

WE ARE ONE !!!
Youth Exchange and Pastoral Service for our Church, through friendship

NARRATIVE REPORT

*FIRST STEP

Summer 2019. Young people from the Holy Land hosted in 4 European Countries

*SECOND STEP

Winter 2019. Young people from 4 European Countries and young people from Holy Land meet in Holy Land

*FIRST STEP



ITALY

2 young people from the parish of Zababdeh hosted in Italy (25 July-5 August)

Dawoud Duaibes and Linda Duaibes were hosted by the National Presidency of Italian Catholic Action and by the Diocesan Presidency of Aversa (a city in Campania, a region in the South Italy, near Naples). They spent few days in Aversa with a day in Rome, being their first time in Italy, with a visit to the Capital of Italy, to St. Peter in Vatican City and to the historical headquarters of ICA in Via della Conciliazione.

Then they participated together with young people from many Italian dioceses at the National Youth Camp which took place in Castellammare di Stabia, from where they dedicated a day to the visit of Naples.

Diary of the days

<https://giovani.azionecattolica.it/una-melodia-piu-bella-diario-del-campo-castellammare-di-stabia-2019>



MALTA

2 young people from the parishes of Ramallah and Beit Jala hosted in Malta (20-30 July) Mirna j.e. Ballout and Dana Hanna Ibrahim el- Hasan were hosted at Zak House in Dingli where they participated together with hundred Maltese boys at Kamp Saif 2019 on the theme "Æffects focus on sustainability and care of our common home".



<https://church.mt/zak-summer-camp-2019-aeffect/?fbclid=IwAR2mQ4P5A4l19ee2TbG8j77xGHD5krBRBjzwj3ZztLzIRUoQviQ2W80exXA>

SPAIN

2 young people from the parishes of Nazareth and Jerusalem hosted in Spain (25 July - 5 August)

Serene Therese Karam and Boulos Paul Shammass were hosted by families in Cartagena. They shared the daily associative experience with them in Cartagena and after they participated all together with people from many Spanish dioceses at the National Meeting of Parish Laity in Avila from 1 to 4 August.



The two young people told their experience in an interview.

<https://youtu.be/NF0mzeMfleo>

ROMANIA

2 boys from the parish of Nazareth hosted in Romania (17-31 August)

Issa Nassar and Mirna Zaher were hosted in Cluj at their arrival, after they went to Iasi where they participated together with boys and girls from Italy, Malta and Spain at the last appointment of the Owls project (Opportunities+Willingness+Learning=Success). This project financed by Erasmus+, helps young people to meet and share experiences, challenges and successes from different countries and thus it enables them to learn from each other. And to grow with common values. The representatives from Holy Land told they daily experience. During a special day they visited Romania from Iasi to Cluj: a big country!

The theme of the meeting was "Given to us - sharing talents and dreams for Catholic Action. Youth contributing to Catholic Action networking".



The story in images in a video

https://youtu.be/Z2r_jsZ_kog

*SECOND STEP

When the proposal to host the two young people was presented, the availability to participate in the second stage was also requested to create a deep contact and friendship between the young people and the association of which they are for an exchange to give continuity even beyond the initiative.

This condition was accepted and at the end of November the young people who had met in Holy Land met in their countries, all together in Bethlehem and then in the families and parishes of Nazareth, Jerusalem and Beit Jala.

In Bethlehem for the organization we were able to count on the collaboration of Vincenzo Bellomo, who coordinates the social projects of the Custody of Holy Land and manages a small hospitality house where the participants lived this experience, fostering an atmosphere of family and sharing.

We organized this project in collaboration with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The Apostolic Vicar for Jerusalem and Palestine, Mgr. Giacinto Marcuzzo, followed the various moments and various problems of the preparation and Mgr. Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator has directly participated.

The program for the second step (*Enclosed*) began with the arrival in Bethlehem between Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 November in Dar Al Majus Guest House where in the evening the participants met from the 4 countries and from various villages and parishes of Holy Land. For the Welcome was requested the preparation of a short presentation of the reality of Holy Land and of the country and church of the participants who presented themselves (where and who we are) during a typical dinner on the terrace of the house overlooking Bethlehem.



FRIDAY Nov. 29

The day began with the Holy Mass at the Grotto of the Nativity. Then the transfer to the Latin Patriarchate Seminary in Beit Jala for the meeting with Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa about the Synod on young people and the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*: What does the word of God have to say about young people? And what do the young people have to say to the Church (Chapter 2)



The Archbishop told about his experience at the Synod in Rome. A dialogue about the Synod and Christians in Holy Land followed with many questions. The rector of the Seminary, Br. Yacoub Rafidi, welcomed the participants who had lunch with the Seminarians.

After lunch they return to Bethlehem at University College Dar Al Kalima to participate in the KAIROS Conference, in the 10 anniversary of Kairos, a Palestinian Document to show how the Christian live in Holy Land that means Palestine and Israel, what is the real situation and what is the contribution of Christian for justice and peace.

They had dinner in the parish of Beit Sahour with the young people of the parish.

SATURDAY Nov. 30

On Saturday morning pilgrimage to Jerusalem, leaving Bethlehem very early. Holy Mass at the Holy Sepulchre, breakfast in the parish of St. Saviour prepared by the parish priest and the young people of the parish then meeting at the Terra Sancta Museum with an exceptional guide, the archaeologist Br. Eugenio Alliata, director of the Museum.

Guided by the young people of Jerusalem the group visited the holy places and walked praying along the Via Dolorosa. They came back to Bethlehem to participate in the solemn First Vespers of the first Sunday of Advent in the parish of St. Catherine.



After Vespers work session on young people in the Church, stressing the importance of the associative commitment in the various countries through Catholic Action. In the Holy Land Young people are very active and gather in the association Youth of Jesus's Homeland Palestine YJHP.

At 7 p.m. they participated in an special event that each year involves all the people in Bethlehem, Christians and Muslims: the lighting of the Christmas Tree in the Manger Square, in front of the Basilica and the Town Hall: very exciting!

After the feast in the square, the international dinner on the terrace of Dar Al Majus with typical products of the various countries.

SUNDAY DEC 01

In the morning final session all together, then they participated in the solemn Holy Mass – First Advent Sunday - presided over by the Custos of the Holy Land, Br Francesco Patton, with the entire Christian community of Bethlehem.

After the Holy Mass greetings and departures especially for the participants who continued on to Nazareth from Spain and Romania. For the others participants, departures either to their own country or to Jerusalem, to continue the pilgrimage before leaving on Monday or on Tuesday.



The logistical part of the pilgrimage was very demanding for the first and especially for the second step, in particular to define the flights, the reception and the preparation of the program.

During the second step the Palestinian young people used some materials already translated in arabic. In the IFCA official website you can find a section Arabic, thanks to an IFCA friend from Irak that collaborates in Rome. <http://www.catholicactionforum.org/arabic-documents/>

We know that many of the participants came to Holy Land from the four countries for the first time and we organized the meeting also as a short pilgrimage, it was more significant because the young people from Holy Land participated actively as guides, representatives of the local Christian community. We can define them, the "living stones" of Holy Land that over the centuries has guarded and still guard the holy places today. The participation in ordinary moments in the life of the Christian community in Bethlehem has enabled this awareness and

enriched the experience and the young people of Holy Land discovered the joy of sharing this richness.

TOGETHER IS BETTER

WE ARE ONE!

1st Step in Summer 2nd Step 28.11 - 1.12 2019

FIACI
FICA

IFCA YOUTH COORDINATION

المجلس الوطني للشباب في فلسطين
Youth of Jesus's Homeland Palestine LPJ

Pope Francis

“Friendship is one of life's gifts and a grace from God. Through our friends, the Lord refines us and leads us to maturity. Faithful friends, who stand at our side in times of difficulty, are also a reflection of the Lord's love, his gentle and consoling presence in our lives.”

Christus Vivit, 151

”الصدقة هي إحدى عطايا الحياة وهبة من الله. فإله ينقينا ويقودنا إلى النضج من خلال أصدقائنا. والأصدقاء المخلصون، الذين يقفون إلى جانبنا في أوقات الشدة، هم أيضاً انعكاس لمودة الرب، وعرائه، وحضوره اللطيف.”

المسيح يحيا، 151