

## **BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY CONVENES HIGH-LEVEL DIPLOMATIC MEETING WITH AMBASSADORS TO THE HOLY SEE IN ROME**

*Rome, Italy, September 12, 2024*

This Thursday, September 12, Bethlehem University hosted a significant diplomatic meeting at the Generalate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Rome, bringing together Ambassadors to the Holy See. This gathering aimed to deepen understanding and foster support for Bethlehem University's mission of providing quality education to Palestinian students, particularly during the ongoing conflict in the region.

The event, led by **Brother Armin Luistro, FSC, Superior General of the Brothers of the Christian Schools**, and **Brother Héctor Hernán Santos González, FSC, PhD, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University**, highlighted the university's role as a sanctuary for learning and hope. With the current crisis in Palestine, the challenges faced by students have increased significantly, making the university's mission even more crucial.

### **Enhancing Global Awareness**

Ambassadors attending the event gained insight into Bethlehem University's pivotal role in the Palestinian education system. Despite the difficult realities of war, Bethlehem University continues to offer students a path to a brighter future, standing as a beacon of resilience and peace in the Middle East.

*"Bethlehem University stands as a pillar of strength and resilience for Palestinian students during these turbulent times. It is imperative that we help amplify their story and support their journey",* remarked Br. Armin Luistro.

The event underscored the need for global awareness and support for Bethlehem University, not only as a higher education institution but also as a force for peace and progress in a region marked by conflict. Ambassadors were encouraged to share the university's story within their international networks, amplifying its impact on Palestinian students and the broader community.

### **Impact on Palestinian Students**

In the midst of war and instability, Bethlehem University continues to provide an educational lifeline to students – and their families – facing immense challenges. For many, the university is not only a place of academic growth but a safe haven from the conflict that surrounds them. Through its unwavering commitment to the pursuit of truth, advancing social justice, promoting peace and understanding, Bethlehem University helps to shape future leaders who will contribute to rebuilding their communities and fostering peace in the region.

*“Education is always a critical tool for hope and change, and in times of war, even more so. Bethlehem University offers Palestinian students a chance to envision and build a peaceful future, despite the ongoing occupation and violence they endure,”* emphasized **Brother Héctor Hernán Santos González, FSC, PhD**, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University.

**Brother Jack Curran, FSC, PhD, KHS, Vice President for Advancement at Bethlehem University**, also addressed the gathering, reinforcing the university's mission of academic excellence rooted in the pursuit of truth and the advancement of social justice as a Catholic university in the Lasallian tradition: *“Bethlehem University is more than just a university. It’s a beacon of hope for the Palestinian people and for people of all faiths across the globe who hold the Holy Land and its people dear. Bethlehem University, the Church and the De La Salle Christian Brothers are extremely grateful for the support of the international community and greatly appreciate the deepening collaboration with other international universities and our diplomatic partners during these challenging times.”*

The meeting concluded with a strong call for international solidarity, urging ambassadors to continue their support for Bethlehem University’s mission and to help raise awareness of the university’s critical role in shaping the lives of Palestinian students during these challenging times.

\* \* \*

### **About Bethlehem University**

Founded in 1973 by the Vatican and the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in response to the request of the people of Palestine, Bethlehem University is the first and only Catholic university in the Holy Land. For over 50 years, its dedicated faculty and staff have been committed to providing quality Catholic higher education in the Lasallian tradition. Nestled in the heart of Bethlehem, just 500 meters from the Church of Nativity, the university serves a diverse student body of Christians and Muslims, offering a wide range of academic programs that promote peace, dialogue, and community development while preparing students for various professions with proficiency, confidence, and character. Despite the challenges posed by the ongoing conflicts in the region, Bethlehem University remains a vibrant beacon of hope and resilience, empowering Palestinian students to be leaders dedicated to the common good, contributing to the betterment of their society, the wider Middle East and beyond.

More about Bethlehem University: [www.bethlehem.edu](http://www.bethlehem.edu)

---

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Yazan Al-Zubaidy  
Director of Marketing and Communications  
Bethlehem University  
+970-599941062  
yalzubaidy@bethlehem.edu

George Rishmawi  
Communications officer  
grishmawi@bethlehem.edu  
+970-599833888

Jenny Bbaoun  
Communications officer  
jbaboun@bethlehem.edu  
+970-599234942

