



LETTERS OF SUPPORT

1. **Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes**,
President And Professor Of Pastoral Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary
2. **His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian**, *Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)*
3. **Most Reverend Blase J. Cupich**,
Archbishop Of Chicago
4. **Ms. Marie Dennis and Bishop Kevin Dowling, C.S.S.R.**, *Co-Presidents of Pax Christi International*
5. **His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo**, *Archbishop of Galveston-Houston*
6. **Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory**,
Archbishop of Atlanta
7. **His Eminence The Most Reverend Metropolitan Joseph**, *Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America, Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*
8. **Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.**,
Archbishop of Louisville; President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
9. **Most Reverend William E. Lori**,
Archbishop of Baltimore
10. **Most Reverend Denis J. Madden**,
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore
11. **Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted**,
Bishop Of Phoenix
12. **Reverend Dr. David A. Renwick**, *Senior Pastor, The National Presbyterian Church*
13. **Most Reverend Nicholas J. Samra**,
Eparchial Bishop Of Newton, Melkite Greek Catholic Church
14. **Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr**,
Archbishop of Cincinnati
15. **The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori**, *Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church*
16. **Mr. Constantine M. Triantafilou**,
Executive Director and CEO of the International Orthodox Christian Charities
17. **His Beatitude Fouad Twal**, *Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem*
18. **Dr. Carolyn Y. Woo**, *President & CEO Of Catholic Relief Services*
19. **His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl**,
Archbishop of Washington



HCEF Awards Banquet

Friday, October 16, 2015 • Washington Marriott Georgetown
Reception 6:00 pm • Dinner 7:00 pm

2015 HCEF Award Recipients



Palestinian Diaspora Award

Adel Turjuman *Entrepreneur, President of the Arab Guatemalan Association, and President of the Palestinian Guatemalan Federation*



Living Stones Solidarity Award

Society of St. Yves, *Catholic Center for Human Rights*

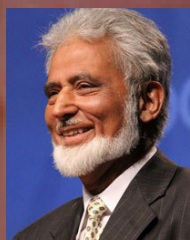


President's Award

Anne-Elisabeth Giuiliani *Historian, Researcher and Chaplain at Georgetown University, Translator and Interpreter*

Faith and Tolerance Award

Dr. Sayyid M. Syeed,
National Director of the Office for Interfaith & Community Alliances, Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)



HCEF Award

Saliba Sarsar, PhD
Professor of Political Science and Sociology, Manmouth University



KTH Youth Achievement Award

Chiara J. Cardone, *Palestinian Youth Advocate and Consultant of Know Thy Heritage*



COVER IMAGE:
Raneem, 3 years old from Betonia near Ramallah.
courtesy photos by Haitham Al Khatib



Dr. James Zogby,
President of the Arab American Institute



Khalil Jashan, *Executive Director of Arab Center Washington DC, Inc.*



Fr. Michael McDonagh,
International Advisor to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem



Adv. Raffioul Rofa,
LL.M., Director of the Society of St. Yves



Shadia Sbait, *Co-Founder and General Coordinator of Iqrit Community Center*



Eng. Anthony Habash,
Regional Director HCEF



Stephen B. Corbin, D.D.S., M.P.H., *Former Special Olympics Senior Vice President of Community Impact and Support, Washington, DC; Living Faith Lutheran Church Elder, Rockville, MD*

Bishop Knestout,
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington



Father Drew Christiansen, S.J., *Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Global Human Development, Georgetown University.*



Some of our featured speakers:

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation

17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

October 16-17, 2015



THE HOLY LAND CHRISTIAN ECUMENICAL FOUNDATION

6935 Wisconsin Ave, Suite 518 • Bethesda, MD 20815-6124 • tel: 301-951-9400 • fax: 301-951-9402

email: hcef@hcef.org

WASHINGTON MARRIOTT GEORGETOWN

1221 22nd Street, NW • Washington, DC 20037

AWARDS BANQUET



SATURDAY’S PROGRAM

Palestinian Christians: Persecuted on all Sides

With the burning of churches and holy places such as the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fish – Palestinian Christians continue to fight for their rights against their long-time oppressor. Adding to this burden is the new threat by ISIS who has threatened to “purify” Jerusalem if Christians do not leave this sacred city. As if this were not enough our Evangelical brethren have for a long time denied the Palestinian Christian presence and identity in the Holy Land. These nails add to the already heavy cross Palestinian Christians have suffered of being made refugees, lack of access to education and employment, and the daily humiliations they must encounter under occupation. This panel will discuss the conditions affecting the Palestinian Christians and look to signs of hope for the future such as the canonization of the first Palestinian Saints, and the recognition of the State of Palestine by the Vatican. What can we hope for the future?

Why Palestinian Women Matter

Palestinian women are at the heart of their families, society, and national development. In addition to promoting health and well-being, they stand for moderation and peace, not radicalism and violent extremism, and for equality and justice, not dispossession and disempowerment of the other. The Palestinian heritage, culture and identity have been preserved by these strong women. This panel looks at the different ways Palestinian women have served as the guardians of the Palestinian identity through their art, embroidery, crafts and culinary tradition and how they have empowered their peers and families. The panel will also address ways by which Palestinian women, young and old, in Palestine and around the world, are mobilizing as active champions for justice, peace, and coexistence.

Human Rights Violations: Legal and Ethical Perspectives

Palestinians live under Israeli policies and practices -- on both sides of the Green Line -- that consistently deny them their basic human rights. This panel will examine Israel’s behavior toward Palestinians from legal and ethical perspectives, highlighting the village of Iqrit as a clear example of human rights violations. Panelists will also discuss Palestinian youth development as a primary means for positive change and how we can all cooperate globally to protect Palestinian rights through the effective implementation of international law.

Christians of the Middle East in Crisis

Christianity’s presence in the Arab world dates back to the advent of Jesus Christ, and for the past two millennia Christian Arabs have been a fundamental part of their region’s culture, contributing to art, technological innovation, scholarship, politics, and economic development. Despite their firmly established traditions and respected reputations, many Arab Christians currently live as victims of extremism, occupation, and civil war. This environment antagonistic to Christians in the Middle East is a recent development in a long history of coexistence among Muslim and Christian Arabs in the region. Arab Christians are currently subjected to discriminatory laws, a profound lack of security, and dispossession due to internal displacement from war and the actions of extremists. This panel features speakers of both Islamic and Christian backgrounds, who will discuss: the current living conditions of Arab Christians, how extremists in the region are not representative of Islam at large, and the ways in which organizations like the U.S. Muslim & Christian Coalition (MCC), organized



by HCEF, can protect religious minorities in Arab countries and promote the return of peaceful coexistence.

Empowering Palestinian Youth from around the World

Palestinian youth across the world have strong attachment to their national identity, in spite of the fact that most of them have never been to Palestine. This panel will present how the “Know Thy Heritage” Leadership Program is assisting the youth to live Palestine and how HCEF is motivating them to establish and foster social connections and become active participants in their communities and advocates for peace, justice, and coexistence.

Tourism in the Holy Land: Unveiling the Beauty of Palestine

Palestine is an under-explored travel destination. Rich in history, culture, cuisine and ecological beauty, many do not venture past the walls of the Church of Nativity to see all that Palestine has to offer. In this session we will explore how building links between tourism and other economic sectors can foster socio-economic growth at the local level. We will hear from various tourism experts and religious players as well as existing initiatives that attempt to bridge the gap between visiting tourists and the Palestinian communities of these sites such as the Bethlehem Museum.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is my great pleasure to greet you with news of the **17th International Conference and Awards Banquet**. This year’s theme emphasizes “*Our Faith is Commitment to Justice, Peace and Coexistence.*” I invite you to come and join us on **October 16 – 17** for another informative, inspiring and empowering occasion.

This year has been an eventful one for HCEF. It began with the creation of the **U.S. Muslim Christian Coalition (MCC)** for the protection of Christians and other religious minorities in Arab Countries. Despite the everyday suffering of Palestinians under the occupation they still extended a hand out to their persecuted brothers and sisters across the Arab world.

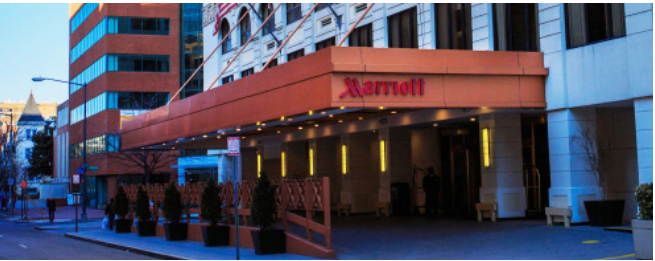
In February, after 2 years of hard work, HCEF was able to open the **Bethlehem Museum** - a dream that took the Arab Women’s Union of Bethlehem (AWU) 30 years to realize. With this museum we were able to create a deeper understanding and appreciation for the role Palestinian Arab Christians play in preserving the Holy Land’s heritage, identity, and culture. The museum seeks to reclaim the true narrative of Christians in the Holy Land. Through the Bethlehem Museum we were able to create 10 new jobs as well as support 5 charities via our gift shop. Learn more about this historic project and how it is building community in Bethlehem at our website www.bethlehemmuseum.com.

May was the month of miracles. The first miracle was the canonization of the first Palestinian Saints Blesseds Marie-Alphonsine Danil Ghattas and Mariam of Jesus Crucified Bouardy. I was deeply moved at the canonization. Being surrounded by my Palestinian brothers and sisters and fellow Catholic followers who came together in honor of two Palestinian women who exemplify the spirit of my homeland was an event I will never forget. These saints performed what could be attributed as their first miracle as Saints– the recognition of the Palestinian State by the Vatican. His Holiness, Pope Francis’ act in signing the treaty with the Palestinian state moves us one large step closer to gaining the dignity Palestine has always deserved. This act marks progress toward the world’s recognition of Palestine as both a haven of Christianity and interfaith living – an unsuspecting model of peace and progress for the international community.

This conference embodies the culmination of all of this year’s events, evaluates them and leads a note of what we can expect in the future. Come and learn from our outstanding panel discussions, the crucial roles pilgrims, youth, women and business leaders can play in the preservation of the Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land and Arab Christians across the Middle East! I assure you that you will leave enlightened and inspired by our extraordinary speakers and panelists from across the world. Each day, our movement continues to grow as more and more people of good will come together, *committed to justice, peace, and coexistence*. I invite you to come and join us! There is no better place to start than at our **17th International Conference**. I hope to see you there!

May the Lord continue to shower His blessings upon you,

Rateb Y. Rabie, KCHS
President and CEO, HCEF



17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HONORARY COMMITTEE

- The Reverend Dr. M. Craig Barnes**
President & Professor of Pastoral Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary
- His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian**
Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
- Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson**, *Archbishop of St. Louis*
- Most Reverend William E. Lori, S.T.D.**
Archbishop of Baltimore
- Most Reverend Denis J. Madden**
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore
- His Eminence Theodore Cardinal E. McCarrick**
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, DC
- His Eminence Metropolitan Joseph**, *Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America*
- His Beatitude Fouad Twal**, *Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem*
- His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl**
Archbishop of Washington, DC



17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE and Awards Banquet

Marriott Washington Georgetown
1221 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Dates
October 15 -18, 2015

Room rate
159.00 /NIGHT

Cutoff Date: October 9, 2015

17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE	Ticket Cost	After 10/9/2015	Tickets #	Total
General Session , Saturday Oct. 17th 8:00 am- 5:30 pm	\$25	\$45	_____	\$_____
Awards Banquet , Friday Oct. 16th No Banquet Ticket Sales at the Door	\$120	\$140	_____	\$_____
Conference and Awards Banquet Friday Oct. 16th & Saturday Oct. 17th	\$145	\$170	_____	\$_____
Awards Banquet Table Sponsor (reserves 10 seats) Includes acknowledgment at Banquet	\$1500	\$1600	_____	\$_____
Clergy and Students General Session Sat. Oct. 17th	\$20	\$40	_____	\$_____

Clergy and youth scholarships are available!

Inquire by e-mail to conference@hcef.org or
by phone at 301 951 9400 ext. 205

REGISTER: ONLINE at www.hcef.org/register, or
MAIL to HCEF, 6935 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 518, Bethesda, MD 20815-6124

THANK YOU!



*Fostering a deeper understanding
and appreciaaion for the role
Palestinian Arab Christians play
in preserving Palestine’s heritage,
identity, and culture.*