17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
October 16-17, 2015

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

2015 HCEF Award Recipients

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
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. Ms. Constantine M. Triantafillou, Executive Director and CEO of the International Orthodox Christian Charities
17. His Beatitude Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem
18. Dr. Carolyn Y. Won, President & CEO Of Catholic Relief Services

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Some of our featured speakers:

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

Dr. James Zogby, President of the Arab American Institute

The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation
17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
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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 this was not enough our Evangelical brethren have for a long time denied the Palestinian Christian presence and identity in the Holy Land. These trends 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 extremism, and for equality and justice, not dispossession and disfranchisement 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.

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Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson,
Archbishop of Washington, DC
Most Reverend Denis J. Madden
Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore
His Eminence Theodore Cardinal E. McCarrick
Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C.
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

May was the month of miracles. The first miracle was the canonization of the first Palestinian Saints Blessed Marie-Alphonse Dani Ghattas and Mariam of Jesus Crucified Boura. 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 Saint’s – 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 Saints 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 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.

Ratch E. Rabie, KCHS
President and CEO, HCEF

HCEF 17th International Conference and Awards Banquet
Marriott Washington Georgetown
1221 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

General Session, Saturday Oct. 17th
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Awards Banquet, Friday Oct. 16th
No Banquet Ticket Sales at the Door

Conference and Awards Banquet
Oct. 16th & Saturday Oct. 17th

Clergy and Students General Session Sat. Oct. 17th

17th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HONORARY COMMITTEE

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.bethlehemuseum.com.

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Clergy and youth scholarships are available!

Inquire by e-mail to conference@hcef.org or by phone at 1-815-951-9400 ext. 265

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