



THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE
OF JERUSALEM

PROJECT PROPOSAL

SUMMER CAMPS ACTIVITIES
PALESTINE/ ISRAL/ JORDAN

GA 178/19



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

GA 178/19

SUMMER CAMPS ACTIVITIES

*"Let the Church always be a place for mercy and hope,
where everyone is welcomed, loved and forgiven."*

(H.H. Pope Francis)

THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) was restored in 1847, and since then is promoting the best interests of the local communities it serves. Today, the Patriarchal Diocese oversees about 180,000 faithful in four countries, Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Cyprus, covering a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, religions and traditions. Serving all with special emphasis on the support and care of indigenous Holy Land Christians remains the enduring mission of the Mother Church, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

BACKGROUND

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has 55 parishes in Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Cyprus. The majority of the parishes who have schools conduct summer camps every year. The parishes at the LPJ have long strived to offer fun and safe summer programs for the children and youth living in the local areas. Around 6,000+ children and youth from the different parish areas participate in the yearly summer camps that are led by pastors and Church leaders. The one-month summer camp



programs provide the children and youth with the opportunity to experience and discover new or emerging interests and to focus on special skills and interests that may be set aside or even neglected during the academic year. The summer programs allow them to get engaged in various intra-curricular activities like drama, arts, religion, music, voluntary work, community and social services.

Summer camps have proved to be one of the best ways for the parishes to continue their pastoral mission, as well as the catechism programs, offering both youth and children a safe haven where they can have a chance to grow within the parish campus and become productive members of their communities. With the financial support and the continuous contributions from the generous benefactors, the LPJ is able to conduct summer camps every year. For 2018, 4 parishes from Israel, 14 from Palestine and 20 from Jordan organized summer camps for the children and youth as part of their pastoral plan for this year. The LPJ aspires to support all the parishes across the Diocese to conduct summer camps activities for 2019 in order to allow the continuation of its biblical mission in serving the Christian communities and parishioners in the Holy Land.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide a safe, healthy and productive environment for children and youth to spend their summer time, especially for those who come from unprivileged socio-economic backgrounds, conflict areas and war zones;
- To provide regular daily activities to 6,000+ children and youth from elementary, middle and high schools;
- To allow youth and children to spend their summer time in educational and recreational activities to prevent them from bad behaviors like street violence, drug abuse, smoking, etc.;
- Organize activities to encourage spiritual growth of children and volunteers alike;
- Arrange activities to develop a sense of trust, respect, understanding and empathy towards one another.



BENEFICIARIES

- Participants: around 6,000+ children and youth who will attend the summer camps at the different parishes in Palestine, Israel and Jordan. The camps will provide them with fun outdoor activities like hiking, swimming and sports and indoor educational, spiritual and pastoral activities.
- Families and parents: summer programs hours provide a variety of enrollment options for the children to meet the scheduling needs of today's working parents.
- Youth volunteer leaders: their engagement in meaningful community service helps them plan an active role in the development of their communities and societies. They gain experience, knowledge, values and life skills necessary for success in their careers, education and personal lives.
- LPJ parishes: the involvement of children and youth in the camps promotes the parishes' presence and importance in their local villages and communities.
- The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem that strives to provide the best for its people, and to allow the continuity of the LPJ biblical mission in serving its communities in the Holy Land.



ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED

Activities like arts and paintings, sport games, theatre, heater, Holy Bible teachings, religious tours to the holy places, football and basketball and dancing will be conducted in all the summer camps of the LP parishes. Participants will enjoy good time playing and having fun with their friends and colleagues. Final festivals will be held at the end of every summer camp to celebrate the success.

DURATION

Summer camps are usually held during summer vacations in the months of June - August, depending on each parish's decision, lasting usually from 2 weeks to one month.

SUCCESS STORIES

With the generous support and substantial contribution from the various donors, the Latin Patriarchate was able to support 41 parishes to conduct summer camps for the last two years 2017 and 2018.

Here is some of the successful feedback from the parishes:

Jaffa of Nazareth, Israel: Up to 60 children and 10 leaders from Jaffa of Nazareth and the nearby villages participated in the summer camp that was held in July 2017 and 2018. The children were divided into 6 different groups, each with a special slogan and goal. Activities like music, reading stories, playing games, creating handicrafts, learning new hymns, catechism and more were conducted during the summer camp. Everyone was happy with all the activities, trips and events that were held during the summer camp, including the kids, leaders, pastors and the parents. Positive feedback and constructive comments were given to the parish priest from the parents and the families of the children.



Gaza, Palestine: Four years after the Israeli war on Gaza, the political and socioeconomic situations there continues to deteriorate as a result of the combination of the several political and economic factors. Christians in Gaza consider the Church the only safe place where they can express themselves and feel safe. The Church, in turn, tries to create a welcoming environment for the Christian Gazans since they are now a very small minority inside a dominant Muslim majority. The risk of conversion to other religions or immigrating to other countries for better living and work opportunities is very high. More than 160 children aged from 4-14 years old together with more than 35 leader and volunteers participated in the summer activities that was held in July 2017 and 2018. The summer camp helped to strengthen the connections between the Christian Gazans youth and try to unite them to become one big loving family. It was a great chance for the children and the youth to have fun and participate in these activities especially during the hard time they go through in their daily lives.

Samkiyeh, Jordan: A one-month-summer-camp was held in the parish in 2017 and 2018, various kinds of indoor and outdoor activities were conducted.

Up to 80 children aged 5-12 years old and 27 youth leaders participated in it, they all have spent a very good time together in a Christian atmosphere. The camp was designed mainly to see the others in the eyes of Jesus; to love each other, to pardon and support each other and to help the children nurture and open their minds. Pastoral and spiritual retreats and lectures were held many times during the month of the camp. Dancing, drawing, singing, playing, swimming were all the main activities of the summer camp. It all helped in creating a new skilled generation that can serve themselves in their future lives and transfer leadership skills to younger generations.



They enjoyed a team spirit to serve the society and to ensure the Christian principles. Parents, volunteers and participants are all looking forward to another summer camp phase next year.

PROPOSED BUDGET

There is a need for summer programs that focus on spiritual, educational and recreational skills for the parishes serving low-income communities in impoverished areas as well as areas of conflict. Our children and youth need to be involved in programs that provide activities to support them throughout the summer break. The estimated contribution from the LPJ to each parish for the summer camps is as follows:

NO	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	COST PER LOCATION IN USD	TOTAL COST IN USD
1	Summer Camps in Israel	4 Parishes	4,000.00	16,000.00
2	Summer Camps in Palestine	12 Parishes	3,000.00	36,000.00
3	Summer Camps in Jordan	20 Parishes	3,000.00	60,000.00
Summer Camps in 36 different parishes across the Diocese				112,000.00

P.S: The cost for summer camps in Israel is high compared to other locations in Jordan and Palestine is due to the high costs of several governmental regulations imposed on the parishes when organizing children camps.

The project is open to partial funding and any amount of contribution will help in ensuring the continuation of the LPJ pastoral mission and the success of the summer camp programs throughout the Diocese.



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