Bethlehem University Foundation

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Dear Pastor:

You may have received a letter from us recently. If so, thank you for taking the time to read it, and for considering it.

"For us, Bethlehem University isn't just a place to study," said Noor, a healthcare student in the Holy Land. "It's a space of safety, learning, and building dreams."

Bethlehem University is the only Catholic university in the Holy Land founded in 1973 by the Holy See and the De La Salle Christian Brothers. The first university registered in Palestine, its graduates go on to serve their communities as healthcare workers, engineers, therapists, teachers, Catholic ministers, mayors, and ambassadors.

But this education, and the hope it gives Palestinian families, is harder to access than it used to be. The economic toll of war has left many families unable to cover even the university's modest annual cost of $4,000 per student. For a growing number of students, the paths in front of them are stark: finish the degree they've worked years toward, or walk away from it, along with the career, the calling, and the future they'd built their hope around.

This October, as the Church honors Mary, Our Lady Queen of Palestine, we pray to her: "Palestine, which more than any other country, belongs to thee, since thou hast graced it with thy birth, thy virtues and thy sorrows . . .Watch therefore, with special protection, over thy native country." We remember Mary's care for her native land; a care rooted in the same tender love a mother has for her child and home.

As Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, told young people in the Holy Land, "You will build the future with your own hands, with your intelligence, with your faith. The Church wants to be at your side." Right now, Palestinian students need parishes in the United States to stand with them as the Church, helping them continue their education and build a future of hope.

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Your parish already lives out its commitment to the common good in ways we may never see. In Pope John Paul II's words, solidarity is "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good."

—over—

A gift to the Bethlehem Scholars Fund would be a meaningful way way to deepen your parish's commitment to solidarity and justice. A gift of:

- $4,000 covers a full year of tuition
- $1,000 opens a semester
- $500 keeps a student on track

Will your parish extend that same commitment to ONE STUDENT for the coming year?

Bethlehem University calls this accompaniment, in the Lasallian tradition it was founded on: walking with a student and ensuring they are not left behind.

"Hope isn't just a feeling," said Malak, another Bethlehem University student. "It's a decision we make every morning."

We invite you and your parish to prayerfully consider standing with one student as they make that decision, day after day.

With gratitude and prayer,

Waleed Zaru
Executive Director

One Parish. One Student. One Life Transformed.

P.S. **In Bethlehem, where Christ was born, students are choosing hope in spite of hardship.** Your parish can stand with them, opening the way to graduation and the lives they're determined to build.

One Parish.
One Student.
One Life Transformed.

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BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

EXPLORE RESOURCES AND LEARN MORE

Your parish's participation helps ensure that students in Bethlehem can continue their education despite extraordinary hardship.

The **Bethlehem University Foundation** is a 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**

To assist your parish, we've prepared a full set of ready-to-use resources: bulletin announcements, homily hints, Prayers of the Faithful, and Holy Land Saint Day stories to share.

Together, we can ensure one student continues forward.

Visit