



# Holy Family Hospital



An Institution of the Order of Malta

*“Where there is always a place in the inn for all”*

*By Dr. Robert Tabash  
Director of Administration*

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## Future 1st Deputy Ambassador of France to the Holy See

M. Jean-Francois Charpentier, French diplomat visited the hospital Wednesday April 30th 2008 during his visit to the Palestinian Territories. Throughout the visit, M. Charpentier was introduced to the activity of the hospital accompanied by Dr. Robert Tabash and the management team of the hospital.

## Church Leader visits the Hospital

Within the pilgrimage to the Holy Land of the leaders of the Irish churches, a group led by the Most Revd Alan Harper, Church of Ireland primate of all Ireland made a morning visit to the hospital where they were met by Dr. Robert Tabash and Sr. Sophie Boueri. They were introduced to the hospital's services and made a tour in the facilities.



## Visiting Professors From Belgium

We had the pleasure to welcome again a medical team from the University of Liege Belgium for a period of one week: Prof. Jean Michel Foidart the Head of the Department of Obstetrics / Gynecology, Prof. Jacques Rigo the Head of the Department of Neonatology, Dr. Patricia Nervo and Dr. Jean Pierre Nyssen Clinical Assistants Ob/Gyn. During their visit the professors participated with the hospital's consultants in the treatment of patients and the continuing education of the medical staff.

## A Scientific Day Organized by the Hospital

On April 24th, the hospital hosted a Gynecology/ Obstetric & Neonatology Scientific Day, carried out by the visiting professors from Belgium. Dr. Keutgen gave the keynote address to open the scientific session. Around 35 consultants, midwives and nurses from Bethlehem district joined the event as well as the medical and Para-medical team of the hospital. The scientific day was held in the hospital's auditorium and was followed by a dinner. The visit and the scientific day were sponsored by USAID.

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### CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR NEW BABY!

*Dr. Robert Tabash is now a grandpa for 3 beautiful girls; Danielle, Nicole and the newborn baby Darine .Nathalie gave birth to her baby on the 21st April 2008. We wish the family a life full of warmth, joy and bliss.*



TO MAKE A DONATION:

BANK ACCOUNT:  
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ACCOUNT № : 9050-701600-0-510  
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ARAB BANK PLC– BETHLEHEM BRANCH  
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*Graphic design  
Mrs. Juliana Saca Hodali*



*Most Rev Alan Harper meets with Dr. Robert Tabash , Sr. Sophie Boueri, Sr. Simone Abe Dib and the heads of Departments.*



*Visit of M. Jean-Francois Charpentier, 1st Deputy Ambassador of France to the Holy See*



*Visiting Professors & the Scientific Day*

# EDITORIAL



**Dr. Jacques Keutgen**  
General Manager

*At the  
Service of  
our  
Masters  
the Sick  
and the  
Poor*



Since the beginning of 2008 the economic situation in Bethlehem has slightly improved, unlike the rest of the West Bank and Gaza. In Bethlehem the number of pilgrims has been on the increase, the hotels are mostly fully booked and the souvenir shops have been enjoying a better business. We are happy about the change in the economic scene in Bethlehem but we also know that this is an extremely fragile situation which, as in the past, can change at any moment. The monthly reports of the UNO about the situation in the West Bank and Gaza are still alarming. Most of the people in Palestine are still living under destitute conditions. People are still suffering great hardships: fear, unemployment, food and health problems, and unprecedented travel restrictions. And more recently and mainly due to draught in some areas of the world, the prices of basic food commodities have increased and are still increasing sharply. This situation will definitely lead to more poverty in a very short time.

The health care sector has also been affected by the recent serious economic situation. Our budget at HFH must bear on one hand the consequences of unforeseen high costs of living and on the other the weakness of the USD which brought the cost of supplies up to abnormally high levels in quite a short period of time.

Where there is no other possibility, in order to assure an optimal efficiency, basic needs like food, education and health services should be guaranteed directly to people through recognized NGO's and paid by international organizations. In spite of all goodwill

there is still a lot to do in this field and even until now there hasn't been any political consensus. Like in several countries in the world, this may lead to hunger riots.

Unfortunately, in spite of numerous promising peace initiatives, we haven't seen until now any politician who seems to be willing or to have enough power to guaranty basic needs for the people and even less to stop the recurrent cycle of violence.

The latest facilities at HFH (a state-of-the-art labor ward and intensive neonatal care unit) allow Palestinian mothers to deliver their babies in a nice, clean, safe and best equipped hospital, which is increasingly becoming a referral center for Obstetrics and Neonatology. More and more people are using this opportunity: nearly 100% of all high risk pregnancies and 70% of all pregnant women in the district of Bethlehem deliver at HFH. Our medical team is always trying to improve the quality of care given to the patients.

In conformity with its multi-century old Christian tradition of humanitarian actions, and in addition to its daily outreach clinics in remote villages or in the desert, the Order of Malta opened in April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 afternoon clinics in the hospital allowing people to have access to the best medical care.

HFH is doing its utmost to move forward in reconciliation with the different communities living in the Holy Land. Please sustain help?? us in our daily concerns.

# ACTIVITY REPORT

## Monthly Deliveries

The number of monthly deliveries since 1990 is as follows:

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
JAN	0	93	128	143	146	148	181	205	217	162	250	158	180	159	238	224	240	230	248
FEB	4	69	97	150	157	130	183	180	192	165	239	155	152	165	220	221	218	228	217
MAR	46	93	133	184	149	168	164	220	194	217	231	160	142	179	224	231	217	313	259
APR	68	87	116	181	135	180	180	207	185	213	274	146	82	195	222	240	216	322	270
MAY	85	92	124	170	153	188	224	233	221	246	288	195	129	214	196	238	237	366	
JUN	85	106	145	177	145	202	212	222	227	276	294	156	132	239	252	258	219	277	
JUL	84	101	151	165	172	188	209	261	234	302	329	148	136	249	232	235	243	276	
AUG	71	90	151	173	163	199	226	219	244	299	309	161	122	227	246	235	256	264	
SEP	109	103	154	171	172	167	192	241	199	276	275	146	143	220	224	234	280	233	
OCT	116	109	154	166	172	193	198	255	211	273	223	134	138	240	243	257	295	255	
NOV	97	87	150	146	149	203	196	205	161	282	165	145	121	191	221	213	257	224	
DEC	104	105	153	127	163	198	194	240	180	266	175	135	140	203	227	207	268	238	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>1135</b>	<b>1656</b>	<b>1953</b>	<b>1876</b>	<b>2164</b>	<b>2359</b>	<b>2688</b>	<b>2465</b>	<b>2977</b>	<b>3052</b>	<b>1839</b>	<b>1617</b>	<b>2481</b>	<b>2745</b>	<b>2793</b>	<b>2946</b>	<b>3226</b>	<b>994</b>

TOTAL DELIVIREIS SINCE 1990

41 835

Monthly Deliveries 1990-2008

