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In the picture H.E. Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, with H.E. Mr. Issa Kassissieh, Mr. Samer Khoury, Mr. Suheil Sabbagh, H.E. Mr. Ziad Al Bandak, Mr. Mazen Karam



FUNDRAISING EVENTS

VATICAN | Fundraising Event to Support the Restoration of the Nativity Church in Bethlehem

On the evening of Tuesday, the 11th of December 2018, at the Palazzo della Rovere in the Vatican, headquarters of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher, the Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF), held a fundraising charity event under the patronage of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches at the Roman Catholic Church, to present the progress and needs of the restoration works of the Nativity Church in Bethlehem.

In the historic frescoed rooms of the 15th century Palace, notes from the string quartet Le Archesse and the vocals of the soprano Elisa Cenni beautifully echoed alongside speeches and videos exhibiting the precious restoration works completed by the Palestinian Presidential Committee with the support of BDF and several international public and private donors.

The event included an exhibition of before/after works completed for the restoration of the Nativity Church and historic artifacts from the Nativity Church where displayed. The event was sponsored by Mr. Samer S. Khoury - President

of Consolidated Contractors Company Engineering and Construction and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for BDF.

Mr. Mazen Karam, Managing Director/CEO of BDF, illustrated the past, present and future projects of BDF. Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Ziad Al Bandak, in his capacity as Chairman of the Presidential committee of the Restoration of the Church of Nativity, outlined the historical background of the restoration works and those remaining at the Nativity Church. He thanked the Holy See and Italy for their generous donations. Keynote Speaker, Rev. Dr. Jamal Khader gave a brief reflection on how the is portrayed as a place of tension and conflict, whereas a different reality exists, another aspect often forgotten by people, where a Government, in this case the Palestinian Authority in a predominantly Muslim country, administers and finances the restoration of a Church; something we don't hear too often in the Middle East. He then said: "Where else in the world can we say, here Jesus was born. Where else can we say, here the face of God was revealed... We look forward to the completion of the works, to inaugurate a unique jewel of beauty and holiness, the Church of Nativity, when you join this project, you will be part of the History of Palestine and Christianity ..."



The Inaugural Dinner at the Willard Hotel Intercontinental Ballroom in Washington

USA | Fundraising by the American Friends of the Bethlehem Development Foundation to Support the Restoration of the Nativity Church in Bethlehem

The American Friends of the Bethlehem Development Foundation (AFBDF) was founded in November, 2017 as a US 501-c-3 non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental organization dedicated to the restoration and development of the Holy Region of Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity through the Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF) a non-profit organization headquartered in Bethlehem.

An inaugural dinner was held in Washington DC on February 6, 2018.

"We are thrilled by the outpouring support from our American friends and their commitment to help revitalize the Church of the Nativity where Jesus was born."

- Mr. George Salem (The Chairman of AFBDF, Feb. 2018)

Following the success of this event, the board of AFBDF held two more dinners in Houston and New York on 8th and 10th of October 2018. The dinners helped broaden and expand the reach of AFBDF to community leaders.

In Houston the dinner was hosted by the Honorable Ambassador Ed Djerejian and the Honorable Rob Mosbacher with the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Samer Khoury and Chairman of AFBDF, Mr. George Salem. The event was supported by community leaders such as Mrs. Susan Baker who graciously attended with members from her prayer group. Reverend Dr. Mitri Raheb addressed and moved the audience with his inspiring words.

"2000 years ago, Jesus was born in Bethlehem to rescue the world, today the world is called to help rescue Bethlehem. Jesus was Bethlehem's gift to the world. The world is called today to give back to Bethlehem."

- Reverend Dr. Mitri Raheb.

In New York the dinner was hosted by Mr. Abbas "Eddy" Zwaiter, Mr. Samer Khoury and Mr. George Salem. The main speaker, Dr. Hanan Ashrawi, eloquently discussed the importance of keeping the community of Bethlehem supported economically to enhance peace and prosperity for the governorate and the community at large per the vision of the founder, the late Mr. Said Khoury.

"... to create a sustainable economy and infrastructure for the Governorate of Bethlehem to enable the Holy City to sparkle as a peaceful beacon and unique spiritual center of the world for pilgrims of all faiths."

In the events Managing Director/CEO of BDF Mr. Mazen Karam presented BDF's efforts for the regeneration of the Bethlehem Governorate, including revitalization of Manger Square, the development of community playgrounds and sports centers amongst other projects.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of BDF, Mr. Ziad Al Bandak, presented the progress of the restoration works at the Church of Nativity.



NATIVITY CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT



On the 29th of August 2018, BDF received from the American Friends of the Bethlehem Development Foundation (AFBDF) a generous donation of \$500,000 USD from Jamal Daniel (the Levant Foundation). The donation covered the restoration of 11 stone columns, two column capitals from the 12th century and part of the 6th century floor mosaic at the Nativity Church. Generous donations were also received from Adnan Mjalli, George & Rhonda Salem, Edward & Francoise Djerejian, Berg Setrakian (the Armenian Benevolent Fund), George Jalinos, Peter & Elizabeth Wareing, Rhona Saba, George Nasra, Joe and Claude Audi Foundation, James Baker III, Salim Aboud

(Interaudi Bank), Donna D'urso, Leo Hindery, Abbas Zuaiteer (in the name of Dr. Farouq and Mrs. Nuhad Zuaiteer), Anwar & Maha Karam, Ray & Rima Salti, George & Sandra Zaibaq, Issa Baconi, Munir & Hayat Barakat and several others.

Total donations made possible through BDF amounted to \$2.6M, helping the presidential Committee to step closer towards the completion of all needed restoration works at the Church. It is foreseen that all planned restoration works at the Nativity Church will be completed before the advent of the year 2020 when Bethlehem is crowned as the Capital of Arab Culture.





HUSSAM AND SUHAIR ABU ISSA COMMUNITY CENTER DOHA, PALESTINE



The Municipality of Doha Strategic plan aims at enhancing the community services by developing community participation and social integration by providing effective access to various activities and programs targeting youth, women and elderly people.

To address this issue, the municipality embarked on establishing a Multipurpose Community Center on a 1000m² land owned by the Municipality.

BDF was able to secure a generous donation of \$285,000 from Mr. & Mrs. Hussam and Suhair Abu Issa through the American Friends of BDF. The Doha Municipality decided on name the building after the donors.

On 600 square meters, the hall will have multipurpose space to host meetings, computer lab and other activities for youth and children. The project is expected to serve 15,000 people and create 10 job opportunities annually.

Solar Panels installed on the Bethlehem's Central Maintenance Facility

BDF installed a 20 KWp solar PV module on the roof the Bethlehem Joint Services Council (BJSC) Central Maintenance Facility in Bethlehem industrial city in February, 2019. This was the last component of the Solid Waste Management Project funded by the Arab Monetary Fund/Aqsa Fund administered by the Islamic Bank and managed by BDF.

The system aims to reduce the dependence of the BJSC facility on the conventional electricity grid reducing electricity costs. As part of BDF's strategic approach, the installation of the PV system demonstrates forward-thinking policies and national leadership in adopting green and sustainable solutions.

The system is expected to produce a maximum amount of 36,000 kWh annually.

The 20 KWp DC Capacity was selected for the maximum feasibility. The system average monthly generation of 2,917 KWh is sufficient to cover up to 157% to 167% of the average monthly consumption. The annual savings is estimated at \$7,000.

