



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

October 2009

“One body, one faith, one baptism ...”

Feature articles

2009 Women's
Conference

Princess Basma
praises women and
interfaith dialogue

Provincial Clergy
Conference and
Synod

Diocese of
Washington
ceremony



“LET OUR LIGHT SHINE”

2009 Diocesan Women's Conference

October 14, 2009 – Women from around the diocese gathered at the renovated Schneller School Conference Center to focus on women's leadership. Bishop Dawani, with several other diocesan priests, gathered the women in a celebration of the Eucharist, where the Bishop preached on the role of women in the Bible and their role in the Church and ministry, using the Virgin Mary as an example.

During each of the next four days, women of different diocesan churches designed and presented morning and evening worship services. Invited speakers from within the diocese, and a few friends of the diocese presented thoughts on Christianity and leadership. Dr. Bernard Sabella spoke on Christian identity and migration. Father Nabil Haddad gave a spiritually interesting lecture on the co-existence of Christian and Muslims. Sister Cecile Hijazin of the Rosary Sisters presented a bible study, highlighting the importance of Christian witness in society. Mrs. Aida Nasser focused on the importance of the meaning of *“light of the world”* during her bible study period. Roseangela Jarjour, General Secretary of F.M.E.E.C., spoke about the ‘servant leader’. Mrs. Jill Need, wife of the Dean of St. George's College, offered a session on liturgical seasons, colors, and their meaning and their significances with the help of Rev. Fuad Dagher. Mrs. Karen Chane, from the Diocese of

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Washington and a representative of the Episcopal Church on the International Anglican Women's Network, described the important leadership roles of women in the Diocese of Washington. Mrs. Sama Dawani, psychology instructor at Birzeit University in the West Bank, presented different types of effective leadership, followed by Mrs. Hanna Quirreh who spoke about healthy methods and means of communication.

The Convention concluded with a field trip to the north of Jordan to visit our award winning Arab Episcopal School in Irbid and the Husun congregation. Participants departed inspired and hungering for more. After five days of meetings, discussions, lectures, music, art, awareness programs, and spiritual refreshment and renewal, the Women agreed to start exploring ways to tackle issues relating to the Millennium Development Goals, focusing on such things as health, education, peace, and family violence.

Princess Basma opens Women's Conference and Kindergarten at Schneller School

Thursday, October 15, 2009, HRH Princess Basma officially opened the 2009 Diocesan Women's Conference with a speech focusing on the importance of dialogue between people of different faiths in order to combat prejudices and fear that grow from lack of understanding. Celebrating the region as the cradle for the three Abrahamic faiths, Princess Basma commented on the importance of Jordan's efforts in interfaith harmony, benevolence, and mutual respect.



Within the diocesan theme of women's empowerment, Princess Basma encouraged all women present to engage in the political, social, and economic life of their communities. She emphasized that women must be innovative, exploring new ways of leadership because of the complex dynamics imposed on women around the world. She indicated that the time is ripe and the time is now for women to increase their action and influence for the well being of the world.

(These articles are summaries of the reports sent by Leila Diab which can be found on our website.)

PROVINCIAL CLERGY CONFERENCE ***Continuing Education, Fellowship, and Fun***

Once every three years, the provincial bishops, clergy, and spouses gather for a time of fellowship, networking, mutual support, continuing education, and renewal. The 2009 Conference was held in Hurghada, Egypt, on the coast of the Red Sea. Aside from being very hot, the participants at the Conference reported on a well organized and presented

conference with time for sharing and refreshment. Each bishop was asked to present a teaching sermon at daily Eucharists, followed by invited speakers, and relaxing afternoons. Bishop Mouner Anis spoke of the importance of unity in the Church. Drawing on the Gospel of John, chapter 17, he remarked on the controversies in the early Church and the importance of Christian unity in Christ.



Bishop Dawani celebrated the Eucharist with a focus on Pentecost as a message of hospitality which honors the guest with respect, understanding, and sharing the Good News in language the guest can understand. This requires that the host give the guest space to come into the fullness of a relationship with God and his neighbor.

Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, the Papal Nuncio to Egypt and keynote speaker on the first full day, noted the need to acknowledge the place of Islam in God's scheme of salvation. He said that Christian-Muslim dialogue must be based in the love of God with mutual respect and exploration of each other's faith.

Keynote speaker on the second day was the Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Lings of Sheffield, England, who spoke on 'Fresh Expressions' in the Church of England. With a stimulating Power Point presentation, Dr. Lings explored some of the new ways of reaching non-Church goers, and encouraged innovative ways to share the Good News.

Bishop Michael Lewis preached on the story of Abraham in Genesis 18 and the importance of the Holy Trinity. In a region where all Christians live, work, and worship as a small minority, we must always 'love our neighbor as ourselves', striving to bring mutual respect, understanding, and peace to all people.

As clergy and spouses returned home, the provincial bishops and their diocesan Synod delegates traveled to Cairo for the Provincial Synod Meeting.



With encouragement from Bishop Suheil, provincial conference participants from the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem treated themselves to a submarine excursion deep into the Red Sea.

(This article is an excerpt of an article on our website written by Dr. Stephen Need.)

PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Business and Greetings



Coptic Pope Schnoula of Egypt



Grand Mufti Tantawi of Cairo

In addition to the meetings and business of the Synod, the provincial bishops enjoyed a rare opportunity to meet with the Pope of the Coptic Church and the Grand Mufti of Cairo. Bishops, priests, and church members enjoy warm and friendly relations with their ecumenical and Abrahamic neighbors.

The Diocese of Jerusalem celebrates partnership with the Diocese of Washington

Sunday, October 25 – The Diocese of Jerusalem and the Diocese of Washington, D.C. celebrated the formal beginning of a Companion Relationship in a joint service of English and Arabic congregations at the Cathedral of St. George the Martyr. With pilgrims from around the world filling in every seat available, including every chapel, corner, and choir stall, Bishop Suheil Dawani and Bishop John Chane signed documents proclaiming the partnership of the two dioceses to work together through faith in action.



Accompanied by a delegation of more than thirty pilgrims, Bishop Chane, of the Diocese of Washington, preached on the parable of the Wedding Feast as an invitation into the Kingdom

of God. He drew a parallel between that invitation, as one which requires respect and commitment to fulfill what is expected of guests at such a feast, and the making of a Companion relationship. He said; ‘today the Dioceses of Washington and Jerusalem have been invited to the Wedding Feast.’ He went on to explain the feast as a feast of mutual ministry, in which understanding and commitment are expected. He challenges his pilgrims, representing his diocese, and the local congregation, representing the Diocese of Jerusalem, to work hard to learn about each other, to share resources for schools and hospitals, to work for basic human rights for all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being.

WEBSITE TIPS:

**Watch a diocesan video. Just click one of the six pictures under the Greeting on the Home Page.*

**Read older articles and stories by choosing ‘Media’ in the left side column of the Home Page.*

**SERMONS posted online ... Choose ‘spiritual letters’ under the Media heading mentioned above.*

*****ONLINE SOON – AVENT BULLETIN INSERTS COURTESY OF ST. GEORGE’S COLLEGE**

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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.

***Contributors to this edition of our Newsletter are:
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