

Recommended Youth Leader Outreach Speech for Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem

Good Morning, My name is _____, and I am a member of the [Parish/school youth ministry program or class].

This Advent, we are working with Parish members, our classmates as well as students in the [Parish Faith Formation Program] to show our support for Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem in the Holy Land. Along with our efforts, we have been blessed with the support of the larger parish community, which is donating [poor box funds/or the second collection] on the weekend of [date] to support poor and at-risk mothers, babies and families served by Holy Family Hospital.

For those who may not be aware, this maternity Hospital is located in the Holy Land, just a few hundred yards from the place where Jesus Christ was born and lived. Pope Saint John Paul II declared the work of this life giving hospital as one of the top priorities of the Church in this Millennium. As a teen, about the age of Mary when Jesus was born, I cannot imagine the fear and struggles she faced in having a baby. Not to mention giving birth in a stable!

Today, the West Bank is blessed by Holy Family Hospital, which provides care and treatment for all women and children regardless of religion, nationality or ability to pay. No one is ever turned away! The Hospital serves as an instrument of inter-religious peace in an area of historical conflict.

No matter which religion or economic status, a woman is welcomed for prenatal care, labor and delivery, as well as post-delivery needs. Beyond the birthing hospital, Holy Family Hospital provides medical support for women's health issues such as diabetes and cancer screening and prevention. Also, the Hospital's Mobile Clinic provides comprehensive care to mothers, babies

and families in nearby United Nations Refugee Camps and in remote Bedouin encampments throughout the surrounding desert. All who enter the Hospital are shown the face of Christ through the generous works of the staff and volunteers, as well as people like you who support the Hospital's mission through prayers and contributions.

Next weekend, the parish will hold a [poor box/second] collection for Holy Family Hospital. Also, baby bottles filled with donations will be collected from younger members of the Parish who have been raising funds for the past few weeks.

Like Mary, Joseph and Jesus, families in the Bethlehem region today live in impoverished circumstances. Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem serves as a beacon of hope and a safe haven for thousands of families there today.

Please consider sharing the gift of a safe and healthy birth with a woman thousands of miles away. We, the Church, teach respect for all life, help us to spread this message by giving to this great cause.

Like the Innkeeper's wife who showed Mary to the stable, you, too, can be a modern-day innkeeper for at-risk and needy families in Bethlehem today. Please help care for these mothers and babies in the centuries old tradition by making a contribution to Holy Family Hospital this Advent season.

Thank you and God bless you.