



NEWSLETTER

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem

November 2009

Greetings from the Land of the Holy One, where we await the Good News and celebration of the Birth of Christ.

During Advent, we invite you to ponder the four themes of our new bulletin insert series available through the communication office or on our website, courtesy of the Diocese and St. George's College. The Sunday themes are, Advent 1 - John the Baptist, Advent 2 - The Desert, Advent 3 – The Mount of Olives, and Advent 4 – The Coming of God. We offer these insights based on local knowledge with best wishes for a blessed Advent.

Feature articles

Morocco Talk
New York Visit
Majma Meeting
Honors for HLID
Christ School

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Bishop Dawani accepts King's invitation to Morocco



27 October 2009 – Bishop Dawani accepted the invitation to speak at the annual Arab Jerusalem Conference at the request of President Abbas and the King of Morocco. With Bishop Dawani's focus on education as the means to teaching mutual respect, cooperation, and peace in a land torn by strife, the co-sponsors of the Conference urged him to bring his voice to the education portion of the Conference. Bishop Dawani expressed his conviction on the importance of peace education.

“Education has a special importance in building bridges of knowledge and connections between nations and civilizations. It is a tool to reveal justice and to get the real picture of a situation regarding how people live. In Jerusalem, we have a Council of Religious Leaders. This Council put education as its priority to bring the three Abrahamic faiths together and to teach peace education based on respecting the difference in the other, to respect the dignity of the human being created in the image of God.” (Full story on our website, www.j-diocese.org)

Bishop Dawani visits New York at the invitation of Bishop Sisk

October 29, 2009 – Bishop Dawani spent a week in the Episcopal Diocese of New York, at the invitation Bishop Sisk. In an event filled week, Bishop Dawani started his first meeting upon landing at the airport and continued through the week with breakfast, lunch, and dinner events in the Tri-State area.



This important trip included a private meeting with Presiding Bishop Katharine, additional visits with Bishop Andrew Smith of Connecticut and Bishop George Councill of New Jersey, and a broad array of meetings including General Seminary, the Interfaith Center of New York, the Church Club (pictured above, with Bishop Sisk on the left), Trinity Church Wall Street, and AFEDJ fundraising dinner hosted at Trinity Church, Southport, CT.

During his stay in New York, Bishop Dawani joined the Presiding Bishop and key staff, bishops, and organization representatives who continue to be supportive of the Diocese of Jerusalem, in an important meeting focused on diocesan needs and coordinating efforts on behalf of Christians in the Land of the Holy One through the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem. As Christians, the living roots of our faith, strive to maintain the ongoing presence in this region since the first Pentecost, the need for global support increases. This 'Jerusalem Meeting' was the third in a series begun by Presiding Bishop Katharine in the Fall of 2008. (Full story on our website, www.j-diocese.org)

Priests and Lay Leaders of the Diocese come together for the Annual Church Council Meeting in Amman



November 9 – 12, 2009. The leaders of the Diocese, including church representatives from Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine, gathered in Amman for the annual Majma. The Majma is the administrative body of the Diocese, which includes ordained and lay leaders, as well as members of the Church Council, the Finance Committee, and the Patronage Committee.

The Patronage Committee reviews clergy assignments and makes changes where and when needed. Recent changes included moving Fr. Nael Rahmoun to Zebabdeh, Fr. Hanna Daleh to Ramallah, and Fr. Fadi Diab to Amman. The Pastorate Committee meeting at the Majma resulted in the movement of Fr. Emad Daibes from his temporary assignment at the Cathedral of St. George to Christ Church, Nazareth, and Fr. Zahi Nasser from Christ Church to be the Assisting Priest at the Cathedral, where the Bishop serves as Dean and Chief Pastor of the Arabic Speaking Congregation.

***His Majesty King Abdullah greets Bishop Dawani,
staff and students at our Institute for the Deaf***



Salt, Jordan. Nov. 17, 2009. His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan (shown in the photo, courtesy of Petra News Service, center left, with Brother Andrew and Bishop Dawani as his hosts) graced the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf with his presence at the opening ceremony for the new building for girls.

Bishop Dawani, having just returned to Jerusalem after five weeks of extensive provincial, diocesan, and international travel, quickly rearranged his schedule and returned to Jordan for the ceremony when

His Majesty's attendance was confirmed. Bishop Dawani and The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem work closely with the King and the government of Jordan in interfaith and educational issues.

Brother Andrew de Carpentier, long-time director of the Holy Land Institute, invited His Majesty to celebrate one of the great successes of Jordan's outreach programs for students in need of additional assistance by opening the new building designed for the empowerment of hearing impaired women.

The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf began in 1964 as a unique institute providing services for people with hearing impairment, including education, rehabilitation, and accommodations. It now serves around 155 students, male and female, from ages six to eighteen. In addition to the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf, the Diocese also sponsors the Jofeh Rehabilitation Center, and numerous schools, including several on the forefront of modern education techniques, some seeking funding as training centers for area teachers.

(Full story on our website, www.j-diocese.org)

CHRIST SCHOOL, NAZARETH - Update

In light of last year's court decision to return Christ School to the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, the Diocese is proud to announce the expansion of the Christ School in Nazareth to accommodate the current enrollment and the upcoming needs of the Palestinian youth in the city. This important project, at the request of the Ministry of Education of Israel, has added eight classrooms to the upper school program which reduces overcrowding and allows for added enrollment from the waiting list. The Christ School K-12 program provides quality education based on mutual respect and cooperation for over 1,600 students from Christian and Muslim families.



This expansion required the elimination of a significant portion of the school's playground. The landscaped area in front of the main entrance to the school has been reconfigured to reallocate playground space and add equipment for the benefit of the students. Under the direction of newly appointed Headmaster Yusuf Bilan, Christ School continues to move forward with renewed vision for a bright future.

The schools and educational programs of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem are operated according to high ethical and academic standards for the benefit of our students and communities. Bishop Dawani sees education as a vitally important bridge for peace and understanding among the people of our region. For Palestinians, as for all people, education provides dignity and equal opportunity. Education is the promise of a future in the building of a healthy society and is critical for sustaining the local Christian population in the Land of the Holy One.

(Full story on our website, www.j-diocese.org)

Bishop Dawani's Upcoming Christmas Visitations

- December 4 – Ramallah, St. Andrew's Christmas Bazaar
6 – Jerusalem, St. George's Cathedral Advent 2 service, welcoming Fr. Zahi Nasser as Priest in Charge, followed by Women's Christmas Bazaar
9 through 13 – Visits to Amman, Damascus, and Beirut, Advent 3.
19 – Bethlehem with Lutheran Bishop Munib Younan, live telecast with National Cathedral, Washington D.C.
20 – Nazareth Morning Worship; Kufr Yasif, Candlelight service, Advent 4
24 – Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Greek Orthodox Chapel, special Anglican Christmas Eve service, followed by midnight Mass at St. George's Cathedral
25 through January 1 - Jerusalem, St. George's Cathedral

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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.

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