EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy

Holy Land and Campaign Update

Slide content courtesy of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem
and the Vice Governor General for North America

Current as of September 2026

Constitution of the Order

Mission

CONSTITUTION, ART. 1

The specific mission assigned by the Holy Father … is that of animating zeal in the ecclesial community towards the Land of Jesus and sustaining the Catholic Church and the Christian presence there.

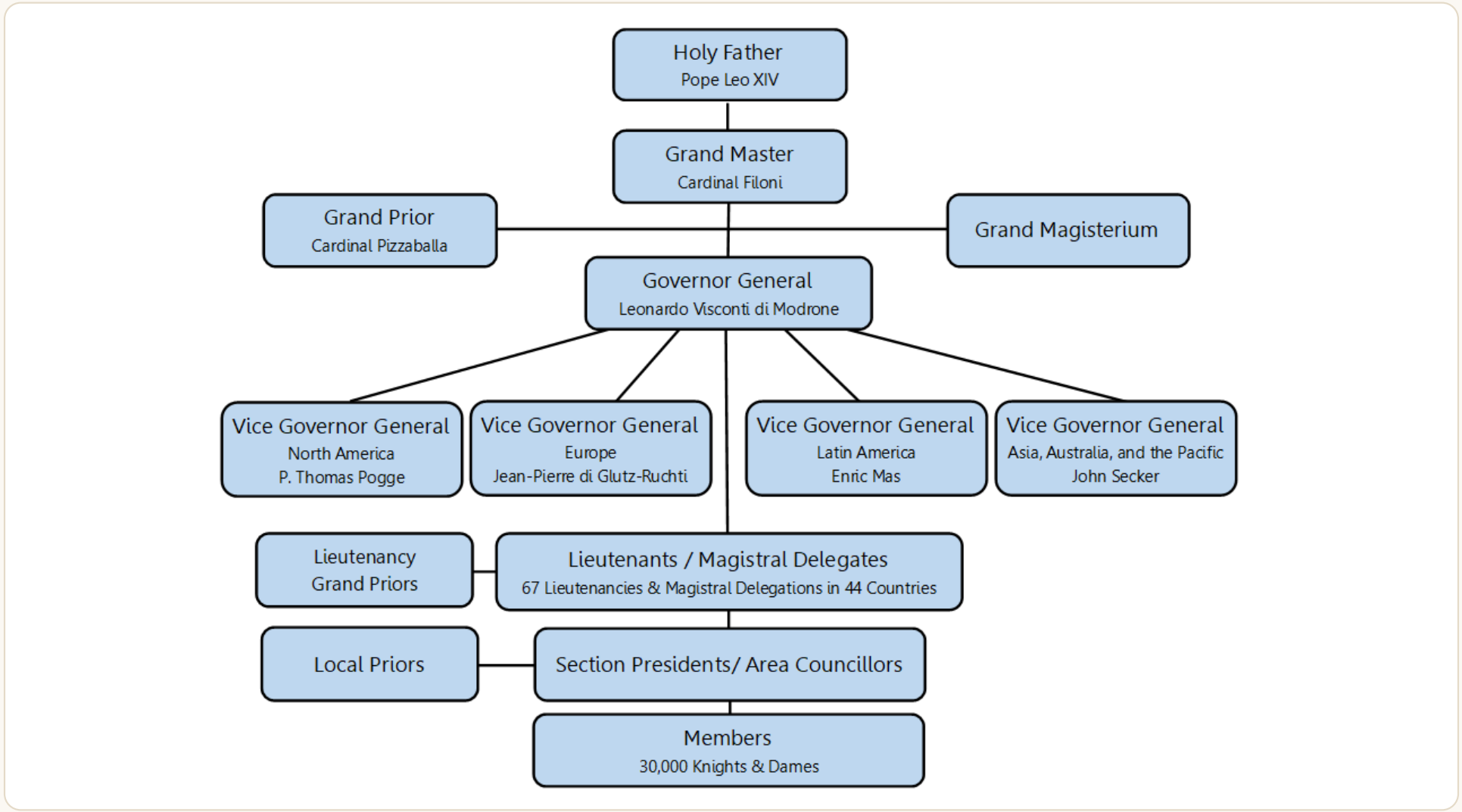
The Order, in its members, is resolved to practice the evangelical virtues.

Nature

CONSTITUTION, ART. 2

The Order is a public Juridical Person under canon law … Because of its activity, the Order acts as a Central Entity of the Catholic Church.

EOHSJ Organizational Chart



EOHSJ North America

A MILESTONE YEAR

2026 marks the **100-year Anniversary** of the Order in the United States

~30,000
Members worldwide

~14,500
Members in North America

15 North American Lieutenancies

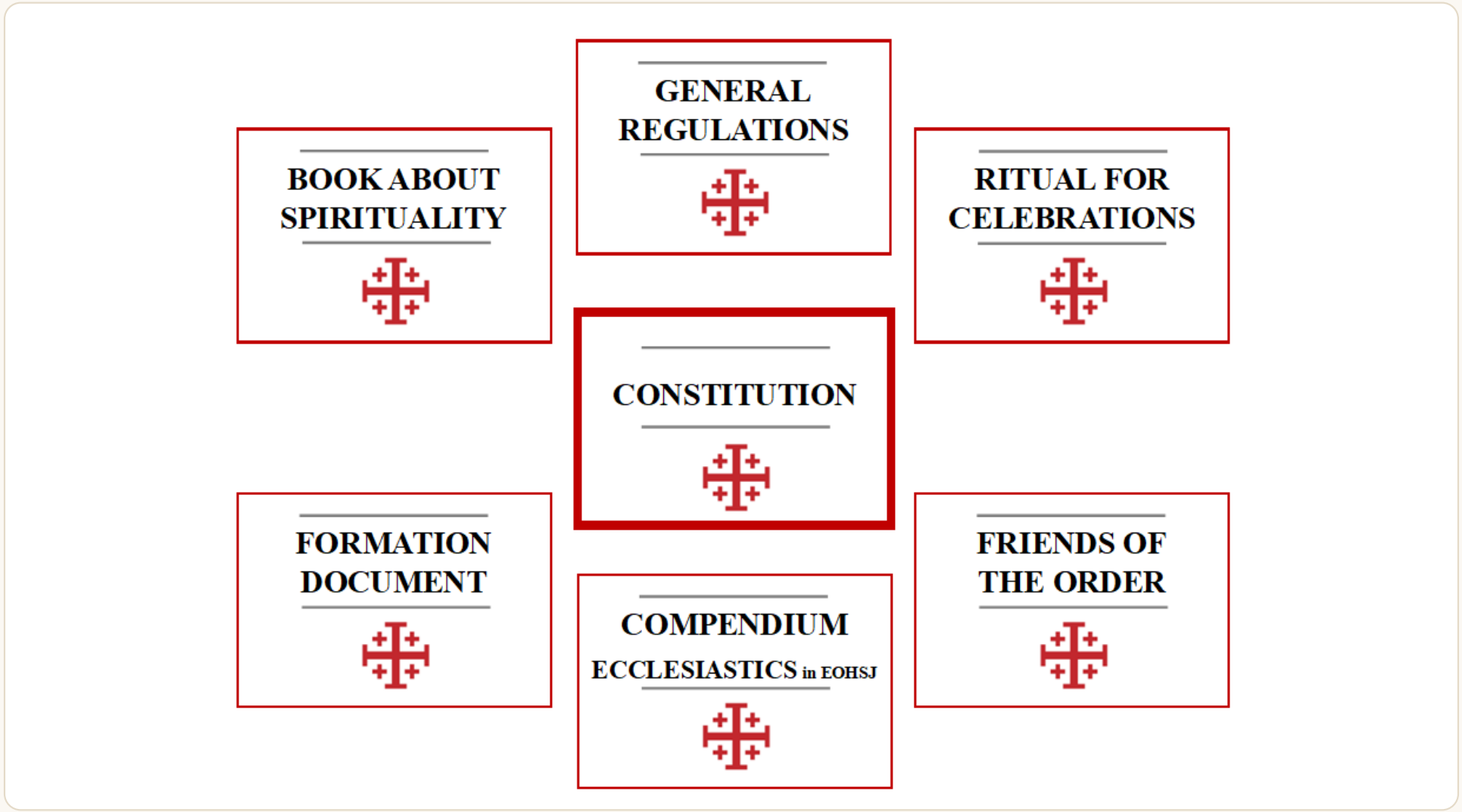
9 US
Lieutenancies

5 Canada
Lieutenancies

1 Puerto Rico
Lieutenancy



Main Documents of the Order



Friends of the Order

NEW INITIATIVE

- Significant development
- Formal document and structure
- Initiative approved by **Pope Leo XIV**
- A wonderful opportunity to draw people who would like to support the work and Mission of the Order, but do not necessarily want to be a Member.

"Friends of the Order"

ORDO EQUESTRIS
SANCTI SEPULCRI
HIEROSOLYMITANI

Finding New Members – Reg. §67.2

For the purpose of admission, an aspiring candidate must be selected from among those who meet the requirements listed below (see Constitution, Art. 34 §2):

- **a** Be a Catholic of exemplary faith and moral conduct;
- **b** Actively participate in the life of the local church and generously support its activities;
- **c** Be animated by a desire to live intensely the spirituality of the Order, to contribute to the fulfillment of its mission, and not to pursue mere honorific ends;
- **d** Have experience and seriousness of purpose and have already demonstrated competence and maturity in other fields of activity;
- **e** Be willing to attend a period of training, lasting ideally one year, directed by a Member with proven experience and adequate seniority in the Order;
- **f** Be at least twenty-five years of age;
- **g** Submit a written commitment indicating a desire to be a member of the Order, accepting all of the obligations set forth in the Constitution and Regulations.

EOHSJ North America

WELCOME

We welcome **H.E. Shawn T. Cleary, KGCHS** and his wife, **Dame Julie A. Cleary, DGCHS**, as the new **Vice Governor General for North America**.

- Completed his 8-year Mandate as Lieutenant of the Northern Lieutenancy.
- H.E. Shawn's Mandate as Vice Governor General, North America began on **September 23, 2026**.



Grand Magisterium Revenues & Expenses

In Euros	2025
Revenues	
Lieutenancies Contributions	25,311,617
Other Revenues	1,600,013
Total Revenues	**26,911,630**
Expenses	
Transfers to the Holy Land	22,768,096
Grand Magisterium Operations	2,206,774
Bank Charges & Depreciation	614,501
Total Expenses	**25,589,371**
Operating Surplus	348,834
Transfer to Reserves	973,425
Total Expenses & Transfers	**26,911,630**

€26.9M

Total revenues, 2025

Lieutenancies contributed €25,311,617

€22.8M

Transfers to the Holy Land

Largest share of all expenses

€348,834

Operating surplus

Plus €973,425 transferred to reserves

Holy Land Transfers & Operational Expenses

Grand Magisterium Total Revenues

In Euros	2025
Total Revenues	**26,911,630**

Grand Magisterium Operational Expenses

In Euros	2025
Total Operations Expenses (excluding Depreciation and Bank Charges)	**2,206,774**

Figures in euros, fiscal year 2025

8.2%
Operational expenses as a percentage of total revenues

90%+
Of our contributions are sent to the Holy Land

$951,000
Committed each month to the Latin Patriarchate
To maintain its operations

Ensuring the Future Campaign

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

ENSURING THE FUTURE

OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE

A NORTH AMERICA CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

$12 Million

Campaign for the LPJ Catholic schools

Initiated in 2024 to renovate and modernize the **44 LPJ Schools** and to pay teachers' salaries.

A great success – we are giving **HOPE** to the children and their parents and providing employment to our Christian families.

The only comprehensive solution to ensure the long-term viability of the LPJ Catholic education system and to help maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Ensuring the Future Campaign



THE LATIN PATRIARCH

His Beatitude Cardinal Pizzaballa

> *We are called 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.**”

LPJ Schools Update

43
Schools
12 Palestine · 25 Jordan · 6 Israel

1,700
Employees
1,326 Christian (78%)

19,000
Students
58% Christian · a 3% increase

- **Christian students:** 38% Palestine; 57% Jordan; 84% Israel
- Major disruptions during the year due to the Iran war and settler violence
- Gaza school grew from 240 students to 1,000
- Schools constitute 63% of the LPJ budget, and salaries account for 82% of that total
- The Christian value set is what makes them unique and appreciated
- Considered parish schools, catering to the most disadvantaged



North American Schools Capital Campaign

ENSURING THE FUTURE

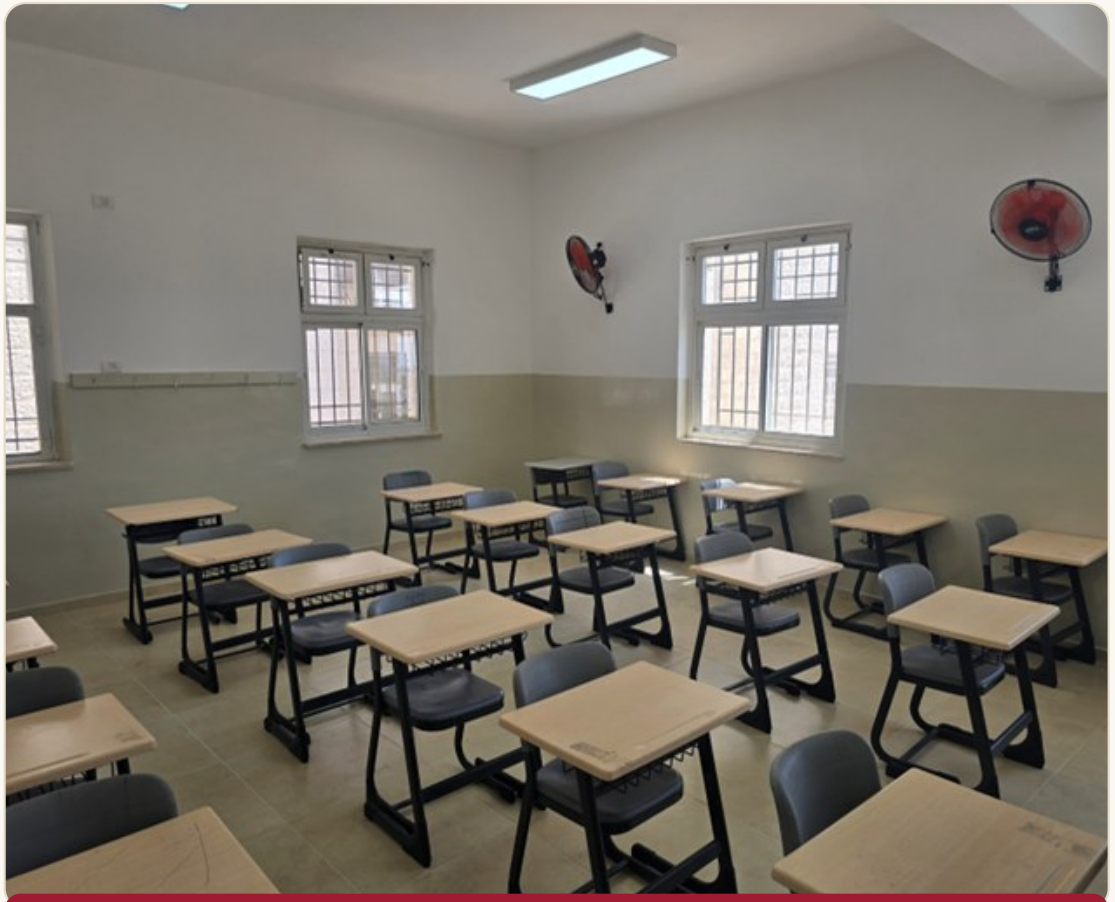
- Needs assessment conducted
- Target of **$8M** for projects and **$4M** financial aid
- First four pilot safety/health projects completed in Jordan in 2024
- Three phases followed (see below)

	Pilot	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Projects
Palestine		8	20	10	38
Jordan	4	17	10	9	40
Israel			4	5	9
Total Projects	**4**	**25**	**34**	**24**	**87**
Total in USD	**300,000**	**1,800,000**	**2,350,000**	**1,700,000**	**6,150,000**

Ensuring the Future Campaign



Example of old classroom



Example of new classroom

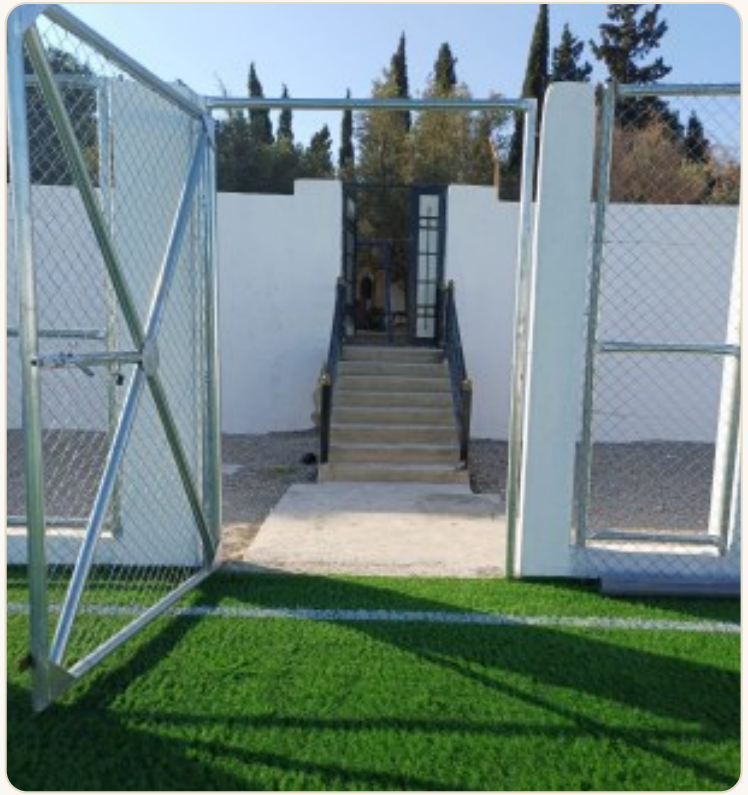
Ensuring the Future Campaign

BEFORE



AFTER – Amazing!





Adar School Playground
Serves more than 1,000 students

Ensuring the Future Campaign

ANOTHER BENEFIT

Unemployed Christians hired to renovate the schools.

A critical and crucial contribution to the survival of the Christian communities.







Pastoral Fund

$800,000

Order contribution to the Pastoral Fund

- Youth Chaplaincy Activities
- Catechetical Office Activities
- Summer Camp Activities
- Sunday Schools
- The Liturgical Office
- Priests Retreats and Trainings
- Scouts Activities
- Migrants Support
- Spiritual Formation Centre
- Bailasan Counselling Centre



Humanitarian Fund

Program	Total
Medicines	$171,971
Medical Emergencies	$301,625
Social Assistance	$762,859
Tuition Support	$489,975
Gaza Employment Appeal	—
Iraqi Refugees	$106,518
East Jerusalem	$73,929
Social Aid Office	$95,344
Total	**$2,002,221**



FOCUS AREAS

- Medicines
- Medical Emergencies
- Social Assistance
- Tuition support
- Iraqi Refugees
- East Jerusalem
- Job Creation

Next Steps – Need to Create Jobs

Need to create jobs in the Holy Land which are not dependent on pilgrimages.

Immediate short term

Hire unemployed Christians to:

- Repair the schools with the Capital Campaign funds, and
- Repair the Parish facilities – **$2,400,000** list of projects prepared by the Latin Patriarchate and approved by the Grand Magisterium. Other Lieutenancies and Members in Europe and elsewhere are helping to address these needs.

Long term

- Need a strategy for permanent employment
- Job training programs
- Expand entrepreneurial programs already in place at Bethlehem University
- Holy Land Economic Development Committee



Final Thoughts – Sami el-Yousef

1	Core funding must be increased if the Church is to continue to maintain or increase its services
2	Pastoral activities funding must be increased and become institutionalized
3	Humanitarian offerings should transition to sustainable support
4	Housing projects needed in all locations (Palestine)
5	Serious consideration should be given to setting up an Economic Development Council, leading to support in job creation, income generation, and housing
6	If the Church is weakened, hundreds of institutions offering educational, health, and social services will collapse

There is no choice but to protect the Christian presence through strong, viable Churches.



Remember

With the help of **Our Lord**, *the guidance of the* **Holy Spirit**, *and the maternal care of* **Our Blessed Mother**, *all things are possible.*

Let us continue to work for Peace in the Holy Land.