

Walking Together: Parish Resource Packet



BULLETIN INSERT

ONE PARISH. ONE STUDENT. ONE LIFE TRANSFORMED.

At Bethlehem University, the only Catholic university in the Holy Land, students are now facing extraordinary financial hardship due to ongoing conflict and economic instability. Through no fault of their own, many are at risk of leaving their education behind. The annual cost of education is only \$4,000 per year, but even this is now out of reach for most families. Rooted in the Lasallian tradition of accompaniment, we are invited to walk with these students in a real and meaningful way. As Pope John Paul II reminds us, “solidarity . . . is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.” Our parish is invited to support one student for the coming year, accompanying them as they continue their education despite the challenges they face.

For more information or to participate, please contact the parish office or Give Online to Bethlehem University Foundation USA.

<https://bufusa.org/oneparishonestudent2/>



Bethlehem University Foundation is the U.S. registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that supports the mission and ministry of Bethlehem University in the Holy Land. EIN: 22-3600739



NEWSLETTER PARAGRAPH—Option One

One parish. One student. One life transformed. At Bethlehem University, the only Catholic university in the Holy Land, students are facing extraordinary financial hardship due to ongoing conflict and economic instability. Through no fault of their own, many are now at risk of leaving their education behind. The annual cost of education is only **\$4,000 per year**, but even this is now out of reach for most families.

Rooted in the Lasallian tradition of accompaniment, we are invited to walk with these students in a real and meaningful way. As Pope John Paul II reminds us, *"solidarity... is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good."* Our parish is invited to support one student for the coming year, ensuring they are not forced to leave their education behind.

Support One Student Today

For more information or to participate, please contact the parish office or Give Online to Bethlehem University Foundation USA.



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NEWSLETTER PARAGRAPH—Option Two

One parish. One student. One life transformed. In Bethlehem, where Christ was born, students at Bethlehem University are striving to continue their education despite extraordinary hardship. Because of ongoing conflict and economic strain, many families can no longer afford tuition. Through no fault of their own, students now face the possibility of leaving their studies behind.

Our faith calls us not only to care, but to act. As Pope John Paul II teaches, “*solidarity... is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good.*” By supporting one student for \$4,000, our parish can ensure that a young person remains on the path to graduation, carrying hope forward into the future.

Support One Student Today

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FLYER

ONE PARISH. ONE STUDENT. ONE LIFE TRANSFORMED.

Help one student stay in school this year.

In Bethlehem, where Christ was born, Bethlehem University stands as the **only Catholic university in the Holy Land**, a living expression of the Church's presence through education.

Today, that presence is under real strain.

Because of ongoing war and economic hardship, most students can no longer afford tuition. Families who once made sacrifices to support their children's education are now unable to do so. Through no fault of their own, many students are at risk of leaving their studies behind.

The annual cost of education is only **\$4,000 per year**, but even this is now out of reach for most families.

What your support makes possible:

- A student remains in school
- A future is preserved
- The Catholic presence in the Holy Land continues

As Pope John Paul II teaches:

"Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion . . . but a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good."

Our parish is invited to respond: Can we support one student for the coming year?

Let's walk with a student, accompanying them as they continue their education despite the challenges they face.

(Optional footer line for flyer)

For more information or to participate, please contact the parish office or Give Online to Bethlehem University Foundation USA.



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HOMILY HINTS: ACCOMPANIMENT, SOLIDARITY, AND BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

Please consider incorporating one or more of the messages below into the Sunday homily to support Bethlehem University in the Holy Land and our baptismal call to accompany one another in the footsteps of Jesus.

1. From Abiding to Action

Begin with the Gospel (John 6:51-58): “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”

Emphasize that Jesus speaks of relationship—abiding, remaining, staying connected.

If Christ remains with us, discipleship calls us to remain with others. Students in Bethlehem continue their education under real strain. Supporting them is not distant charity, it is remaining with them. Faith that abides must become love that acts.

2. Solidarity Is a Decision

Solidarity is not a feeling, but a firm and persevering determination to commit to the common good.

It is not pity or momentary concern, but a decision to act. In a complex world, solidarity asks: what can I do for one person?

Supporting one student is a real commitment that changes a real life. Solidarity becomes real when it becomes specific.

On Social Concern, par. 38

“It is above all a question of interdependence, sensed as a system determining relationships in the contemporary world, in its economic, cultural, political and religious elements, and accepted as a moral category. When interdependence becomes recognized in this way, the correlative response as a moral and social attitude, as a “virtue,” is solidarity. This then is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.”

3. Accompaniment: Walking Together

Accompaniment means walking with others, not standing apart. It is not solving everything, but refusing to let someone walk alone. Christ walks with us, teaches us, remains with us. Students are asking for the chance to continue.

To accompany someone is to say: your path matters enough for me to walk it with you.



4. The Crisis: Through No Fault of Their Own

Students face war, economic collapse, and financial hardship.

They have done everything right, yet their education is at risk. This is not about failure, but circumstance. Our response is not only charity, but justice and responsibility.

We step in when others are being held back.

5. Bethlehem: A Responsibility

Bethlehem is where Christ entered the world. (The university is a 15-minute walk from the Church of the Nativity).

We are called to remain connected not just spiritually, but to the people who live there today.

Bethlehem University is the only Catholic university in the Holy Land.

It represents the Church's living presence.

Supporting students ensures that presence continues.

6. One Parish. One Student. One Future

We cannot solve everything, but we can do something meaningful.

One parish. One student. One future.

This is how the Gospel works—one life at a time. Can we walk with one student this year? The Gospel becomes real when it becomes personal.

Closing

In the Eucharist, Christ remains with us faithfully.

We are called to do the same: remain with one student, walk with them, and ensure they are not left behind.



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Please consider incorporating one or more of the intercessions below during the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass.

1. For Students in Bethlehem

For students at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land who are striving to continue their education amid hardship, that they may be strengthened in hope and supported in their pursuit of learning,
we pray to the Lord.

2. For Families Facing Hardship

For families in the Holy Land who are struggling to provide for their children's education, that they may find relief, stability, and the support they need,
we pray to the Lord.

3. For Our Parish (Accompaniment)

For our parish community, that we may respond with generosity and faith, walking in solidarity with those in need and accompanying students who seek a better future,
we pray to the Lord.

4. For the Church in the Holy Land

For the Church in the Holy Land, that it may continue to be a living presence of hope, education, and peace through institutions like Bethlehem University,
we pray to the Lord.

5. For Peace and Stability

For peace in the Holy Land and throughout the world, that conflict may give way to justice, stability, and opportunity for all people, especially the young,
we pray to the Lord.



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Parish.
Student.
Life Transformed.

