Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Holy City of Jerusalem!

This month has brought a welcome respite from what has been a very busy and productive year. Following meetings and hosting of delegations in the early part of the month, Shafeeqa and I travelled to Brussels on the 19th of July to spend nearly two weeks in rest and relaxation. Our holiday coincided with our wedding anniversary, which we celebrated by giving thanks to God for these many years of happy married life.

After a time of quiet and reflection, I return to the office confident that the work God has begun in us will be brought to fruition. As at the outset of my episcopacy, so today, I am committed to achieving the financial self-sufficiency and sustainability of the Diocese of Jerusalem. This very practical goal will become the means whereby the parish and institutional ministries of the Diocese will be strengthened and advanced so that God is truly gloried and the people of our region served through quality education, healthcare, and pastoral support.

To achieve financial self-sufficiency and sustainability, the Diocese has begun discussions that include a wide variety of approaches to income generation. These discussions have already shown great promise and in the coming months it is hoped that concrete steps will be taken that lead to specific developments and the long term financial health of the Diocese.

To all the clergy, laity, friends, and partners of the Diocese of Jerusalem, I am most grateful for your generous support and for the tremendous achievements of the previous 12 months. I look forward to the coming months as a time of continued blessing from God and for even greater progress in our very important ministry together.

Peace, Salaam

+ Suheil Dawani
AFEDJ Visits the Diocese of Jerusalem and its Institutions

On Tuesday, 02 July 2013, a delegation from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ) represented by The Rev’d Dr. Deborah Dresser, Chair of Trustees, The Rt. Rev’d Barry R. Howe, Vice Chair of Trustees, Michael Clark, Treasurer, and Christina Knudsen, Director of Development, visited the Diocesan Offices in Jerusalem. The delegation met with His Grace Bishop Suheil Dawani, Canon John Organ, Chaplain to the Rt. Rev’d Suheil Dawani, and Sawsan Aranki-Batato, Director of the Diocese Programs Development Department. During the meeting, they discussed the ongoing programs, the new development programs, and the strategic plan, which the Diocese is in process of developing. The AFEDJ delegation visited the Diocesan institutions and parishes, including Al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza.

Clergy Meeting at St. George’s Cathedral

On Monday, July 8th, 2013, Bishop Suheil Dawani met with clergy from the Israeli/Palestinian part of the Diocese of Jerusalem for fellowship and discussion of current activities. Those present were Canon John Organ, the Rev’d Nael Abu Rahmoun, the Rev’d Ibrahim Nairouz, Canon Hatem Shehadeh, the Archdeacon Samuel Barhoum, Canon Samuel Fanous, the Very Rev’d Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, Deacon Salim Dawani, and the Very Rev’d Dr. Graham Smith, Dean of St. George’s College.

Methodist Archbishop Michael Kehinde Stephen Visits St. George’s Cathedral

Archbishop Michael Kehinde Stephen, Archbishop at Methodist Church Nigeria, Archdiocese of Ibadan, joined the Arabic-Speaking Congregation service at the St. George’s Cathedral on Sunday, 14 July 2013.
Canon John Organ, Chaplain to Bishop Dawani, with Justin Cheng, following morning Eucharist. Both Fr. John and Justin are from the Anglican Church of Canada.

Bishop Suheil Meets with Archdeacon Samuel Barhoum

Bishop Suheil Dawani met with Archdeacon Samuel Barhoum from the Church of the Holy Family in Reineh in the Bishop’s Office at St. George’s Cathedral in Jerusalem on Monday morning, 15 July 2013. The Very Rev’d Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, and a guest from the United States were in attendance.

Bishop Suheil Shares Birthday Cake with Justin Cheng

Bishop Suheil shares birthday cake with Justin Cheng, an ordinand from the Diocese of British Columbia, and said farewell to Justin following his six weeks of internship at the Cathedral of St. George the Martyr.

Dean Hosam said farewell to Justin and presented him with a gift during Sunday worship at the Cathedral of St. George the Martyr.
Bishop Suheil Meets with Pastoral Committee in Amman

His Grace Bishop Suheil Dawani paid a visit to Jordan yesterday, Monday 16 July 2013, during which he met with Mrs. Haifa Najjar, Superintendent of the Ahliyyah School for Girls and the Bishop’s School for Boys in Amman.

Bishop Suheil also held a very productive meeting with the 10-members newly-elected Pastoral Committee at the Redeemer Church in Amman. They discussed the future activities and projects of the Church.

Bishop Suheil also brought condolences to the Halaseh family in Jordan.

Bishop Suheil Meets with Fr. John Howanstine and his wife Catherine

Bishop Suheil Dawani met with Fr. John Howanstine and his wife, Catherine, from the Diocese of Maryland, USA, in his office on Wednesday, 17 July 2013. Fr. John and his wife spent the past several weeks in the Holy Land. Part of their time was spent with St. Peter’s Parish in Jaffa, where Fr. John and Catherine hope to serve beginning in 2014.

Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem Holds its Annual Iftar

His Grace Bishop Suheil Dawani held his annual Iftar at the Bishop’s Peace Garden at St. George’s Cathedral Close in Jerusalem on Wednesday, 17 July 2013. Bishop Suheil invited Muslim and Christian leaders for the Iftar “The evening breakfast meal”. His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Armenian Greek Church, Jerusalem, Sheikh Azzam Al-Khatib, Director General of the Jerusalem Islamic Wafq, Eng. Adnan Al-Husseini, Minister for Jerusalem Affairs, Dr. Jawad Awad, Palestinian Minister of Health, Walid Obeidat, Jordanian Ambassador to Israel, British Consul General Sir Vincent Fean, Dr. Jawad Naji, Minister of National Economy, along with a number of dignitaries, Muslim and Christian clergymen, and representatives of institutions were in attendance.
Diocesan Offices in Jerusalem, Jordan and Lebanon will be closed for One Week of Summer Holidays

Diocesan Offices in Jerusalem, Jordan and Lebanon will be closed from Monday 22 until Sunday evening 28 July 2013.
The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, a diocese of the worldwide Anglican Communion, extends over five countries, including Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Israel, within the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. There are 27 parishes that minister to the needs of their communities, centered on the Cathedral Church of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem. The church supports 33 institutions, which include hospitals, clinics, kindergartens and schools, vocational training programs, as well as institutions for the deaf, the disabled and the elderly, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.