

CCAO

Coordinating Catholic Aid Organizations
in the Holy Land – CCAO



LPJ

BU CBH CJ CRS

Cust.OFM DVHL HCEF

PMP SC SecSol SVP St. Yves

Preface:

Every year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims flock to the Holy Land to see the ancient and sacred sites so important to our shared Christian heritage. While on this journey, few are granted the opportunity to witness the daily realities and conditions of the local Christian communities and ordinary people living in the land.

Most tours only briefly and superficially touch upon the locally-based Christian organizations or the realities of Palestinian society – partly out of a lack of contacts and of time to research how to get in touch with the relevant organizations.

Coordinating Catholic Aid Organizations (CCAO) members cover a considerable share of the social services and welfare work in the country. As such, these organizations are better positioned to report the realities ‘on-the-ground’ and the daily life of the people. In almost every field, in almost every region in Palestine, Catholic institutions are a strong support base for local communities and are ready to share their experiences with interested visitors.

Therefore, this Image Brochure is to introduce the CCAO member organizations that are willing to meet groups and interested visitors. The goal is to provide group organizers and individuals worldwide with resources and contacts in order to experience more fully the visit to Palestine, as well as to strengthen the CCAO network.

The Image Brochure will serve as a small but comprehensive guide for individuals and groups wishing to organize a trip to the Holy Land, that pilgrims and raising of awareness are connected through the CCAO network and its members.

Presentation:

The Coordinating Catholic Aid Organizations (CCAO) was established in accordance with the Pastoral Plan of the Diocesan Synod of the Catholic Churches in the Holy Land in 2000. Section 15 of the Pastoral Plan under the heading “The Presence of our Churches in the World of Human Suffering,” provides for the “creation of a higher council of institutions working in the area of human suffering for coordination and collaboration.”

In compliance with the Pastoral Plan decision number 6, it was determined by the Catholic Aid organizations to establish the “Coordinating Catholic Aid Organizations in the Holy Land” (CCAO) and to be associated with the Assembly of the Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land (ACOHL).

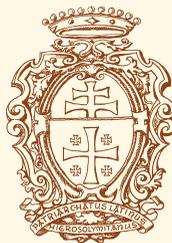
The Goals of CCAO

- ✦ To enhance mutual support among its members,
- ✦ To enhance communication and share information freely to provide aid and support in a more effective and efficient way without duplication of services,
- ✦ To refer cases to other CCAO member organizations according to expertise, knowledge, experience and capacity to deal with circumstances or situations of need,
- ✦ To encourage coordination and cooperation of efforts in the service of God and all His people in the Holy Land: striving to realize a common vision and following the principles of Catholic Social Teaching on Solidarity, Subsidiary Human Dignity, Social Justice, and Options for the Poor.

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Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem



The Church of Jerusalem was born on the day of Pentecost and first governed by the College of Apostles under St. Peter and St. James as the first Bishop of Jerusalem. It was recognized as a Patriarchate by the Council of Chalcedon in 451 and restored in 1847 by Pope Pius IX as the Latin Patriarchal See of Jerusalem. The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) is the Roman Catholic Diocese of the Holy Land, with the Ordinary taking the title of Patriarch. It has jurisdiction over Palestine, Jordan, Israel and Cyprus.

Witness to the Christian presence in the Holy Land and spiritual support for the Latin Catholic population of more than 90,000 faithful and over 200,000 foreign workers are foremost in the pastoral ministry of 83 diocesan priests in 67 parishes, with the collaborative mission of about 120 institutes of consecrated life, and with over 1,800 religious men and women. The Latin Patriarchate has an extensive and challenging mission that spans across several sectors of the local society: in health care, education, social services and humanitarian assistance, housing, and job creation. It operates and administers 43 schools, 12 hospitals, 8 homes for the elderly, 8 special needs homes, and a minor and major seminary for clergy formation. It sustains and ensures continuity of established services and initiates projects for present and future needs, overseeing the activities of several humanitarian and aid agencies operating in the Holy Land. The overall beneficiaries are more or less 500,000 residents of the Holy Land regardless of religious affiliation, nationality and social status.

The Latin Patriarch is the president of CCAO, who provides guidance to its members, ensures unity and harmony among them and forms the link to the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land.

Website for more information: www.lpj.org.

Facility for groups:

Conference room for groups up to 80 people; six pilgrim houses in Jerusalem, Taybeh, Rafat, Haifa, Nazareth, and Bethlehem. Parish visits as well as youth exchange program can also be organized.

Language for presentations: Arabic, English, Italian, French, German, and Spanish

Contact information:

Email address: ceo@lpj.org *Phone:* +972 (0) 2 628 2323

Bethlehem University

Rue des Freres - Bethlehem, Palestine



Bethlehem University, a Vatican-sponsored Catholic University in the Holy Land, is conducted by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, and is the first university established in Palestine, founded in 1973. The University emphasizes excellence in academic programs and the development of students as committed people prepared to assume leading positions in society. Our Christian and Muslim Student Ambassadors, faculty and staff enjoy welcoming international pilgrims, academics, and dignitaries to our campus, which is often referred to as an oasis of peace and a beacon of hope. Our campus is open for guests Mondays through Fridays between 8am and 4pm.

Website for more information:

Main Website URL: www.bethlehem.edu

Visit request form: <https://bethlehem.edu/gateways/visitorsfriends/groups/form>

Facility for groups:

Conference room for up to 130 people, professional training restaurant for 75 people, larger group visits can be organized either on campus or in the visiting group's hotel.

Contact information:

Email address: visitors@bethlehem.edu

Phone: +972 (0) 2 274 1241 Ext: 2325 or Ext: 2055

Caritas Baby Hospital



Bethlehem

Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem is a Christian non-profit pediatric hospital founded in 1952 by Fr. Ernest Schnydrig. It is supported by the head international organization, Children's Relief Bethlehem, an association supporting the people in need in the Holy Land based the Gospel. Its motto «We are here» is a deep-rooted conviction: CBH is committed to stay and persevere in its work for Mother and Child.

CBH is committed to providing quality, specialized and safe health care for children, regardless of social and religious background, ability to pay, as well as social and educational support for their families.

Website for more information:

<http://www.childrens-relief-bethlehem.org.uk/en/>

Facility for groups:

Guided tours are offered followed by group discussions, and can handle up to 70 visitors per group.

Language for presentations:

English, Italian, German, French, Arabic

Contact information:

Email address: info@crb-mail.org

Phone: +972 (0) 2 275 8500

Caritas Jerusalem



Caritas-Jerusalem (CJ) is a member of Caritas Internationalis. It is a Jerusalem-based humanitarian and development organization representing the socio-pastoral services of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. It was founded in 1967 in the aftermath of the Six Day War. Over the years, CJ has grown and assumed increasing responsibilities, in both its program base and operational capability.

CJ continues to faithfully serve the social-familial, economic, health, and emergency needs of a growing Palestinian population. It has an active presence throughout the Palestinian Territories, in East Jerusalem, West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Website for more information:

www.CaritasJerusalem.org

Facility for groups:

NA

Language for presentations:

NA

Contact information:

E-mail address: caritas@caritasjr.org

Phone: +972 (0) 2 628 7574

Catholic Relief Services

Jerusalem, West Bank & Gaza Program



Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency that carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States. The work of Catholic Relief Services in the Holy Land began in the 1940s, serving Polish and Hungarian refugees, many of whom were Jews or from mixed families fleeing the devastation of World War II. CRS established a program office in Jerusalem in 1961.

The country program operates in four offices in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah and Gaza, focusing on humanitarian assistance, food security, youth development and leadership, peace building, advocacy and civic engagement.

Website for more information: www.crs.org

Facility for groups:

Conference room for groups up to 15 people, larger groups can be visited in their hotel or by visiting CRS projects and meeting local communities.

Language for presentations: English, Arabic

Contact information:

Email address: JWBG_JRS_Members@global.crs.org

Phone: +972 (0) 2 656 9240/1/2

Custody of the Holy Land



The principal responsibility of the Custody of the Holy Land has been and remains, the protection of the holy places with which it has been entrusted since its very beginnings by the Holy See. It diligently maintains the shrines, basilicas and churches, and provides for the needs of its convents and Christian communities.

The Custody is comprised of Franciscans of 32 nationalities from 59 religious provinces. The Custody carries out its various activities in countries of the Near East: Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Egypt and Rhodes.

Website for more information: www.custodia.org

Facility for groups:

Any groups up to 200 persons

Language for presentations:

English, German, Arabic, Hebrew, Italian, Spanish, French, Russian,

Contact information:

Email address: custodia@custodia.org

Phone: +972 (0) 2 626 6561

Deutscher Verein vom Heiligen Lande (DVHL) German Association of the Holy Land



The “Deutscher Verein vom Heiligen Lande” (DVHL) is the aid organization of German Catholics for the people of the Holy Land and for strengthening bonds with Christians living in this region. DVHL was established in 1855. It owns properties and institutions in the Holy Land (a school, two monasteries, an asylum for the aged and handicapped, two guest houses) and operates them in partnership with religious orders.

It supports an aid department (for education, interreligious dialogue, charity and pastoral activities), a volunteers program and a pilgrimage department. With its longstanding practice and expertise, DVHL offers pilgrims: logistical assistance, places to stay and visit, as well as an enlightening accompaniment by licensed tour guides, if requested.

Website for more information: www.dvhl.de

Facility for groups:

Two Pilgrims’ Houses (Pilgerhaus Tabgha, Sea of Galilee; Paulus-Haus, Jerusalem) with conference rooms for groups of up to 150 people.

Language for presentations:

English, German, Arabic, Hebrew

Contact information:

Email address: jerusalem@dvhl.de
Phone: +972 (0) 2 627 1686

Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF)



HCEF is committed to the continued presence, empowerment, and well-being of Arab Christians in the Holy Land and to developing the bonds of solidarity between them and Christians elsewhere. We work to replace despair with hope, fear with human security and humiliation with dignity. HCEF provides moral, spiritual and financial support to sustain the Christian presence and heritage in the Holy Land through job creation, advocacy, home rehabilitation, child sponsorship, Holy Land pilgrimages, with a total of 20 programs.

HCEF aims to educate Christians worldwide, build community, develop bonds of solidarity, and promote peace and justice in the Holy Land. HCEF is experienced in the tourism and pilgrimage industry, providing programs like the HCEF Inn, Bethlehem Museum, and Living Stones Pilgrimages. With a professional staff that has been working in the Holy Land for 15 years, we are strategically positioned to receive groups of all kinds.

Website for more information: www.hcef.org

Facility for groups:

The HCEF Inn and Conference Center has spacious meeting rooms for training sessions, workshops and guest rooms to accommodate 56 people. The Inn is conveniently located and equipped with internet, cable TV, dining rooms and many other amenities. Our Bethlehem Museum restaurant can accommodate 120 guests.

Language for presentations: English, Arabic

Contact information:

Email address: ahabash@hcef.org – hcef@hcef.org
Phone: +970 (0) 2 275 0093

Pontifical Mission for Palestine



Pontifical Mission for Palestine (PMP), founded in 1949 by Pope Pius XII, is an agency of the Holy See that supports development projects that target local community-based and Church organizations (CBOs) including schools, hospitals, orphanages, charitable societies and homes for the elderly which provide high-quality services. Specifically, PMP funds rehabilitation projects, youth activities and programs, and supports job-creation initiatives at these institutions.

PMP remains committed to subsidizing its partner institutions: NECC (Near East Council of Churches), Mother and Child Clinics in the Gaza Strip and Paul VI Ephpheta Institute for the Hearing Impaired and the Pontifical Mission Library in Bethlehem.

Website for more information: www.pontificalmission-jerusalem.org

Facility for groups:

Conference room for up to 15 people, nearby hotel conference rooms are also available for larger groups.

Language for presentations: English, Arabic, Italian

Contact information:

Email address: pmp@pmp.co.il
Phone: +972 (0) 2 627 2126

Secours Catholique / Maison d'Abraham



Abraham's House was founded by Secours Catholique (Caritas France) in 1964. It welcomes pilgrims from all backgrounds and offers an opportunity to discover the Holy Land. It is run by a multinational team of a director, a community of Dominican Sisters, local employees and volunteers. Located in an exceptional site, just south of Mount of Olives, it sits on a hill with a magnificent view of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Abraham's House also provides free medical care services and medicine to the poor in its vicinity in Jerusalem at its dispensary.

Abraham's House is a place of meeting and interaction, and strives to give hope to the people of the Holy Land. It is a house that is open to all of Abraham's children.

Website for more information: www.maison-abraham.com
reservations.maisonabraham@secours-catholique.org
assistant.maisonabraham@secours-catholique.org

Facility for groups:

Rooms inside the buildings for 60 people.
Bungalows in the garden for 50 people.
Conference room for groups up to 50 people.

Contact information:

Email address: directeur.maisonabraham@secours-catholique.org
Phone: +972 (0) 2 628 4591

Secretariat of Solidarity

For Catholic Schools and Institutions in the Holy Land



In 1977, the Congregation for the Oriental Churches established the Secretariat of Solidarity for Catholic Schools and Institutions in the Holy Land under the guidance of the Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem with two main tasks:

1. To allocate the ordinary subsidies that the Congregation for the Oriental Churches sends every year for the Catholic schools and educational institutions in the Holy Land – approximately 80 schools (from nursery to secondary) distributed among Palestinian Territories, Israel, Jordan and Cyprus.
2. To receive and analyze applications for extraordinary subsidies submitted to ROACO, serving as a bridge between the international aid agencies and the local Catholic institutions.

Website for more information: NA

Facility for groups: NA

Language for presentations: English, Italian, Arabic

Contact information:

Email address: info@solidarity-jer.org

Phone: +972 (0) 2 628 5117

Société de Saint Vincent de Paul

Conférence du Saint Sépulcre de Jérusalem



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Jerusalem was first established in 1851. It is a fraternal Catholic organization of lay people who live Christianity by helping those in need on a person-to-person basis. The Society functions in the tradition of its founder and patron of St. Vincent de Paul. The great turmoil in the Holy Land has aggravated daily living condition, increasing the demand for help and financial support. Many families are encountering problems of providing for daily basic needs.

The Society's activities include: visitation to the homes of the elderly, nursing homes and the sick. It assists needy students with tuition fees for non-school, non-university training and education; provides financial assistance for medical prescriptions; hospitalizations and rehabilitation of drug addicts; as well as distributing monthly cash subsidy for needy families in Jerusalem, West Bank, and Gaza Strip.

Website for more information: NA

Facility for groups:

Limited small area for groups up to 20 people, larger groups can be visited in the hotel.

Language for presentations: English, French, Arabic

Contact information:

Email address: svpjrs@netvision.net.il

Phone: +972 (0) 2 626 4432

Society of St. Yves

Catholic Center for Human Rights



The Society of St. Yves was founded by the Latin Patriarch Emeritus Michel Sabbah under the patronage of the Latin Patriarchate in Jerusalem in 1991. St. Yves is the only local Christian human rights organization in the Holy Land. Its goal is to support the needy and oppressed in the Holy Land with free legal aid in human rights issues.

St. Yves offers support to everyone, people of all religions, nationalities, color or race who cannot afford a lawyer by themselves. Major interventions of St. Yves are legal cases in Jerusalem and the southern West Bank.

Website for more information: www.saintyves.org.il

Facility for groups:

Conference room for groups up to 40 people, larger groups can be visited in the hotel; possibility to combine lecture with a tour (e.g. through the old city).

Language for presentations: English, Arabic, Hebrew

Contact information:

Email address: info@saintyves.co.il

Phone: +972 (0) 2 626 4662