Dear Friends,

Blessings and peace to you as we continue to celebrate this Eastertide season.

As Spring has begun here in the Land of the Holy One, we too are working on new beginnings. During this month we have visited our many institutions, discussing our vision and our future. We have seen the culmination of hard work as new projects get underway.

As you know, my vision is for the Diocese of Jerusalem to be self-sustaining and financially independent. We are working hard at moving forward with the St. George’s Project that will bring a new hope to our Diocese and our people. This project will bring employment to our community and encourage people from around the world to visit our Holy City of Jerusalem. The meetings I attended this month in London, England and in Jerusalem were an important step in bringing this vision to fruition.

Please join me in prayer for the continued hope of peace and prosperity for those who live in the Land of the Holy One. My deepest thanks to all our friends and partners who faithfully pray and support us. Our doors are always open and you are always welcome.

Peace, Salaam

+ Suheil Dawani
Visit by US Consul General

Bishop Suheil was visited by Mr. Michael Ratney, US Consulate General to Palestine, who came to give Easter greetings, on Friday, April 5th. Canon John Organ, Bishop’s Chaplain and The Very Revd Hosam Naoum were also in attendance. Bishop Suheil hosted Mr. Ratney in the Bishop’s reception room and they discussed matters concerning Palestinian development and well-being.

Bishop Suheil visits Husn, Jordan

Bishop Suheil visited St. John the Baptist Church in Husn, Jordan on Monday, April 8, 2013. The Bishop made a pastoral visit to the congregation and toured the new Bishop’s School, which will open in September. Bishop Suheil also met with The Revd Canon Fa’eq Haddad and the new pastorate committee.

Visit from Gunter Hell and pilgrims

Bishop Suheil met with Gunter Hell and his 11 pilgrims in his reception room on Tuesday April 9th, discussing the ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the appreciation of all who support the Christians in the Land of the Holy One.

Visiting from Germany and traveling from Jordan, Gunter Hell and his group have visited a number of our institutions in the Diocese of Jerusalem and have enjoyed staying at the Guest House at St. George’s Cathedral.

Business Meeting held at Diocesan Offices

Bishop Suheil held a business meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at the Diocesan offices. The Bishop met with Zahi Abu-Assal, Lawyer, The Very Revd Hosam Naoum, Dean of St. George’s Cathedral, and Amin Abu Hanna, Bishop’s Property Assistant, to discuss property matters.

Bishop Suheil visits Princess Basma Rehabilitation Centre

Bishop Suheil visited the Princess Basma Rehabilitation Centre in East Jerusalem on Wednesday, April 10, 2013. Bishop Suheil toured the centre, visiting with the children at the facility. Bishop Suheil spoke with passion and delight when discussing the mission of the Princess Basma Centre, and its focus on the rehabilitation of those with special needs.
A Visit from Bishop Paul Butler from Southwell & Nottingham

Bishop Paul Butler from the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham arrived in Jerusalem on April 11th for a long weekend of visiting various Diocesan institutions throughout Israel and Palestine. Bishop Suheil met with Bishop Paul and following their meeting, they had dinner in the St. George’s Guest House.

Bishop Paul also preached during the 11am English Service at St. George’s Cathedral on Sunday, April 14th.

Women’s Day in Tiberius

Bishop Suheil led a Day Retreat for the Women of the Diocese of Jerusalem in Tiberius on Friday, April 12th. Bishop Suheil and the clergy of Israel and Palestine held a beautiful Holy Eucharist in Capernaum at St. Peter’s Church.

Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani addressed the women there speaking about their important ministry and taking their rightful place within the Diocese. Participants of the Retreat also visited The Mount of Beatitudes and had a quiet time reading and listening to scripture.

A late lunch was held in the garden of St. Margaret’s, the Diocesan Guest House in Nazareth. Over 200 women from around the Diocese attended this joyful event.

Strategic Planning Workshop for Ahliyyah Girls School and the Bishop’s School for Boys, in Amman

Bishop Suheil and his Chaplain, Canon John Organ, attended the Strategic Planning Retreat Workshop for Ahliyyah Girls School and the Bishop’s School for Boys, in Amman over the weekend of April 13-14th.

The two day conference, organized by Mrs. Haifa Najjar, was led by Judith L. Schechtman, M.S.W. and Marc T. Frankel, Ph.D., with a combination of board members, parents and teachers visioning for the future of both schools.

Students also shared their experiences and talked about the exceptional education they have received at these schools. Throughout the weekend there was an amazing spirit of creativity and talent that is a reflection of the quality of education being offered by these institutions.
Visiting Bishops to St. George’s Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. George the Martyr in Jerusalem welcomed Fr. Samuel Fanous who celebrated on Sunday, April 14th, during the absence of Bishop Suheil. At the 9:30am Arabic/English service, Fr. Samuel welcomed Bishop Barry Beisner from the Diocese of Northern California, who is visiting with a group of pilgrims. During Coffee Time, Bishop Barry presented Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani with a number of generous donations toward the Diocesan Scholarship Fund and in support of the After School Program at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church in Zababdeh.

Fr. Samuel also welcomed Bishop Paul Butler from the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham, here visiting Diocesan institutions. Bishop Paul preached at the 11 am service, and assisted the Very Revd Graham Smith, Dean of St. George’s College. Deacons Owen Hoskin and Saleem Dawani were also in attendance.

Meetings in London with JEMT/JMECA

Bishop Suheil Dawani was in London on Thursday, April 18th and met with the Boards of the Jerusalem East Mission Trust, and the Jerusalem Middle East Church Association to discuss the future development projects in the St. George’s compound which include additions to the Elementary School, High School, the Guest House and the major St. George’s Development Project.

In attendance with Bishop Suheil were Canon John Organ, Bishop’s Chaplain, Bernard Haider, from PriceWaterhouseCooper, the Diocesan Accounting firm, Moshe Margalith, Diocesan Architect, Nasser Nassar, Lawyer, and Mr. Alan Gover and Xiaoming Li, lawyers from White & Case LLP.

It was a very productive meeting that will, God willing, advance the financial stability of the Diocese of Jerusalem in its support of the healthcare and education institutions throughout the Middle East.

Meetings were also held in London with CCS, the Fundraising firm who is conducting the first phase of the proposed Diocesan Financial Campaign. Ms. Eric Campbell and her colleagues met with Bishop Suheil and Canon John Organ to discuss the feasibility phase of the campaign.
Embrace the Middle East visits St. Luke’s Hospital and Mobile Clinic, Nablus

Mrs. Sawsan Aranki-Batato, Diocesan Programs Development Director, and Ms. Deborah Neal, Bishop’s Secretary, together with members of **Embrace the Middle East** - Stephen Tunstall, Partnerships Manager, the Revd Andrew Ashdown, Board of Trustees, and Sarah Shore, Embrace’s Legacy Fundraising Officer had a follow up field visit to St. Luke’s Hospital in Nablus on Friday, April 19th. Embrace ME supports various institutions throughout the Diocese of Jerusalem and has been in the area visiting them.

At St. Luke’s Hospital, Dr. Walid Qirreh, Director, Salwa Khoury, Public Relations, and Mazer Kawa’, Administrative Director, gave a tour of the institution, and then took everyone to the site of the new Mobile Clinic in Madama. Naser Nassar, Head of the Village Council and other village council members came to greet the visitors and treated them to a lovely lunch in the town hall.

The Mobile Clinic of St. Luke’s is an exciting venture that will be up and running next month. The Clinic is at the crossroads of three villages, Burin, Madama and Asira Al-Qibliya, and is in a position to serve them all. The building has been donated by the governing board of the village and the ambulance was donated by Embrace the Middle East. New furniture is already in place and the necessary equipment will arrive shortly. The Clinic will provide medical services focusing on two main areas: preventive and curative care for pregnant women and infants, and also for hypertensive and diabetic patients. In all cases periodic monitoring and education are necessary and could have serious consequences if unattended. The clinic will be able to supply the necessary health care for about 10,000 people who have difficulties in accessing the health care services outside their villages.

1st International Jerusalem Symposium on Green & Accessible Pilgrimage

Canon John Organ, Bishop Suheil Dawani’s Chaplain, and Mr. Moshe Margalith, Architect, attended the 1st International Jerusalem Symposium on Green & Accessible Pilgrimage at the YMCA on Sunday, April 21st. They made a presentation on behalf of the Diocese of Jerusalem, focusing on its present and future ecological promotion of green spaces.

Chinese delegation visits the Diocese of Jerusalem

Following many months of preliminary discussion to develop the St. George’s Project by a Chinese consortium, a delegation from CITIC Group and CITIC Construction, led by Madam Hong Bo visited Bishop Suheil Dawani here in Jerusalem on Tuesday, April 23rd. A meeting was held to discuss the project and their potential partnership. It was a very productive and promising time together.
A Visit to Gaza

Canon John Organ and Mr. Ibrahim Faltas, on behalf of Bishop Suheil Dawani, held a three day meeting with Mrs. Suhaila Tarazi, Director, her staff and the employees committee of Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza. This meeting was to discuss a business plan that will lead to establishing Al Ahli Hospital as a Cancer Treatment center. The meeting was very helpful in supporting the realization of this future important role for the hospital and its vital service to the people of Gaza.

The Services of Holy Eucharist were held at St. Philip’s Anglican Church by Canon John Organ on Saturday, April 27th, with 15 people in attendance.

On Sunday, April 28th, Canon John Organ attended Palm Sunday celebrations at St. Porphyrius, the Greek Orthodox Church that has been serving Gaza for 1,600 years. The strength of the congregation was very encouraging and a sign of the importance of the Christian presence and witness in the Middle East.

Palm Sunday celebrations in the Village of Zababdeh

Bishop Suheil was in Zababdeh on Sunday April 28th at St. Matthew’s Anglican Church to celebrate Orthodox Palm Sunday. St. Matthew’s traditionally celebrates Easter on the Orthodox calendar so as to be in ecumenical relationship with other Christian traditions in the village of Zababdeh.

Bishop Suheil, with The Revd Na’el Rahmoun, joined the Mayor of Zababdeh and the Police Chief, and the community of Zababdeh, as they walked through the village in celebration of Palm Sunday. This was a joyous and happy event for the village and community.

More stories and information are available at: www.j-diocese.org Email enquiries to: info@j-diocese.org
Donations may be sent to: The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, PO Box 19122, Jerusalem, 91191

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.