Lord, give me courage in my everyday life. Courage to speak your truth and to defend the faith. Courage to follow your commandments and to live your beatitudes.

Courage to live a moral life, even if it means losing friends. Courage to pray. Courage to love others, especially the poor. Courage to visit the sick and the lonely.

Lord, may I not fall back in fear, but may I do your will, strengthened by your love.

Lord, teach me true charity. So often I give when it’s easy to give or when I know others see. I want to be more than that to others. Teach me your way. Show me how to give without being asked, how to let go without wanting in return.

Help me to treat others as I wish to be treated, with respect, with kindness, with love. Lord, help me to see your face in those in need today.
Dear Friends,

“The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today”

(St. Francis of Assisi)

It is my pleasure to present to you Caritas Jerusalem 2018 Annual Report as I reflect on these words of St Francis of Assisi. Our staff, and you our friends who support our work, proclaim the Gospel to the poor through the services we offer, irrespective of the religion, gender or ethnicity of those who come to us for help.

In January 2018, having served as Executive Director of Caritas in Gaza for the previous three years, I was appointed General Director of Caritas Jerusalem by the Board of Directors. The transition was not too difficult because I already knew Caritas Headquarters staff and many of our partners and donors, but it was a steep learning curve and a huge challenge as well as a privilege to be entrusted with the leadership of Caritas Jerusalem.

During 2018 we continued to serve the poor, the marginalized, the sick, people with disabilities, and the physically and psychologically traumatized in the volatile and unpredictable political reality of the Holy Land. We provided employment for hundreds of people through income generation projects, helped farmers to develop dignified and sustainable livelihoods through agriculture and eco-tourism cooperatives, enabled people to develop small businesses through flexible and low interest microloans, and through various programmes and activities developed the potential of youth and women. In this report you will read about these different interventions including our emergency response to the violence along the Israeli border where we treated the wounded and provided humanitarian aid to families of the injured and deceased.

I feel humbled as I write this, aware of the work done by my predecessors, current staff and supporters. The words of St John the Evangelist come to mind: “For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’”(John 4:37) With gratitude we build on what has gone before and with faith and confidence we look to the future. Thanks to each one of you, our friends and supporters, who make possible the amazing work that Caritas Jerusalem does for the poor in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip where people long for normality and peace.

May the Lord Bless you and Keep you.

Sr Bridget Tighe FMDM
General Director
Caritas Jerusalem

Restructuring and Renewal

50 years since its establishment seemed a good biblical time to reflect on the presence and mission of Caritas Jerusalem in the Holy Land, and to assess, update and renew its mission to serve the poor and marginalized in the 21st century.

A decision was made in 2017 to embark on an Organisational Restructuring and Development Process (ORDP) to assess, develop and renew all aspects of Caritas Jerusalem’s leadership, administration, and services.

We set up a Support Group comprised of Caritas Internationalis, MONA, Caritas Spain and Caritas Belgium to help and accompany us throughout the ORDP. During the year, together with the Support Group, our Senior Management Team (SMT) implemented the preparatory phase of assessing what was needed, developing the required documents, advertising the consultancy post, recruiting a lead consultant and raising funds to begin the ORDP in early 2019.
Our core values

- Dignity
- Equality
- Solidarity
- Stewardship
- Compassion

Our goals:

- Enhancing the quality and accessibility of social and medical services for the poor and marginalized.
- Providing food aid.
- 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 Vision:

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

Caritas aims to change 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 seek change.

The 167 Caritas 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 Internationals, which has its headquarters in the Vatican City and representatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

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 people we serve to realize their full potential and to act as a voice for the voiceless.

Our active presence throughout the Palestinian Territories has enabled us to respond to the needs of the communities in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through multi-sectoral programs for the poor and marginalized.
The Social Services Department is the core of Caritas Jerusalem since it provides first-line assistance to the increasing number of disadvantaged families in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Caritas is connected to a large local network of parishes, schools and healthcare institutions. By being in this position, we are able to act quickly and give help to those in need. In 2018, we were able to assist 1,045 families through different interventions.

- Family relief: 279 families received emergency assistance to cover their basic needs, such as rent, utility and food costs.
- Medical Support: 70 people had their medical expenses covered.
- Schooling: 620 students in 21 schools in the Bethlehem Governorate had part of their school tuition fees covered.
- University: 11 university students had part of their university tuition fees covered.
- Health Insurance: 65 people had their annual health insurance covered.

I.A is a 61-year-old man from Jerusalem. He lives with his wife in a rented house. I.A suffers from nocturnal enuresis and diabetes; his wife suffers from osteoporosis and is bedridden. Their children are married and live with their families away from the parents.

The couple’s financial situation is dire. They live on the wife’s pension which can barely cover the house rent, let alone their basic necessities and medications. Their children help them whenever they can, but they also have other commitments towards their families which makes it hard for them to give constant assistance to their parents.

With our strong network we were able to find an institution that paid for the house rent. In addition, the social affairs granted him a washing machine since he did not have any, and he used to wash his clothes by hand. Moreover, CJ gave him financial support to help him cover his daily life expenses.
The Elderly Day Care Center in Ramallah is one of the ongoing programs of the Social Services department at Caritas Jerusalem. The center serves more than 85 senior citizens, 45 of them attend the center regularly and the rest are homebound. We provide the senior citizens who come to the center with hot meals 3 times a week; the nurse and the social workers make sure that their physical, psychosocial and medical needs are met.

Throughout the year, doctors, guest speakers and school students visit the center regularly to spend quality time, listen, learn and connect with the senior citizens.

In 2018, the EDCC provided the following activities and services:

- 4,591 hot meals were served to the elderly.
- 86 home visits were conducted by the social workers and the nurse to check on senior citizens wellbeing.
- 80 senior citizens who suffer from chronic illnesses were provided with the monthly medications that they couldn't afford.
- Covered the annual health insurance for 80 elderly.
- 8 groups of Primary, middle and high school students visited the center to spend time with the elderly.
- 24 Group counseling sessions and individual sessions were provided.

Alice is a 75-year-old widow and a mother of 3. She lives with her son in Ramallah. She suffers from general weakness in her body and can hardly move. Her son suffers from schizophrenia and is in constant need of medication. She worries more about her son than herself and always wonders what would happen to him if she dies. They are isolated and people don't visit them because they fear the son's unpredictable reaction and they avoid the unhygienic environment they live in. Caritas social workers and the nurse visit them regularly to give them the medication needed and the required support.
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 counseling, support, prevention and guidance.

In 2018:

- 32 sessions were given to parents about drug prevention.
- 34 family counseling sessions took place in the OCCC for 14 families of drug abusers.
- 8 schools received an information session on drug use and abuse.
- 12 sessions were given to school social workers about important themes on drug addiction.
- 14 home visits were conducted to 9 families of drug addicts.
- 20 sessions were given in training and capacity building for Palestinian Police Officers.
- 13 students received a post-graduate Diploma in Drug Prevention and Technical Intervention for Drug Using and Addiction.

In 2018, Caritas Jerusalem’s OCCC in cooperation with Bethlehem University held its sixth conference entitled “Drug addiction treatment in Palestine: Facts and Prospects” which took place at Bethlehem University.

The conference was attended by many recognized personalities, political leaders, police officers, academics, social workers, and other civil society representatives.

This year we had thirteen graduates: six young men and seven young women who are ready to pursue their career in the fight against addiction.
Supporting social inclusion of people with disabilities in Bethlehem Governorate

Mohammad is a two-year-old child with spastic diplegia. When he first came to Jemima - a center CJ worked with - the therapists noticed how Mohammad was unable to walk because his legs crossed due to hypertonicity, and he could crawl on his chest and abdomen using his hands only. After multiple physiotherapy sessions, Mohammad’s condition improved greatly; he is able to crawl and kneel independently and his stepping is much better and stable.

The case of Mohammad is only one of many of the cases we have been dealing with through our project “social inclusion of PWDs” with Jemima.

On Road to Recovery

Caritas Jerusalem’s Youth Department was established in 2005. The Youth Department has been working, since then, on the building of the identity and the role of youth within the Church and the society at large. The purpose of this department is to encourage Palestinian youth to have a key role in the advancement of their communities through volunteer activities and the Catholic social teaching.

In 2018, the youth department volunteers implemented tens of activities all over Palestine and continued the project “Development of the Social Commitment of the Youth in Palestine” in partnership with Caritas Spain. Through this project the youth in Bethlehem, Ramallah and Gaza parishes were trained on the social doctrine of the Catholic Church, the Palestinian Christian identity, team work and social media. The trainings were integrated with practical activities such as community work with parishes and volunteering on special occasions such as Christmas, Easter and other holidays with the senior citizens, the sick and the orphans.

The Youth Department

Funded by the Polish development cooperation programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland. Implemented by Caritas Jerusalem in cooperation with Caritas Poland 2017-2018. The two-year project aimed at empowering People with Disabilities (PWDs), their primary care givers in partnership with five centers in the Bethlehem Governate; Jemima, Al-Shorouq, Eppheta Paul VI school, Bam and YMCA. In addition, we launched a website operated by PWDs which promotes handcrafted products produced by them.

PWDs singing on stage

A group picture of the youth

Caritas Jerusalem - Annual Report 2018
The 7th annual youth exchange summer camp with the Spanish youth

From the 3rd to the 16th of August 2018, Caritas Jerusalem’s youth department in cooperation with Caritas Spain held its 7th annual youth exchange summer camp in Palestine.

Palestinian families from Beit Jala hosted eight Spanish youth during the two-week program. The youth were engaged in different community works and experienced the authentic Palestinian daily life by residing with individual families in Beit Jala.

They visited historical places, community and cooperative projects, charity institutions, participated in workshops, and community service activities.

The camp is only a part of a wider cooperation strategy between Caritas Spain and Caritas Jerusalem, titled The Peace Initiative. It has been held 6 times in Palestine and once in Spain. It aims to develop youth’s commitment, as well as their activities within their churches and communities.

Caritas Jerusalem is managing three health centers: two in the West Bank villages of Taybeh and Aboud and one in Gaza.

Gaza Health Center:

Our small clinic on the edge of Al Shati Refugee Camp in Gaza city provides specialist primary health and dental care and serves as the hub for our outreach work throughout the Gaza Strip. It also serves as our admin and emergency preparedness centre.

Facility upgrade and staff capacity building:

Between 2016 and 2018 International Medical Corps (IMC) funded by USAID worked with us to upgrade the clinic, develop a fully computerised warehouse management system, patient information system and an emergency preparedness plan with staff capacity training in all these fields. All patient records are now computerised and paper free, all medication and medical supplies are computerised and managed by a store keeper and pharmacist, and we maintain an emergency preparedness plan for quick response in case of an emergency. This upgrade enabled us to expand our work and to serve a greater number of people.
What we do in Gaza

During 2018 we worked in the fields of primary health care, health education and nutrition, psychosocial intervention for parents and children, youth programme, social assistance, and community development, and when the border violence erupted we responded with a mobile trauma team to treat the wounded who did not need hospital care and those discharged early from hospital.

Medical work:
In the main clinic we provided specialist primary health care with a female gynaecologist, internist, paediatrician and dentist, with pharmacy and well-equipped lab that also serves the mobile teams. Our outreach medical work included:

- A Mobile Medical Team (MMT) funded by IMC that served 10 marginalised and vulnerable communities within about 2 kilometers of the Israeli border fence. When USAID funds were stopped in mid-2018 response to an emergency appeal enabled us to continue that service.
- Mobile trauma teams treating the wounded.
- Food and hygiene parcels for families of the wounded and cancer drugs for children.
- A health education, nutrition and medical project for the elderly aimed at reducing their dependence on medicines, making them more aware of their human rights and better able to care for themselves.
- A deworming project with health education for the parents, in a very poor and unhygienic camp, for 6,000 young children with severe intestinal infestation. As well as lab analysis and medication the children got hygiene kits and fortified biscuits.

Social help for the very poor
Through our Social Department we gave assistance to some people in extreme need and a donation enabled us to set up a revolving fund whereby we give medicine at a reduced price in our main clinic.

Youth programme
33 young adults completed the Catholic Social Teaching trainings in Gaza and are looking forward to practicing their newly acquired skills.

Community Development
Through Local Health Committees; trainings on First Aid and Emergency, Domestic Accident Prevention and Advanced security measures in the field.

† Provided medical services for 67,219 patients.

† Provided medical services for 1,989 patients.

† Provided medical services for 4,192 patients.

† Taybeh Health Center:
Taybeh is a village of 1,300 inhabitants 35 km north of Jerusalem. It is surrounded by several Israeli settlements. The Taybeh Health Center was established in 1997, it provides health services to a population of 18,000 and receives around 400 patients a month.

† West Bank Health Projects:
1. Promoting the general health of students in Aboud & Taybeh regions. (2017-2020)
   The project aims to improve the quality and accessibility of health services among school students in Aboud and Taybeh regions.

2. Local health committees in West Bank and Gaza (2016-2018)
   The project aimed at strengthening the local health committees and encouraging them to be active referral points in their communities.

   The project aims at improving the quality of primary health care services for women and infants in Taybeh.

4. Increasing Self Confidence-Functioning for Palestinians with Chronic Diseases living in the West Bank (Aboud and Taybeh) (2017-2018)
   The project aimed at reducing morbidities and mortalities among hypertensive and diabetic patients in north west of Ramallah rural villages and marginalized areas.

5. Dental Care in Aboud and Taybeh (2017-2019)
   The project aims at improving dental health and to raise dental health care standards in Aboud and Taybeh, with an emphasis on children and pregnant women.
Microloans provide economic opportunities for people who would find it difficult to get loans from banks to develop their potential and live in dignity. Our microcredit department grants three categories of loans: to establish a small business, to renovate a home or to help pay university fees.

In 2018, the department gave out 14 loans where it financed 10 business projects and 4 families were able to renovate their houses.

One of our beneficiaries is a mother of three from Bethlehem. Her eldest son used to work in a local store with a very limited income. Like most mothers she was constantly concerned for her son’s future in an area with limited job opportunities, and together with her husband they decided to open a butchery for him. Thus, they rented a small store in a good location in Bethlehem.

First, they worked on the interior design then the electricity installation; but they couldn’t afford to finish the work and turned to Caritas Jerusalem for a loan to open their store and start a new beginning for their son as an independent entrepreneur. Currently the business is doing very well, and their second son joined the family business.

Tawfiq is a 6 year old boy from Gaza. He lives with his parents and 3 brothers in a small house in southern Gaza. Tawfiq’s family is one of many families in Gaza strip that suffers from unemployment and lack of basic needs due to the current economic situation.

As a result of the bad political and economic situation in Gaza, Tawfiq’s father worries about the future of his children, since he does not have a stable source of income. He says that sometimes they have food on the table, but most often it’s only bread and rice. He could not afford to take Tawfiq to a clinic to do check-ups even after Tawfiq was continuously complaining about his stomach pain. But thanks to Trocaire project, Tawfiq was able to do all the check-ups needed and was diagnosed with Amoeba and Anaemia. Caritas followed his case with the needed medical treatment, nutritious food and after 3 months Tawfiq was completely healed and is enjoying his time playing outside with his friends.
In Area C, over 60 per cent of the West Bank, Israel retains near exclusive control, including over law enforcement, access and movement, planning and construction. The restrictive planning regime applied by Israel in Area C makes it virtually impossible for Palestinians to obtain building permits, impeding the development of adequate housing, infrastructure and livelihoods.

Since 2017 Caritas Jerusalem with the support of the Government of Aragon and Caritas Spain helped 39 families in Al Makhrour to cultivate and rehabilitate their lands. By mid 2018, 125 dunums (1,000 square meters) were cultivated and saplings of almonds, olives, pears, apples and other vegetables were planted. This project created 55 temporary jobs and enhanced the knowledge of the farmers in agro ecological systems and practices.

In 2018 we were able to cultivate another 21 dunums out of the planned 41 dunums with the support of the Municipality of Zaragoza in Spain and Caritas Spain. In 2019, we will continue the implementation of food security and livelihoods project that focuses on the use of environmental farming system and preserves the resources of the water in Al Makhrour, located to the west of the city. This phase will complete the work started in other parts of Al Makhrour and will be the biggest agro-ecological project in Palestine.

Our partners in this project include the Ministry of Agriculture, Beit Jala Municipality, The Society of St. Yves and Beit Jala and Bethlehem Farmers Societies.

Caritas Jerusalem was asked to provide 1 million olive wood rosaries to be distributed by Pope Francis to the youth in Panama for World Youth Day (WYD) and pray for world peace beginning in Jerusalem.

The project initiated by Mgr. Peter Bürcher and funded by the Association Saint Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne (AVEJM), provided hundreds of jobs for unemployed youth, marginalized women and people with disabilities who could not find suitable, flexible employment elsewhere.

Caritas Jerusalem selected 22 small workshops in the Bethlehem governorate to produce the rosaries from slicing the olive wood (pieces pruned from olive trees in accordance with good husbandry) to the production of the beads and the crosses. The threading and packing were done by people in need.

The income enabled the small workshop owners to develop their capacity and employ more staff and the women, the youth and people with disabilities could make a living in dignity which is one of the core values of Caritas Jerusalem.

Caritas Jerusalem would like to thank all the partners and donors near and far who have donated to this project which allows people to make a living in dignity.
Shrouq & Maysa are two young university students from the same family who live in a remote village near Beit Sahour.

Shrouq is 24 years old, married and has two children. “Making rosaries gave me the chance to continue my education in Birzeit University and now I am able to cover the tuition fees on my own without asking my husband for money. It is a great achievement for someone like me who lives in a village to become self-sufficient.”

Her sister in law, Maysa was inspired by her and she too joined in the project to cover her own university expenses. “If she can do it, I can do it too.”

D. N. is a 26 year old man who used to work in olive wood barely scraping by. “I was always a hard worker, but the wages were so low that I could hardly make a living. Caritas revived the market and increased the wages to a fair level.”

His income increased by 80% and he employed four other previously unemployed young men. Currently, D. N. has five machines and four workers.

According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) unemployment in Palestine was 25.9% in 2018; 17.3% in the West Bank and 41.0% in the Gaza Strip. The unemployment rate for females was 39.2% in 2018 while the rate for men was 22.5%.

Participation of men in the labour force is about two times higher than the participation of women.

Caritas Training Center (CTC) was established in 2014 in Jabal Al Nijmah near Ramallah with 6 women students and a young man with minor disability coming from 3 villages surrounding Ramallah.

On the 23rd of July 2018, twenty-five women graduated from Caritas Jerusalem Training Center among them one with minor physical disability.

In four years, more than 90 women were trained coming from 21 villages and towns. Also 26 women were able to start their micro businesses with the support of Caritas Jerusalem’s partners through various projects and programmes.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Grants and Contributions in 2018

Expenses in 2018

THANK YOU

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give”

Winston Churchill

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PARTNER AND A FRIEND

- Abbaye De Latroun
- Association SeCoDév
- Belen 2000
- Bethlehem University
- CAFOD
- Caritas Aotearoa- New Zealand
- Caritas Belgium
- Caritas Korea
- Caritas Czech Republic
- Caritas Hong Kong
- Caritas Internationalis
- Caritas Italy
- Caritas Japan
- Caritas Poland
- Caritas Spain
- Caritas Switzerland
- Catholic Relief Services
- Development & Peace
- Dr. Marc Halbritter
- EMBRACE the Middle East
- Faisal Husseini Foundations
- Fr. Paul Clayton-LEA
- Franciscan Motherhood General Ladywell Convent
- Government of Aragon in Spain
- Healing Across the Divides-HATD
- Initiative Christler Orient
- International Medical Corps
- Local Donors
- Manos Unidas
- Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs
- Misean Cara
- Municipality of Zaragoza in Spain
- One Body One Spirit Movement
- Secours Catholique
- Secretariat De Solidarite
- Singapore - CHARIS
- St Francis and St Clare Trust
- St. Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne
- Trocaire
- Unite Pastorale Saint-Joseph