Greetings and Peace in the Name of our Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus Christ!

Refreshed by our celebration of Pentecost, we continue to witness to the Triune God, and the outpouring of God's saving love for all the peoples of the earth.

In the recent days and weeks, there have been many school graduations throughout the Diocese. Always I am inspired by and grateful for these occasions as they joyfully illustrate the important ministry of education provided by our schools to the wider community. Parents and students, teachers and staff, are all to be commended for the many achievements which make graduation such a momentous event.

The World Council of Churches and the Middle East Council of Churches held a joint meeting in Beirut in May which focused on Christian Presence in the Middle East. These are challenging times and yet as followers of the Risen Christ, we remain a people of hope and steadfast in our Christian witness and service.

Efforts are continuing to establish a sound and sufficient financial foundation for the Diocese of Jerusalem. Negotiations with potential investors in various income earning properties are progressing well as is a feasibility study to determine the viability of a financial campaign. The success of these efforts will ensure a strong and vibrant Anglican presence in the Holy Land for many future
generations. Our ministries of education, healthcare, pastoral services, and peace building will continue to glorify God and serve the common good.

Pentecost reminds us of and empowers us for mission. Faithful to this great commission, we will, with God’s grace and the generous support of our partners, continue to witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ, here in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth.

Peace, Salaam

[Signature]

+ Suheil Dawani
Bishop Suheil Dawani Attends the Armenian Footwashing Service

Bishop Suheil Dawani attended the Armenian Footwashing Service at St. James Cathedral in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem on Thursday, May 2nd, 2013.

Bishop Suheil was vested by the Patriarch, His Beatitude Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, in traditional Armenian robes and read the gospel, John 13 v 1–17.

Bishop Suheil, with Canon John Organ, Bishop’s Chaplain, and The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, participated in celebrating this service as part of the Orthodox Holy week according to the Eastern calendar.

Bishop Suheil Attends Orthodox Easter Greetings

Bishop Suheil Dawani was invited to Jordan, to join with the Heads of Churches in Amman, to bring Easter Greetings to Prime Minister Abdullah Nssour.

The Heads of Churches met at the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate in Amman, Jordan.

According to the Eastern calendar, the Orthodox Easter is celebrated this year on Sunday, May 5th.

For more information and photos – please follow the link below:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4DXSDclw3Y&feature=youtube_gdata_player

The Rev’d Richard LeSueur Visits Bishop Suheil

On Monday, May 6th, the Revd Richard LeSueur Chairperson of Canadian Companions of the Diocese of Jerusalem visited Bishop Suheil to discuss ways in which the Anglican Church of Canada can support the Diocese of Jerusalem through the work of the companions.

Canon John Organ, Chaplain to the Bishop, whose position is supported by the Anglican Church of Canada, accompanied Fr. LeSueur to Zababdeh in the West Bank to meet with Fr. Nael Abu Rahmoun to tour the parish and Penman Clinic as a way of getting to know the pastoral and medical ministries of the Diocese.
Bishop Suheil Wishes Happy Easter to the Orthodox Churches

Bishop Suheil Dawani brought Easter Greetings to the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, His Beatitude Theophilos III on Tuesday, May 7th. Bishop Suheil and other Heads of Churches from the city of Jerusalem also went to the Ethiopian residence in the Old City to wish Archbishop Abba Matias, the Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate a Happy Easter. Bishop Suheil was joined by Canon John Organ, Bishop’s Chaplain and The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral.

The Orthodox Easter is celebrated this year on Sunday, May 5th, as per the Eastern calendar.

Bishop Suheil Brings Easter Greetings to the Armenian Church

On Thursday, May 8th, Bishop Suheil visited the Armenian Patriarchate, Archbishop Nourhan Manoogian and brought Easter Greetings from the Anglican Church. Bishop Suheil was joined by Canon John Organ, Bishop’s Chaplain and The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral.

According to the Eastern calendar, the Orthodox Easter is celebrated this year on Sunday, May 5th.

Confirmation in Irbid, Jordan

Bishop Suheil traveled to Jordan over the weekend of May 11th. The Bishop celebrated confirmation with the congregation of The Virgin Mary Church. This congregation is a wonderful and growing church in Irbid. Nine young people from the parish were confirmed on Sunday, May 12th. The Rev’d Canon Samir Esaid assisted the Bishop during the service. This was a joyous day, and everyone celebrated together in the parish hall after the service.

Bishop Suheil and his wife Shafeeqa and their daughter visited the ladies in the Elderly Home in Ashrafieh. Bishop Suheil and The Rev’d Canon Fa’eq Haddad brought Holy Communion to the residents there.
Farewell to Deborah Neal

A Farewell Luncheon was held in St. George’s Guest House on Monday, May 13th, 2013 to bid good-bye to Ms. Deborah Neal who has served as the Personal Executive Secretary to Bishop Suheil Dawani for the last 21 months. Deborah will be returning to Los Angeles and then on to Montreal to be with family there. Bishop Suheil spoke kindly about Deborah’s tenure and The Rev’d Hosam Naoum and Canon John Organ also said a few words. Deborah expressed her thanks and gratitude for her time spent in Jerusalem and especially with the ‘St. George’s family’ in the close. The lovely luncheon was prepared by Chef Shady and the Guest House staff.

Bishop’s Suheil Personal Executive Secretary Appointed

Ms. Diana H. Khoury has been appointed on May 10th as the Bishop’s Personal Executive Secretary for a three-month interim period. She will be taking over from Ms. Deborah Neal who is returning home. Ms. Khoury is a resident of East Jerusalem. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and a Diploma in Translation from Birzeit University. Ms. Khoury is looking forward to working with the Bishop and the Diocesan team.

Diocesan Meetings Held in Amman

Bishop Suheil met with the Patronage Committee in Amman on Wednesday, May 15th, 2013 to discuss and finalize the deployment of clergy within the diocese. The following day, the Standing and Finance Committees held a meeting to discuss diocesan issues. This is the second meeting of both committees after the annual Church Council meeting held last November in Jerusalem.
Mr. Sean Higgins Visits Arab Episcopal Medical Centre for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Care

Mr. Sean Higgins, the General Manager of the Friends of the Holy Land, paid a visit to the Arab Episcopal Medical Centre for the Diabetes and Cardiovascular Care in Ramallah on Wednesday, May 15th, 2013. The visit was toured by Mrs. Sawsan Aranki-Batato, Diocesan Programs Development Director, who explained to the visitor the importance of having such specialized centre in Ramallah and the unique services that the Centre will be providing to the local community. Mrs. Jumana Tawasha-Kaibni, Head of the Medical Centre, was also present during the visit. In the afternoon, Mr. Higgins, visited St. Luke’s Hospital in Nablus where, Dr. Walid Kerry, the Hospital Director, Salwa Khoury, Head of the Public Relations Department, and Mazen Kawa’, Administrative Director, gave a round tour in the Hospital.

It is noteworthy to mention that the Friends of the Holy Land is one of the generous donors who contributed to the equipment of the Arab Episcopal Medical Centre in Ramallah.

Pentecost Day (Whit Sunday)

Bishop Suheil Dawani presided and preached at the joint service on the Day of Pentecost on Sunday, May 19th where clergy and parishes from throughout Israel and Palestine joined the celebration.

The Cathedral also hosted pilgrims from the Anglican Communion, especially the Rt. Rev’d Stephen Conway of the Diocese of Ely, Cambridgeshire. Also, the Diocese of Tokyo, Japan, and the Diocese of Norich, England, were in attendance.

Following the joint service, the Cathedral held a lunch, during which hymns of praise were sung by the Very Rev’d Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, and Rev’d Fuad Dagher of St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Shefa’Amr.

Around 450 people attended the celebration.

Bishop Suheil Visits Beirut – Lebanon for the WCC and MECC Ecumenical Meetings

A one-day consultation was held for the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Lebanon on Tuesday, May 21st, during which Bishop Suheil presented a paper on the ‘Diocesan Position on the Future of NEST.’

Bishop Suheil also attended the WCC and MECC ecumenical meetings on Tuesday, May 21st. Bishop Suheil presented a paper on ‘The Christian Witness and Presence in the Middle East’.
During his visit, Bishop Suheil visited St. Luke’s Center in Beit Merry in Beirut and was accompanied by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the United States, the Most Rev’d Katharine Jefferts Schori.

Bishop Suheil also met with parishioners from all saints in Beirut.

**KG2 Graduation in Irbid, Jordan**

A lovely graduation ceremony was held for the Kindergarten KG2 at the Arab Episcopal School (AES) in Irbid, Jordan on Monday, May 27th. This year's graduation was very special as it marks the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the kindergarten. The school is so proud of its KG2 students who successfully completed their Kindergarten Program. The school graduated 24 students this year and it was honoured by the attendance of many guests of colleagues and members of the Irbid Government. Friends and supporters of the school from Germany were also in attendance.

During the ceremony, Bishop Suheil delivered a special speech expressing his thanks to the Rev’d Canon Samir Esaid and Headmaster Mrs. Sabah Zurikat for their diligent work, and he hopes that (AES) can continue to the High School level. Bishop Suheil also participated in the ceremony by handing out the graduation certificates and gifts to each child. Performances were performed by the blind, low-vision, and sited students in Debka, choir singing, and ballet. Around 300 guests attended the celebration and enjoyed the lovely performances. The school administration is very thankful to have completed its 10th KG2 Graduation this year.

**Theodore Schneller School (TSS) Graduation in Amman, Jordan**

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Karimeh Tawfiq Al-Tabba, a graduation ceremony was held on Tuesday, May 28th, 2013 to celebrate the graduation of the 45th regiment of the Theodor Schneller School students.

On this special occasion, Bishop Suheil Dawani delivered a speech in which he pointed out that the Synod of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East carries a key message in education. Bishop Suheil stressed that the competent institutions in Jordan, especially the Ministry of Labor, are interested in the role of TSS and its ongoing growth, noting that Theodore Schneller School graduates skilled craftsmen, and believes in solidarity with other institutions in Jordan to feed the Jordanian society with its need of professional expertise and skilled craftsmen.
TSS Board of Directors Holds its 3rd Meeting in Amman, Jordan

Chairled by Bishop Suheil Dawani, TSS Board of Directors held its third meeting for the year 2013 on Tuesday, May 28th. The Board Meeting was attended by the local German board members, Rev’d Canon John Organ, Chaplin to the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, and Rev’d Jurgen Reichel, EMS Secretary. The Board of Directors will hold its next meeting with full membership in October 2013.

Saviour Episcopal School (SES) Graduation in Zarka, Jordan

Our joy is to see our young people graduate to their future life through education. The joy comes together with our celebration if the Independence Day, the graduation ceremony, was a mark, were we see the tears of joy with the worries of the final Tawjihi Exams.

Bishop Suheil Dawani was in attendance at the ceremony with the School Headmistress, Mrs. Du’a’a Bisharat, and the Rev’d Dr. Khalid Freij, Priest of Saviour Church in Zarka, Jordan on Tuesday, May 28th.

In his speech, Bishop Suheil said ‘as much as I am busy as a Bishop running the diocese and the thirty seven institutions, I leave space to be with my young stars.’

‘Give us peace give us the child’ was the blind children song and (C’Est la vie) was the dance performed by the young people.

Looking for the future with great armor of education, with ethics and faith was Ms. Du’a’a Bisharat’s advice to the graduates, the prayer of Rev’d Khalid Freij was to protect and help our children, protect our country and save the king.
Ahliyyah & Bishop’s School Graduation in Amman

Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Talal, a former pupil of the school, a graduation ceremony was held to celebrate the graduation of The Ahliyyah School for Girls and The Bishop’s School for Boys students on Wednesday, May 29th, 2013.

The ceremony was presided over by His Grace Bishop Suheil Dawani, who emphasized in his keynote address the importance of graduation as a milestone in a student’s life, as well as in the life of an organization.

The ceremony was opened with speeches of graduates in both English and Arabic. Her Excellency Mrs. Haifa Najjar, the Superintendent of ASG and BSA, delivered a speech in which she highlighted the role of knowledge, learning, research and investigation play in the lives of young people.

During the ceremony, students sang a number of songs. Moreover, Mrs. Suha Fasheh, Head of Secondary at ASG and IBDP Coordinator, was recognized for her long and passionate service at ASG.

The Headmistress of both schools, Mrs. Haifa Najjar, HRH Princess Basma Bint Talal, The Rev’d Canon Hanna Mansour, and Fr. Fadi Diab from Redeemer Church were also present.

St. George’s (Bishop’s) School in Jerusalem celebrates its 114th Graduation Commencement

Under the patronage of Bishop Suheil Dawani, the St. George’s School in Jerusalem celebrated its 114th graduation commencement of high school students on Saturday, May 31st in the presence of friends and families of the students. Forty Seven students graduated in the class of 2013.

The ceremony began with the entry procession of graduates with torches, led by Bishop Suheil, The Very Rev’d Hosam Naoum, and the School Principal, Mr. Eid Sader. The attendance was welcomed and the Palestinian National Anthem ‘Fidaie’ was sung by the school choir. It was followed by a prayer on this special occasion by the Very Rev’d Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral. Then speeches of graduates in both English and Arabic were presented.
A speech was given on this occasion by the School Principal, Mr. Eid Sader, in which he praised St. George’s School, its faculty, its administration, and its students for this unique effort, aiming at developing and upgrading the level of education in Jerusalem.

Bishop Suheil Dawani delivered a speech in which he congratulated the students, their families, the school administration and its faculty. Bishop Suheil mentioned that the International Baccalaureate (IB) will be implemented in the school in the coming few years.

During the ceremony, Mr. Abu Ziad and Ms. Nibal Darwish have also been honored for their long-standing and unique experience at the school.

At the end of the ceremony, certificates were distributed to the graduates, followed by a reception served in an atmosphere of joy and happiness.