



## Seminary of the Latin Patriarchate, December 4, 2025

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

As we enter the holy season of Advent, my heart turns with renewed gratitude toward each of you who accompany our seminarians, our mission, and our beloved Holy Land with such faithful generosity. Your support is never merely financial; it is a living testimony that light still rises over the hills of Judah, even after the deepest nights.

This Advent comes to us as a tender mercy — a brief *respite* from the long months of fear and conflict. The war has not vanished, its wounds have not healed, but for a moment the land breathes. Families dare to hope again. Children dare to laugh again. And our seminarians dare to imagine the future with the quiet confidence that God is not finished with us.

In this softened silence of winter, the words of the Prophet Isaiah resound with new force:

*“I will pour water upon the thirsty land, and streams upon the dry ground.”*

This year, that promise has taken on a very concrete meaning for our Seminary as we have recently received an extraordinarily generous gift from the **Western Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem** — a donation of **\$250,000** dedicated to bringing clean, purified, sanitized, and safe water to the entire Seminary.

In a land where peace is fragile and resources uncertain, the prospect of *clean water* — water that heals, water that sustains, water that restores — feels almost like a prophecy fulfilled. It is as though the Lord has chosen to whisper to us through pipes and wells, reminding us that His grace often flows quietly, cleansing what has become weary and renewing what has grown dim.

This gift is not only a practical blessing; it is a sign of communion, a reassurance that we are not forgotten, that the Body of Christ continues to beat with generosity even across oceans.

It is with equal joy that I extend to you a heartfelt invitation to share in another great moment of grace. On **Sunday, December 14th**, the Third Sunday of Advent, our community will celebrate the ordination of three Seminarians Fadi Qandah, Malek Al- Qalanzeh and Jiries Abu Khalil to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate.



In a year marked by sorrow, their “yes” sings of hope. They stand as living witnesses that God still raises up servants for His people, and that the flame of vocation burns even in stormy winds.

Your presence among us would be a profound encouragement — a sign that their journey is supported not only by the Church in the Holy Land, but by friends and benefactors who believe in them and walk with them.

As Christmas approaches, I pray that the Child of Bethlehem may bless your homes with warmth, joy, and new strength. May He who once entered a troubled world to bring peace now enter your hearts with the same gentleness and radiant hope.

With deep gratitude, and with the assurance of my prayers for you and your families, I wish you a joyful and grace-filled Advent, and a Christmas overflowing with light.

**In Christ,**

*Fr. Bernard Poggi*

Rector, Patriarchal Seminary of Beit Jala





**Meet the formators of the Seminary (from the left):**

Fr Butrus Hijazeen - Vice rector & Economo

Fr Louis Hazboun - Animator of the Major Seminary

Fr Bernard Poggi – Rector

Fr Issa Hijazeen - Animator of the Minor Seminary



**Fadi Munther Qandah – Mafraq (Jordan)**

**Malek Azmi Al- Qalanzeh – Adir (Jordan)**

**Jiries Majed Abu Khalil – Jifna (Palestine)**

The three seminarians who will be ordained as deacons on **Sunday, December 14, 2025.**



**To support the Seminary:**

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A Seminary family photo taken on the feast of Christ the King, November 23, 2025, including the priests, sisters, and the major and minor seminarians.