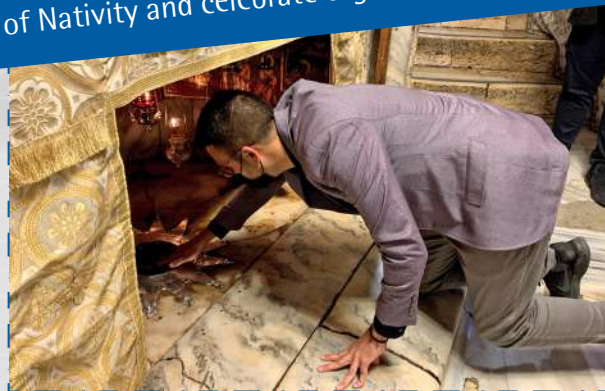


doorbell rings; we saw their eyes sparkling with joy once they open the door running towards us and hugging us. Then, they drag us to see their Christmas tree and take pictures with them holding their present laughing from the bottom of their hearts. Celebrating Christmas with children is considered the best experience, where even though with all the Pandemic outbreak and life twists that influenced each one of us, Christmas kept its magic and joy."

Ms. Maysan Zahran, Jifna

CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS

Due to the restrictions of COVID-19 and strict lockdowns, the mass was streamed live on TV. However, God is good! Although the mass was limited to church officials, few members of YJHP were able to participate in the most important event at the Church of Nativity and celebrate together Christmas Eve.



LATIN PATRIARCH'S MEETING WITH LATIN PATRIARCH'S MEETING WITH

2021 THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH

His Beatitude Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, presided over the festive mass to renew the promise of the members of the General Secretariat and committees of the Christian youth in Palestine "Youth of the Homeland of Jesus" of 2021 in the Holy Family Church – Ramallah on Friday, 26 February, 2021. During the festive mass, the General Chaplain, Father Bashar Fawadleh and the General Secretary, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, with the General Secretariat and committees members, renewed the promise before His Beatitude the Patriarch.

After that, the Secretary General appointed the members of the committees who fulfilled the promise of service in the General Secretariat of Youth. At the end of the Diving Liturgy, the General Secretary of YJHP, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, gave a speech that presented the most important achievements of the YJHP during the past two years, then he addressed his words to His Beatitude the Patriarch, saying: "Youth are not the





future, they are the present of the Church today, and they alone will determine the future of the Church in Palestine."

He added: "The alarm has sounded! This land may hold the last generation of Christians, so we have to work together to maintain the Christian presence in the homeland of Jesus." Then Ghattas asked the patriarch to depend on the youth of Jesus' homeland and to give them a real role in the church. The liturgy ended with the announcement of the verse of the year derived from the words of the angel to Saint Joseph, who said to him: "Get up, do not be afraid," in line with the announcement of the Pope to dedicate this year to the righteous St. Joseph.



Before the appointment liturgy, the Patriarch met with the YJHP administration and its members. In the meeting, the General Secretariat provided a full explanation of its role, work and structure. The Patriarch demonstrated his admiration and commended the work of the Secretariat in Palestine, stressing that this meeting is just the beginning of meetings dedicated to youth in the near future.



During the discussion that took place between the members of the General Secretariat and His Beatitude the Patriarch, he indicated that the church sometimes talks about things far from the youth, while the Christian youth in Palestine is the one that touches the reality of the local youth, stressing: "The youth of



Jesus' homeland is the link between the Church and Christian youth in Palestine", and he added: "Today we need the secular youth to be present in all aspects of the church. They are ones who touch the reality of the youth." He added: "The church doesn't consist of consecrated persons and clergy only, but they are here to serve the parish, together they form the church, and they are the living pulse of this church."

After the mass, His Beatitude the Patriarch met with members of the Secretariat and its committees, who presented him with a summary of the main challenges and problems facing Christian youth in Palestine, and presented their most prominent demands and their opinion of solutions. In turn, the Patriarch





commented on all points clearly, He affirmed his understanding of the needs of the youth, calling for working hard to find and implement solutions despite all the obstacles, especially those related to the Israeli occupation, stressing that: "Christian youth have the right to live with dignity and freedom and they must obtain their rights in various ways. The occupation will not end soon, but the Palestinian people have to find their way to freedom.



He also said: "The church shoulders its responsibility towards youth and families, as it always works to create possible opportunities and provide the spiritual and material needs to all its parishioners, but the church will not be able to provide all the needs alone, but its youth must provide assistance and initiatives for the success of the church's work in society«.



The youth touched on their relationship with the parish priests, that sometimes go through many obstacles and challenges, while His Beatitude affirmed his knowledge of the difficulties some youth face with their priests, and asked the youth to help priests spread the message of Christ and pray for them.

After the meeting ended with His Beatitude, he had lunch with all the members. After that, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine completed its internal work to prepare for the rest of the activities of 2021.

The General Secretary of YJHP, Mr. Rafi Ghattas, delivered a speech directed to His Beatitude Patriarch Pierbattista Pizaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fr. Jamal Khader, parish priest of Ramallah, and all members of the General Secretariat along its committees. The speech is as follows:

Here we are again for the third year in a row, renewing our service to this great responsibility that God chose to grant us. Once again, we are making a promise from the heart in front of the altar of the Lord and declaring our readiness to serve the Christian youth members. The local church, now, declares us in front of the Creator and people that we are the Christian youth representatives in Palestine; granting us the authority to serve them with everything they need. In addition, we reaffirm and declare that we are members of Jesus' Homeland - Palestine, carrying the cross of Salvation along with Jesus Christ; proud of our country, and raising its banner high.

In 2019, the General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine chose its verse for the year: "take courage; be stouthearted" (Psalms 27:14), and indeed they were courageous and began a new path that tipped their scales. At that time, the idea of many years



of dialogue reached its result of changing our name to "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland". From Ramallah, we renewed the Christian youth with a fresh start, during the biggest Christian Festival in Palestine: "The story of Ibn El-Balad", as we, later, continued our usual path and annual activities with great distinctiveness.

Then, with the beginning of the New Year, 2020, we were very optimistic; extremely optimistic. From this exact place, we announced our new verse "I stand at the door and knock" (Rev 3:20). Before the pandemic and the restrictions of quarantine, our intention was to start the new decade of the third millennium with a high spark and great force.

We made our plans, prepared ourselves, and started our activities, then the pandemic arrived. Life stopped, and we were told: "stay home! Your Lord will extend His mercy to you." Stay home, close your doors! We were told, but our answer was: "He is standing at the door knocking!"

The goal of this verse was to reach the largest possible number of Christian families and youth that are not affiliated with the ecclesiastical movements. Indeed, despite all the challenges and difficulties of the past year, with all its pain, disease, longing and

farewell, we were able to reach our goal and enter many new homes through social media and television screens, that nowadays the reputation of the name of Jesus' Homeland precedes it. At the beginning of the pandemic, we began our activities with a joint prayer campaign followed by many various activities and initiatives for the different age categories through social media. After our sympathy towards the recommendations from His Beatitude Patriarch Pierbattista, we sent "From Jerusalem, a greeting of peace to Beirut" due to the catastrophe that Lebanon has been through. In a matter of days, YJHP was able to collect donations over thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000); and as a result, over thirty families and organization were supported. Moreover, we celebrated Christ the King Event by launching a television program consisting of two episodes, entitled "For Your Reign, we remain". The program attracted many people, where it had tremendous resonance in unexpected places. This was the first Palestinian Christian program that was broadcasted on Arabic channels.

Hours before Christmas Eve, one thousand gifts (1,000) were sent from the Church of Nativity, Bethlehem to the children of Jesus' Homeland across the country as they all shared one similar gift from YJHP.



YJHP was not limited to Palestine and the neighboring countries but extended to the Vatican. Officially, and for the first time in history, the Vatican gave The Christian Youth of Palestine (YJHP) the full right and powers to write the hymn of WYD 2023, in Arabic with supervision to coordinate along with other Arabic countries upon this matter.

Today, we continue the journey under the wing of our church and walk with Pope Francis in dedicating this year to the Righteous St. Joseph. Accordingly, we chose "Rise, do not be afraid" (Mt. 2:13, 1:20) from the appearance of the angel to St. Joseph to be the verse of this year, 2021. Nowadays, we desperately need this verse to come back to life again without being afraid; we desperately need to defeat the thorn of fear just

like Jesus Christ defeated during His Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. Let us all stand and renew our faith with a bright start.

I call here His Beatitude the Patriarch saying: "Your Beatitude, we, the youth, are not the future. We are the present of the Church, yet, we will make the future. We are the ones who will determine our Christian presence in this Holy Land and who will keep the church's consistency to its land. Therefore, I honestly tell you: the alarm has previously sounded, and probably this land now has the last generation of Christians. Again, we are the youth who will build families and for the foreseeable future will determine if Christians will remain in the Holy Land or become part of history. Your Beatitude let us hence start working today and continue your journey in strengthening the Christian presence. I am asking you in the name of all Christian youth in Palestine to take advantage of our presence and use us for the benefit of our Church. Count on us because we, the youth, are the pulse of the Church, its present and hope."

Brothers and sisters; members of General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP) and its committees,

Today, we are witnessing to God's call in our life to be responsible for the Christian youth in His homeland.

As we lovingly accept this call, we hold a huge responsibility to live it in our spiritual, personal, and practical life.

And here, I answer some of the common questions that we ask;

- What does it mean to be a Christian youth member?

It means to be a revolutionary in your church for what is right and speak up against injustice; even in secret, to right the wrong.

- What does it mean to be a YJHP member?

It means to be an affiliated person who belongs to humanity, stone, earth, church and land. It also means to pray every night before you sleep for the youth in your parish, spiritual director, and church; and remember that you are one of the people that God gave them the responsibility to guide and lead the youth.

- What does it mean to be part of the General Secretariat of Christian youth in Palestine?

It means to offer your prayers for our beloved country so that God will end the Occupation,

give Palestine freedom and independence, and unite its people from the river to the sea, and from the south to the north.

- What does it mean to be a Christian Youth?

It means to call to the Lord out of the depths: "Our father who art in heaven, we dedicate our youth to you, and thereby stand to serve you with all our being, give us a solid faith to overcome trespasses, to maintain the purity of our hearts, and to always pursue your will. Let us be trustworthy witnesses of the Bible, to become disciples of light, serenity and peace, bless us to always be faithful brothers and sisters to our beloved Lord Jesus Christ, to love all as he loved us, Amen."

- What does it mean to be the son/ daughter of YJHP?

It means to take courage; be stouthearted to open the door for Jesus, rise without fear and say: Youth of Jesus' Homeland, we are always ready and our youth with Jesus will never go away.

WHY WE BECAME FRIENDS WHY WE BECAME FRIENDS

WITH YJHP WITH YJHP

Below is a following testimony
from one of the donors:

"The Clerical Society of the Most Holy Trinity of Mirinae - SSTM", is a Latin Catholic Congregation, established in South Korea. It has been 15 years since we came to the Holy Land, and 12 years since we settled in Beit Sahour. Now, we come to have a chance to let you all know why we care about the Christian Youth in Palestine (Holy Land).

1 *"The LORD begot us"* (Prv. 8:22)

In order that the LORD begot us to born, He called a Korean Father, Francis Tjeong, to have a passion to love the Sacred Heart of Jesus especially which is suffering about 80 years ago. The Father came to have a special mind to devote the holy hour for Jesus felt sorrow and distress in the Gethsemane. About 10 years later, he began to venerate also the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and with these spirits he decided to establish SSTM congregation. In accordance with Fr. Francis's mindset,



we were born of God's blessing and Mary's care. Thus, we all try to remember a motto "Glory be to the Most Holy Trinity through the Immaculate Heart of Mary".

2 *"Lord, I am prepared to suffer with you"* (Lk. 22, 33)

The founder, Fr. Francis Tjyeong, preserved the holy hour in every Thursday night, and so the congregation followed the practice. Fr. Francis ardently hoped to pray the holy hour in its original location, the Gethsemane, yet he passed away without making this wish. In order to take over the founder's desire, in 2006, we came to the Holy Land with an approval from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and we stayed in Bethany close to the Gethsemane. Finally, we began to pray the holy hour every Thursday night in the Basilica of the Agony.

3 *Will you?* (Jn. 13, 38)

In 2009; however, the Apartheid Wall between Bethany and the East Jerusalem was built, which created an obstacle for us to reach Gethsemane. Thus, we decided to move to Beit Sahour next to Bethlehem, it was appropriate for us to settle down in Beit Sahour since it is very close to the Nativity Church where our Lord Jesus was born, and many people are Christians.

But here, we found that Jesus came to us vividly with another look of agony, as if telling us: "Look, I'm suffering with these people, and will you truly join me?"

Facing reality, we remembered the word of the Lord: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Then, we came to understand that Jesus would call us to be a neighbor with those Christian people in the Holy Land who are suffering, as a practical holy hour.

4 *"Lord, You know that..." I will.* (Jn. 21, 15.)

So, we began to support people in need, to try to learn and understand their lifestyle, mindset, language, culture, food, hobby, feeling etc. SSTM especially turned to the Christian Youth in Palestine because "the youth are the future." We hope to be a neighbor sharing life together and talking about a shared future.

As we started to get involved with the Ministry of Christian Youth in Palestine (YJHP), we were astonished to observe and be involved in all their ministry work with Christians who actually live in the Holy Land, where our Lord was born and are eager to accomplish His Mission. We were struck by recognizing the importance of supporting Christians to remain and live in the Holy Land.



ways to keep reaching our customers and serving the community electronically, but at the same time we saw that people do like to have the physical book and they like to shop and hold the book in their hand rather than having an e-book. Eventually, people came to understand the importance of being educated and especially in their religion. COVID-19 at last helped the Christian community dig deeper in their faith and the growth of their relationship with God; and here came the support of Christ the King Bookstore to the Christian community in general and their personal relationship with the Savior, our King.

It is said: "sometimes you don't understand how vital something is until you miss it for a while", and that is what exactly happened. Christ the King Bookstore was expecting 2020 to be a strong year, full of activities and visitors; however, life changed since the COVID-19 pandemic started. At the beginning, the bookstore had to stay closed for the safety of everyone and to obey the rules, but then we opened only to pickup or to prepare some book delivery services. We have found many creative



A MESSAGE OF HOPE

I am glad that the message of Christ the King Bookstore for 2020 is a message of hope for the present and the future. The presence of the bookstore is directly connected to the message of the evangelization in which we are all called to after the Resurrection. Therefore, this bookstore is a mean of evangelization in our church in specific and in society in general, which is in total connected with the virtue of hope.

Christ the King Bookstore is considered a special place where any Christian can grow and advance in wisdom, grace, and understanding of the presence of God in his/ her life to live it accordingly and reflect it to others.

Hope is based on two important points:

1. Listen to God's Word through deep reading of the Bible accompanied with individual and group prayer (liturgy). This prayer is derived from the teachings of the Holy Bible, lives of saints, martyrs of the church who witnessed for Jesus Christ in their lives and died having the hope of the Resurrection, as we mention them in our daily morning and evening prayers.
2. The active participation in the Holy Sacraments especially the Eucharist, in which we live God's providence and salvation that was accomplished by the Death and the Resurrection of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ who said: "behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt. 28:20)

I wish you all a life filled with hope, knowledge, and closeness to God's Heart.



Fr. Bashar Fawadleh
Director of Christ the King Bookstore

FROM THE PEOPLE TO THE PEOPLE

Christ the King Bookstore was impressed by the initiative executed by Baladi Center to boost their members' awareness and root them in the importance of their land and culture as well as increase their knowledge. Therefore, we have decided to be part of this initiative and contribute in donating some books for the center. Below is some information about this initiative:

■ Concept:

To establish a folk bookstore that contains a collection of cultural and national books along with various novels.

■ Why a folk bookstore?

Because it will be from the people to the people; i. e., the books will be gathered from the people who are interested in this bookstore, so in turn they can also benefit from the available books.

■ Aim:

To contribute in creating an educated generation who can provide new ideas for discussion and development.

In addition, the bookstore aims to bring into people's awareness the changes in society, as it contributes in positive change to boost the cultural and national reality in Beit Jala in specific, and Bethlehem District in general. We also aspire to create new leaders who hold fixed national thinking to be able to lead the center later, and eventually civil society institutions as well as official ones in the long run.

■ Target group:

All present and former Baladi members of all ages including friends and advocates of the center and the community in general.

■ Bookstore establishment:

The bookstore was announced in June 2020, where we started collecting different books from members and institutions via our official Facebook page. We are currently working on data recording to divide the books into groups based on their types in addition to the data entry.

■ Bookstore location:

It will be in the meeting room of the center where we are currently working on building shelves inside the heritage arc stone of the building.

■ Borrowing the Books:

Any member of the center can borrow any book for no more than 10 days by informing the responsible person of the books. The member's personal information will be included for following up.



Increase Your Faith

When we ask a child what is their favorite store to go to, they will respond with a "Toy shop". When you ask a faithful Catholic, like my family, what is their favorite store, you will hear "Christ the King Bookstore". The excitement of the child in the toy store is the same excitement in our hearts when we visit the Christ the King Bookstore.

Christ the King Bookstore is a store that we genuinely cherish because it provides us with access to many books, films, DVDs and so forth, to increase our knowledge and faith. The store has a wide range of resources ranging from books about saints, the Catholic Church teachings to liturgical and contemplative books among many others. The store also



caters to the needs of many; those beginning their journey of faith, those seeking their paths, and those consecrated and well knowledgeable. It also caters to the needs of various ages from children, teenagers, adults and elders.

The customer service agent in the store is always present with love and a big smile as s/he is always ready to serve all people. If, however, a book or resource is not available, they are always ready to pursue obtaining it as soon as they can and in the minimum amount.

We feel truly blessed to have access to such a bookstore as it has increased our knowledge of our faith and deepened our spiritual experiences.

Gosayna Karam
from Nazareth

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine The Youth of Jesus' Homeland - Palestine Financial Report from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020

Donations, Contributions & Other Support	Netherlands Lieutenancy Through (LPJ)*	\$19,975	
	Dormition Abbey – Jerusalem	\$11,190	
	CNEWA - Pontifical Mission	\$9,991	
	Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ)	\$9,469	
	Manna Et Salwa NPO-San Jose	\$4,000	
	The Clerical Society of the Most Holy Trinity	\$2,000	
Total Donations, Contributions & Other Support			\$56,625
Expenses	Youth Services & Expenses	\$10,822	
	Employees' Expenses	\$3,738	
	Legal & Professional Services	\$3,500	
	Communication	\$9,922	
	Stationary & Supplies	\$1,678	
	Occupancy	\$8,403	
	Transportation	\$2,718	
	Financial Aid Expenses	\$1,401	
	Other Expenses	\$4,884	
Total Expenses			\$47,067
Net Surplus / Deficit			\$9,558

*Note: The donation received from Netherlands Lieutenancy through LPJ is 39,950 USD as contribution to cover the cost of purchasing a van from which 50% is allocated on Christ the King Bookstore and 50% on YJHP

Lebanon Appeal 2020

Financial Report from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020

Donations, Contributions & Other Support			
Donation	Income from selling Rosaries	\$11,072	
	Local Contributions	\$10,166	
	CNEWA - Pontifical Mission	\$4,991	
	The Clerical Society of the Most Holy Trinity	\$2,000	
	Khamis Trading Company	\$1,000	
	Sabeel Center – Jerusalem	\$588	
	Christ the King Bookstore	\$682	
	Church Of UAE / Fr. Elie Al-Hashem	\$80	
Total Donations, Contributions & Other Support			\$30,579

Administrative Expenses			
	Financial Aid (Transferred to Lebanon)	\$30,187	
	Communication	\$ 357	
	Other Expenses	\$35	
Total Expenses			\$30,579
Net Surplus / Deficit			-

Christ The King Bookstore

Financial Report from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020

Donations, Contributions & Other Support			
Donation	Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem	\$25,998	
	CNEWA - Pontifical Mission	\$19,991	
	Netherlands Lieutenancy Through LPJ*	\$19,975	
	Open Doors	\$2,511	
	Other Contributions	\$169	
Total Donations, Contributions & Other Support			\$68,644
Sales Income			
	Sales Revenue	\$74,655	
	Cost of Goods Sold	\$37,207	
	Net Sales		\$37,448
Total of Donations & Income			\$106,092
Administrative Expenses			
	Youth Services & Expenses	\$1,577	
	Employees' Expenses	\$28,028	
	Legal & Professional Services	\$4,326	

	Utilities Expenses	\$1,903	
	Communication	\$9,371	
	Stationary & Supplies	\$2,417	
	Occupancy	\$1,913	
	Transportation	\$1,293	
	Financial Aid Expenses	\$772	
	Other Expenses	\$5,421	
	Purchasing van*	\$24,561	
Total Administrative Expenses			\$81,582
Net Surplus / Deficit			\$24,511

*Note: The donation received from Netherlands Lieutenancy through LPJ is 39,950 USD as contribution to cover the cost of purchasing a van from which 50% is allocated on Christ the King Bookstore and 50% on YJHP

*The General Secretariat of Christian Youth in Palestine
would like to thank you for all your generous donations and support.
Through your financial, social, and spiritual donation
we have been able to accomplish our goal for this year 2020
and continue working towards building a deeper relationship
between Christians and God despite all the challenges.
Thank you for being part of this process and journey.
We promise to keep you in our prayers.*

*Thank
you!*



We are ready all the time



مكتبة يسوع الملك
Christ the King Bookstore

Address: Beit Sahour (Bethlehem) – Palestine
Souq Al-Shaab St., Ararat roundabout

+972 2 275 5353

+972 595 790 438

+972 545 951 514

catpalbook@gmail.com

www.yjhp.ps/store

Christthekingbookstore

مكتبة يسوع الملك



THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT
OF CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN PALESTINE

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YJHP شبيبة موطن يسوع – فلسطين

+970 569 317 953

info@yjhp.ps

www.yjhp.ps