

Autobiography

My name is Youssef Ghassan Nather Ibrahim. I grew up in Zababdeh In a small town in Palestine–Holy Land, more than half of its population are Christian, and the rest are Muslims. I am from a traditional family, the main job of my father is tailor, and at the same time he works in our farm, and I had spent a lots time working with him. My family consists of my father and mother, two sons, and three sisters. We live with my grand mother, and my uncles in the same building, and my family is Roman Catholic. My family go to church every Sunday. And I studied in the school of the parish.

One day, when I was 12 years old my mother, asked me what do you think about going to the seminary? In that time I did not understand what is the meaning of the seminary, and I didn't care about that question. After awhile, a priest came to my school and asked us if we would like to go to the seminary. I remembered my mother's question, and I decide to try that thing. In the acceptance process the seminary refused me, because of my small size, but the parish priest insisted they take me, and then I stayed in the seminary for 3 years. Afterwards I decide to leave the seminary because the school in my town was better, and to check where is better for me. Then I decided to return to seminary, in that time just my uncle knew about that. After I graduated from high school, I told my family, because I did not want anyone to influence me in that decision. And now I am in my fifth year in the major seminary, the first was the spiritual year, then a French linguistic year, because it's our main language of studies, and in that summer I went to Paris for one month. Then I

began studying philosophy for tow years, and I began to help in the summer camps like the other seminarians. In those years, of the most interesting things for me, was prayers in The Holy Sepulcher, every Saturday and Sunday during lent, and then during holy week.

I spent one year in Saint Joseph seminary in New York, to improve my English language and to take new experience then I am back to begin the first year of theology in my seminary in Beit Jala.

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