Monthly Bulletin

We are coming up to almost one month back in school for the 2013/2014 school year, and it has already proven to be a fruitful and exciting year! Already we have had educational sessions for many of our teachers and administrators, a renewed emphasis on faith and religion classes, and all of it has been permeated by a unifying theme of respecting the other. We are even looking forward to sending a delegation of school employees to the United States to continue a relationship with HOPE in Cincinnati!

Address from Fr. Faysal Hijazin, Director General of the Latin Patriarchate Schools:

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:32)"

In this age, many people have a perverted view of what freedom is. Christ is not telling us that because we know the truth we can choose to do good or bad, what he means is that by being fully informed by the truth, we will be free to choose with our entire being that which is truly good. We will be unchained by the fallen world.

We are looking for a new mentality which sanctifies freedom and the rights and dignity of the human person! We are looking for a new mentality based on thought and good will: a thought which distinguishes good from evil, and a good will which leads to the good of people, far from individualism. We need to reach a mentality which respects the freedom of people, a freedom which does not mean a lack of control nor of values but rather the liberty to choose between the good and the better, not evil. Such a notion of freedom rules out any submission to evil. On the other hand, destroying oneself and the others is not a fruit of real freedom.

I speak as a Christian clergyman, an educator and a citizen. I start with religion which should not be an obstacle to thought and should never work against people's dignity and legitimate liberty, according to the voice of God in every heart which is conscience.

I appeal to my fellow educators asking them to foster self expression and the sense of dignity among our pupils, far from the mentality and policy of intimidation and brain washing. One may call our young people “The generation of the “Revolution of Dignity”.

As a citizen, I address the various authorities, with respect and mildness, asking that they foster, without fear, ideological, cultural, religious, and media freedom which builds a better or ideal society where human dignity and rights are highly promoted and really kept. May we in the East join this white noble Revolution, by our awareness and good will, so that we may join a new era of liberty, justice, development, and happiness, according to the Creator’s will!

We also have strong faith and our faith gives us hope. Hope for the bright future yet to come is what keeps us going. We want the future to be promising for us and for our children. If we believe in tomorrow, our children will do too and the next generations will have something to look forward to.

Father Faysal Hijazen 26 September 2013
MEET OUR OFFICE

Fr. Faysal Hijazen
Fr. Faysal Hijazen is the General Director of Schools in Israel and Palestine for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Born in Amman, Jordan, Fr. Faysal studied to become a priest at the Beit Jala Seminary and was ordained in 1985. Since then, he has been the parish priest at many different parishes. In 1995 he received his doctorate in Moral Theology from Rome. Now he is the General Director of the Latin Patriarchate Schools in Israel and Palestine.

Samer Badra
Samer Badra is the office manager for the Latin Patriarchate Schools. He is from Beit Sahour and has worked for the Schools for 15 years.

Mirna Handal
Mirna Handal has worked for the Latin Patriarchate Schools for eleven years as the head of Human Resources. She is from Bethlehem.

Issa Mirza
Issa Mirza has been a volunteer for the Latin Patriarchate Schools for ten years and just does anything that needs to be done for the schools. He is from Bethlehem but recently built a house in Beit Jala where he lives with his family.

Abeer George Wadie Marcos
Abeer is the Secretary for the Latin Patriarchate Schools office in Beit Jala. She is from Bethlehem and has been working for the schools for 2 years.

Issa Bahu
Issa Bahu is the Maintenance Manager for all the Latin Patriarchate schools in Israel and Palestine. He has been working for the schools for twelve years and is from Beit Sahour.

Isam Nasser
Isam Nasser is the finance manager for the Latin Patriarchate Schools. He is from Bir Zeit and has been working for the schools for fourteen years in the Ramallah office.

Jumana Natour
Jumana works at the Ramallah office as an accountant. He was born in Taybeh but now lives in Bir Zeit.

Marie Thérèse Arcis
Marie Thérèse Arcis is a volunteer from France in charge of all French language in the schools. She has been a volunteer for three years and is a part time French teacher in Beit Sahour. She is also responsible for the media in French.

Brian Schippers
Brian Schippers is a volunteer from the United States of America. He is in charge of all English media coming from the office. In addition to that, he also teaches English part-time in Beit Sahour.
School News

Prayer for Peace

Pope Francis invited all to join him on Saturday, September 7 to pray and fast for peace in Syria and we at the Latin Patriarchate Schools heeded his invitation. Bishop William Shomali travelled to Taybeh and said a Mass in the morning for just that intention. Then, throughout the day students and teachers, Christian and Muslim alike, prayed and fasted for peace. It was an inspiring scene, to see people of all faiths coming together for the people in Syria and a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

Official Visits

During the week of September 7 to September 14, Auxiliary Bishop William Shomali and General Director Fr. Faysal Hijazen visited schools throughout the West Bank. They visited the schools in Jifna, Bir Zeit, Aboud, Taybeh, Ramallah and Ain Arik. The Bishop addressed the teachers and gave them a prayer to say everyday for their work. Prayer cards were also passed out to the students for themselves and to give to their parents.

Retreat for Principals

On Thursday, September 12, all the principals of the schools in Israel and Palestine met for a retreat. The General Director of the Schools organized the retreat to be held in Zababdeh. Bishop Shomali attended and celebrated Mass for the principals. After Mass, there was a discussion about how to “deal with the other as oneself”. Given the pluralistic culture, it was stressed to the principals to respect all according to the Golden Rule. This idea is the mission of the schools for this school year. After the discussion, there was time for prayer and each principal stating how the mission would be brought to his school.

Sessions for School Counselors

School counselors from all around Palestine met on Thursday, September 7 in Ramallah for a session on how to improve life for their students. Schools from Beit Jala, Ramallah, Bizet, Aboud, Taybeh, Zababdeh and Nablus were represented. During the sessions, the counselors were given tools and ideas to constructively deal with hyperactive children in the classroom. They were also directed in fruitful ways to help handicapped students and children with a learning disability. Counselors also learned about how to implement “Drama Therapy” which utilizes theater to resolve conflict and improve the behavior of students.
English Teacher Sessions

English teachers from across the Patriarchate have had the opportunity to benefit from a novel new way to improve the teaching of English in the classrooms. Starting in February and going through April, English teachers of the Patriarchate completed an online course in the subject. In June, members of Flying Squad from the Lewis School of English and representatives of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in England flew to us to give our teachers hands on training for help in teaching English. All of the teachers were together in Ramallah for interactive sessions on how to improve their teaching methods. In September the tutors returned for a follow up session. During period, there were two meetings with all of the teachers in Ramallah to go over again the methods learned in June, and then the tutors visited each teacher twice in her classroom to observe the improvements made and offer advice on how to better their methods even more. The teachers have benefited greatly from this project, and we are confident that our students will too.

Flying Squad is different in that instead of offering teachers a class without ever seeing them in action, they fly to the teachers and observe them in their classes. This creates a personal bond between the teachers and the tutors, and the latter are able to be much more effective.

The Lieutenancy of England and Wales of the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre has financed this project and the previous project for the LP schools in Jordan. This continues the inspired training project started many years ago by the late HE Michael Whelan. It has provided these funds in addition to the funds it provides every year to support the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The considerable funds for this unique project have been raised through many collections in different parishes, much of the money coming from Christmas Crib Collections and Fund raising balls organised by both the KHS in England and Wales and the Jesuit Parish of the Immaculate Conception in London. Other donations include funds from the Cambridge Nazareth Trust (CNT) and The Catenian Association, an organisation of Catholic businessmen. KHS members have been delighted to hear of the success of this project and of the enthusiastic responses of the teachers of English in Israel and Palestine to this innovative training. This is truly a great opportunity and we would like to thank the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in England, especially Bernard and Margaret Waddingham for putting these sessions together for our students and teachers.
Twenty teachers from across thirteen of the Latin Patriarchate Schools are currently participating on a two-week teacher training course, involving three central workshops in Ramallah and observation-feedback visits to every school. This is Phase Three to a multi-phased programme which aims to create a unified and self-sustaining group of English Teachers, responsible for their own development, constantly striving to better themselves in order to produce excellent English language speakers.

The Lewis School of English deliver innovative language teacher training courses worldwide through their in-country service known as the Flying Squad. They have recently worked with the LPS counterparts in Jordan and Israel. These trainers introduce modern ideas into the classroom, which focus on creating an effective and engaging language learning environment for students. After gaining insight into each teacher’s specific teaching context and teaching style, they work to reinvigorate, recalibrate, inspire, and support teachers in their continuous professional development (CPD).

Together with each teacher we are exploring new approaches, methods and techniques that form the current landscape of language teaching. However, the main focus of this course is on the practical application of those ideas within their own teaching context. Similar to the way we learn language, teacher training needs to take a procedural approach – ‘learn by doing’. Teachers are encouraged to take new ideas and methods from our workshops, and immediately experiment with them in class. Meanwhile, sat at the back of the class, the trainer quietly encourages these risks, and after the lesson the trainer and teacher reflect together with the aim of finding ways to improve the lesson on their next attempt.

The course also offers a great opportunity for teachers to improve their English language for the benefit of their students. As this course is running in front of their students’ eyes, each teacher’s dynamic and conscientious approach to learning and developing is also serving as a wonderful example to their students – learning is a lifelong mission.

On behalf of Richenda, Jackie, myself and the Lewis School of English we thank each teacher for their positive and determined approach to training, and the principals and students for welcoming us into their schools with open arms.

We thank Margaret and Bernard Waddingham of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre for raising the funds for this programme, in addition to their educational prowess while they helped design the course structure. We also thank Fr. Faysal, with the assistance of Suhail Daibes, for organising the course and supporting the teachers throughout.

Jonathan Kowal, Training Programmes Manager & Teacher Trainer, Lewis School of English

“IT is a useful course, I learned that teaching is like flying, spread your wings to touch students minds and heart, in order to develop their skills”
-Diana Shihadeh from Ramallah

This course was really useful. It developed my skills and drew my attention to new techniques of teaching. Observing two of my classes helped in revealing weaknesses that I didn’t know about in my whole teaching process.
-Mirna Fliefel from Beit Jala

In my opinion it was a successful training course. I’ve got new experience and had the chance to share my thoughts with my colleagues. Furthermore, the trainers were very friendly and knowledgeable. They provided us with new techniques for making English more interesting.
-Butros Fawadleh from Aboud
The course has been a great success for our schools. Surely, it is one of the best training courses the Latin Schools have ever offered their teachers. On the one hand, the teachers were exposed to various ways with which the classes could and would be turned into student-centered. Besides, the teachers had the chance to be introduced to new techniques, methods and activities which they could carry back to their classes to apply. This was not done only theoretically; it was practiced and applied. The trainees had the opportunity to learn new beneficial ideas, to share experiences and to reflect on what they have been doing. This is one way how human development can occur. i.e. This reflection can help the individual change from inside out and up-side-down. I was able to notice that for most of the teachers the techniques and ideas were new and inviting. Hopefully, our English language classes will be fun and enjoyable for our students next year as there will be a lot of change, movement, activity and positive noise that our students will like.

If we looked for disadvantages, one could say that the course would have given better results if the students were still at school and the teachers applied everything while it is fresh in their minds. Otherwise, there is no disadvantage that could or would come to mind.

Awad Abu Alrob
Zababdeh School. Palestine.
June 2012
Jaffa of Nazareth

Jaffa of Nazareth lies on the road between Haifa and Nazareth, only about 3k from the latter. This small town is mentioned only once in the Bible, in the Old Testament book of Joshua. When describing the borders of the tribe of Zebulun it states that they go through the Tabor and “up to Yapha”. This is the last reference to Jaffa for over a millennium.

The next mention of Jaffa comes from the account of the Jewish War in 67 AD by the historian Josephus. Jaffa revolted, and in a bloody battle, it was taken by Trajan on the orders of Vespasian. Trajan allowed Vespasian’s son, Titus to achieve final victory over the village. It is estimated that 15,000 people were killed and 2130 taken captive.

After this significant defeat, Jaffa of Nazareth once again spent over a millennium in the dark. It appears again coupled with the resurgence of Nazareth. Franciscans built a parish church in 1641. This town became a refuge for Christian fugitives from Jordan. Two families which were influential in these years were the Marjieh and Za’atireh families.

Jaffa of Nazareth is also said to be the home of St. James the Greater and St. John, sons of Zebedee and apostles of Jesus. This tradition can be traced back to the fifteenth century.

Today, Jaffa of Nazareth is part of the greater city of Nazareth. Around 14,000 people live there with about 10,400 Muslims and 3600 Christians. That equates to about 70% Muslim and 30% Christian. The Christians are made up of about 1200 Roman Catholics, and the rest are split between the Greek Orthodox, and Melkite Catholics.

A Miracle!!

The town of Jaffa of Nazareth was blessed to be a witness to a miracle in 1885. A little girl was near a deep well and she accidentally fell in. The people around started running about, looking for someone to help, but Blessed Sister Marie Alphonsine threw her rosary into the well and prayed at the church which was very close by. When people finally returned with help, they threw a rope down and the girl was hauled up. Her rescuers were surprised to see that the girl was completely unharmed and holding the Rosary which Blessed Sister Marie Alphonsine had thrown into the well. She was the foundress of the Rosary Sisters and was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009.
Latin Parish and School of Jaffa of Nazareth

After the restoration of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 1847, it took some time for Jaffa of Nazareth to get a priest. They finally got one in 1869 when Fr. Louis Fattori came to the village. The school was founded in 1869 by the Sisters of Our Lady of Nazareth, and in 1885 it was taken over by Fr. Joseph Tannous, Sister Elizabeth, and Sister Marie Alphonsine Boutros, who were both Sisters of the Rosary.

These sisters had only two rooms for them and thirty students. Thanks to the generosity of the Abbess of the Poor Clares of Nazareth however, they were able to build two more rooms. Since 1885, the Sisters of the Rosary have committed themselves to the school in Jaffa of Nazareth without complaint.

The school grew tremendously from 54 students in 1947 to 237 in 1967. As a result of this, a new school building was necessary. Because the school itself didn’t have the funds to expand, every member of the school community prayed everyday for a way to fund the school.

By Divine Providence, the Southern Lieutenancy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of the United States, came to the rescue. Through their generous donation, a brand new school building was constructed for the village.

From 1968 until 2012, the school was solely an elementary school, with classes up to eighth grade. In 2012 however, it added a ninth grade and will continue to grow with that class through the twelfth grade. The school built a new floor in 2003 as well and added a kindergarten.

Today, the school has 529 students and continues to grow. It needs added facilities to accommodate the new classes which will continue to arrive.
Thank You!!!

Thank you for reading and showing an interest in the schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Because the education of our youth is of such paramount importance in today’s world, we think it necessary to keep updates coming regularly.

We ask you for your prayers in this, our very important duty in the Holy Land. It is through education and prayer that we can hope to achieve a lasting peace here.

For more information about the schools or Patriarchate, our contact information is below:

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem
General Administration of Schools

Mailing Address: Jaffa Gate, PO Box 14152
Jerusalem, Israel 91141

Website: http://latin-schools.org/home/en/
Email: faysalhijazen@lpj.org
Phone: +970 2 2750442
With your help, we can complete projects to renovate buildings, purchase lab equipment, school supplies and furniture, as well as many more necessities!!

You can even give a poor child the priceless gift of education by providing his or her tuition!

If you feel called to help the students in the schools of The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the bank details are below.

Please pay / transfer to our current account at Pax-Bank eG in Germany according to the following instructions:

Beneficiary: Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem
Latin Patriarchate Street, POB 14152
91141, Jerusalem
Israel

IBAN (International Banking Account No.): DE 16370601930058029017

Account with (bank name & address): Pax-Bank eG, Von-Worth-Str. 25-27, 50670 Cologne, Germany

Bank-Code (BIC / SWIFT): GENODE1PAX

Please ask your bank to directly wire through:

WGZ-Bank, Ludwig-Erhard-Allee 20, 40227 Duesseldorf, Germany with SWIFT-Code: GENODE0D

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