



American Friends of the
Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem
Building Presence – Building Peace

December 2009

25 Old King's Highway No., Suite 13
Darien CT 06820



Basma
Centre
Needs a van for Christmas!

Dear Friends of AFEDJ:

As Christmas approaches, most of us are searching for that perfect gift for a loved one. Betty Majaj, Director of the Basma Centre for Disabled Children, has asked St. Nicholas for a van.



Transportation in Palestine is extremely difficult. Staff and students are challenged every day to get to their job, to school or physical therapy. We can help those with mental and physical disabilities move toward self-sufficiency by contributing toward a gift that will truly keep on giving. Click on the Donate Now button at the right or send a gift to AFEDJ at 25 Old King's Hwy No. Suite 13, Darien CT 06820. Help give a van, or a scholarship or a clinic visit. Remember the Holy Land this Christmas!



DONATE NOW!

Quick Links

AFEDJ website
www.afedj.org

Diocese of Jerusalem
www.j-diocese.org

St. George's College
www.sgcjerusalem.org

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What would you like to hear
about? Let us know

aklynn@afedj.org

St Nicholas spreads love around the World



There were sightings of St. Nicholas and his concern for children in the Holy Land all over the world. He appeared in Canterbury England with Archbishop Rowan Williams, in Philadelphia, Newburgh NY, Winchester MA, Cleveland Heights OH and dozens of other places. AFEDJ promoted St. Nicholas Day as a way for children and adults in the US to connect with the spirit of the real St. Nicholas, a fourth century bishop in what is now Turkey, and link that spirit to needy children in the Holy Land today.

But every day can be St. Nicholas Day in your parish, Youth Group or local civic organization. The free prayers, pageant, recipes, history and hymns will remain on our website until January 1. Go to www.afedj.org and catch the spirit. Then send your ingathering to AFEDJ so it can brighten the future of a child through education or health care.

The Rev. Dr. Jim Rosenthal, who inhabits the spirit and occasionally the body of St. Nicholas, is pictured above with Rowan Williams. For a video of the festivities in Canterbury [click here](#).

At Epiphany in Winchester MA, Jack Roll and others organized a Giving Tree with St. Nicholas tags. Each equaled a gift. The Rev. Deborah Dresser wrote our St. Nicholas Pageant and then her parish performed it at St. George's Newburgh NY, complete with smoke, stars and great applause. St. Martins' in Philadelphia included food and costumes and Michael McMurray in Ohio executed a trifecta by celebrating St. Nicholas Day with music in a mosque, a synagogue and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Truly a universal symbol of peace!



Thank you to each donor, each celebrant, and each organizer. Please keep those gifts coming! Our children are depending on you.

Events and Ideas

Saturday, December 19 in the Bethlehem Chapel of the National Cathedral in Washington DC: Simulcast service from Bethlehem at 10:00 a.m. Don't miss this one if you're in the area. More info at www.brightstarsbethlehem.org

Need a last minute Christmas gift? How about olive oil or za'atar from the Holy Land? Proceeds go to the Diocese of Jerusalem and orders are shipped from Minnesota. www.importpeace.org

Sabeel annual conference is in Seattle, Feb. 19-21, titled "The US, Israel and Palestine: What Does Justice Require of us?" More info at www.fosna.org. They'll also be leading a trip to Palestine April 8-17.

Take a look at the courses offered by St. George's College in 2010. Remember they provide lodging in Jerusalem and some courses include travel throughout the Holy Land. www.sgcjerusalem.org



The AFEDJ is a nonprofit, non-political 501c3 which helps sustain the institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Diocesan institutions foster mutual respect and tolerance in a land torn by turmoil and poverty. Learn more about the work of the AFEDJ or the Diocese of Jerusalem. Visit www.afedj.org to learn about or contribute to any of the important work done in the region.