Keep me, O God, from pettiness; let me be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let me be done with fault-finding and self-seeking.

May I put away all pretence and meet everyone face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

May I never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let me take time for all things. Make me grow calm, serene and gentle.

Teach me to put into action my better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that I may realize it is the little things of life that create differences and that in the big things of life we are one. And, O Lord God, let me not forget to be kind!
Our core values

Dignity:
We seek to make the poor not objects of pity but subjects of their own development and agents of change, best placed to develop their own solutions in global partnership.

Equality:
Any economic, social, political and cultural structure which opposes or oppresses change toward justice is wrong and we challenge it. Caritas listens to the voice of the silent poor and enables them to speak for themselves.

Solidarity:
Caritas works to enhance solidarity with the poor, seeing the world through their eyes, and recognising the independence of humanity.

Stewardship:
Caritas commits itself to being in solidarity with the whole of creation and therefore seeks to act in an environmentally sustainable way at all times.

Compassion:
The fundamental response of Caritas is compassion rooted in love. Caritas refuses to accept the suffering of brothers and sisters and takes action to alleviate such suffering.

Our Vision:
Caritas is a global movement working in solidarity for a fairer world, inspired by the example of Christian faith and Catholic Social Teaching.

Caritas challenges cultural, local, national and international governance structures that undermine the ability of communities to live sustainable and just lives. It is unacceptable that millions of people are suffering through dehumanizing poverty and social injustice—and we want change.

The 167 Caritas national members worldwide believe they can do more to combat the causes of poverty and injustice by combining their resources. National members come under the umbrella of Caritas Internationalis, which has its headquarters in the Vatican City and representatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.
Caritas Jerusalem's social services department provides first-line assistance to the growing number of underprivileged families in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza.

Caritas is connected to a large local network of parishes, schools and healthcare institutions. In this position we are able to act quickly and give help to those in need. In 2016, we were able to assist 890 families through different actions.

**Family support:** 80 families received emergency assistance to cover their basic needs, such as rent, utility and food costs.

**Medical support:** Caritas covered the medical fees for 142 individuals.

**Education:** Through the continued solidarity of Fundacion Palestina Belen 2000 Chile, we reached 620 students in 21 schools in the Bethlehem Governorate by covering part of their school tuition fees.

Also, 48 university students were partly assisted with their tuition fees through funding by many of our partners.

S.Z is a thirty-nine year old married man from Nablus, a city in the north of Palestine who lives with his wife and six children; the older son left school to work due to the bad economic situation of the family; a daughter has also left school due to sickness as she suffers from cancer, sight shortness and hearing loss; while the other four children are still attending school.

The family cannot possibly survive without financial and social assistance. Caritas Jerusalem helped this family by covering the cost of the digital hearing aid.

Caritas Jerusalem was founded in 1967 in the aftermath of the Six Day War to respond to the emergency needs of the displaced Palestinian people. It represents the socio-pastoral services of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land and faithfully serves the social-familial, economic, health and emergency needs of an ever-growing Palestinian population.

The mission of Caritas Jerusalem is to empower the inhabitants of the Holy Land to realize their full potential and to act as a voice for the voiceless. This is accomplished through:

- Creating economic opportunities through soft loan schemes and job creation.
- Providing emergency humanitarian aid in times of crisis.
- Empowering youth as community leaders.
- Advocating for the Palestinian cause on the international stage.

Our active presence throughout the Palestinian Territories has enabled us to respond to the needs of more than 30,000 families in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through multi-sectoral programs for the poor and marginalized.

Caritas Jerusalem currently has 51 full time employees, as well as volunteers in different parishes across the country with offices in East Jerusalem, Ramallah and Gaza city.
ELDERLY DAY CARE CENTER (EDCC) 
ESTABLISHED IN 1990

Working to fulfill a Biblical Command to care for the Elderly

“Cast me not away in the time of age: forsake me not when my strength fails”. Psalm 71:9

The EDCC in Ramallah serves 80 senior citizens. The center provides a place for the elderly to socialize and spend the long hours of the day in the company of a caring staff. Staff members and young volunteers carry out the diverse activities to serve, care for, provide nutritious meals and entertain the senior citizens.

The nurse, social workers and cleaners visit the homes of the elderly who are homebound and cannot come to the center anymore. In addition, general and specialist doctors visit the center regularly to attend to the members and inform them on their health needs.

In 2016, 2,851 meals were provided to the 55 senior citizens and the social workers conducted 20 group counselling sessions. Together with the nurse, they made 301 home visits to the homebound elderly. We also covered the health insurance for 25 elderly.

Odette is one of the senior citizens that we serve, who lost her husband recently to Cancer. Our social workers accompanied her for many months during her struggle and gave her all the support that she needed for she is lonely and doesn’t have any children.

After the passing away of her only companion, the EDCC became a second home to her and the staff her family. To alleviate her pain and to answer to her financial needs, we have also found her a part time job to make ends meet.

SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT’S PROJECTS IN 2016

Under the Social Services Department, Caritas Jerusalem has implemented two major projects: we have trained 80 women with life skills in order to enhance employability with vocational education such as sewing, office management, beauty therapy and embroidery which was funded by our partners Caritas Spain and prevention of isolation and social exclusion of people with disabilities in the Palestinian Authority where Caritas Jerusalem enhanced the capacity of ten centers in the Bethlehem Governorate that take care of persons with disabilities with staff capacity building and furnishing the centers with the essential medical and educational equipment in order to facilitate their work in taking care of our lesser fortunate brothers and sisters. This project was co-financed by the Polish Development Cooperation Program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland in partnership with Caritas Poland.
The Old City Counseling Center was established in 1999 to offer integrated services to drug addicts, their families, the youth and residents of East Jerusalem especially in the Old City through counselling, support, prevention and guidance.

The main goal of the center is to decrease drug use and abuse and its negative impact on the individual, the family and the society.

In the current environment in Palestine, where hopelessness is increasing and Palestinians are looking for relief from their hard circumstances, drug abuse continues to be a serious problem.

Every year the OCCC organises workshops and awareness programs in schools and universities. It carries out group and individual sessions and holds summer camps for children who come from drug afflicted families.

The OCCC in 2016:
- 246 therapy sessions with 63 former drug users.
- 74 home visits to families in need
- 06 schools received an information session on drug use and abuse
- 72 counselling group meetings for parents
- 36 sessions in training and capacity building for Palestinian Police Officers.
- 22 students received a Diploma in Drug Prevention and Technical Intervention for Drug Using and Addiction.

On Thursday, the 2nd of June 2016, the fourth conference titled “Professional interventions in the addiction phenomena in Palestine” took place at Bethlehem University. Political leaders, police officers, academics, social workers and other civil society representatives participated in the conference.

Fr. Raed Abusahlia, the General Director of CJ explained the work of Caritas Jerusalem in general and about the work of OCCC in particular. In his speech he stated “Caritas Jerusalem serves the poor and the drug addicts are the poorest of the poor among our community”.

This year, the OCCC published a booklet about drug addiction in Palestine. The booklet contains information about specialized institutions that are engaged in drug addiction.

The conference discussed drug abuse matters and answered questions from social workers and professionals in the field.

Twenty two students graduated with the Professional Specialized Diploma in Drug Prevention and Technical Intervention for Drug Using and Addiction.
Caritas Jerusalem is managing three health centers: two in the West Bank villages of Taybeh and Aboud and one in Gaza

In the West Bank, Caritas health centers reach out to the rural population, cut off from public health facilities by military roadblocks since the early 2000. In Gaza a mobile clinic acts in parallel to the health center to treat patients living in areas out of the main health facilities range.

Caritas employs 60 medical center staff, including doctors, nurses and lab technicians who serve in the three health centers and mobile clinic in the West Bank and Gaza.

In 2016, we continued our services by visiting the schools and carrying out health campaigns, and home visits. Our main focus was on schoolchildren, women and chronic patients.

†

Aboud Health Center (West Bank)

Aboud is a small village with 2,000 inhabitants, located about 56 kilometers northwest of Jerusalem. It is a rural area isolated from other villages by the Separation Wall and surrounding Israeli settlements.

Caritas is running a primary health care center in Aboud since 1990, reaching out to a population of 23,000 including Aboud and 13 surrounding villages. Since 2009, the center offers specialist practices: Primary health care, preventive and curative care, women’s health, dentistry, orthopaedics and basic surgery. A gynaecologist, a dentist and dermatologist, ENT and Orthopedic come once a week to the clinic. In addition the center has a laboratory for medical tests, an X-Ray machine and a pharmacy. The staff of the center is regularly conducting health prevention sessions with the local community on women’s health, nutrition, smoking, road safety and home accidents.

†

Aboud medical services in 2016:

- 3117 patients
- 309 women’s health consultations

Caritas Jerusalem believes that the civil society and especially the youth, who comprise more than 63% of the Palestinian society, needs to play an active role in the destiny of the land.

The aim of the department is to encourage the youth to actively participate in the development of their communities through volunteer activities and leadership training.

In 2016, the youth department volunteers implemented tens of activities all over the West Bank in the cities and villages of Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Ramallah, Jericho, Jifna, Ein Arik, Birzeit and Taybeh.

Culture exchange and global awareness is one of the main focuses that Caritas Jerusalem

Community Volunteering

- Implementing activities with the Elderly Day Care Center in Ramallah.
- Organizing fundraise with sick children in Palestinian hospitals.
- Arranging Christmas activities with underprivileged children and distributing 2000 gifts.
- Arranging Easter activities with disabled children and distributing 900 gifts.
- Conducting home visits to the sick, the elderly and the lonely.

The Youth Department

†
Taybeh Health Center (West Bank)

Taybeh is a village of 1,300 inhabitants 35 kilometers north of Jerusalem. It is surrounded by several Israeli settlements. The center provides health services to a population of 18,000.

The Taybeh Health Center receives around 400 patients a month. It provides the following services to the community: Primary health care, preventive and curative care. A gynaecologist, a dentist and dermatologist, ENT and Orthopedic come once a week to the clinic. A complete floor is dedicated to health education and psychosocial help for children.

Taybeh medical services in 2016:

- 4332 patients
- 712 women’s health consultations

Gaza Health Center And Mobile Clinic:

The center is located in the Beach Camp area, which is one of the most populous areas in the Gaza Strip (80,000 inhabitants) and it is situated very close to the Jabalia Refugee Camp. The health center offers primary healthcare and provides an integrated medical programme to the local community. Our doctors see about 4000 general patients a year and nearly 3800 female patients at the women’s health practice. Our gynecologist is one of the only female practitioners in the Gaza Strip.

The center is also the base of a mobile medical team which provides service to Gaza’s most marginalized communities.

On top of medical care, our team in Gaza provides much-needed psychological help to the victims of the surrounding violence. They pay a particular attention to the children who suffer the most from the conflict and the harsh living conditions.

The Case of Ali is the Case of Thousands of Children in Gaza

Ali is a 6 year old boy from Ezbet Beit Hanoun; his families of 8 members live in a small two-roomed house. His father has a donkey and cart and works in moving rubble of the destroyed houses from one place to another.

Ali’s mother registered her son in the de-worming program and brought his specimen for analysis. The lab technician was shocked to find that Ali had 3 different worms: Entameba histolytica cyst, Entrobius vermicularis, and Hymenolepis Nana which is very dangerous and rare in Gaza.

Caritas Jerusalem’s medical staff visited the family and found that the donkey lives in a room with the family! When they asked the reason, his father replied rapidly “It will get stolen outside. The donkey is the only source of our income; without it we would starve to death.”

Caritas medical team provided the whole family with medicines in order to prevent them from getting infected by the same worms. They gave Ali the necessary medicines and explained to his mother how to administer them.

The story of this one little boy is typical of the children who live in Ezbet Beit Hanoun. Some of the children that we treated will be re-infected, but by de-worming them now we give them a chance to grow, to become strong, and for their brains to develop during these crucial early years.

Solving the underlying problems of abject poverty, raw sewage, and poor nutrition needs peace in the region, open borders and strong government, all of which we hope for.
**Microcredit Department**

Small loans can empower individuals, families and communities. Caritas Jerusalem’s microcredit department grants four types of loans, namely for education, house renovation, business development and emergency needs.

It was established in the 1970s with a first objective to develop existing small businesses and to improve the income of families.

In 2016, business development formed the largest part of microcredit activity, where we financed 18 business projects, among them 5 managed by female entrepreneurs. 15 families were able to renovate their houses.

**Microfinance in Action**

Maha is a 31 year old married woman from Jerusalem. She has two children who attend school and the only breadwinner of the family is her husband who works as a bus driver for a tourist company in Bethlehem.

Maha wanted to share the financial burden with her husband and together they decided to rent a place in Bethlehem and start a laundry business. They designed their action plan for months and finally found the perfect location and started renovating and decorating the place. They used whatever savings they had but due to unforeseen expenses they ran out of money and couldn’t purchase the essential machinery to start the laundry business.

She desperately needed a business loan to purchase washing machines, dryers and other appliances. She received the loan from Caritas Jerusalem and currently is doing very well. Thanks to this loan, she could start her own business and now she is on the road to financial security and success.

Caritas Jerusalem believes that small loans are a chance to encourage local entrepreneurship and to help them become self-sufficient.

**Food Security and Livelihoods**

According to The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). In 2014 the food insecurity rate in West Bank was 28.6%, translating into 1.6 million people being food insecure in 2014.

Providing solid long term benefits to the community coupled with having unemployed workers to earn a living in dignity is the focus of the Food Security and Livelihoods department.

In 2016, we were able to generate income and fight poverty through our various projects and programs all around Palestine, particularly in the remote rural areas. This year we have focused on socio economic and territorial development by funding micro enterprises in agriculture, services and trade sectors with technical training and collective projects often in cooperation with local municipalities, village councils and the community at large.

In 2016, Caritas Jerusalem continued its three year project to strengthen the local economy of Jenin (a Palestinian city in the northern West Bank) which is funded by Caritas Belgium and Belgian Development Agency; the house renovations part was funded by Foundation AP-París.

Started a promising project in Taybeh (a Palestinian village in the West Bank 15 km northeast of Jerusalem) to enhance food security through rural development and agriculture funded by Caritas Spain and Ayuntamiento Dezaragoza completed another project in the Lemon Valley of Aboud (a Palestinian village in the central West Bank) improving food security and creating job opportunities for the villagers also funded by Caritas Spain and Government of Aragon continued to support the socially disadvantaged and graduates of Palestine in cooperation with Caritas Czech Republic and Czech Republic Development Cooperation.

The Inauguration of the Peace and Friendship Playground

Creating hope and positive connections

On the 4th of September 2016, Caritas Jerusalem celebrated the inauguration of the only green playground in the Old City of Jerusalem. This playground situated in the Armenian Quarter is one of the unique places where all children are welcome to play together as brothers and sisters.

Among the participants of the opening ceremony were the Custos of the Holy Land, the Nuncio of the Vatican, Patriarch Emeritus of Jerusalem His Beatitude Michel Sabbah, the Consul General of Italy in Jerusalem, Fabio Sokolowicz, the head of the football federation of Italy and many others.

Fr. Raed Abusahlia, the General Director of Caritas Jerusalem stated “We believe that if children can play together, in the future they will be able to live and work together and also make peace in the Holy Land... They are the future of this Holy City and they have the right, the desire and need to live in peace.”
In a city that is sizzling with intolerance and lack of respect to the other we need more projects like this one in order to convey the message of peaceful coexistence to the youth. The purpose of this playground is to bring children together from different cultures and religions and make an attempt to promote the concept of friendly relationship and peaceful atmosphere.

The project was implemented by Caritas Jerusalem, in collaboration with the Armenian Orthodox Patriarchate and the Italian agency ‘Assist for Peace’.

**Caritas Jerusalem Training Center in Ramallah**

In September 2014, Caritas Jerusalem established a training center in Jabal Al Nijmah near Ramallah in order to train women in sewing, dressmaking and fashion design. The training lasts nine months where women learn types of sewing, types of sewing machines, kinds of fabric, kinds of needles and other sewing techniques.

In 2016, 29 women were trained. In addition, we have a partnership agreement with Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center to train five of their students who do not suffer from severe physical disabilities and are able to start a micro project after the training.

This center was made possible through the generous support of our friends The Representative of Malta to the Palestinian Authority, Santa Margherita Parish in Lucca – Italy, The Olive Association of Scotland, The Polish Government, Caritas Poland and Palestine Telecommunication Company (PALTEL).

The Center also serves school girls from the surrounding schools for their extracurricular activities. It has started with the St. Joseph’s School in Ramallah, where the tenth grade girls come to the center twice a week to learn sewing and designing.

At the end of the training course they will be ready to work independently and make a living with dignity.

**Caritas Betharram Center**

In September 2014 Caritas Jerusalem started operating a guest house located in the Carmelite Sisters Monastery in Bethlehem, where St. Mary of Jesus Crucified relics are housed in the monastery’s chapel.

The guest house is only 10 minutes walking distance from the Nativity Church and surrounded by beautiful gardens. It is the ideal place for spiritual retreats, Biblical sessions, pilgrimages and workshops.

Caritas Jerusalem Guest House offers 40 attractively-priced and comfortable rooms, including singles, doubles and family size rooms. Guests can arrange to stay on bed-and-breakfast, half-board or full-board options.
**Grants and Contributions 2016**

- Development: 12%
- PWD: 3%
- Family Relief: 10%
- EDCC: 5%
- OCCC: 5%
- Health: 3%
- Job Creation: 5%
- Education: 4%
- Youth: 10%
- Others: 41%

**Expenses 2016**

- Development Projects: 12%
- PWD: 8%
- Family Relief: 7%
- EDCC: 12%
- OCCC: 15%
- Health: 4%
- Job Creation: 7%
- Education: 7%
- Youth: 4%

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**Thank You**

"You are happiest while you are making the greatest contribution." — Robert F. Kennedy

**Thank you for being a partner and a friend**

- Pontifical Mission
- Abbayee De Latroun
- ARC Solution
- Bank of Palestine
- Fundacion Belen 2000
- CAFOD
- Caritas Aoteraroa – New Zealand
- Caritas Belgium
- Caritas Czech Republic – Development Cooperation
- Caritas Diocesana – Novara
- Caritas Diocesana De Zaragoza
- Caritas Humanitarian Aid and Relief Insti-Singapore
- Caritas Internationals
- Caritas Italy
- Caritas Japan
- Caritas Poland
- Caritas Seoul Korea
- Caritas Spain
- Caritas Sweden
- Cordaid
- Local donors

- The Belgian Development Cooperation
- Embrace The Middle East
- Faisal Husseini Foundation
- Foundation Abbe Pierre
- Fr. Labib Kobi POD Emad George
- German Development Cooperation
- Healing Across the Divides – HATD
- Il De France
- Initiative Christlicher Orient
- Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre – Austria
- Mgr. Angilo Livi
- Murex Cooperation
- Professor Mary Grey
- Rotary International
- Scottish Catholic Int Aid Fund
- Secours Catholique – Caritas France
- Secretarite De Solidarete
- Trocaire
- UNDP
- Government of Aragon
- Ayuntamiento Dezaragoza