



THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE
OF JERUSALEM

CONCLUSION REPORT

REHABILITATION OF THE ROSARY SISTERS' HOUSE
IN BEIT JALA
PALESTINE

GA 145/19



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
FEBRUARY 2021

*“Dear Sisters, know one thing: the Church does not tolerate you, it needs you!
By your faithful life, be the light and indicate the one who is path, truth and life”.*

(H.H. Pope Francis)

THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) was restored in 1847, since then it has been promoting the best interests of the local communities it serves. Today, the Patriarchal Diocese oversees approximately 150,000 faithful in four countries, Palestine, Jordan, Israel and Cyprus, covering a rich tapestry of cultures, languages, religions and traditions. Serving all with special emphasis on the support and care of indigenous Holy Land Christians remains the enduring mission of the Mother Church, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

BACKGROUND

Beit Jala is a small town near Bethlehem and its inhabitants do not exceed ten thousand: 70% are Christians and the rest are Muslims. With Bethlehem and Beit Sahour, Beit Jala forms a triangle where many Christians live. It is believed that the name Beit Jala is derived from the Syriac word Calla that means collection of stones. While others think that it is derived from another word, which is Gyliva

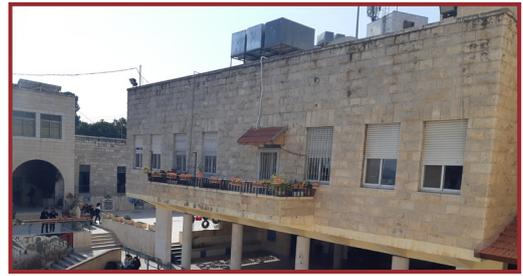


that means happiness. This name is mentioned in the holy Bible. History tells us that people began to live in Beit Jala when Christianity began to extend widely. Saint Nicola, in the 5th century, spent all his life in a small cave where a church has been built recently. Saint Theodosius came to Beit Jala, for prayer only, and settled near a place called Kathisma or Qadismo well that lies in Jerusalem-Bethlehem road.

The Latin Patriarchate School was the first school founded in the town in 1854. Initially, it was for boys and 2 years later it welcomed girls. The Orthodox Patriarchate established another school for girls in 1858. The Anglican Church had its own school with a special interest in teaching languages. In 1936 the Diocesan Seminary was transferred to Beit Jala from Jerusalem where it was established in 1852. The school was a primary school until 1994. Thereafter it serves as a secondary school with all educational stages: English, French, laboratory for physics, chemistry and biology, religious activities, physical training festivals. The Rosary Sisters congregation came to serve the parish in 1856. The scouts were founded in 1950. Saint Vincent Association founded in 1953. Legion de Marie founded in 1956. Ladies of Our Lady of the Annunciation founded in 2005.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Rosary Sisters House occupies its place in Beit Jala School premises. The Rosary Sisters' apartment was in need for renovation to address major maintenance issues concerning proper living environment, space functionality, water tightness, installing air-conditioning, heating units and other electric works. The Rosary Sisters strive to serve and enrich the lives of the students and the people in the community.



The Rosary Sisters' House at the School Premises, Oct2020



During the visit of the Swiss Lieutenancy Delegation to the Sisters House in Beit Jala, 2019

With the generous donation of the Swiss Lieutenancy, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem was able to rehabilitate some major needs in the Rosary sisters' house in Beit Jala to temporarily provide the sisters with a proper living environment. Some urgent improvements to the house were made which included electro-mechanical works, isolations, maintenance works for water leakage in the WC units and installation of an air-conditioning unit in the saloon.

Since there is a new building that is under construction at the premises of the parish in front of the LP school of Beit Jala, it was agreed to use the second floor of the building to create a proper housing environment for the sisters inside the parish near the church and the Latin Seminary. This new apartment will improve the housing and living situation for the sisters when serving the community. In this context, the generous funds that were received were used to cover the cost of the urgent rehabilitation needs at the current sisters house until the new building is finished and the sisters can move in. Moreover, part of the funds was used to issue a construction license for the new building.



Building Works for the Rosary Sisters' New Home in Beit Jala, Nov2020

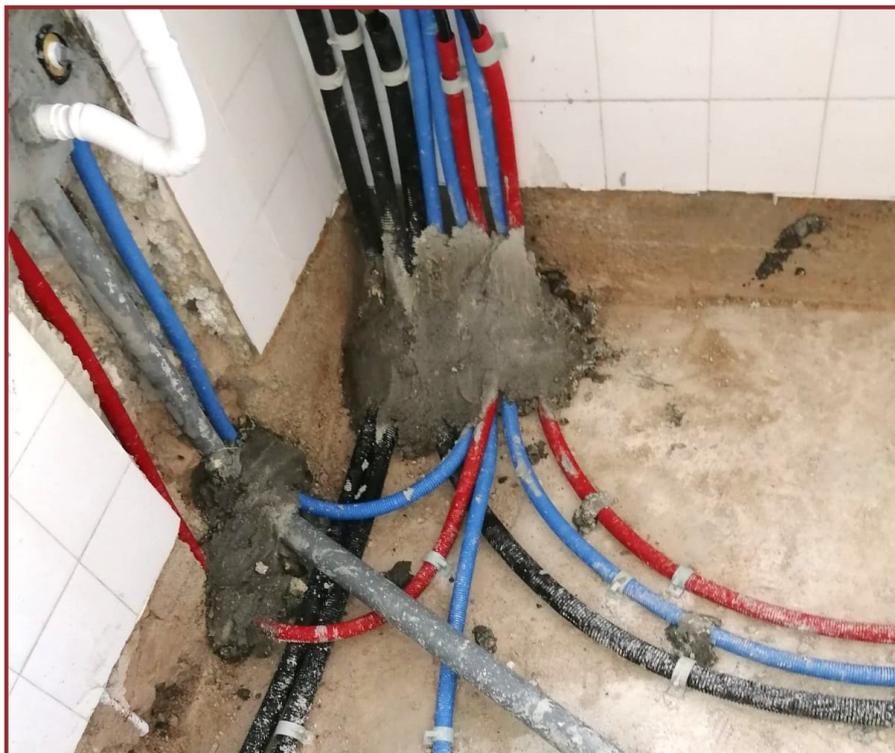
BENEFICIARIES

The direct and ultimate beneficiaries of the project are the three Rosary Sisters living in the School building of Beit Jala who will temporarily have a suitable and decent living place for them to conduct their daily activities and work until they move to their new apartment in the building inside the parish. The indirect beneficiary is the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem that strives to provide the best for its parishioners and to allow the continuity of the LPJ biblical mission in serving its communities in the Holy Land.

DURATION

The works that were supported with this grant were implemented in the timeframe between September 2019 and November 2020, the project required more time than the planned 6 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the applied lockdowns in the country. In addition, not all works that were planned could be implemented and therefore only part of the budget was spent.

PHOTOS - DURING



PHOTOS - AFTER





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OF JERUSALEM

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