Peace to you in the name of the Lord

Greetings from Bishop Suheil Dawani

Dear Friends,

Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Easter shows us a world in which God has the last word, not the world. And that last word has the power of love that proved stronger than despair. It has the power of forgiveness not rejection, with life not death.

In our Faith, the suffering, crucifixion and the death of Christ were not the end of story. They were followed by the joy of the resurrection. And we are the people of the resurrection.

Easter means that we have a future – a bright future in Christ. Let us together continue to pave the way of justice and peace. Through the power of the Risen Lord let us take away the walls of hatred and rejection.

We are called to continue the ministry of love and compassion, to enhance the ministry of peace and reconciliation. Resurrection means forgiveness, hope and victory over sin, evil and death. It is victory that Easter is all about. The disciples’ despair turned into glad discovery and joy. Good Friday turned into a bright Easter morning with life and joy and a crown, not a cross, with laughter and victory, not pain.

We pray for the birth of a new day when peace and justice will prevail in Jerusalem and all over the world. It is the resurrection that gives us bright hope as Christians of the land of the Holy One.

Now, as ever, Jesus Christ is the hope of the world. He is the hope of the Christians of the Holy Land. According to His wisdom, we shall look positively to the future. As Christians we shall face the future with a hope that grows out of our faith in the providence and purpose of God, Jesus Christ.

The mission of the Church here continues to be a source of God's love shining the light of hope through our parishes, schools, hospitals and clinics. We continue to transmit this hope through our concern and our joint efforts to work together in order to preserve the Christian presence and witness in the land of the Holy One.

Let us celebrate together as one body of Christ in the joy of the resurrection.

Happy Easter,

+ Suheil Dawani
A Visit from the National Council of Churches – Australia

A delegation from The National Council of Churches of Australia visited with Bishop Suheil on March 5th. Eight clergy, representing the 19 members of the National Council (including Roman Catholics) came to St. George’s Cathedral while on their visit to the Land of the Holy One and the Middle East. They brought their prayers and support for the Christians in this region. Bishop Suheil spoke to them about the challenges facing the Christians here, the ecumenical work and inter-faith relationships, and the constant need for prayers for peace and reconciliation. He encouraged them to return home to advocate, pray and bring pilgrims to see the Land of the Holy One. Bishop Suheil was also presented with a beautiful Aboriginal Art cloth painting of the Rainbow Serpent.

The Bishop's Meeting with the Board of Christ School, Nazareth

Bishop Suheil had a meeting with the Christ School Board of Directors on March 6th. The Bishop listened to reports given by the Department managers. The development of educational services in several areas is much appreciated by the Board of Directors.

Meeting with the Pastorate Committees, Jordan

Bishop Suheil Dawani met with the Diocesan pastorate committees on March 7th in Amman, Jordan. The meeting focused on the theme: "The Working Love" and the importance of strengthening joint work between the pastorate committees, especially in fields where there are more than one committee. The effort of all is to reflect, through service and cooperation, the Christian spirit which is felt by all our parishes.

The Pastoral Committees also addressed topics such as liturgy, permanent deacons to the diaconate, and the new church project in the Baptismal site at the Jordan River. The institutional work in the Diocese was also discussed.
A tour of the construction site of the new Bishop School in Husun, Jordan

On March 8th, Bishop Suhail Dawani inspected the construction site of the new Bishops School in Husun. It will officially open at the beginning of the next academic year 2012-2013.

The launch of the third floor of the Evangelical Episcopal School, Irbid, Jordan

Bishop Suheil Dawani inaugurated the third floor of the Episcopal School in Irbid on March 8th. In attendance was Mrs. Haifa Najjar Director-General of the Ahliyyah and Bishop’s schools in Amman. Bishop Suheil thanked all those who worked on getting the third floor built and ready to open for students, especially Rev. Canon Samir Asaid.

Bishop Suheil and Mrs. Haifa donated the remaining amount needed to complete the computer lab.

Women’s Workshop, Amman - Jordan

A Women’s Workshop was held in Amman, Jordan on March 8th – Women’s Day. Bishop Suheil Dawani opened the Workshop with a few words and Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani welcomed the attendees who came from many of the Anglican parishes in the area. Mrs. Dawani spoke about women’s service and the continued need for workshops that are held to strengthen the role and status of women in society.
Bishop’s visit to St. Luke’s Center, Beirut, Lebanon

While in Beirut, Bishop Suheil Dawani and his wife Mrs. Shafeeqa visited St. Luke’s Center for Mentally Disabled Children. There they were briefed on the workshops that are held at the centre and also visited the chicken farm, glass painting, and the chocolate factory that have been created to ensure the funding of some activities of the centre.

Bishop’s meeting and visit to All Saint's Church, Beirut, Lebanon

Bishop Suheil met with the church leaders and the parish members of All Saint's Church in Beirut, at a reception held for the church ladies and Pastorate Committee. Present at the reception was the Evangelical Church representative in the Lebanese Parliament, Mr. Bassem Shab. Mrs. Shafeeqa Dawani met with the church ladies in Beirut.

Pastoral Committee Meeting, Beirut, Lebanon

Bishop Suheil met the Pastorate Committee and the St. Luke’s Board of Directors while in Beirut on March 10th. The Bishop and the Pastorate Committee discussed the service of the church to its community and the various issues that affect their institutions.
Bishop’s meeting with the church lawyer, Beirut, Lebanon

Bishop Suheil met with the church Lawyer Mr. Salah El-Dabagh on March 10th, to discuss the future of the Andwig Institution for the Deaf in Beirut. This institution will be retrieved by the Diocese, and returned to the Anglican Church, as it was since its establishment.

The Third Sunday of Lent at All Saints Church, Beirut, Lebanon

On March 11th, the third Sunday of Lent, Bishop Suheil presided over the Arab and foreign congregations for worship and communion service at All Saints Church, Beirut, Lebanon. After the service the Bishop met with members of the church in the newly renovated hall of All Saints Church.

Ramallah - Hotel School Training Kitchen Opening Ceremony

The Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem Rt. Rev. Suheil Dawani and the board members of the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center opened the new renovated training kitchen on Tuesday, March 20, 2012. The Hotel School effort is to help young people gain job skills in the growing tourism and hospitality industry in Palestine. The new renovated facility will enable students to gain practical experience in cooking for and serving actual customers in conditions similar to those of a professional restaurant and catering facilities.

Palestine is faced with a shortage of skilled personnel in Hospitality sector, particularly of cooks and waiters. At the same time, unemployment, especially among young people is particularly high in the country. To address this situation, the Episcopal Vocational Training Center, in cooperation with the Arab Evangelical School, founded the first Hotel School in the West Bank in 2008.
The school offers a two years vocational program that gives the High school (Tawjihi) certificate, as well as short training courses in cooking, service, hospitality management and nutrition that are accredited from the Ministries of Education and Labor.

The ETVTC partners from the Paulinenpflege Germany, the diocese office staff in Jerusalem and many other friends joined in an extraordinary dinner prepared by the Hotel School students and trainers. To date, more than 220 students have been trained in different courses at the Vocational Training Center.

The Arab Evangelical Episcopal School – Ramallah – Newsletter excerpt

Early in March, Bishop Suheil Dawani, with a highly ranked patriarchate team, visited the school and met with the teachers. Bishop Dawani blessed the school’s future plans and supported the intention of the school’s administration to do teachers retreat and training workshops.

Lynn Lantz, Jill Henderson and Fran Friesen, from the School’s American friends, visited the school for a two-week voluntary trip. They visited the different English classes, worked with the Math and Science teachers, visited the Evangelical Home, prayed and played with the students.

Mothers’ Day in Palestine- Mrs. Fatina Karam, the science teacher and students from the student council conducted a campaign to collect gifts and money to give to elderly and lonely mothers. The visit brought happiness, relief and joy to broken hearts. Students prayed for each family and delivered a package of gifts and some money that they managed to gather. Al-Ayyam daily newspaper leaned about this story and published an article about our school and its humanitarian role in the area.

For the full The Arab Evangelical Episcopal School Newsletter please go to: www.evangschool.org
Bishop Suheil visits Diocese of Los Angeles

At the end of March, Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa traveled to the Diocese of Los Angeles to visit with Bishop J. Jon Bruno. Bishop Suheil also had the opportunity to meet with the Episcopal Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts-Schori who spoke about the supportive relationship that the Episcopal Church of the United States has with the Diocese of Jerusalem. Bishop Suheil and Shafeeqa attended the Middle East Peacemakers Luncheon where the Bishop spoke to those in attendance about the ongoing struggles for Christians in the Land of the Holy One.

Bishop Suheil visits American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem in New York

On the way home, Bishop Suheil stopped in New York to meet with the American Friends of the Diocese of Jerusalem. The Bishop met with Anne Lynn, Phoebe Griswold and other members of the American Friends. The Bishop and Shafeeqa also attended the American Friends Fundraising Event on Wednesday evening.

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.