

2013



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL IS A WORK OF THE ORDER OF MALTA
AND THE GRAND MASTER HAS ASKED ALL MEMBERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT.

SPRING

NEWSLETTER

*Holy Family Hospital is the premier
maternity hospital and newborn critical
care center for the Bethlehem region,
four United Nations refugee camps,
and Bedouin encampments in
the Judean Desert.*

*Most importantly it offers
peace and love in action
in the midst of
great turmoil.*



2012 OVERVIEW

Array of services includes: pre-natal care and delivery, out-patient postnatal care, gynecology, education about childbirth and childcare, social services for families, and mobile clinical outreach to remote areas.

The hospital now offers mammography, laparoscopic surgery, and Echo Doppler diagnosis not found anywhere else in the region.

Serves as the Referral hospital to four refugee camps operated by the United Nations Relief Works Agency.

Annually delivers over 3,000 babies.

Maintains the only neonatal intensive care unit in the region – annually saving the lives of 400 premature and low-birth-weight infants.

Provides the only available long-term hospitalization for high-risk mothers.

Performs over 22,000 outpatient consultations each year.

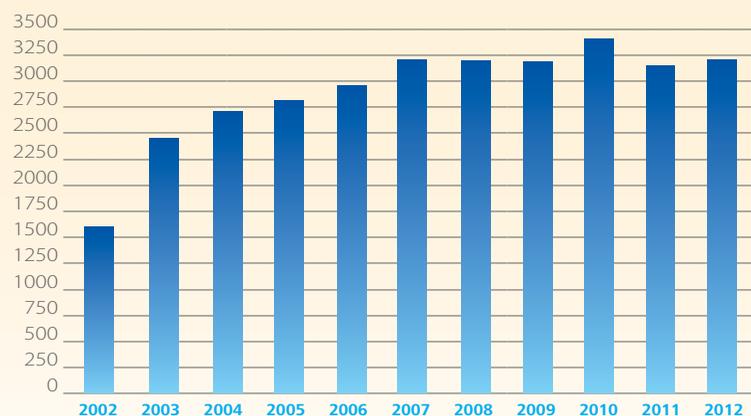
Every week, the Hospital's mobile clinic dispenses medical care to families living in remote areas in the Judean Desert.

The Hospital recruits and trains native-born medical professionals; providing opportunities for women in a region where there are few others.

Provides steady employment and a fair wage for its 150 employees, many of whom are the sole support of large extended families.

Facilitates Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in the medical field.

DELIVERIES TO DATE



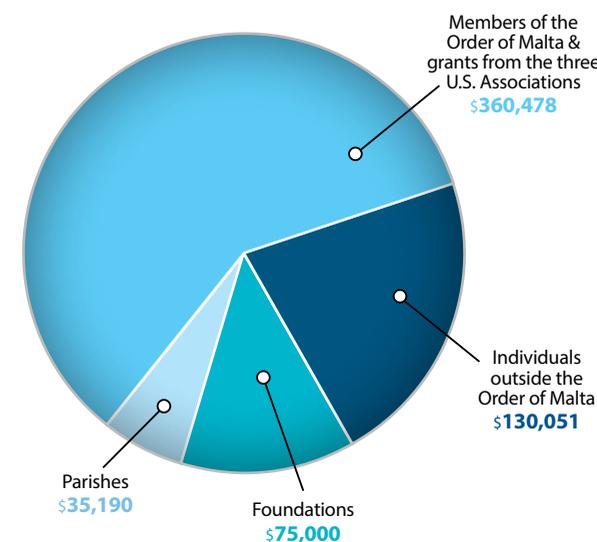
THE U.S. FOUNDATION twenty-twelve

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, the Foundation was able to disburse \$677,918 to Holy Family Hospital in 2012.

The response to the Foundation's Annual Fund program generated \$600,719 from 477 donors in 2012. As a result of the Foundation's major gift campaign, which concluded in 2003, the Foundation's investment portfolio totaled \$5.7 million as of December 31, 2012.

By combining what it takes out of its portfolio with the funds it raised from the Annual Fund program, the Foundation was able to cover disbursements to the Hospital and modest Foundation expenses.

The 2012 response to the Foundation's Annual Fund program generated \$600,719 from 477 donors.



Did You Know?

- According to UNRWA, 15% of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank live with diabetes (double the rate in the United States).
- Holy Family Hospital has one of the only Palestinian clinics which functions as a complete diabetic care center. The center includes four obstetricians, a dietician and a nurse.
- Holy Family Hospital serves as a Referral hospital to four refugee camps operated by the UNRWA.
- That the Hospital's new mobile van, purchased by the benefactors of the U.S. Foundation, has the capacity to transport insulin which is used to lower the blood sugar level of an expectant mother.



Josette

Just One Mother's Story...

Josette, a Christian from Beit Shaour, and her husband Khader were thrilled when they discovered she was pregnant. Khader, a laborer, was anxious to have a child. "My husband loves children very much so I was very happy when I became pregnant," said Josette.

There was no doubt in her mind where she would deliver her first child: her mother had delivered all five of her children at the Holy Family Hospital and Josette knew she would do the same.

"I know this hospital. You can ask anyone here, they will tell you that the Holy Family Hospital is the best and safest hospital," said Josette. "Of course I will come here for my next baby too."

Following local traditions, Josette's family bought a crib and clothes for their first grandchild. Josette relished the months before the birth as she prepared to become a mother.

But despite her excitement, she was also very nervous about the delivery, so in addition to her medical check ups at the pre-natal clinic, Josette also met several times with hospital social worker Mary Maoh who calmed her fears.

"Mary is perfect," said a beaming Josette, as she held her baby Jimmy. "I was very afraid about the pain during the delivery and she calmed me down and made me feel safe. She told me that although it might hurt, afterwards I would have this precious little thing in my arms and I would forget all the pain."

Khader shared the special moment of birth with his wife and was in the delivery room as his son was born. "The nurses were wonderful and were calming me down. My husband was in the delivery room with me and he was very happy," she said.

The family lives in a rental home which eats up a big chunk of Khader's pay check. Because of the difficult economic situation in Bethlehem, he is not able to bring home a steady income to support his family.

Thanks to the generous support of donors, the hospital will be able to help pay 40 percent of their hospital bill, said Maoh.

Senator Kit Bond Honored by Order of Malta for Leadership on behalf of Holy Family Hospital

Senator Bond's Bipartisan Efforts Led to \$6 Million in USAID Funding for Maternal Health & Child Care in the Holy Land

Former U.S. Senator Christopher S. "Kit" Bond was presented with one of the Order's highest recognition of lay people, the Cross of Grand Officer "Pro Merito Melitensi" of the Order of Malta. Established in 1920, the award is a knightly order of merit and has been given to esteemed individuals in recognition of their service on behalf of the poor and the sick.

Senator Bond lead bipartisan efforts in 2005 to forge an important partnership between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) with Holy Family Hospital. This partnership has led to the USAID providing \$6.4 million for critical improvements and quality maternal and child health services -- especially for high-risk pregnancies and newborns -- at Holy Family Hospital. Because of Senator Bond's leadership, the USAID's vital financial support has allowed Holy Family Hospital to advance its mission of

providing world-class medical care for women and infant children, regardless of nationality, religious affiliation, or ability to pay

"It is an honor to accept this award, but the real honor is due to the Order of Malta and the Holy Family Hospital staff who provide quality health care to mothers and babies in the West Bank and who have created a beacon of hope in this conflict-stricken region," said former U.S. Senator Kit Bond.

The award was presented to Senator Bond, on November 12, 2012, at the offices of Thompson Coburn LLP in Downtown St. Louis, where Senator Bond is a partner. Mrs. Linda Bond, the Senator's wife, was also awarded one of the Order's highest awards, the Cross with Plaque "Pro Merito Melitensi" of the Sovereign Order of Malta, for her commitment to Holy Family Hospital.

Mrs. Linda Bond, Mr. Robert W. Lively and Senator Bond. Mr. Lively serves as the President of Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation.



St. John's Parish

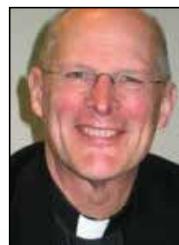


On behalf of the poor mothers and babies, we express our gratitude to the young people and staff of St. John the Evangelist Church, Long Green Valley in Hydes, Maryland. The parish's wide service project performed by the youth ministry collected \$6,800 (an overwhelming \$3,450 from the poor box collection which typically raises \$600 and \$3,350 from 200 young people filling baby bottles during Advent season).

Monsignor Richard E. Cramblitt, Pastor explained "I wanted to create an Advent outreach for the parish. The idea was a powerful one: connect the work being done in the birthing hospital in Bethlehem with the birth of the child Jesus which took place only a short walk from the Holy Family Hospital. The hospital serves poor women; a poor woman gave birth to Jesus. The hospital welcomes any women

who seek shelter and aid; Mary and Joseph wandered Bethlehem looking for shelter at a time when they needed aid. The hospital assists in the birth of children; why not ask the parish youth to support the work of this particular hospital as an act of charity, as a way of supporting the rite to life, and as a way of making a meaningful gift in the season of giving? And so we honored the birth of the Messiah by supporting the poor, supporting the respect for human life and giving in the best spirit of the season."

Colleen Sisolak, Coordinator of Youth Ministry, described how Msgr. Cramblitt presented the staff with the idea of Adopting the Hospital "After sharing with us about the Order of Malta and their connection with the Holy Family Hospital, as well as the most recent newsletter from the Foundation, there was no



Monsignor
Richard E Cramblitt

question, this was an opportunity for our parish that the entire staff was willing to support. The question became how".

It was decided to adopt Holy Family Hospital as a youth led service project that would be open to the whole parish community. The project would include both a baby bottle collection along with a poor box collection.

"It took about a month to go from store to store to purchase the 600 bottles used to have the children of the parish collect money in for the hospital. The bottles were distributed through the support of the Director of Faith Formation, the school Principle and all the

teachers, both paid and volunteer, who took bags of bottles and distributed them to their students. The bottles had a label with a brief amount of information gleaned from the Birthplace of Hope website about the Hospital and the date they were to be returned to the parish. We also distributed the Holy Family Hospital Brochure and a Letter explaining the mission of the hospital and why it was so important to support it. All of the materials posted the image of the hospital, statistics, and other information that came from the Foundation's website and newsletter. This was a wonderful way for us to promote this ministry," said Colleen.

The speech given by young people to the parishioners

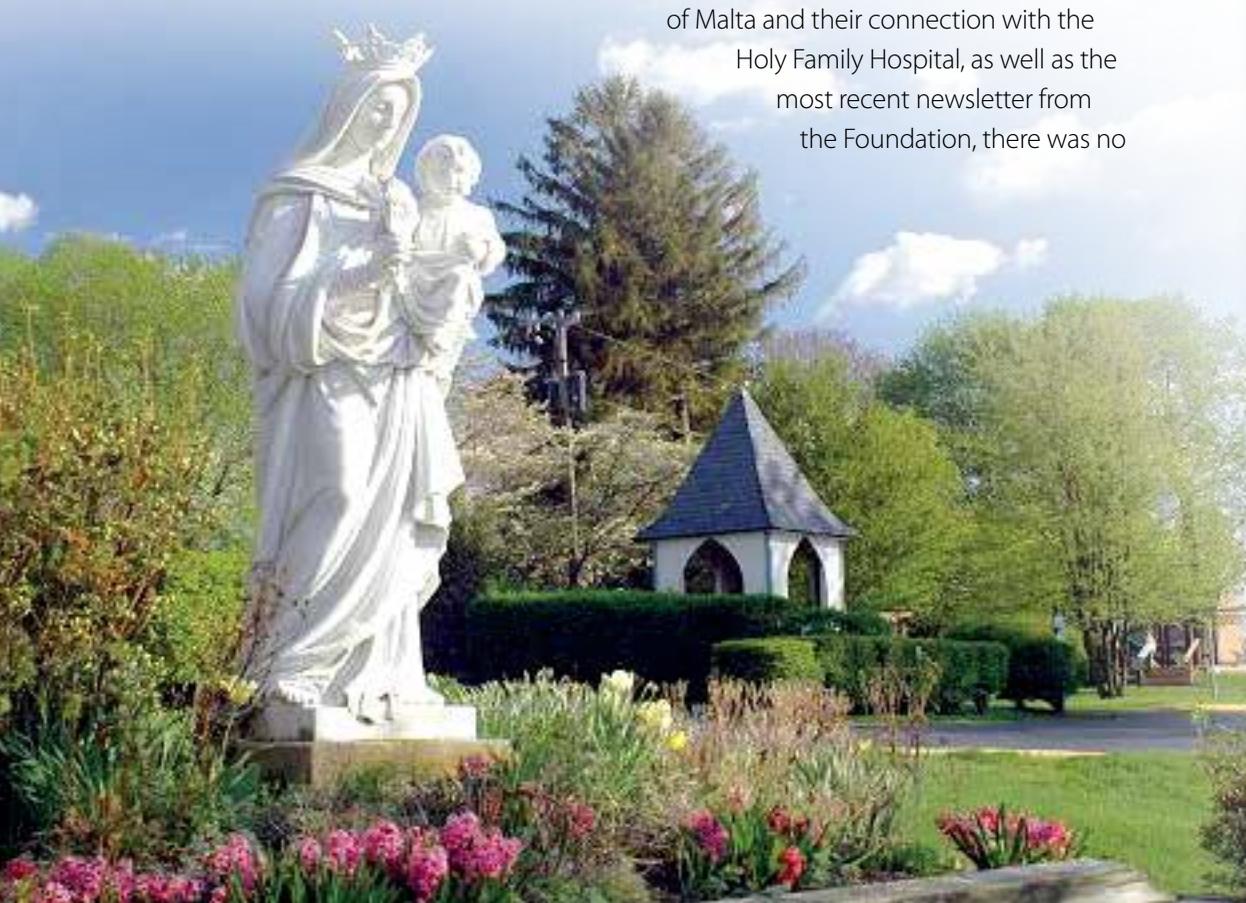
Since the Holy Family Hospital does not turn any woman away, ever, they depend on the support of others to make ends meet.

I don't know what it is like to have a child, and I don't know what it would be like to live so poor like many of the Palestinian's, but I know that God asks me to serve others. I know that the Gospel says that when we did it for the least of His people, that I was serving Jesus.

This advent all the kids of the parish community will be collecting money in baby bottles for the Holy Family Hospital, just like the Rice Bowls in Lent. We will try to raise as much money as possible to help make sure that this year no family who wants to have their baby in a safe hospital will be left out in the cold.

Next weekend we are asking each of you to partner with us in supporting the Holy Family Hospital. All the money from the poor box will be go to Holy Family. Learning that it only cost \$250 to have a baby at the Hospital has encouraged me to try and reach a goal of saving as much as possible to donate. Please consider doing the same and setting the example for all of us young people. We really want to give the families in Bethlehem what the Inn Keeper couldn't 2000 plus years ago.

Learn how your Parish can Adopt Holy Family Hospital at www.birthplaceofhope.org or by calling Colleen Marotta, executive director, at 202-785-0801.



The *GIFT* of *GIVING!*



Through your gift giving, you can ensure these expectant mothers a place where their babies can be delivered safely and be given the expert medical care to become healthy infants.

- \$100** Assist in the delivery of **1 newborn**
- \$200** Assist in the delivery of **2 newborns**
- \$300** Assist in the delivery of **3 newborns**
- \$400** Assist in the delivery of **4 newborns**
- \$500** Assist in the delivery of **5 newborns**
- \$1,000** Sponsor **One Day** of deliveries
- \$2,500** **Save a Life** in the neo-natal intensive care unit

By check, see the attached envelope for mailing.

By credit card, please visit birthplaceofhope.org.

Donations are tax-deductible according to current IRS guidelines.

whatpatientsaresaying

"The doctors and nurses saw that I was afraid. They calmed me down and were very kind." – Rosanna

Sawsan



Just One Mother's Story...

Sawsan, 28, a housewife from Beit Sahour, and her 35-year-old husband Adeeb, a construction laborer, were looking forward to the new addition of a son to their young family, which already included two lovely little girls. "My husband's family were so happy that we were going to have a baby boy. I began preparing clothes for him," Sawsan said.

The couple planned to deliver their first-born son at the governmental hospital in the nearby village of Beit Jalla, where the government health insurance they had would cover all the costs. Contractions began early one morning for Sawsan as she went into labor. When they started on their way to the hospital at 5 a.m. her contractions got worse and she was afraid she would give birth in the car. They decided to stop at a nearby private birth clinic and deliver the baby there.

But then the dream became a nightmare as 30 minutes later the baby boy, whom they named Mohammed, was born with his umbilical cord tied around his neck. "I immediately knew something was wrong," recalled Sawsan. "I was very upset when I saw his face was blue, his lips were blue. I was in shock." Despite the attending doctor's efforts to revive the baby, the baby did not respond well and after two hours he called the Holy Family Hospital and an ambulance.

"We were waiting for him at the entrance," said Dr. Salim Kunkar, the senior pediatrician of the intensive care unit. "The baby suffered from pre-natal asphyxia. At our hospital if a baby is born with any unexpected complications we have the tools to deal with them immediately. Our team took immediate action with the baby. As soon as we got the baby we gave him an infusion and put him on mechanical ventilation."

Every day Sawsan and Adeeb come to visit their son in the Intensive Care Unit. "The first days were very difficult; he was in such a dangerous situation. He is much better now thank God," said Sawsan. "He is sucking now and that is a good sign. If it were not for the Holy Family Hospital my baby would have died, I don't even want to imagine that."

The family is still waiting for the final bill for Mohammed's care, but hospital social worker Mary Maoh said the Palestinian Ministry of Health would cover part of the bill. Thanks to the generous donations of U.S. supporters of the Hospital, a portion of the outstanding amount will be covered for the couple.

"The baby survived, he is out of danger for his life but we don't know what the consequences of this trauma will be," said Dr. Kunkar. "He will need to be followed up in our outpatient clinic."

Over 45 Well Woman Program

SPONSORED BY THE DONORS OF
THE U.S. FOUNDATION

Palestinian women have for decades faced a multitude of health risks: restricted access to medical services due to the occupation, a deteriorating economic situation, traditional cultural beliefs, and lack of adequate services and facilities. The "Over 45 Well Women Health Clinic" at Holy Family Hospital is critical in addressing these health risks for women.

It is the first Clinic available in the Bethlehem region that targets women over the age of 45. Prior to this clinic, the local community did not recognize "well woman care" such as routine pap smears, pelvic exams, screening for breast cancer, or general nutrition and hygiene as health priorities.

Since its opening in November 2012, it has been clearly evident that the clinic can provide preventative care as well as highly specialized care in order to better serve the aging female population and avoid costly and unnecessary medical treatments.

One patient, a premenopausal female, came to the clinic seeking non specialized care for uterine bleeding. Her general practitioner, unable to determine the specific cause due to lack of knowledge regarding gynecological care, advised a major abdominal surgery to remove her female organs. She sought a second opinion at the Holy Family Hospital clinic and after a physical exam, some simple blood testing and a fairly safe procedure with a scope it was determined that she had a treatable condition

and no major surgery was needed. Had she not accessed the clinic for complaint specific care, she would have undergone a potentially complicated, unnecessary, expensive surgery requiring anesthesia and a painful recovery.

Another patient who came to the clinic was a post menopausal female who after accessing outside, non specialized care, had been treated with medication to stop her 2+ years of abnormal bleeding. This medication was treating only her symptoms without isolating the cause of those symptoms. After seeking care at the Holy Family Hospital clinic, a fairly safe two step procedure was performed determining the cause of her bleeding to be cancer. In this case proper consultation revealed that an abdominal surgery was warranted and safely performed so the woman was able to get the post surgical cancer treatment necessary to ensure the best possible outcome and prognosis for recovery. It is suspected that considering the length of her symptoms that without the appropriate and specialized care she received at Holy Family Hospital clinic, she may not have survived.

The Hospital has been increasing the public's awareness of the clinic by placing ads in the local newspaper, posting announcements in its outreach clinics and informing patients treated in the mobile van. These efforts will increase the number of patients from low socio-economic level.

whatpatientsaresaying

"I chose to have my baby here because I was afraid to go to a public hospital. I feel safe at Holy Family Hospital." – Sumaya

How can I HELP?

You Can Bring Hope & Care to the Holy Land...
by adopting Holy Family Hospital as a charitable project.

Making the Birthplace of Hope your charitable project will ensure that the Hospital can continue to serve as a safe haven for thousands of poor mothers and their children in a region filled with misery and despair. You can bestow your Christian charity on Bethlehem families by participating in one of the following programs:

Host a Baby Shower!

You can share your blessings with those less fortunate by hosting a baby shower for poor mothers and babies who live in Bethlehem just steps from where Our Blessed Mother gave birth to Baby Jesus. By gathering together family, friends, parishioners, and neighbors, your baby shower will bring hope and care to families who face dangers similar to those faced by the Holy Family 2,000 years ago.

You and your guests will learn stories of mothers and babies in the most sacred place on earth. Instead of presents, your guests can bring donations for items on the Nativity Registry, and help ensure that every newborn will be swaddled, fed, and cared for in Bethlehem.

Mary said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord." Now you can be the Lord's instrument for the mothers and babies in Bethlehem today.

For more information on this program visit www.birthplaceofhope.org and click on the baby showers page.

Become a Parish Missionary!

Contact your pastor; ask that your parish adopt the Hospital either by a financial contribution or by a second collection. A bulletin insert, pulpit announcement and other useful information can be found at www.birthplaceofhope.org and click on the parish missionary page.

Have your Children or Grandchildren's school adopt the Hospital!

Holy Family Hospital is the perfect project to teach children about the town where the Christ Child was born and how, today, one special door is open to poor and destitute expectant mothers. The school can do Bottles for Babies where children can collect change in a bottle. **Other ideas can be found at www.birthplaceofhope.org and click on the schools page.**



A Baby Shower to Remember...

The Dames of the Order of Malta (Minnesota Area) hosted a reception to benefit the mothers and babies served by Holy Family Hospital. The event was held on Saturday, December 8, 2012- the feast of the Immaculate Conception, at The Cathedral of St. Paul, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The event raised \$11,490 and seventy-six guests attended.

Nicky Carpenter DM, Order of Malta Minnesota Area Chair, stated, "our first Baby Shower benefiting the Holy Family Hospital was a tremendous success. Our group's event created awareness about the good deeds of the Hospital as well as raised over \$11,000 in donations!

It is our hope to make this an annual event."

Guests enjoyed Middle Eastern foods such as hummus and vegetables, Tabbouleh, Fattoush Salad and an assortment of desserts. Music from the region was played as well as a short film showcasing how the Hospital serves as a beacon of hope and safe haven for thousands of poor mothers and their children. Guest speaker, Rosemary Kelly DM recounted her personal pilgrimage to Holy Family Hospital with a group from the Order of Malta in 2007.

Event Chair, Anne Marie Hansen DM, welcomed guests and spoke of the tremendous work of Holy Family Hospital.



"Several years ago in his Sunday homily my then pastor, Fr Joseph Johnson (Order of Malta chaplain for MN area), shared stories of the women and children who are served through the loving care at Holy Family Hospital. I was deeply moved by the stories and the culture that does not protect the vulnerability and maternity of these women and their children who become social outcasts. Our Lady put it on my heart to do something to serve their important mission. With the commitment of several of our Minnesota Dames, who enthusiastically served on the planning committee, we were able to host a wonderful Baby Shower that raised funds and local awareness of the beautiful work and mission of the hospital in Bethlehem. We are looking forward to hosting an annual event to raise funds for HFH and I am grateful for the generous participation of so many of our family and friends who supported our grassroots efforts."

– Event Chair, Anne Marie Hansen, DM



We extend our deepest gratitude to the Minnesota Baby Shower Committee:

- Josephine (Nicky) B. Carpenter, DM
- Andrea Chisholm, AUX
- Terri Dick, DM
- Anne Marie Hansen, DM Chair
- Karina Hipp, AUX
- Mary Jo Martin, DM
- Virginia Schmidt, AUX

Bring hope and care to the Holy Land... by adopting Holy Family Hospital as a charitable project for your parish, children's school or other community groups.

Learn more about these projects at www.birthplaceofhope.org or by calling Colleen Marotta, executive director, at 202-785-0801.



Fairwell to Dr. Keutgen

Director General, Holy Family Hospital

After a decade of volunteer service to Holy Family Hospital as Director General, Dr. Jacques Keutgen, KM has stepped down. Dr. Keutgen led the Hospital through a time of growth and expansion; new services such as the over 45 well woman clinic and expansion of the outreach clinics and the neo-natal intensive care unit.

Dr. Keutgen stated at his goodbye party "For many years I have been feeling with the Palestinians their daily frustrations and humiliations, but to the contrary of the Palestinians I always had the possibility to escape from this environment of oppression. Nevertheless in spite of all difficulties, I always remained a witness and servant of hope, because hope is a powerful motivation for charity".

He then expressed, "I never gave up my fight and my prayers for more peace and more

justice although it seemed sometimes that I didn't have enough strength. It has always been my belief in my daily work and my faith in God which has pushed me forward to assist in making Holy Family Hospital a symbol of life, a haven of peace and concord between Christians and Muslims, a place where Christian charity revealed itself every day. This would not have been possible without the generosity of benefactors from around the world".

The Foundation offers its sincere gratitude to Dr. Keutgen for his tireless efforts and outstanding work. We send him our grateful best wishes as he moves into the next chapter of his life.



"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."

– St. Thérèse of Lisieux "the Little Flower"

As Mother's Day approaches, won't you give comfort and care to the mothers and babies in Bethlehem?

Mother's Day is an opportunity for us all to remember and celebrate the women who have touched our lives, especially Mary the Blessed Virgin Mother. As a devoted mother, Mary experienced great suffering, heartache and joy. During the most difficult of times, Mary never lost sight that it was God's will for her to bear our Redeemer and she committed herself to His plan. The Blessed Mother is the shining example to all mothers of unconditional love, strength and faith.

That is why a statue of the Blessed Mother welcomes all mothers to the Holy Family Hospital; serving as a symbol of love and peace in a region filled with hardship and despair. These expectant mothers arrive tired and exhausted from the harsh conditions of living in a region filled with political strife and lack of basic life necessities. Upon arrival, all expectant mothers find themselves in an oasis of peace and under the care of a medical staff who return to them their dignity and their sense that they do not walk alone in their struggles.

whatpatientsaresaying

"I thank God first and then thank the Holy Family Hospital and its doctors for saving my life and the life of my baby. My dream has come true—now I am a mother." – Laila



Join the **THREE KINGS** SOCIETY

Among the many ways you can help the mothers and babies of Bethlehem is to remember them in your will. Whether or not you can make a donation now, remembering the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation in your will, is your legacy of care for those most vulnerable and poor. Your generosity will be honored in perpetuity on a memorial plaque located at the Hospital in the Holy Land.

All bequests to Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, as a charitable, not-for-profit organization, are fully deductible for estate tax purposes. It is always advisable to consult with an experienced estate planning attorney about drafting provisions for your will.

Please notify the Foundation of your bequest or planned gift so that you can be honored in the Three Kings Society and commemorated on the memorial plaque.



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of Bethlehem Foundation
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~ A Work of the Order of Malta

Holy Family Hospital is under the direct responsibility of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. It continues the tradition of Christian love born 2000 years ago with Our Lord Jesus Christ and carried on a thousand years later for "our lords the poor and the sick" in the Order's first hospice in nearby Jerusalem.