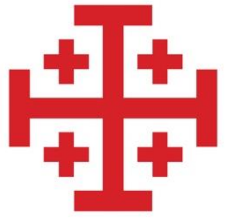


Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Southeast Annual Meeting 2026

Holy Land Update





The Order and the Holy Land



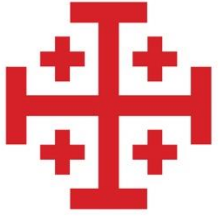
Article I *Mission*

The specific mission **assigned** by the Holy Father to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is that of **animating zeal** in the ecclesial community toward the Land of Jesus and sustaining the Catholic Church and the Christian presence there.

Duties:

- Prayer
- Pilgrimages
- Financial Contributions





Article 20 **Holy Land Commission**



1. Tasks. The Holy Land Commission is a consultative body of the Order with the task of advising and assisting the Grand Magisterium in examining, assessing (also with visits in loco) and possibly proposing the approval of the requests addressed to the Order to finance projects in the Holy Land. It supervises and reports on the state of progress and the completion of the approved projects.

2. Members. The Cardinal Grand Master, in agreement with the Governor General, appoints the members of the Holy Land Commission. It is made up of three members, one of whom must be a member of the Grand Magisterium who, as such, assumes the role of President of the Commission.

Other Members of the Holy Land Commission are:

Prof Bart McGettrick – Scotland – President of the Commission

Lieutenant Dr Donata Krethlow-Benziger – Switzerland

Holy Land Commission



Travel to the Holy Land 2 times each year – Spring and Fall – 10 days

Meet with Sami El-Yousef (LPJ-CEO) and staff

- Review Budgets – ~\$12-14 M in funding each year
- Review Project Status
- Perform Needs Assessment / Future Planning



Visit at least 2 or 3 parishes and schools in addition to convents, seminaries, nursing homes, and humanitarian aid recipients

Visit current project sites to assess progress

Dinner meeting with allied groups supporting similar interests

Our Financing the LPJ Activities

Our Order provides between **\$12M-\$14M in Institutional funding** each year to LPJ

Institutional Funding - \$955,000/month commitment in 2024 (up from \$755,000)

Admin – Priest and staff salaries, utilities, supplies

Schools – Teacher salary support

Humanitarian Aid

Budgeted at \$1M per year but bequests and special collections typically improve that to \$1.75M. The LPJ administration estimates an annual need of ~\$2M.

Annual Donation



Project Funding

Infrastructure repairs or upgrades less than \$250,000.

Typically, 20-30 projects each year with a total budget between \$1.5-\$2.0 M.

Lieutenancy discretion
or special collections



Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem Parishes - 72

JERUSALEM - 2

PALESTINE - 14

ISRAEL - 14

JORDAN - 32

CYPRUS - 4

PARISHES IN THE HEBREW-SPEAKING VICARIATE - 6

110 Priests serving ~60,000 Latin Christians in parishes and various outreach ministries.

Migrants and Asylum Seekers (VMAS)

Estimated to be 75,000 Latin Catholics in the Vicariate, in different locations all over the country.

Estimated that there are Christians from 56 different countries (and many different languages)



War and Its Effects

Status of the parish in Gaza

Situation in the West Bank

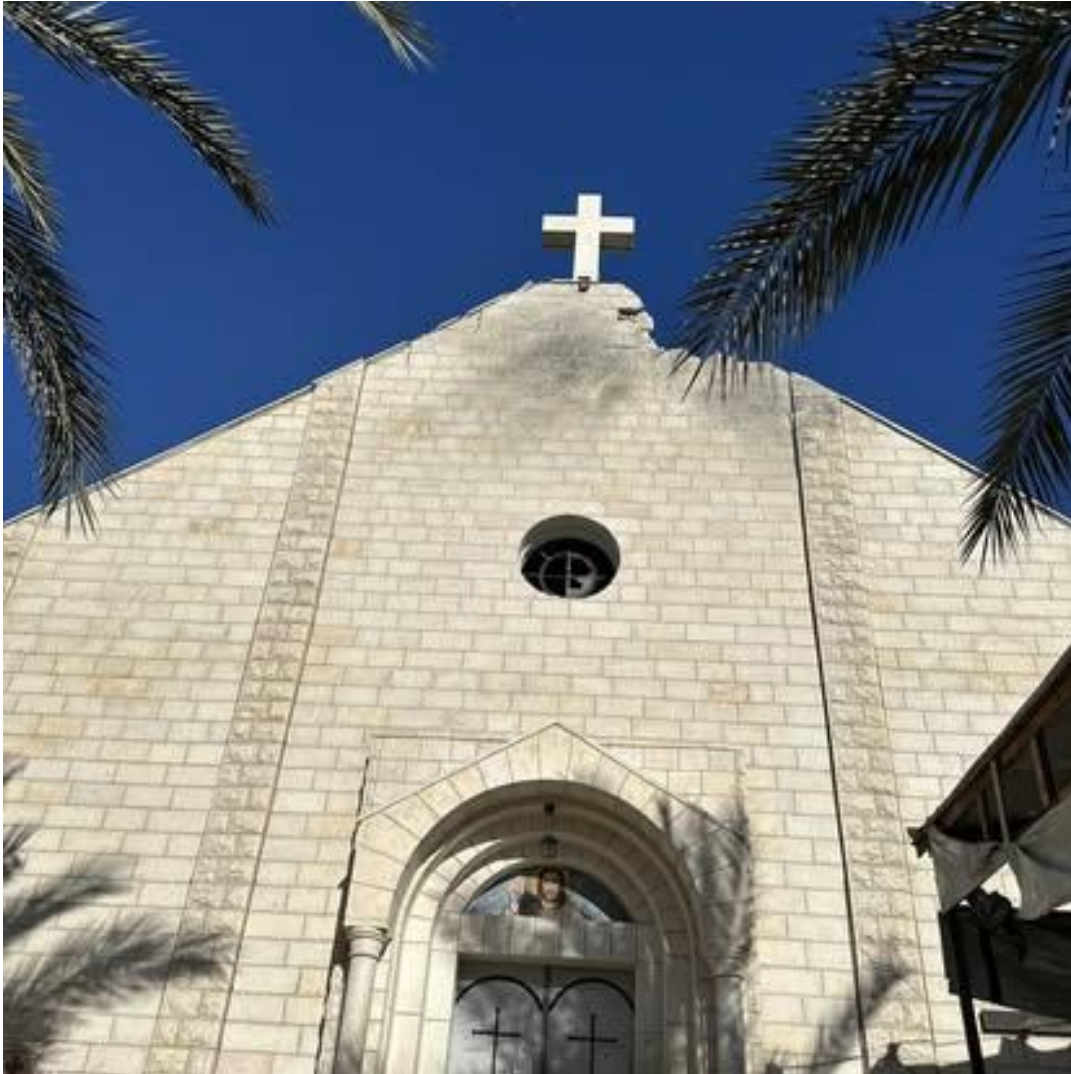
Gaza – Holy Family Parish

Start of War = ~1,200 Christians in Gaza – ~750 Latin/Roman and ~450 Greek Orthodox

Today = ~425 Christians in Gaza – ~365 Latin/Roman and ~70 Greek Orthodox



Gaza – Holy Family Parish – Summer 2025



Church was Hit by a Tank Shell

3 people died. 2 are still recovering from critical injuries in makeshift care room



Gaza – Holy Family Church – Christmas 2025



Situation in the parish has gotten better since the cease fire was implemented in October

- Supplies arriving on a more regular basis
- Electricity still intermittent; but fuel more available at significant costs

Gaza – Holy Family Church – Iran War



Almost no hostilities – but most essential supplies are scarce.



Food deliveries are becoming less frequent.

Gaza Education

Plan for 1,000 kids in school Fall 2026 - The number before the war started

- **LPJ plans to reopen one of the major schools in Gaza.** The school will begin by welcoming around 400 students and will gradually expand to serve up to 1,000 children.
- At full capacity it will employ approximately 75 teachers and staff members, now we will start with **43 staff members**
- \$1.0 M for renovation and ~\$1.4 M for the operating expenses – with NO tuition revenue expected.



Gaza – Planning for the Future of the Parish and School

- Starting to move families out of the Parish compound and into the neighborhoods so that the school can be renovated.
- Trying to get approval to set up mobile medical clinics provided by the Order of Malta
- No jobs – so still uncertain how many people will stay long term



Cardinal Pizzaballa has publicly committed the Church to remain in Gaza

Situation on the West Bank



- **Longest conflict ever** (October 2023)
- **Mobility Restrictions:** 1,100 physical obstacles, including military checkpoints and roadblocks that fragment markets and inhibit trade.
- **Labor Market Collapse:** 180,000 work permits have been revoked, leaving 72.5% of graduates unemployed and 60% of youth actively seeking to emigrate. Estimates **68% and 72%** of the Christian workforce have lost their jobs
- **Urban Decay in Jerusalem:** Old City of Jerusalem, 90% of shops have faced closure, and are at constant risk of eviction due to the inability to cover property taxes (Arnona) and basic utilities.



Iran War



Israeli laws – Restrictions on Gatherings



Restrictions on Gatherings

Gatherings have been limited to 50 people outdoors and 200 indoors AND only if a bomb shelter is immediately available.

Effectively shut down in person education and church services and restricted most aspects of daily living.

Tensions escalated amidst the frustration and incidents took place including low level police officers prohibiting His Beatitude Cardinal Pizzaballa and the Custos of the Holy Land Fr. Francesco Lelpe from making their way to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Palm Sunday.

Israeli laws – Land Ownership



Generational land ownership is being challenged, requiring Christians to provide historical documentation to prove the land is truly theirs. Frequently documentation does not exist, opening a legal avenue for that land to be made available for settlements.

Israeli laws – Palestine School Degrees



Degrees earned by Palestine based educational institutions, including Bethlehem University, are no longer considered valid degrees for many jobs. Many of the LPJ teachers have Palestine degrees that will no longer be considered valid for their teaching positions. Hundreds of West Bank teachers may lose their licenses to teach.

Israeli laws – “Arnona” Tax Church Property



Arnona is a municipal levy imposed on all properties within city and local council boundaries, regardless of type, and its calculations are based on square meters and the use of the property.

For centuries, churches in Jerusalem and most of their institutions were exempt from this tax. This the “status quo agreement” exemption was nearly absolute but is not codified in actual law.

The the bank accounts of the LPJ’s schools in Haifa were frozen for nonpayment. LPJ managed to reduce the amount from two million shekels [over \$540,000] to 500,000 NIS [about \$145,000] and signed an agreement that does not commit it to paying taxes, but rather talks about an annual municipal contributions.

Dollar to Shekel Value Wrecks Budgets



There has been an ~17% devaluation in the currency exchange rates between the NIS (Shekel) and the Euro/Dollar that has substantially reduced the purchasing power of our donations. The LPJ does not expect to meet their budget

Pilgrimage



- In September, 20% of normal
– very few Americans or Europeans – mainly Africans and SE Asians

- At Christmas, closer to 30% normal

- Before the Iran War, Spring and Summer Pilgrimages were booked close to 65% normal.

Today – None. Locals do not believe Pilgrimages will return until Spring 2027

Holy Land Challenges

Political

- The Trump Plan for Gaza
- Impact on Jordan – Land of Refugees
- Israel plans for West Bank (Annexation)
- Resolution of the Iran War
- Is this the final Chapter for Palestinian statehood hopes?

Church

- Taxation Issues, Israel is considering removing Tax Exempt status from parishes and schools (17%)
- Vocations declining in Palestine
- Reduced Government subsidies for Israel Schools
- Christian Emigration

**Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem
Humanitarian Aid**

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem- Humanitarian On Going Assistance

Financial Relief Programs:

Medical Support: Provided subsidies for monthly medications for 250 patients. A special Program helped **254 individuals** with grants up to \$2,500 for major medical procedures.

Educational Grants: Provided financial support to nearly **9,000 students** and supported ~ **450 university students** (\$300-\$700/student) outside the LPJ school system.

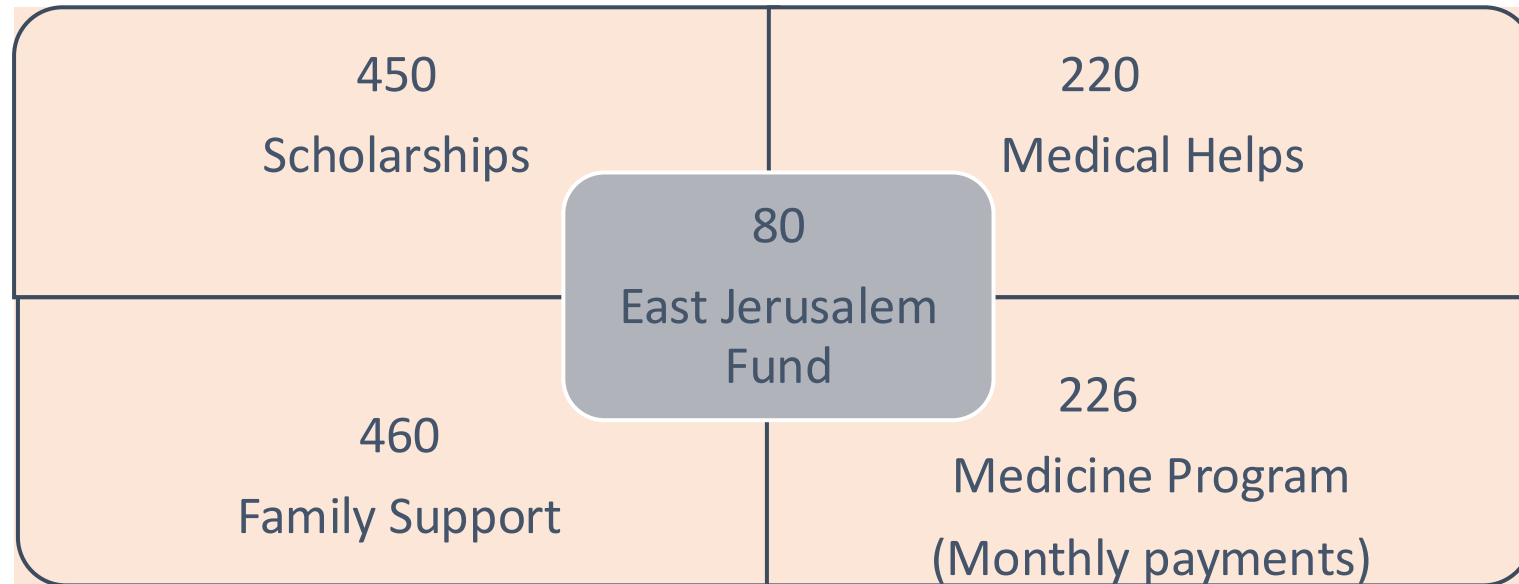
Family Support Program: Prevented the eviction and collapse of **911 families** through aid for rent, utilities, debts, and emergency needs.

Essential Aid: Distributed **8,000 food coupons**, providing medical aid to **23,000 individuals**, and reached **10,000 people** with winterization support (including warm clothing).

Targeted Aid in East Jerusalem: **80 families (400 individuals)** at risk of eviction by paying their property taxes (Arnona) and basic utilities debts. (Settler related)

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem Humanitarian- Emergency Aid

Poor families, elderly and patients without health insurance. ~1436 Christians families have benefited.



The Order is the primary funding source for these LPJ humanitarian works

Humanitarian Aid – War Effect



- Change from 175 to over **400 requests per month** for tuition, food coupons, medical, rent, etc.
- Requests are the result of unemployment (especially high among young adults) and inflation.
- The new poor – now serving people who have historically been employed and able to meet their own needs.
- **LPJ is still sole source of Christian Social Services**
- Support from Worldwide Catholic Relief agencies support is dwindling.

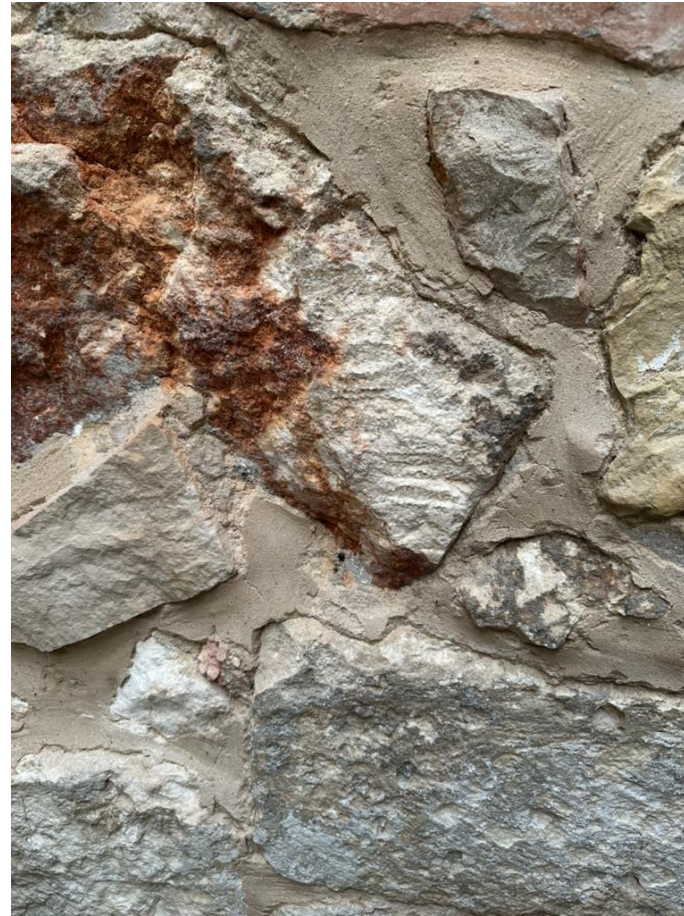
LPJ Humanitarian Aid Family



- Mother is from Armenia, Father is from Jordan, 2 daughters
- Both parents employed
- Supporting brother with lung cancer and daughter with Mother's salary
- Husband had medical emergency

LPJ Humanitarian Aid Family

Utilities support
Food Coupons
Tuition Aid



Walls crumble into
sand particles

1 Bedroom for four



Humanitarian Aid Recipient family

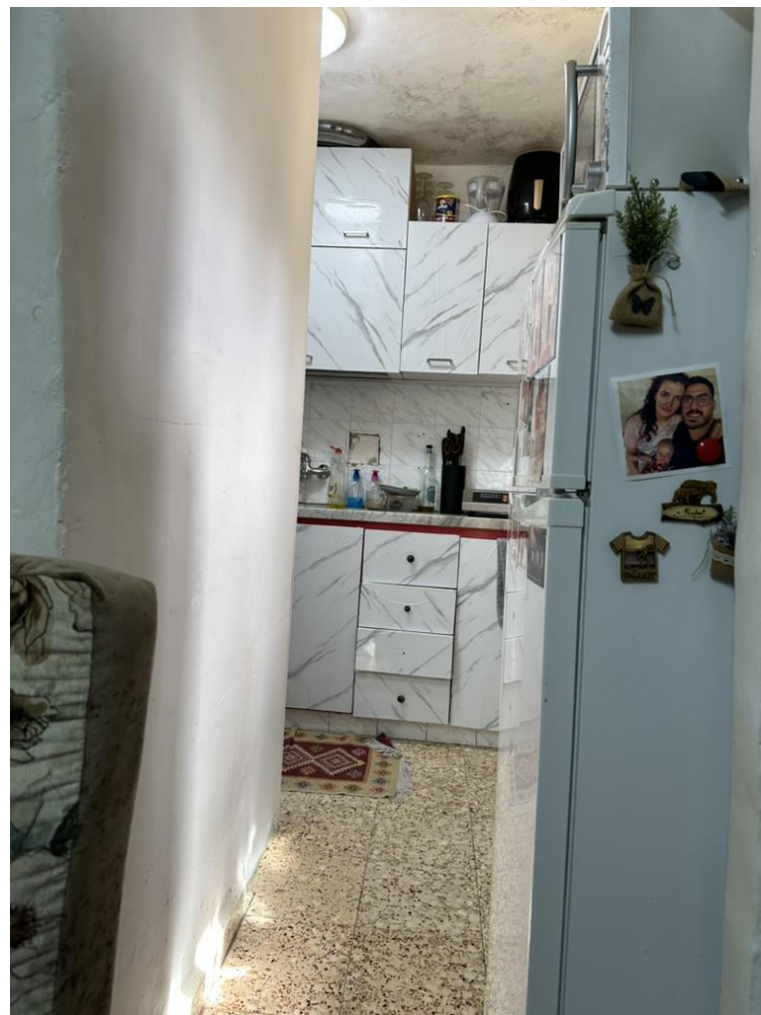
Immigrant mother from Ukraine
Palestinian Christian father
9 mo baby

Support Provided:

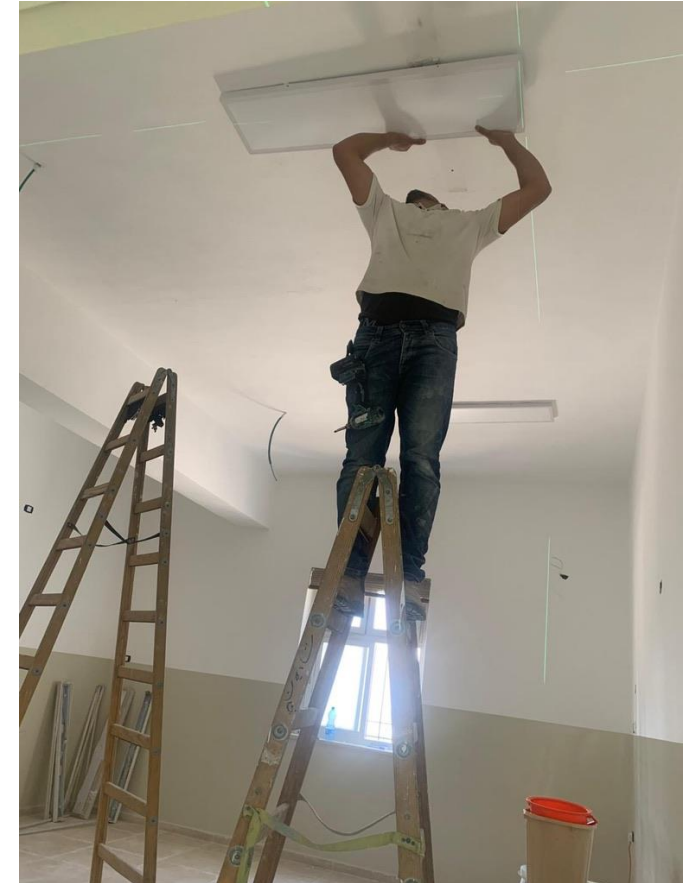
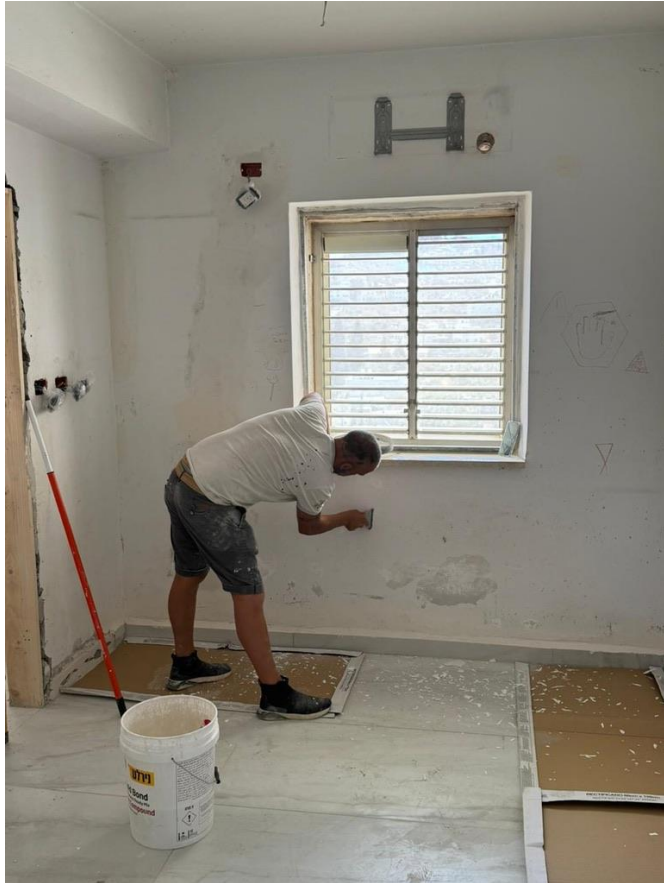
Rent support and Food coupons
Diapers and Baby formula



Making the most of space



Cycling Donations Through the Economy – The LPJ Jobs Program



Pastoral Activities

Pastoral Activities

**GRAND MAGISTERIUM PASTORAL ACTIVITIES FUND
SUMMARY REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD 1/1/2024 – 31/12/2024**

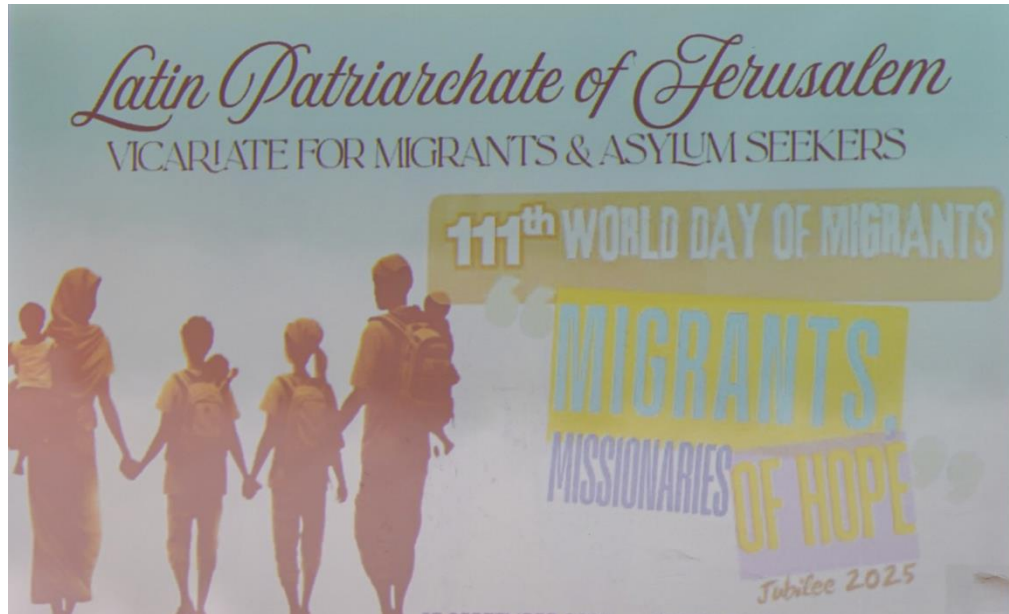
DONATIONS	
Grand Magesterium 2024 Contribution	\$799,879
Total Donations	\$799,879
Expenditures	
Pastoral General Activities	\$150,265
Youth Chaplaincy Activities & Programs	\$178,745
Summer Camp Activities	\$83,1753
Scouts Activities & Programs	\$44,839
Annual Liturgical Celebrations Activities	\$115,737
Migrants Support	\$100,000
Liturgical Office of the Latin Patriarchate	\$45,507
Catechetical Office of the Latin Patriarchate	\$29,080
Spiritual Retreat Groups	\$23,312
Prison Ministry	\$10,638
Family Center	\$79,753
Total Expenditures	\$861,052
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	
	(\$61,173)

Notat

- 91% of budget touches parishioners personally
- 8.7% of the budget goes toward office support
- Negative variance in 2024 of \$61K (larger in 2025)

Migrants and Asylum Seekers (VMAS)

- 75,000 Roman Catholics in the Vicariate, in different locations all over the country.
- 56 communities around the country - 17 Malayalam-Speaking Indian Communities & 14 Filipino being largest
- Challenge: lack of religious freedom. Many non-Christian employers do not allow their workers to attend mass, to have a cross or even a New Testament in the house.



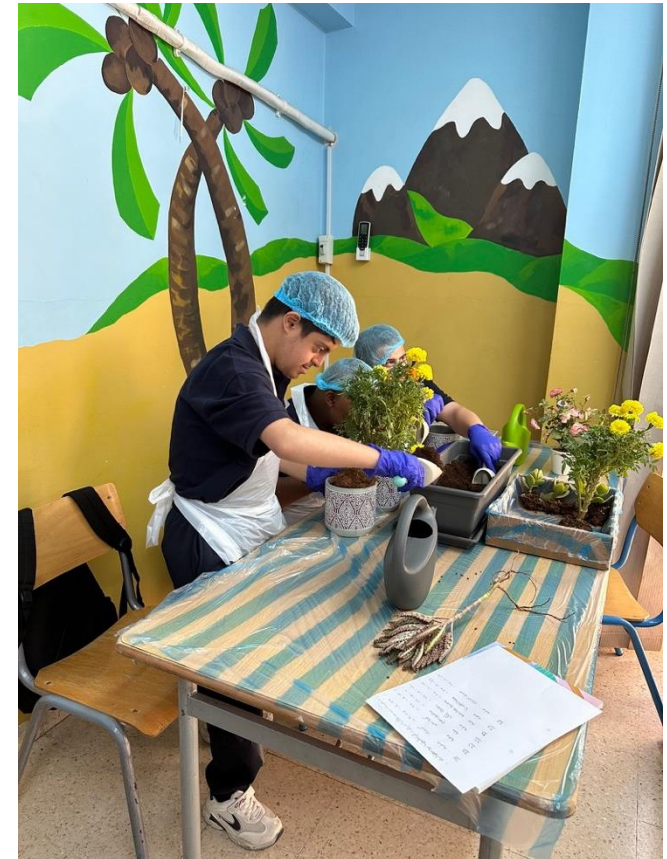
2025 opening of Haifa Youth and Family Center!

- 124+ youth participating in the Christ the King Celebration Nov 24, 2024!
- Youth podcasting center-OJT
- Youth built chapel in the basement
- Upper level-family counseling center
- Income from counseling services
- FT Employment of Christian social worker



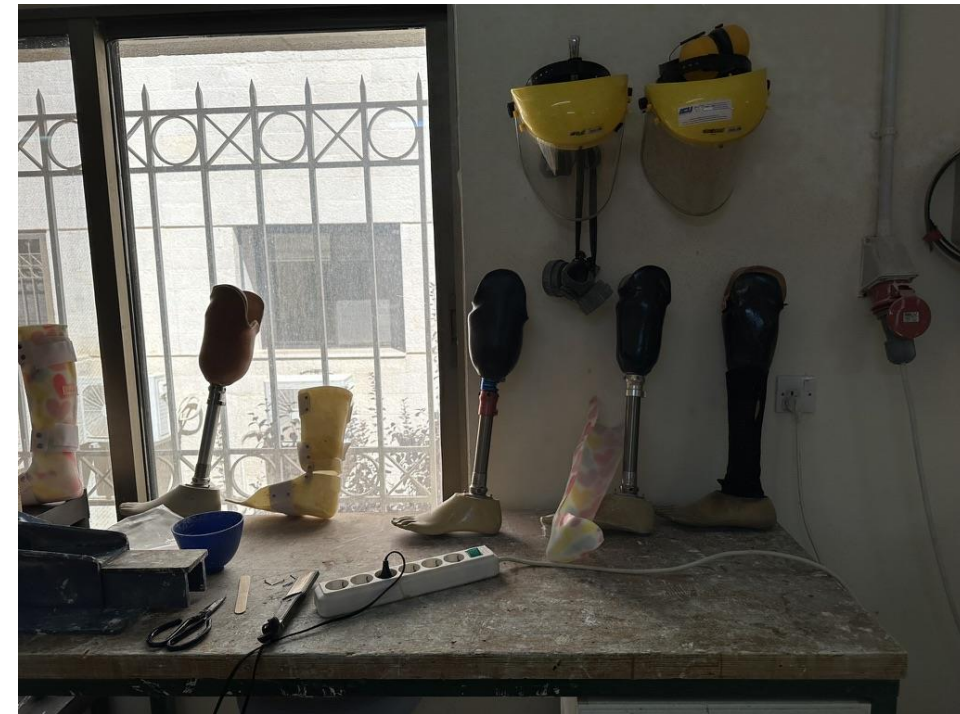
Our Lady of Peace Center- Jordan

- Prevocational center for children and adults with intellectual disabilities



Our Lady of Peace Center

Orthotics center



All services at Our Lady of Peace Center are provided FREE of charge!

Early Intervention, Rehab and Speech Therapy

Early intervention and Rehab for physically disabled children and adults



Scouts Activities

The Catholic scouts in the Holy Land have a rich history dating back to the early 20th century.

The scouts' activities are designed to instill Christian values, morals, and leadership skills among youth, requiring essential resources such as tools, uniforms, musical equipment, and infrastructure to enhance their programs.

In Palestine, there are 1400-1500 members organized into 10 groups

In Israel, there are 750 members in 5 groups

In Jordan, 1200-1300 members in 8 groups.



Seminary in Beit Jala



Formator Priests

5 Full-Time Formators

6 Spiritual directors,
several professors,
and mentors guiding
each candidate

Religious Sisters

3 Sisters of the
Virgins of Matara
(Community of the
Incarnate Word)
Serving the daily life
and mission of the
seminary community

Minor Seminarians

Currently 14 young
men discerning their
vocation during
secondary studies

Major Seminarians

Currently 12
candidates in the
propaedeutic year,
philosophy, theology,
and pastoral
preparation

Seminary in Beit Jala

Seminary Challenges Under New Restrictions

Visa Restrictions

New laws limiting foreign professors' ability to obtain long-term visas and academic permits

Faculty Instability

Difficulty retaining Int'l staff threatens the continuity of theology programs

Accreditation Risk

Long-term academic credibility requires stable, qualified faculty recognized by pontifical institutions

The seminary is actively forging **new collaborative partnerships** with regional universities — both Palestinian and Israeli — to ensure academic continuity and maintain the highest standards of theological education.

Lay Center for Spiritual Formation

Second Year and Growing Rapidly

12

Courses Offered

Across three locations in the Holy Land



5

Locations

Seminary, Ramallah, Beir Zeit, Jerusalem Notre Dame and Zababdeh



626+

Participants

Faithful adults engaged in theological formation



6

Disciplines Covered

Scripture, Dogmatic Theology, Moral Theology, Sacraments, History and Leadership



The Living Church



Education and Schools



“We are called,” the Latin Patriarch, His Beatitude Cardinal Pizzaballa, writes, **“to build a future of hope and a future of peace. In a special way that future depends on the continued well-being of our Christian families and most especially on the education of their children.”**

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem Schools



Initial 2025-26 School Year Statistics

43 Schools (12 Palestine; 25 Jordan; 6 Israel – no longer count Gaza as an “official school”)

1,697 employees including 1,326 Christian (78%)

Serving 18,408 students including 10,762 Christians (58%) representing 3% increase

Christian Students: 38% Palestine; 57% Jordan; and 84% Israel



Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem Schools Tuition & Costs 2024-25

Palestine / West Bank	Average Revenue Per Student	\$1,075
	Average Cost Per Student	\$1,707
	Average Deficit Per Student	-\$632

Jordan	Average Revenue Per Student	\$903
	Average Cost Per Student	\$1,185
	Average Deficit Per Student	-\$282

Israel	Average Revenue Per Student	\$5,115
	Average Cost Per Student	\$5,554
	Average Deficit Per Student	-\$439

First Time Ever – Israel Deficit

**Generally, Muslim families pay the full cost of tuition;
Christian families receive on average 50% tuition aid**

LPJ School Challenges

Political Situation

- Restricted freedom of movement - Over 1,000 checkpoints
- Violations of human dignity leads to:
- Psychological difficulties
- Migration of youth.

Economic Situation

- Around **300,000** are now without work because they use to work in Israel
- Reliance on pilgrimage and tourism
- Salaries reduced up to **50% (Gov sector)**.

Psychological Impact

- Stress and instability **affecting students and staff.**

Teachers' Challenges

- **Checkpoints** that prevent teachers from coming to school.

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

ENSURING THE FUTURE

OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE
A NORTH AMERICA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



A \$12 Million Dollar Campaign

\$8 Million dollars for the renovation and modernization of EVERY LPJ Schools

\$4 Million dollars for unfunded teacher's wages resulting from uncollected tuition

Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign – Status Report

Campaign Summary as of April 10, 2026

Total Money Pledged = \$9,295,186.00

Total Money Sent to LPJ = \$6,134,183.00

- Over 80 school renovation projects
- Over \$600,000 to support tuition assistance
- Systematic renovation and upgrading of the schools to the standards the children deserve.

Southeastern Lieutenancy - \$634,810.48 donated from 324 members

Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign

Unplanned benefit of the Campaign- unemployed Christians hired to renovate and upgrade the schools.

Not part of Campaign originally, but now critical and crucial contribution to survival of the Christian communities.



Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign – Status Report

Because of the hiring of the unemployed, tuition collection has been much better than expected. Instead of \$4 million, the tuition support need is closer to \$2.5 million

That makes the goal more realistically ~\$10.5 million vs \$12 million

We estimate that we need ~\$1.3 million more in donations/pledges to meet all the repair / renovation needs we identified at the start of the campaign

General Solicitation Campaign Ended Dec 31, 2025

Still Hoping for a few larger gifts or grants this Spring

All solicitation ends Aug 31, 2026

Work is being done in Phases

Phase 1 – Critical health and safety issues – building structure, restrooms – complete

Phase 2 – Over crowding and classroom updates in bigger schools – mostly complete


Phase 3 – IT and smaller school classroom related updates – starting soon

Phase 4 – Small school buildings and grounds – Summer '26

LPJ Capital School Campaign - Phase III			
Date:		Tuesday, February 17, 2026	
Ref	School Name	Project's Name	Estimated Cost in USD
Palestine Projects			
1	Aboud, Jifna, and General Administration Office	Insulation works for the roofs at Jifna, Aboud, and General Administration Offices.	21,000.00
2	Beir Zeit School	Maintenance works for Beir Zeit Latin School include the rehabilitation of the existing school theatre and multipurpose hall, maintenance of the winter playground, repair of the three school gates, and the construction of a new canteen.	95,500.00
3	Beir Zeit (Nursery)	Rehabilitation works for the outdoor playing area, including the provision and installation of new equipment, as well as the installation of a new roof at the main entrance.	23,400.00
4	Beit Jala	Maintenance works for the sanitary unit in the secondary school building, as well as the repair and maintenance of the steel gates.	34,800.00
5	Jifna	Maintenance and restoration of the external main stone walls of the school building to address water leakage issues.	17,500.00
6	Taybeh	Expansion works for the school cafeteria and elevation of the school boundary wall.	55,000.00
7	Ain Areek	Installation of new AC split units in classrooms.	12,600.00
8	Zababdeh	Provision and installation of smart projectors at the school.	105,538.00
9	Al Ahlyieh	Rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing snitary units at the school.	26,000.00
10	Beit Sahour	Construction of a new water well with a capacity of 125 cubic meters to ensure reliable water supply for the school.	60,000.00
Total (Palestine)			\$ 451,338
Jordan Projects			
1	LPJ Schools	Supply and installation of new furniture for the science labs at Latin Patriarchate Schools in Marca, Karak, Misdar, Wahadneh, and Fuhies.	50,000.00
2	LPJ SCHOOLS	Renovation works for the science labs at the Latin Patriarchate Schools in Marca and Wahadneh.	45,100.00
3	LPJ SCHOOLS	Supply and installation of new computers and smart screens for the Latin Patirarchate Schools.	282,000.00
4	Misdar	Renovation works for the playground at Misdar School.	31,900.00
5	Wasieh	Renovation works for the sanitary units and construction of an additional teachers' room at the Latin Patriarchate School of Wasieh	118,800.00
6	Naour	Renovation and creation of vocational and art classrooms at the Latin Patriarchate School of Fuhies.	103,400.00
7	Marca	Renovation works for the administration building and outdoor sanitary units at the Latin Patriarchate School of Marca.	114,400.00
8	Fuhies	Renovation and creation of vocational and art classrooms at the Latin Patriarchate School of Fuhies.	49,500.00
9	Tla' alali	Renovation works for the school & hall at Tla' alali.	56,100.00
Total (Jordan)			\$ 851,200
Israel Projects			
1	Raineh	Construction of new separate sanitray units for male and female students to improve hygiene and accessibility.	210,000.00
2	Jaffa of Nazareth	Rehabilitation works for the school's sewage system and maintenance of the kindergarten entrance.	60,000.00
3	Rameh	Insulation works for the school's roof.	35,000.00
4	Shafa'Amr (Sisters of Nazareth)	Maintenance of sanitary units and school wall tiles, and installation of new AC units.	37,000.00
5	Haifa (Sisters of Nazareth)	General maintenance of the school, including sanitary units, painting, and new infrastructure for the computer lab.	58,000.00
Total (Israel)			\$ 400,000
Grand Total of Capital Campaign (Phase III)			\$ 1,702,538

Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign


Every Project gets a completion report:
Scope of work, before after photos, and a signed budget statement



THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

Conclusion Report

Mafrag KG Expansion, Mafrag
GA 490/24



General Administration
Projects Management Unit
February 2026

Background

Mafrag is located on the northern plain at the edge of the vast eastern desert, 20 km from the Syrian border and surrounded by Iraq, Syria and Saudi Arabia. Many of its inhabitants settled in the 1920s and worked for the Iraq Petroleum Company, originally an English company that brought oil by pipeline through Jordan to Haifa, in what was then Palestine. Al-Hosson's parish priest served the Mafrag community since 1933. The Patriarchate in 1944 rented a house for liturgical services and other activities. The parish was officially opened upon the arrival of the Rosary Sisters. Construction of the church began in 1949, the convent and school were built in 1950. A one-room school for boys with a male teacher started under the house of the priest. A new building with classrooms for girls was built in 1959 and the following year, the boys' classrooms were in a separate building. The kindergarten was built in 1962 under the house of the priest and one of the old buildings was demolished and a new structure was built with more and larger classrooms.

Project Description

This project aimed to implement a 100 square meter expansion of the kindergarten facility. The project encompassed the creation of a versatile multipurpose room and the installation of new, hygienic internal sanitary facilities. By redesigning the space, the project sought to provide a more secure and conducive learning environment for children, addressing both safety and functional requirements of the educational space. The project also improved the sanitation infrastructure, created flexibility in educational spaces and enhanced student safety and comfort. To achieve this desired outcome, the project included the following works:

Civil Works

Demolition Works

The existing outdoor service building (bathroom and kitchen facilities) was demolished using specialized cutting equipment, with all debris transported to an approved disposal site. Floor tiles in the new extension area were removed, and all utility connections (electrical, telephone, water, appliances) were disconnected and properly sealed.

Excavation and Site Preparation

Completed foundation excavations to 1.5 meters below existing ground level, with surplus material removed off-site. Backfilling was performed in 20 cm compacted layers achieving 95% compaction.
Installed a 20 cm Grade "A" gravel base course beneath the foundation slab, compacted to 95% density.

Conclusion Report

BEFORE









Conclusion Report

Budget VS Expenditures

Project Name	Project Code		
Schools Capital Campaign 1 - Mafrag KG Expansion	50117		
Reported Period	20/02/2025 - 30/12/2025		
Expectation Period	20/02/2025 - 30/12/2025		
Project Budget VS Expenditure			
Currency			
USD			

Donations	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
North America Lieutenancies - Schools Capital Campaign	\$95,364.41	\$95,368.00	\$0.00
Total	\$95,364	\$95,368	\$4

Expenditures	Actual	Budgeted	Variance
Civil Works	\$76,433	\$76,012	\$579
Mechanical Works	\$9,367	\$12,992	\$3,625
Electrical Works	\$8,350	\$4,331	-\$4,019
Management & Supervision Fees	\$4,663	\$2,033	-\$2,650
Total	\$97,834	\$95,368	-\$2,466
Surplus/Deficit	-\$2,469	\$0	

Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign

Restroom Before



Restroom After



Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign

Mafrag School Playground

Benefits 676 school students who now have access to a modern, safe, and environmentally sustainable recreational facility.

BEFORE



AFTER



Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign



Science Lab
Scheduled for
Phase 3



Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign

Example of old classroom



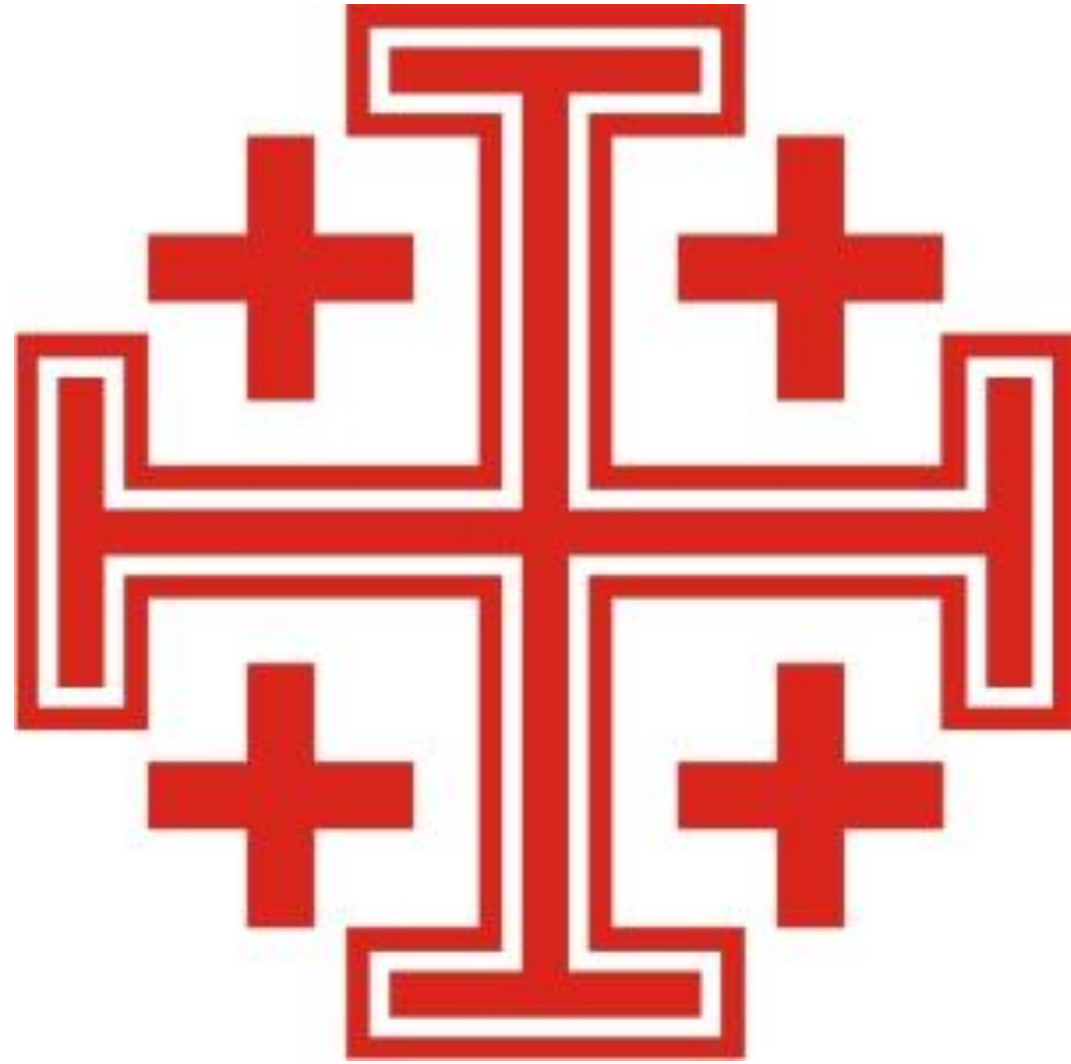
Example of new classroom



Ensuring the Future Capital Campaign



Campaign is incredible bright spot in the Holy Land. There is great **appreciation**.
Tangible way our fellow Christians see the world cares for them and their children.



www.eohsjnorthaerica.org