



More Gift Opportunities

offer. St. George's works to be a good example of what Christians and Christianity represent. The political situation has left an imprint of difficulty and uncertainty on the school and the economy. The school offers scholarships to students in the most extreme need. Scholarship money will be given to an orphan, a deaf/needy family, a broken family and a single parent who is sick.

The Israeli occupation makes getting to and from school a constant challenge due to the checkpoints. Teachers are required to renew their travel permits monthly and wait for hours to pass thru military blockades. Mr. Saikaly uses a school bus and travels on illegal roads to pick up teachers and students. He has been caught by the military police several times. The psychological effects on school children of soldiers, walls, searches and permits have caused many disturbing experiences for the pupils, including long waiting hours, being frightened by soldiers and occasionally being beaten.

The optimism of staff, parents and students was evident at this year's graduation ceremony. Mr. Saikaly praised the principles of Pope John Paul II, and said that Christians have to show their love to all people, help those in need regardless of their religious affiliation, guard life and pave the way for equality, justice and peace.

JERUSALEM PRINCESS BASMA CENTER

◆ **\$9,500 For a Resource Center and for the educational and rehabilitation needs of children and adults with special needs.**

Located on the Mount of Olives, the Center is home to 450 children and adults, suffering from paralysis, strokes, debilitating injuries, physical and emotional problems. The American Friends have funded a Hearing Aid Bank, and sent a volunteer to serve several months at the center. The center's role is to provide training and education to children and adults with special needs to help them meet their right to inclusion within their communities.

The center conducts yearly summer camps where both disabled and able-bodied children are integrated together for indoor and outdoor activities. It is almost impossible for the families to pay the cost of the camp, based on current economic, political and military conditions in Jerusalem.

110 children with unique special needs are included within the school. Many of these children require special educational assistance that is provided by a resource teacher. To support this work, a resource room with CD players, computers and special educational gadgets are needed.



The Orthopedic Workshop makes their own prosthesis and other technical aids.



ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, JERUSALEM

◆ **Cathedral Summer Camps: \$5,500**

The camps bring Palestinian children, ages 4 to 14, Christians and Moslems, together

in a family-like atmosphere of co-operative relationships that promote brotherly ties between all participants. The chief guiding line is our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the teachings of the Holy Scriptures.

The camps dedicate most of its activities and time to teach the children what it means to be involved in good relationships with others and to be more prepared to forgive the errors and wrongdoings of others. It also helps the children look to the future with hope, despite the very difficult conditions people are living in and the ongoing restrictions and limitations almost every single Palestinian family has to endure due to the current political and military situation in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Parents are included in the three weeks of activities, hoping this overcomes the barrier of age between children and their parents, living under very difficult conditions. Daily activities include sports, cultural events, tours to historical sites and much more. Families with limited finances receive scholarship grants. The American Friends have supplied these funds many times in past years.

The camps' objective is to improve the quality of Palestinian youth's lives and give them the chance to be creative and self confident in the fast changing world of technology.



PERMANENT DIACONATE IN THE DIOCESE OF JERUSALEM

◆ **Residential Workshop: \$15,000**

Between 2000 and 2005, informal meetings took place between priests from various dioceses to discuss the rationale for the creation and ordination of Permanent Deacons within the Diocese of Jerusalem. The rationale for the creation and ordination of Permanent Deacons was, and is, that the Diocese runs and supports a preponderance of institutions and as such needs a strong diaconal ministry which serves both the Episcopal Church community, the Christian communities at large, as well as civic society in general. The Permanent Diaconate will enrich the spiritual and congregational life of the Church, and support its ministry and mission of compassion, reconciliation, education and care.

A five-day residential workshop will be held in Jerusalem with the Bishops and the Diaconate committee (Fr. Kamal, Fr. Hanna Mansour, Fr. Luay, Brother Andrew, Sr. Vreni) plus several other bishops and clergy from the USA, Germany, Australia and Japan. They will assess the potential for the development of a permanent diaconate.

