

A wonderful Christmas present for the residents of Bethlehem

The AVEJMJ project: pray for peace in the world beginning with the Holy Land, at the request of His Holiness Pope Francis



The AVEJMJ project: AVE as Ave Maria (Hail Mary) and MJ stand for The World Youth Day or as Jesus, Mary and Joseph!

Among his many projects to help Christians of the Holy Land, Bishop Peter Bürcher, Member of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches, started this new project in partnership with Caritas Jerusalem to employ hundreds of young men and women from needy families in order to produce olive wood rosaries made entirely in the Holy Land to be offered to the youth who will participate in the next World Youth Day in Panama in January 2019 and pray for peace in the world.



On the 28th of December 2017, The Most Reverent, Msg. Peter Burcher visited some of the workshops in the Bethlehem Governorate to check on the progress of the work and the quality of the rosaries.



Mahran Hawash one of the workshop owners who only had one machine when we started, has purchased another 14 machines and has employed 15 young men and 45 women to produce the rosaries. “This project revived Bethlehem, I am very happy that I can expand my business and give work to more than sixty families from the area particularly to women who have no chance in gaining an honest living, because most of them are unskilled, undereducated and cannot get out of their homes to work outside due to cultural restraints and having other commitments and responsibilities like taking care of the children, and their elderly parents.”





Mithat Ghanem who has four children and is employing three young men is waiting to get a loan from Caritas Jerusalem in order to purchase another machine and employ another worker and expand his business. "This project is a true blessing for us! The current tense situation in Palestine drove away many tourists and pilgrims which had its negative effect on the economy and resulted in higher unemployment rates. Every small workshop is looking forward to expand and work hard to produce as many rosaries as possible; even my father, who is an old man, is very enthusiastic and comes to the workshop everyday and does his best to give us a helping hand."



Caritas Jerusalem is proud to be a part of this invaluable project which is giving work to hundreds of needy people and truly appreciates the initiative of the Most Rev. Peter Bürcher and is grateful to all

those who are donating in order to make this beautiful project become a reality.

Donations can be made to the account of the Association Saint Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne, Switzerland, Bank Postfinance SA BIC: POFICHBEXXX IBAN CHF: CH49 0900 0000 1721 5224 5 IBAN EUR: CH36 0900 0000 9153 3233 5 IBAN USD: CH98 0900 0000 9172 0700 5, marked « AVEJMJ ».

The ASJMVL www.sjmvlausanne.org and Caritas Jerusalem thank each and every one of you for contributing, even modestly, to the financing of this magnificent global project.

