



Icon of the Virgin Mary painted on the Wall in Bethlehem (Photo: Marie-Armelle Beaulieu)

Dear friends,

The Joy of Bethlehem will fill our hearts again this year. The world will marvel at a child, innocent and new, born in the middle of the night to bring the light of hope to humanity.

Hope is needed in the Holy Land at this time when Palestinians are asking for recognition of their state and of their very existence. The children born in Bethlehem today are seeking justice and an end to the occupation. Only justice will bring peace in the hearts of the people of Palestine and Israel. Recognizing the state of Palestine is the first step in the path of reconciliation, it is the step of dignity.

This Christmas, I also want to thank you for all your generous support of Caritas Jerusalem in 2011. Because of you, we have been able to accompanying thousands of those most in need.

Our mission is to affirm the dignity of people who should be loved as they are. They are more than “a photo on the paper,” subjects to be pitied for the hardships and injustices of their lives. Together they share with us and with all in the family of love, the family of Christ. “Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him” (1 John 4:16).

Thank you for your help in continuing our mission of service and compassion.

This season, let us give thanks for the joys of the past year, and keep in our hearts the mystery and meaning of Christmas: the love of God for all humanity, which inspires us to love one another.

Merry Christmas,

Claudette Habesch, Secretary General & the Caritas Jerusalem team