



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

August 2010

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin is Consecrated in a Joyful Celebration in Irbid

With great joy, on 5th August 2010, priests and lay people from the Diocese of Jerusalem, ecumenical and political dignitaries and church representatives gathered in Irbid, Jordan where Bishop Suheil Dawani blessed and consecrated a new church. With respect for our Abrahamic Muslim brothers and sisters and their regard for the Virgin Mary, the church was consecrated in the name of St Mary, the Virgin.



The building is made of local stone with marble flooring with wooden pews, altar and pulpit. An outstanding feature is the wooden cross above the Altar truly focusing the eye towards the Sanctuary.



The furniture was made by students and staff of the Theodore Schneller School, an institution of the Diocese that helps boys who have learning challenges, who are marginalized or orphaned with educational and vocational training, and truly reflects the skill and creative design work of those who are trained at the School.

Written above the Sanctuary is a verse from the Magnificat. "My soul doth magnify the Lord" expressing the desire of every Christian and particularly the focus of worship in this new church.

(Full articles of all newsletter stories can be found on our website, www.j-diocese.org)

Diocese of Jerusalem holds Iftar in Ramallah

30 August 2010, in the final weeks of Ramadan, the Diocese of Jerusalem sponsored an Iftar hosted by the Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani accompanied by diocesan staff, clergy, directors of diocesan institutions.



Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority, business and civic leaders from Ramallah came together to break the day's fast in honor interfaith respect and cooperation. The Iftar feast was catered at the St. Andrew's Church Parish Hall, known in the city as the Arab Evangelical Center.



One hundred and sixty guests attended

Diocesan Women Meet at Ahliyyah Girls School

6 August 2010 – More than seventy women of the Diocese of Jerusalem assembled for a summer meeting at Ahliyyah School for Girls in Amman, Jordan. Bishop Suhail and Shafeeqa Dawani came to join in this lovely gathering. The program included a special service and a welcome word from Shafeeqa.

Bishop Suhail gave a presentation about Christian Presence in the Region. It was a very enriching fruitful presentation, which showed how important it is for our Diocese to continue to encourage our



people to live side by side with other people from other religions in the Middle East. Bishop Suhail showed how King Abdullah the 2nd of Jordan pushes these efforts and encourages his people in having co-existence and religious freedom. This was followed by dividing those present into groups to discuss how we can help our young men and women to stay or return to their country after getting their education. A lot of interesting recommendations arose and all the ladies were very enthusiastic to discuss this.

Diocese Youth Conference in Jordan

On the weekend of 26-28 August 2010, the Diocesan Youth Conference was held at the Schneller School (one of our Institutions), Marka. Led by Rev. Khaled Freij, 45 young adults came together for a weekend of fun, fellowship and teaching. Along with team building challenges and much fun, there were worship services, singing hymns, as well as lectures and discussions on various subjects under the title of "Growing in Everything". Various topics were covered, including Choosing a Life Partner, Corporate Prayer using Liturgy, and spending time with God.



The excellent facilities of the Schneller School provided opportunities for team building exercises. Challenges were set which involved working together for a solution taking into account the weaknesses and strengths of each team.

For more stories and information than will fit in the newsletter, please visit www.j-diocese.org



The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.