



FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION

FOR THE HOLY LAND

DALLAS FUNDRAISING DINNER RAISES MUCH-NEEDED SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

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Visit us at: WWW.FFHL.ORG



▲ (left to right) Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land Benefit Dinner Co-Chairs Nick and Julie Summerville, Rev. Frank J. Dewane, D.D. (middle) and dinner Co-Chairs Terry and Ed Lynch



▲ Susan Stanzel (left), dinner Honorary Chair and Denise Scalzo, OFS (right), FFHL Vice-President.



▲ Rev. Frank J. Dewane, D.D. (left) presenting the "Guardian of the Holy Land" award to Richard D. Kelly (right)

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land Benefit Dinner was held on September 12, 2020 at the Dallas Country Club. The black-tie optional dinner was attended by 160 guests who all observed social distancing protocols mandated by local and state authorities. Only 50 percent capacity of the ballroom was allowed.

Honored Guests included the Most Rev. Edward J. Burns, Bishop of Dallas, the Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, D.D., Bishop of Venice, FL, Rev. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., EWTN International Host, Rev. Peter F. Vasko, OFM, and Dr. Thomas S. Hibbs, President, University of Dallas.

Honorary Dinner Chairs, Tom and Susan Stanzel and Dinner Co-Chairs, Nick and Julie Summerville and Ed and Terry Lynch were joined by Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Mr. Kenneth Reisor and the Host Committee.

The Patron Reception was attended by 75 guests prior to the dinner and featured the Versa String Quartet, champagne, wine and hors d'oeuvres and complimentary photos with the two attending bishops. The Texas Catholic newspaper photographer took pictures of the bishops, the dinner chairs, awardees and publicity chair and featured four photos with appropriate captions in the September 18, 2020 edition of The Texas Catholic.

The dinner invocation was given by Bishop Edward J. Burns followed by a video "Message from Fr. Peter in the Holy Land," who could not be present due to Covid-19 restrictions. "Building the Future", an excellent six-minute video produced by Denise Scalzo, Vice-President FFHL, showcased many of the FFHL programs in the Holy Land while identifying the local sponsors of the University Scholarships. She then presented awards to the Honorary Dinner Chairs, the Dinner Co-Chairs and was joined by Bishop

(Continue on page 2)

OUR MISSION

The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land is a worldwide organization founded in 1994 under the auspices of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. The Foundation was created to strengthen and support Christianity in the Holy Land through the preservation of holy Christian sites and the support of the basic human rights and continued presence of the Christian minority living in the Holy Land.

LETTER FROM THE CUSTOS

Fr. Francesco Patton, OFM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This joyous season, may we remember we are continually being made anew by God's love and saving grace. As we experience His great mercy, let us in turn, demonstrate selfless compassion to others. In a year of worldwide economic hardship, many of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ have suffered greatly. As Christians, we are called to open our eyes, our hearts and our hands to confront the needs of others and do what we can to ease their burdens. You have done just that. You have not wearied in doing good.

We, the Franciscans of the Holy Land, thank you for answering the cry of the needy. It is because of your generosity we are able to continue providing critical resources such as food, basic necessities, and relief to those facing the worst impact from this virus.

In observance of Christ's resurrection, let us remember the greatest sacrifice our Savior made for us on the cross. Rejoice and be thankful for the countless blessings He has given us. Please remember to offer your thoughts and prayers to our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. As a united force, we collectively have the power to create change.

I remain a servant of God and yours, in the Spirit of St. Francis,



Fr. Francesco Patton, OFM

*Chairman of FFHL.org
Custos of the Holy Land*



(Continued from Pg 1: Dallas Fundraising Dinner Raises Much-Needed Support During Covid-1)

Dewane to present the prestigious "Guardian of the Holy Land" Award to Richard D. Kelly. Also due to Covid-19, Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., our Keynote Speaker, could not attend but sent an outstanding video, "Maintaining the Past to Understand the Present and Prepare for the Future." Renowned harpist Juliette Buchanan played throughout the dinner. Bishop Frank Dewane, D.D. gave the closing Benediction.



▲ (left to right) Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas with Honorary Chairs Tom and Susan Stanzel and Rev. Frank J. Dewane, D.D.

All attendees received a gift from the Holy Land provided by Fr. Peter, a pewter card holder with the Jerusalem Cross and the words "Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land" embossed on the base displaying a gold edged holy card of the Resurrection with pressed flowers from Jerusalem. The beautiful flower arrangements at each table were given to the person whose birthday was closest to October 4, the birthday of St. Francis of Assisi.

In addition, the Catholic Foundation, with the approval of Fr. Peter, produced a brochure advertising the Holy Land University Scholarship Fund, established in 2010 by the FFHL Board of Trustees, at the Catholic Foundation. The brochure was placed at each attendee's place under the FFHL brochure and the Facts at a Glance. You can read the Catholic Foundation's story featured on page four of this newsletter. ■

We would like to especially recognize Deacon Ken Reisor for organizing his 8th pilgrimage in January 2020 taking 37 pilgrims.

**By Susan Stanzel,
FFHL Board Member Emeritus**

Franciscan Foundation's College Endowments

As we all know, one of the most important programs in FFHL's mission of maintaining the Christian presence in the Holy Land has been through education, particularly higher education, by providing a college degree for any Christian who wishes to do so. The criteria for receiving such a grant, though, is that the student must maintain a B average in high school and that their family is unable to pay school tuition due to economic concerns.

Over the years, many FFHL supporters took up the task of sponsoring a young man or woman for college by paying a yearly tuition of \$6,000 a year for four years. Recently, Mr. Richard Kelly of Texas established an educational endowment fund with The Catholic Foundation in Dallas to sponsor one Christian student per year in perpetuity. This endowment is being called The Candyce Tara Eoff Memorial Scholarship Fund. Ms. Eoff sadly passed away a few months ago and her close and dear friend Mr. Kelly wanted to establish a fitting and permanent memorial for her.

(Continue on page 3)



▲ FFHL supports Christian youth through the generosity of donors and awards 4-year scholarships to help strengthen the foundation of Christianity through education in the Holy Land.

Needless to say, we are most grateful for such magnanimity.

Over the years there has also been other individuals who have provided major financial support in sponsoring dozens and dozens of our Christian students in receiving a university degree similar to the recent endowment, namely William Kiefer and the Matejek Family Foundation both of Texas and to which we are most appreciative.

Needless to say, FFHL is very grateful for all the individual sponsors of our students from across this great country of America especially from the many pilgrims whom I have had the honor of guiding. So far we have given over 600 college scholarship grants and I say thank you for your support.

In conclusion, it's important to remember that with these college scholarships we are not only providing them the needed motivation and incentives to remain in the Holy Land but more importantly providing hope for their future. If any of our readers are interested in taking part in this important mission or would even like to sponsor another student, please email us at info@ffhl.org. ■

By Fr. Peter F. Vasko, OFM



Help us to continue leading Christian youth to a new future in their homeland so they can **deepen their roots, develop local resources, and professional capacities** without having to migrate away from their birthplace. Through your support and participation in the life of the Holy Land, you are helping to change lives, one at a time. Your generosity helps lead young Christians to choose wisely for their futures and their families.

Visit [FFHL.org/programs/educational-programs/university-scholarships/](https://ffhl.org/programs/educational-programs/university-scholarships/)

STUDENT LETTER

I would like to thank you from my heart for the great opportunity that you gave me with the scholarship. It will build my future and let my dreams come true. Words alone can't express my gratitude for your generous support and help. Without this scholarship, I wouldn't be able to register this year in the university. I was desperate because my family couldn't afford my education. My brother is in the university studying at UNO college to be a lawyer and my sister is studying in the university in Arabic language pursuing her dream to be a teacher. My parents have worked hard all of their lives to build for us a good future. My oldest sister studied accounting and is married with a wonderful five-month-old son named Lucas. My Mother's dream to see us all well-educated like my sister. She instilled in us a strong ambition to fight in this life to be educated, independent people. My father works hard to keep us living in a good situation and tries his best to provide for all our needs. With your support, you are giving me the once-in-a-lifetime chance to continue my learning so I can live my life to its fullest and to build my future. I am so happy that I will continue my learning at the university thanks to your generosity to me and also to my family. ■



**Best,
Issa Dagbaj**

The Gift of an Education Transforms Lives



The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land exists to provide critical life-sustaining opportunities to Christians in the Holy Land. One of the pillars of the Foundation's mission is to support access to higher education for young people. By awarding four-year university scholarships to deserving young Christian scholars in the Holy Land, this investment ultimately leads to economic advancement and stability. Many of these scholars now have the ability to remain in the Holy Land as their future is more promising.

"God sent my family and me a blessing that will forever change my life for the better. I am thankful to my sponsor. As a result of the education I received from the scholarship, not only will I improve my own life but also the life of my children, the next generations. I will do my best to give back to the local Christian community what I received from this education."

- Carine Koussa, Former Scholarship Recipient

Without the assistance from generous scholarship donors, many deserving young scholars like Carine would have limited ability to earn a marketable university degree and obtain a secure job. Thanks to the many donations from individuals and churches, our university scholarship program has grown to over \$6 million invested in both university scholarships and special education grants. Since its beginning, FFHL has been able to provide four-year university scholarships to more than 573 economically-marginalized students with strong academic promise. In 2020, 39 students received four-year scholarships and the need is even greater this year. If you or your church family would like to invest in the lives of promising young Christians, please consider supporting our scholarship fund by visiting <https://ffhl.org/programs/educational-programs/university-scholarships/>. ■

FFHL.org Dedicates New Chapel for the Franciscan Boys' Home



In the beginning of 2021, a new chapel and altar was dedicated by the Chairman of FFHL, Fr. Francesco Patton, OFM for the Franciscan Boys' Home in Bethlehem. In attendance was Fr. Sandro Tomasevic, OFM, the new Director of FBH, Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, OFM, Superintendent of Terra Santa schools and Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, President of FFHL.

A beautiful painted mural depicting the Holy Land was the backdrop of the Chapel, with images of St. Francis and the Child Jesus. A good number of the boys living at the Center were present along with members of the staff for the Home. In his homily, Fr. Francesco briefly shared the importance of young people in the Church, and how the depiction of the Child Jesus on the mural reminds us how precious children are to the Lord. They are simple, innocent and loving virtues that we should all have.

A festive luncheon took place following the mass, celebrating the dedication of the new chapel. Later, Fr. Sandro thanked both the Chairman and President of FFHL for the great support they have given the Franciscan Boys' Home over many years. ■



▲ **Top Photo:** Dessert after luncheon (left to right) Fr. Rami Asakrieh, Pastor of Church of the Nativity, Fr. Francesco, Fr. Peter and Fr. Ibrahim along with the resident boys
Bottom Photo: Mass in the New Chapel (left to right) Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, Fr. Ibrahim Faltas, OFM Superintendent of T.S. Schools, Fr. Francesco Patton, OFM Chairman FFHL, and Fr. Sandro Tomasevic, OFM New Director of Franciscan Boys' Home

Pilgrims Celebrating Lenten Season Holy Land Pilgrimage

More than forty donors from Dallas' *The Catholic Foundation* and three priests participated in a memorable Lenten season Holy Land pilgrimage just before the widespread outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The timing of our pilgrimage was blessed as we were able to deepen bonds of friendship and celebrate life changing moments together," said Matt Kramer, President and CEO of The Catholic Foundation, noting that all the pilgrims remained healthy during the trip and upon return.

Since their return, the group has regularly gathered virtually to pray the Rosary together using video conferencing technology.

Led by Father Peter Vasko, OFM, President of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land, the Franciscan pilgrims enjoyed many spiritual encounters at historic locations including Mt. Carmel in Haifa, Mt. Tabor, Capernaum, Church of The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, room of the Last Supper.

During visits to various churches, Mass was celebrated by Father Peter who lives in the Holy Land as well as Abbot Peter Verhalen of the Cistercian Abbey and Father Edwin Leonard of the Diocese of Dallas. In addition, several homilies were offered by Deacon Joe Coleman also of Dallas. ■

The Catholic Foundation (Summer 2020, Volume XXXIV, Issue 2) Donors Celebrate Lenten Season Holy Land Pilgrimage. The Good Word. Retrieved from <https://www.catholicfoundation.com/Portals/0/CF173%20Summer%202020%20The%20Good%20Word%20Final.pdf?ver=2020-09-17-133905-367>



▲ **Top Photo:** Catholic Foundation Holy Land pilgrims at the statue of St. Peter in Capernaum. **Bottom Photo:** Catholic Foundation pilgrims lighting prayer candles at Calvary.

Palm Sunday In The Holy Land

Jesus' triumphant return to Jerusalem on what was to be known as Palm Sunday was on the back of a lowly donkey. He "came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus's entry into Jerusalem on a donkey fulfilled an important prophecy: "Behold, your King comes to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Matthew 21:4-5). He was welcomed by throngs of followers who laid palms down in his path and shouted, "Hosanna to the son of David!"

In remembrance of Jesus' return to Jerusalem days before his crucifixion, Christians from around the world have historically traveled to Jerusalem. Although the procession of waving palms and singing has been consistently celebrated for the last 87 years, the Holy Land will welcome fewer pilgrimages this year during Holy Week as the Pandemic continues to impact travelers.

The next Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land pilgrimage will take place in Spring 2022 (March 20-30). Join fellow Christians as you walk in the steps of our Lord and Savior, visit historical Holy Sites and envelop yourself in the strong presence of His Spirit. Previous FFHL pilgrims describe the experience as "the Gospel stories brought to life" and "truly a gift from God." Pilgrims on this tour will get a chance to see the places where Saint Peter preached and the prophets Elijah lived. In Galilee, you can pray where Jesus performed his first miracle turning water into wine. You will also enjoy exploring Jerusalem where you can visit the Mount of Olives, walk along Palm Sunday Road and enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. These are only a few of the life-changing moments you will experience during...

(Continue on page 6)



▲ FFHL.org Photo Archives 2015: Palm Sunday in the Holy Land (Church of the Holy Sepulchre)

your visit to the Holy Land with FFHL. Needless to say, all of this depends on the prevailing circumstances in regard to the pandemic. If you would like more information or want to reserve your spot today, please email us at info@ffhl.org, call 855.500.3345 or visit our website at www.FFHL.org for more details. ■

An Interview with Father Peter F. Vasko



The National Catholic Register conducted an interview with Father Peter Vasko, OFM, President of FFHL, on how the Franciscans are guarding and preserving the Holy Sites. Sharing a brief history of how the Franciscans became custodians of the Holy Land, Father Peter's message broadly focused on the important history of Holy Land as well on some current events. Having lived in Jerusalem for over 37 years, Father Peter possesses a unique insight of the most visited places in the Holy Land.

Interestingly, with the political divide between Palestinians Muslims and Jews, the coronavirus pandemic has brought an element of unity between

these parties. When the Palestinian Health Ministry asked for Israeli virus testing assistance, the Israeli Health Ministry immediately responded. Now the Palestinians and the Israeli have set up a joint "operations room" to combat the virus and are holding training sessions for Palestinian and Israeli medical professionals to coordinate efforts to stem the spread of the virus. As regards the Christians: they receive medical assistance from both entities depending on their place of residence.

The interview also talked about the diversity of religion in the Holy Land and the misconception that all Palestinians are Arab or Muslim. Quite the contrary, the Middle East is comprised of a host of religions including non-Muslims and Christians with roots pre-dating the rise of 7th Century Islam. Currently, there are 245 Franciscan friars of the Custody of the Holy Land in Israel/Palestine. The remaining 45 are dispersed in five other middle east countries. There are eight communities of religious nuns, numbering 116 in all, including the Franciscan Poor Clares. Father Peter emphasized the historical importance of the Holy Land as the birthplace of Christianity and the place where the most significant events of Christ's life took place – His birth, death, resurrection and ascension.

The ongoing crisis of the exodus of young Christians from the Holy Land remains prevalent. Church officials state that if nothing is done to stem this exodus, Christianity could disappear within the next 50 years. If that should happen, we will be left with empty religious monuments and museums and no living worshipping community. In response to this crisis, the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land was created in 1994 to offer educational opportunities for Christians in the Holy Land to attend a local university or college. For the 600+ students that have received this aid, 85% have been able to secure professional employment and are now able to remain in the Holy Land.

View this interview on [National Catholic Register's Website](https://www.ncregister.com). ■

Leave a Lasting Legacy



One of the most meaningful gifts is one that impacts others beyond our lifetime. Recently, the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land announced the creation of the Good Shepherd Society, which is made up of a special group of donors who have made a planned gift. As a gesture of gratitude for all the good fortune in their lifetime, these legacy donors want to benefit the struggling Christian men, women and children trying to remain in the Holy Land. Many make these planned gifts in recognition that we have been blessed by our life circumstances such as access to excellent healthcare, education, freedom of expression and freedom of religion, and have enjoyed peace and security.

As God chose this life for us, we need to be faithful stewards of these bountiful gifts and use them to further His plan for His Kingdom. The Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land would be very grateful if you chose to...

(Continue on page 7)

invest in our mission. There are a number of ways you can join the Good Shepherd Society through a gift of stocks and bonds, retirement assets, real estate, insurance and more. Some charitable vehicles even benefit you during your lifetime. Please visit ffhllegacy.org to see which charitable gift strategy is right for you or give us a call at 855-500-3345, or email at info@FFHL.org. We are so grateful for your support and would love to hear from you. ■



What's Happening in Holy Land



▲ Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM, FFHL President, takes us through the empty streets of Jerusalem, showing the effects the pandemic has had on Jerusalem's local merchants and its tourist economy.

A DAY IN JERUSALEM

For the first time in 1,600 years, there are no pilgrims in Jerusalem. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread throughout the world, the Holy Land is greatly affected, especially Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Nazareth –the locations for many of the cherished Holy Sites. Tourism is one of the leading industries of the Holy Land and it has suffered a steep decline, with travel restrictions affecting the ability of pilgrims to travel in and out of the country. Sadly, there are

no longer hundreds of thousands of pilgrims lining the streets to visit the Holy Sites. The lack of tourism is causing unprecedented unemployment and economic challenges. The streets of Jerusalem are quiet and desolate. Local shops have closed their doors permanently, and many other store owners are struggling just to make ends meet.

As coronavirus cases rise, restrictions also rise in the Holy Land. The West Bank of Jerusalem is temporarily closed, and there is talk of implementing additional evening curfews. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre has limited daytime visiting hours and is closed on the weekends. A handful of local Christians are the only current visitors to most of the Holy Sites.

Many Christians are suffering under the weight of this pandemic, and it is devastating to see so many empty Holy Sites. We covet your prayers and support in this extremely challenging time. Currently, some of our Christian brothers and sisters, including the elderly, don't even know where their next meal will come from. May we open our hearts and hands to bless others, just as the Lord has poured countless blessings over us, and may the Lord continue to bless you. View Father Peter's video: [A Day in Jerusalem on our YouTube channel \(Subscribe at FFHL video\)](#).

Want more? [Watch our video series on Youtube - Walk With Father Peter.](#) ■

Marines Visit Holy Sites with Fr. Peter

During the pandemic Fr. Peter, who has been the Acting Chaplain for the Marine Security Guard at the US Embassy in Jerusalem was able to take the Marines on several short pilgrimages. Pictured are photos from St. Peter's Church in Capernaum, the Church of Tabgha, where Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection in Galilee, and the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth. Fr. Peter was made an Honorary Marine by then Commandant Conway in December 2008 at the Pentagon where forty Marines were present for the ceremony for his untiring efforts in supporting the Marine Detachment in Jerusalem since 1988. ■





2020

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Through your generosity, FFHL is holding the doors of educational opportunity open for the Christian community in the Holy Land.

Help extend an olive branch for:

- » Masters and Bachelors Equivalent
- » Associates Equivalent
- » Vocational Programs
- » Technical Programs
- » Continued Education

THE PROGRAM

Since 1997 FFHL has given full, 4-year university scholarships to over 573 students who were economically marginalized but had strong academic talent. With specific guidelines to protect your investment, the scholarship program pays for 4 years of college tuition and books.

THE GOAL

This program provides academic scholarships to talented but underprivileged Christian students with high initiative and a desire to remain in the Holy Land, thus giving them the necessary skills for successful employment and stability needed to thrive.

We thank all of our sponsors for their continued dedication to these students. Learn about how you can become a sponsor today!



“Education will be the key in keeping our young people in the Holy land.” –Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

Preserving **THE LIVING STONES** OF
CHRISTIANITY IN THE Holy Land

LEARN MORE

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2020

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS

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UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS B.A



Laith Hanna Abusada- Laith resides in Beit Sahour, a suburb of Bethlehem with his parents and three younger siblings. Laith will be attending Birzeit University in Ramallah and majoring in Engineering. **His sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. John R. Landon of Dallas, Texas.**



Maria Jiries Asmar- Maria resides in Jerusalem with her parents and one younger sibling. Maria will be attending Shenkar College of Engineering and Design in Tel Aviv and majoring in Environmental Design. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Basel Awwad- Basel resides in Jerusalem with his parents and two younger siblings. Basel will be majoring in Engineering at Hebrew University. **His sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Michael Terry of Dallas, Texas.**



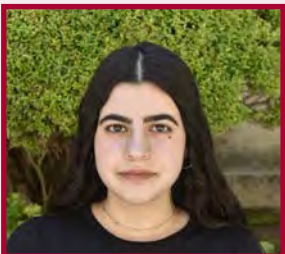
Berta Simon Awwad- Berta resides in Bethlehem with her parents and one younger sibling. She will be majoring in Physical Therapy at Bethlehem University. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Milad Raed Bannoura- Milad resides in Jerusalem with his parents and one younger sibling. He will be attending Azrieli College in Ain Karem and majoring in Electrical Engineering. **His sponsor is the Diocese of Venice, Florida.**



Loreen Sami Bazazo- Loreen resides in Jerusalem with her parents and one younger sibling. She will be majoring in Nursing at Hadassah University in Ain Karem. **Her sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Selim Ayoub of Longwood, Florida.**



Nataly Jiries Boutros- Nataly resides with her parents and one younger sibling in Jerusalem. She will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Pharmacy. **Her sponsor is Mrs. Lisa Ryan of Dallas, Texas.**



Antoinette I. Carmi- Antoinette resides in Jerusalem with her parents and one younger sibling. She will be attending Ono Academic College in Tel Aviv and majoring in Law. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Yacoub Mazen Carmi- Yacoub resides in Jerusalem with his parents and two younger siblings. He will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Engineering. **His sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. William Sladek of Dallas, Texas.**



Issa Anton Dagbaj- Issa resides with his parents and three younger siblings in Jerusalem. Issa will be majoring in Business Administration at Netanya Academic College in Netanya. **His sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Bustamante of Dallas, Texas.**



Mariam Bassam Ghazaleh- Mariam resides in Jerusalem and lives with her parents and one younger sibling. She will be attending Bezalel Academy and majoring in Art. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Ramzi P. Hanna- Ramzi resides in Jerusalem with his parents. He will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Computer Science. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



Simon Yousef Herro- Simon resides in Jerusalem with his parents and two younger siblings. He will be attending Hadassa College and majoring in Nursing. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



George Ramzi Jabrieh- George resides with his parents and one younger sibling in Bethlehem. He will be majoring in Medicine at Al-Najah University in Nablus. **His sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. G. Marc Lyons of Dallas, Texas.**



Kelopetra G. Kajjo- Kelopetra resides in Jerusalem with her parents and three younger siblings. She will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Computer Science. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



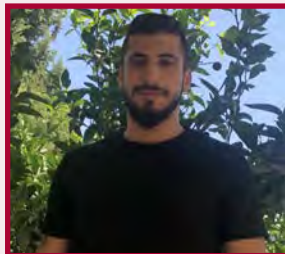
Petro C. Kattan- Petro resides in Bethlehem with his parents and two siblings. He will be attending Al-Quds Bard College in Jerusalem and majoring in Genetic-Science. **His sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Michael Marz of Dallas, Texas.**



Maria S. Kandalaft- Maria resides in Jerusalem with her parents and two younger siblings. She will be attending Birzeit University and majoring in Law. **Her sponsor is Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Tallahassee, Florida.**



Zeina Wassim Khader- Zeina resides in Jerusalem with her parents and three younger siblings. She will be attending Al Quds University in Jerusalem and will be majoring in Medicine. **Her sponsor is St. Hyacinth Catholic Church in Amarillo, Texas.**



Shady Issa Mansour- Shady resides in Nazareth with his parents and one younger sibling. He will be attending Orto Praude University in Haifa and majoring in Business Administration. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



Maya Moris Nasrawi- Maya resides in Jerusalem with her parents and one younger sibling. She will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Law. **Her sponsor is the Diocese of Venice, Florida.**



2020

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS

FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS/EDUCATIONAL-PROGRAMS/UNIVERSITY-SCHOLARSHIPS/

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS B.A



Tianna S. Nehme- Tianna resides in Jerusalem with her parents and two siblings. She will be attending Arab American University and majoring in Pharmacy. **Her sponsor is the Marrone and Maun Group group from Venice, Florida.**



Shukry Nabil Nemeh- Shukry resides in Jerusalem with his parents and three younger siblings. Shukry will be attending Hebrew University and majoring in Accounting. **His sponsor is Mr. Nick Degel of Orlando, Florida.**



Nara Rantisi- Nara resides in Ramallah, a suburb of Jerusalem, with her parents and two younger siblings. She will be attending Birzeit University and majoring in Law. **Her sponsor is Dr. and Mrs. Javier Ortiz-Sanchez of Dallas, Texas.**



Ameer Victor Saadeh- Ameer resides in Jerusalem with his parents and one younger sibling. He will be attending Hebrew University and pursuing a degree in Nursing. **His sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Selim Ayoub in Longwood, Florida.**



Joanna Rimón Salameh- Joanna resides in Bethlehem with her parents and one younger sibling. Joanna will be majoring in Chemistry at Bethlehem University. **Her sponsor is Mrs. Leila A. Garies of Downey, California.**



Lour William Salman- Lour resides with her parents and three younger siblings in Bethlehem. She will be attending Bethlehem University and majoring in Hospitality Industry. **Her sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Craig Yallaly of Mattoon, Illinois.**



Marian Anton Shaer- Marian resides in Jerusalem with her parents. She will be attending Ono University and majoring in Education. **Her sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Michael Terry of Dallas, Texas.**



Wadi Habib Sleibi- Wadi resides in Bethlehem with his parents and one younger sibling. He will be attending Al-Quds University in Jerusalem and majoring in Medicine. **His sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Max Wernick of Dallas, Texas.**



Zein Anton Sleiby- Zein resides in Bethlehem with her parents and three younger siblings. She will be attending Bethlehem University and majoring in Engineering. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Taleen S. Shaheen- Taleen resides in Bethlehem with her parents and one younger sibling. She will be attending Bethlehem University and majoring in Education. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Clarita Hani Tabri- Clarita resides in Jerusalem with her parents and three younger siblings. Clarita will be majoring in Veterinary Medicine at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. **Her sponsor is Mr. William Keifer of Amarillo, Texas.**



Andrea Tafesh- Andrea resides in Bethlehem with his parents and will be majoring in Software Engineering at Bethlehem University. **His sponsor is Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bangs of Dallas, Texas.**



Alaa Ehab Tannous- Alaa resides in Jerusalem with his parents and two younger brothers. He is planning to attend Birzeit University in Ramallah to study his B.A in Arts. **His sponsor is Robert Matejek Family Foundation in Dallas, Texas.**



Andreh Simon Tams- Andreh resides in Jerusalem with his parents and one younger sibling. He will be attending Azrieli College and studying the field of Engineering. **His sponsor is FFHL.**

GRADUATE STUDENTS M.A.



Jeries Saba Thalgieh- Jeries resides in Bethlehem with his parents and three younger siblings. He will be attending Bethlehem University and majoring in Art. **His sponsor is FFHL.**



Issa Bassem Ziadeh- Issa resides in Jerusalem with his parents. He will be majoring in Environmental Sciences at the Rothbert International School at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. **His sponsor is Mr. William Keifer of Amarillo, Texas.**



Coreen Bassam Zablah- Coreen resides in Bethlehem with her parents and one younger sibling. Coreen will be majoring in Nursing at Bethlehem University. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Mariana Jihad Lama- Mariana resides in Bethlehem. She finished her B.A. in Business Administration at Bethlehem University in June 2017. She is now planning to secure her M.A. in Business Administration at Birzeit University in Jerusalem. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



Niveen Ibrahim Massad- Niveen resides in Ramallah. She completed her B.A. in Science in June 2003 at Birzeit University. She is now planning to secure her M.A. at Birzeit University in the field of Educational Administration. **Her sponsor is FFHL.**



2020

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDS

FFHL.ORG/PROGRAMS/EDUCATIONAL-PROGRAMS/UNIVERSITY-SCHOLARSHIPS/

**THE AVERAGE YEARLY
COST TO ATTEND COLLEGE IN
THE HOLY LAND IS \$6,000,
COMPARED TO \$34,000 IN
THE UNITED STATES.**

(2018 STATISTIC)

IN THE 1950'S, INDIGENOUS CHRISTIANS
REPRESENTED 25% OF THE POPULATION.

**TODAY, CHRISTIANS ACCOUNT
FOR LESS THAN 2% OF THE
HOLY LAND POPULATION.**



**WE BELIEVE THAT OUR UNIVERSITY
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS THE
CORNERSTONE OF THE SOLUTION.**

MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

- ⊕ Business Admin
- ⊕ Law
- ⊕ Engineering
- ⊕ Medicine
- ⊕ Accounting
- ⊕ Pharmacy



CONGRATULATIONS!

Thanks to our loyal sponsors and generous community, FFHL awarded 39 University scholarships in 2020. We are proud of our students and their dedication to building a future locally, and helping preserve Christianity in the Holy Land.

39
AWARDED
SCHOLARSHIPS

37
UNDERGRAD/
B.A.

2
GRADUATE/
M.A.

24
FAMILY/GROUP
SPONSORED

16
FFHL FUND
SPONSORED

THE PROBLEM

Due to severe political and economic hardships, an estimated 300 Christian families leave the Holy Land each year. This steady emigration suggests that one day the Christian community and church may cease to exist in this part of the world. As the Christian population struggles to thrive, oftentimes survive, FFHL uses every available resource to connect Christians with jobs, education, housing, and other opportunities.

THE SOLUTION

One of the pillars of FFHL's mission is to support access to education for young people. Without the assistance from generous scholarship donors, these deserving young scholars would have no ability to earn a marketable university degree and obtain a secure job. Over the last 20 years, FFHL has given over \$15 million in both university scholarships and special educational grants to Christian students. The current graduation rate is 97%.



**WORK WITH US TO BUILD UP MINDS, LIVES, AND
HOPES IN THE HOLY LAND.**

Call or Email Today! (855) 500-3345 (FFHL) | info@ffhl.org
Or start your pledge online at:

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PILGRIMAGE TRAVEL UPDATE

Dear Pilgrims - In order to care for the well-being of our valued travelers, FFHL has opted to postpone the Fall 2021 pilgrimage until Spring 2022 due to health and safety concerns. We feel it is our duty to advise those considering traveling to the Holy Land at this time that we, nor anyone, can guarantee 100% safety conditions, which may lead to holy site closures and other travel complications. Because there are too many unforeseen risks, and we want you to have the best experience possible, we hope you'll consider a FFHL pilgrimage in Spring 2022. We encourage you to support the Christian Holy Land community through charitable acts of kindness during these dark times. We pray for your safety - God Bless.

Your Amazon Purchases Can Support FFHL

A percentage of your Amazon purchases can be donated to Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land at no extra cost to you!



When you purchase products through smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of your eligible purchase can be directed to FFHL. AmazonSmile sells the same products and has the same prices as Amazon.

Log on to smile.amazon.com with your regular Amazon account. You will be asked to select the organization of your choice. Simply search "Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land" to apply. Remember to make your purchases through **smile.amazon.com** for future orders!

MARCH 20-30, 2022 PILGRIMAGE PRE-REGISTRATION SIGN UP

» CALL 855.500.FFHL(3345) » EMAIL INFO@FFHL.ORG » VISIT WWW.FFHL.ORG



EXPLORE a Fresh Journey OF Faith AS YOU
Reconnect WITH Christ in the Holy Land

We Want To Hear From You!

~ SHARE WITH US ~



What do you want to read about in FFHL's upcoming news-letter? Email your stories and ideas to smartini@ffhl.org. If you are interested in becoming more involved with FFHL, please contact slurie@ffhl.org.