



Laudato Si'
Special Anniversary Year
2020-2021

SEASON OF CREATION
1.09 - 4.10.2020
Jubilee of the Earth

World Day of Prayer for
the Care of Creation
1st September

THE COURAGE TO CHANGE TO EMERGE FROM THIS PANDEMIC BETTER PRAYER | REFLECTION | EXPERIENCES

Friday, 4 of September 2020 - online for 1h

Peace from Jerusalem to Beirut

An Initiative of the Youth of Jesus' Homeland to the Youth of Lebanon

• Fr. Bashar Fawadleh

General Assistant YJHP (Youth of Jesus Homeland Palestine)

In response to the call of Apostolic Administrator of The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem "LPJ" on August 5th 2020, the General Secretariat of the Christian Youth of Palestine "The Youth of Jesus' Homeland" held a meeting to discuss the best possible manner to help the youth of Palestine to participate in alleviating the suffering of the people of Lebanon in the midst of their tragic circumstances.

As a result of the meeting, we came up with an idea for a spiritual initiative that can bring back people's trust in God during this difficult time helping to support financially Lebanon. The tragedy of the deadly explosion last month at the port of Beirut is a dark and pervasive travesty which led to the detonation of 2,750 tons of explosive ammonium nitrate. The tragedy has brought unrest to an already tragic situation which includes political unrest and a financial downfall. In such situations, prayer is the strongest weapon that we have and faith can make miracles happen.

Through the initiative which we named "in hope, we win" we worked with local Christian artisans in Palestine to create 6,200 custom made olive wood rosaries. The cross of the rosary bears an image of an olive tree on one side with the inscription (Al-Quds) and on the other side, an image of the majestic Cedar tree which is so emblematic of Lebanon, with the inscription (Beirut). The cross bearing both images illustrates the idea behind our initiative: in the midst of the tragedy, Jerusalem shares the same cross with its sister Beirut. In the solidarity of the two peoples under God, hope is restored and "in hope, we win". This image reminds us of the necessity of love in the attainment of peace.

In this manner, the initiative has gone to provide support to all those who participate. It supports local artisans who are suffering because of a lack of tourism in Bethlehem area due to the Corona Virus closures. Over 15 Palestinian families have been included in this initiative, by making the rosaries. It also supports the suffering people of Lebanon by raising funds for the massive rebuilding

project. It encourages everyone to pray during these difficult times and lastly it empowers the youth to take initiative despite their own modest means. Every Christian can hold the rosary and pray, asking for the divine assistance through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God. May she continue to help us as followers of her divine Son, to remain standing at the foot of the cross (ref. Jn. 19:25) with our brothers and sisters who are suffering.

Included with the rosaries is a special prayer for Lebanon written by the youth of Palestine. They continued participating in the effort over the entire territory by distributing and selling them after mass at the parishes in Palestine and the Galilee Region. Through people of good will, the rosaries have also been purchased and shipped to the Gulf States, Spain, the United States and Canada. Each rosary is sold for a modest amount, just 10 NIS (2.50 euro). Much like the widow's offering, we ask people to offer as much as they can give; they give with hearts filled with love and in solidarity with their suffering brothers and sisters.

We would like to expand this initiative throughout the whole world so we can join together in one prayer lifting up those most in need and restoring the hope which can only come through Jesus Christ.