



ORDER OF MALTA - FEDERAL ASSOCIATION
North Carolina Regions



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
of Bethlehem Foundation

Dear Friends,

Bishop Michael Martin, Ambassador Michele Bowe and the Order of Malta invite you to join us at the Table of Hope in support of Holy Family Hospital located in the birthplace of hope, Bethlehem. This December 7, 2024, we gather at St. Pius X Catholic Church to celebrate Christ's unconditional offer to bring healing where there is suffering. Holy Family Hospital serves mothers and babies providing prenatal care and post delivery Neonatal Intensive Care in an area of the world beset by war and poverty. Holy family brings hope and stability to a region that desperately needs it.

Plans for this fundraising dinner began with Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio shortly before he passed into eternal life. Our friend, Chaplain and Pastor was devoted to supporting Holy Family Hospital as he believed Holy Family delivered hope to the people of Bethlehem and he knew first-hand of the lifesaving care the hospital provided.

Supporting Holy Family Hospital is one of the most impactful works any Christian can undertake. More than 100,000 babies have been born at Holy Family, just 1500 steps from the birthplace of Christ. As a Catholic organization from its inception, the hospital continues to provide a place where Christianity remains a positive influence in the region and provides hope to those living in the Holy Land. No one is turned away regardless of ability to pay, ethnicity or religious affiliation...A true bridge to hope for a peaceful future.

The economic situation in the area has always been very difficult. Due to the recent tragic war, difficulty has turned into disaster for those living in Bethlehem. Your help is needed urgently at this time.

Our fundraising dinner is offered to raise funds necessary to purchase life-saving medical equipment and services used by Holy Family in support of families in the Holy Land who could never find the high-quality care without outside support. We are asking for your sponsorship. You will find information in the following packet regarding the sponsorship opportunities attached to the life-saving equipment and services Holy Family Hospital offers to its patients. Holy Family Hospital offers hope for Christianity through its service to all in need regardless of religious affiliation.

Please join Bishop Michael Martin and Ambassador Michele Bowe at the Table of Hope this December 7, 2024 at St. Pius X Catholic Church located at 2208 N. Elm Street, Greensboro, NC.

Inquiries may be directed to Al Abram, Event Chair.

Thank you for your loving consideration.

Silvia Rodriguez, DM
Hospitalier Central North Carolina Region

Al Abram, KM
Event Chair
M: 602-300-0262
Email: aabram@stpiusxnc.com



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
of Bethlehem Foundation 

SPONSORSHIP PLEDGE

**Please indicate the amount of your generous gift.
Each Sponsor Level includes two reserved seats.**

_____ **\$50,000 *Star of Bethlehem***

Sponsors the gift of a Ventilator or a Full 4-Year Medical Residency of a resident doctor.

_____ **\$25,000 *Holy Family***

Sponsors the gift of an Incubator or a Full 4-Year Scholarship for a young, Catholic student.

_____ **\$10,000 *Angels***

Sponsors the First 10 Days of Intensive Care for a micro-preemie in the NICU.

_____ **\$5,000 *Shepherds***

Sponsors the operations of a Mobile Medical Unit, bringing care to the poorest and most isolated.

_____ **\$2,500 *Manger***

Sponsors a Full Day of Care for babies in the NICU.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

How would you like your name(s) to appear in our acknowledgements and in our program?

_____ Please list as *Anonymous*.

Payments by Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

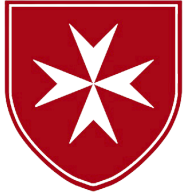
Card Number _____ Expiration Date (MM/YY) _____ CVC _____

Payments by Check: You may make your check out to ***St. Pius X Catholic Church or Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation***. Please remit to Al Abram, KM (Event Chair) at St. Pius X Catholic Church, 2210 North Elm St., Greensboro, NC 27408 or contact Mr. Abram with any questions at (602) 300-0262 or aabram@stpiousxnc.com.

St. Pius X Catholic Church and Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation are both registered 501(c)(3) organizations.
St. Pius X Catholic Church EIN 56-0554221 | Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation EIN 52-2050117
Donations are tax-deductible according to current IRS guidelines.

THANK YOU.





HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

Sponsorship Opportunities

Star of Bethlehem

\$50,000

Sponsor the gift of a **Ventilator** for a newborn baby in the NICU who cannot yet breathe without support. Premature and fragile neonates often require respiratory support before they can breath independently. Access to a ventilator gives these babies the support they need until they can breathe independently. Some babies need one day of support, but the most premature and sick babies can require several weeks of ventilator support. Without a ventilator these babies cannot survive.

Sponsor a **Full 4-year Medical Residency** of a Resident Doctor at Holy Family Hospital. Holy Family Hospital currently has 13 doctors in its residency programs. In Bethlehem, the hosting hospital must pay the salaries and training of the Resident Doctors. Upon completion of their residencies, they sit for medical exams and then can work in their respective fields. HFH is viewed as having the best Ob/Gyn and pediatric programs. Graduates can apply for openings at HFH or at other Hospitals in the region. Our residents learn Catholic ethics and advanced practices which they can use throughout their careers bettering the local medical system.

Holy Family

\$25,000

Sponsor the gift of an **Incubator** for the NICU. Each baby needs a private incubator which is an essential part of the care. The incubator can help a baby maintain proper temperature and provides the correct humidity to help with growth and development. The incubators help to keep handling of the most fragile premature babies to a minimum.

Provide a **Full 4-year Scholarship** for a young Catholic student to study nursing for the NICU in Bethlehem. To maintain the Catholicity of Holy Family Hospital, we need to have a stream of Catholic nurses. The daughters of wealthier Catholic families tend to study business, law, or medicine to be a doctor. The poorest Catholic families cannot afford to send their children to university. This scholarship is a ticket to enter the middle class and to help us provide good care at our Catholic teaching Hospital.

Angels

\$10,000

Sponsor the **First 10 Days of Intensive Care** for a micro-preemie in our NICU. These babies, born before 28 weeks weighing less than 2 pounds and often as little as one pound, require the most labor intensive care around the clock. Our Neonatologists often spend the night in the NICU for the first 36 hours of care for these fragile babies. Their care is extremely cost intensive and even in the best of times, few families could pay for this type of care. Some even consider it a luxury. HFH cares for all without regard for need or creed demonstrating our absolute commitment to life.

Shepherds

\$5,000

Sponsor the operations of our **Mobile Medical Unit** which brings the best care to the poorest and most isolated. This medical clinic travels to isolated villages and remote Bedouin communities with a Pediatrician and an Ob/Gyn. A nurse and driver fill out the team in their daily rounds. They provide care to babies discharged from the NICU, pregnant mothers, older women and children with sick or well visits. The staff help with the transition from NICU to home ensuring that the babies remain in good condition demonstrating growth. By providing regular prenatal care, the doctors hope to reduce NICU admissions. This is a vital tool in caring for the most fragile babies and their mothers.

Manger

\$2,500

Sponsor a **Full Day of Care** for the babies in the NICU. The NICU is the most labor intensive and most expensive department to run at the Hospital. The medicines, disposables and high staff to baby ratios provide the very best care and outcomes for the babies needing intensive care. Your sponsorship ensures the best care for those in need while maintaining the dignity of the fathers and mothers who have a baby in the NICU.

Please direct sponsorship inquiries to:

Al Abram, KM

(602) 300-0262 | aabram@stpiusxnc.com

Your Impact

Help support the neediest babies in the NICU
at Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem.



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
of Bethlehem Foundation 



Meet Baby Samah

A little bit of heaven came into the world at Holy Family Hospital recently. Baby Samah (in English, Celeste) meaning “heavenly”, was born 10 weeks early and weighed just over 1 lb.

In early March, Um-Samah, a first-time mother, sought prenatal care at Holy Family’s Mobile Medical Clinic in the isolated village of Nahaleen. Because of shutdowns and road closures caused by the pandemic, she received infrequent prenatal care during her pregnancy. Immediately upon examination, determining that her unborn baby was extremely small for her gestational age, they rushed Um-Samah to Holy Family Hospital. Her frightened husband, a firefighter, joined her there. Married just 10 months, these newlyweds never dreamed of the ordeal ahead.

The medical team at Holy Family Hospital performed an emergency Caesarean-section. Baby Samah at one pound, was so tiny she could fit into the palm of a doctor’s hand. At first vigorous and active, Samah suddenly went into respiratory distress, requiring intubation in the Hospital’s NICU. Because of a congenital obstruction, she had to be fed through her tiny newborn veins. At 54 days, she still needs oxygen, but now weighs 2.2 lbs. She will remain in the tender care of the Hospital’s NICU staff until she can breathe on her own and weighs about 4 lbs.

Baby Samah is just one of the everyday miracles who stay 50-plus days in our NICU. Her grateful parents may have realized the miracle she is when they invoked Heaven in naming her. In 2020, 423 babies passed through our NICU—67 requiring long-term care. The lifesaving care helps the smallest—micro-preemies—not only survive but thrive, despite extreme prematurity. All are followed for five years with checkups at our Development Clinic.

The lifesaving care babies receive at the Hospital—which no poor family can afford—is made possible by your generosity. Because of you, babies like Baby Samah have a chance at life.



JOIN THE NORTH CAROLINA REGIONS
OF THE ORDER OF MALTA - FEDERAL ASSOCIATION
AND SPECIAL GUESTS

BISHOP MICHAEL T. MARTIN, OFM CONV.
DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTE



ORDER OF MALTA AMBASSADOR MICHÈLE B. BOWE, GCM

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
Mass & Benefit Dinner

DECEMBER

5 PM
MASS

7

6 PM
RECEPTION & DINNER

SATURDAY

*A bridge of hope for
mothers and babies in Bethlehem.*

ST. PIUS X CATHOLIC CHURCH
2210 NORTH ELM STREET
GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EACH LEVEL INCLUDES TWO RESERVED SEATS

Star of Bethlehem

\$50,000

Sponsors a Ventilator or a
Full 4-Year Medical Residency

Angels

\$10,000

Sponsors the First Ten Days
of Intensive Care

Holy Family

\$25,000

Sponsors an Incubator or a
Full 4-Year Scholarship

Shepherds

\$5,000

Sponsors the Operations of a
Mobile Medical Unit

Manger

\$2,500

Sponsors a Full Day of Care for
Babies in the NICU

Your Impact

Help support the neediest babies in the NICU
at Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem.



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
of Bethlehem Foundation



Submit Your RSVP & Sponsorship by November 29

www.stpiusxnc.com/holyfamily

2024 FUNDING IMPERATIVES



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
of Bethlehem Foundation 

OUR FOUNDATION

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization based in Washington, D.C. with a mission to deliver life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land. As a primary work of the Order of Malta, the world's oldest Christian charity, we serve to further the Catholic values of preserving life, fostering peace, and giving hope to those without a voice.

Decades of conflict have resulted in extreme hardship for families in the Bethlehem region, where unemployment persists. While the war is being fought in Gaza some 40 miles away, Bethlehem is suffering both in terms of the economy and in day-to-day security and ability to move freely in Bethlehem.



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, located just 1,500 steps from the birthplace of Christ, is our Foundation's primary program. This Catholic teaching hospital is a state-of-the-art maternity and neonatal critical care center serving poor and at-risk women, infants, and children throughout the region. In this area of conflict, the Hospital stands as a beacon of hope for families in the Bethlehem region, including refugees and those living in remote desert villages. The Hospital and its Outreach Clinics have impacted more than one million lives since 1990. No one is ever turned away.



Today, as 90% of the workforce is without pay due to the lack of tourism, the need continues to grow exponentially. Babies and mothers are in greater need of care due to food insecurity and general anxiety because of the war and the economy.

Holy Family Hospital is a safety net, providing lifesaving care to a catchment area of one million people.

The need in the Bethlehem region continues to grow.



Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land

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birthplaceofhope.org



AN OASIS OF PEACE

Holy Family Hospital is a beloved institution, known as an oasis of peace to the greater Bethlehem community. Here, Christians and Muslims work together every day to serve families in need without regard to religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay. The Hospital partners with medical facilities throughout the region to provide accessible medical care, continuing education, and clinical training. As the largest employer in Bethlehem, the Hospital plays a crucial stabilizing role in the community, providing jobs to over 200 Palestinian families and creating employment opportunities for women in an area where few exist. During this time of 90% unemployment, Holy Family Hospital is one of the only employers in the region paying full salaries on time.



THE ORDER OF MALTA



In 1985, after a century of service as a general hospital under the French Daughters of Charity, a confluence of political and economic factors forced Holy Family Hospital to close its doors. Saint John Paul II asked the Order of Malta to reopen the facility as a dedicated maternity hospital in 1989, based on the Order's rich, 900-year history of operating hospitals.

A sovereign and neutral entity, the Order of Malta maintains a positive reputation and official diplomatic relationships with Palestine as well as high-level relationships with Israel. The shield of the Order — proudly displayed on the Hospital's Mobile Outreach Van — is a welcome symbol of the Order's unwavering commitment to fostering peace and charity among people of all cultures and faith traditions.

Today, the Order of Malta is known throughout the Bethlehem region as a trusted organization that has positively impacted over a million lives since the Hospital's reopening in 1990.

STRONG FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation covers nearly 60% of Holy Family Hospital's fundraising budget, as well as 100% of its capital expenditure budget. This allows the Hospital to continue its lifesaving work regardless of patients' ability to pay. In fact, the Hospital subsidizes all patient services by at least 50%, making the generous contributions of individual donors critical to our mission.



Holy Family Hospital is a trusted institution in Bethlehem, known as an oasis of peace to all who have experienced its lifesaving care.



Here, Christians and Muslims work together daily serving the neediest of families without regard to their religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay.

SUPPORTING HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

THE NEED: HEALTHCARE FOR FAMILIES IN THE HOLY LAND

Deteriorating economic and public health conditions in Bethlehem have left thousands of families with lasting health problems and few means to treat them. The war in Gaza has exacerbated these already long-existing problems. The regional infant mortality rate is nearly five times that of more developed nations, and preterm births are common. Women of all ages are often forced to forgo essential preventative care because of economic and cultural factors, leaving them unable to participate in community life. As access to healthcare throughout the region deteriorates, so does the hope held by many families. 45% of our patient base are refugees.

Perhaps most disheartening of all is the growing number of families that have decided to leave Bethlehem — the land their families have inhabited for generations and the very birthplace of the Christian faith.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION

Today, the subsidies have greatly increased to meet the growing needs of the people. In providing urgently-needed healthcare without regard to religion, ethnicity, or ability to pay, Holy Family Hospital restores hope to families who need it now more than ever. So important is the Hospital's Christian influence in the region that **Saint John Paul II named Holy Family Hospital a priority for the Catholic Church for the new millennium in 2000.**

THE IMPACT

Holy Family Hospital remains a cherished institution within the Bethlehem community and an indispensable resource for women and children who have no alternative options for healthcare. Patients travel from cities as far as Hebron and Jericho to come to our state-of-the-art facility, knowing it is the only hospital able to save their babies' lives. In fact, Holy Family Hospital delivers approximately 70% of infants born in the Bethlehem region. Year over year, the Hospital delivers nearly 5,000 babies. Further, the Hospital supports over 200 families through high-quality employment, making it possible for them to remain in the Holy Land.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your generosity allows Holy Family Hospital to continue its lifesaving work in the Holy Land, regardless of circumstances. A gift of general operating support helps facilitate essential programs like the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Mobile Outreach Clinic, delivery wards, and nursery. Your timely support fosters healing and eases the hardship felt by families throughout the region.

Like the Innkeeper in scripture who embraced Mary and Joseph in their time of need, you can bring care and hospitality to at-risk families in the Holy Land today.



As the only hospital in the region equipped to deliver and care for babies born before 34 weeks, Holy Family Hospital's commitment to life is absolute.

**2024 GENERAL
OPERATIONS
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:**

\$2,000,000

Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL NEEDIEST BABY FUND

THE NEED: LIFESAVING CARE FOR OUR MOST FRAGILE INFANTS

As the primary referral hospital for expectant mothers and babies in the region, Holy Family Hospital accepts the greater region's most challenging medical cases. The 18-bed NICU cares for premature newborns, including a subset of these fragile infants known as "micro-preemies" who weigh as little as 16 ounces at birth. Care for these babies is highly resource-intensive, requiring lifesaving support and transfers to partner hospitals for specialized surgical procedures. Wartime conditions are triggering higher rates of premature and complicated deliveries; the NICU is always full.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: THE NEEDIEST BABY FUND

Micro-preemies represent 12% of all babies served in the Hospital's NICU, yet their ongoing care absorbs more than 40% of the NICU's total budget. Inaugurated in January 2016, the Foundation's Neediest Baby Fund covers the cost of protracted treatment for these challenging cases.

Holy Family Hospital's medical staff works diligently to care for these babies and, when needed, transfers them to surgical centers (typically in Jerusalem) which can best meet their needs. In addition to organizing the transfers, Holy Family Hospital must guarantee all or part of the funding for the necessary procedure(s) — an expense that families simply cannot afford.

THE IMPACT



The ability to save each of these newborns is a miracle. Watching these incredibly fragile babies grow to a healthy weight in the care of the NICU team is beyond comprehension. The Neediest Baby Fund enables Holy Family Hospital to give families the gift of life.

As ours is the only NICU in the Bethlehem region equipped to deliver and save babies born before 34 weeks, it is imperative that the NICU remain well-resourced, especially during periods of heightened conflict. Miraculously, the Hospital's NICU team has achieved a survival rate rivaling many hospitals found in Western Europe. Infants as small as 1 pound are regularly nurtured to full health and over 510 premature babies' lives are saved each year.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can save the life of an innocent baby in Bethlehem. Of the many thousands of cases Holy Family Hospital accepts each year, few are as high-risk and uncertain as our "micro-preemies". Your support of the Neediest Baby Fund makes it possible for us to save the lives of our most fragile patients, who otherwise have little chance to survive.



"I thank God and Holy Family Hospital for giving us the gift of life and allowing us to bring our healthy baby, Ana, home."

—Laila, mother of NICU patient

**2024 NEEDIEST
BABY FUND
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:**

\$1,000,000

Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL MOBILE OUTREACH CLINIC

THE NEED: ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE MARGINALIZED

Bethlehem's staggering unemployment rate, increased checkpoints and roadblocks, and impoverished living conditions have exacerbated public health issues that disproportionately affect women and children. Infant mortality in the region is currently five times that of more developed countries due to lack of prenatal care, and the heightened anxieties brought on by the war in Gaza have triggered a surge in preterm births. Further, healthcare for postmenopausal women remains an untenable expense for most families, leaving an untold number of women untreated and confined, unable to work or participate in community life.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: THE MOBILE OUTREACH CLINIC

In direct response to these public health issues, Holy Family Hospital launched its Mobile Outreach Clinic in 1995 with the objective to provide access to obstetric, gynecological, and pediatric care to those who would otherwise go without. The Mobile Clinic runs daily and treats refugees and villagers from remote and isolated communities, using side roads to reach patients as main roads are closed or blocked. The Clinic (staffed by an OB/GYN, a pediatrician, a nurse, and a driver) offers a range of services including pre- and postnatal exams, lab tests, and gynecological/cancer screenings, all from within a state-of-the-art mobile van. The pediatrician cares for young children and newborns, and refers those with severe illness or developmental disabilities to receive specialized care. Periodically, a second OB/GYN accompanies the Clinic team to address the medical needs of postmenopausal women — a severely underserved population in Palestine.



Mobile Clinic van — quietly communicates our deeply-held Christian values that call us to serve.

The Mobile Clinic pediatrician tells us, "Living conditions in many areas we visit make it difficult to stem the spread of illness. We serve patients who live without running water or electricity and cannot afford the trip to Bethlehem for treatment."

Hana, a refugee mother of three living in a desert village, tells how a screening from the Mobile Clinic saved her son's life. "The Clinic discovered that Josef was suffering from liver fluke disease, causing him stunted growth, sickness, and developmental delays. After treatment, Josef started growing and developing more quickly. He is now a healthy, happy boy and able to enjoy life with his family."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Mobile Outreach Clinic makes a critical difference in the lives of those it serves. Demand for its services is still on the rise and we need your help. Your generosity will enable our Clinic to serve communities we have not yet reached, ensuring that no one is ever turned away.



"Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right for all families. Living in a remote community should never prevent a mother or child from receiving the care they need."

—Mobile Clinic Pediatrician

THE IMPACT

Holy Family Hospital's Mobile Clinic conducts over 5,000 consultations each year, offering an array of services otherwise inaccessible to many families. The shield of the Order of Malta — prominently displayed on our

2024
MOBILE CLINIC
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:

\$325,000

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HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL WELL WOMAN CLINIC

THE NEED: PREVENTATIVE AND URGENT CARE FOR AN UNDERSERVED POPULATION

The unique healthcare needs of postmenopausal women are often unmet by current healthcare systems in Palestine. Travel restrictions and roadblocks have rendered many women unable to reach the Hospital for cancer screenings and routine preventative checkups that can lead to lifesaving treatment.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: THE WELL WOMAN CLINIC

In 2013, Holy Family Hospital launched its Well Woman Clinic dedicated to meeting the complex healthcare needs of women past the childbearing age. The only of its kind in the region, it offers women postmenopausal health services, including routine screenings, gynecological surgeries, diabetes diagnostics and treatment, and cancer screenings. All clinic visits are free and surgeries and procedures are subsidized by 50%.

In addition to operating at Holy Family Hospital, the Well Woman Clinic doctor regularly accompanies the Mobile Clinic to meet with the many women who cannot afford to travel to Bethlehem. As its patient base continues to grow, the Well Woman Clinic provides vital education to both men and women about the importance of preventative healthcare for women at every age. The Well Woman clinic restores the dignity of women.

THE IMPACT

Procedures such as those provided by the Well Woman Clinic make it possible for women in the region to live healthier and more productive lives. The very existence of the Clinic elevates how women in Palestine value themselves, and how they are valued by their families and communities.

Heidi, a Well Woman Clinic patient, shares, "Before visiting the Clinic I could do very little. I had to stay close to home and working outside my home was impossible. Today, I am thankful for my treatment and my surgery. I can do more with my family and friends and I can help support my family. I feel better about myself."

During the pandemic, a lack of care found a higher than usual incidence of Stage IV cancer. To prevent this from happening in 2024, the Hospital is redoubling its education efforts to urge women to make their health a priority and have screenings. The doctor is visiting churches, women's groups, and universities to teach about menopause and preventative care.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can change the life of a woman in Bethlehem. Through your support of the Well Woman Clinic, you can ensure access to a full continuum of healthcare for women of all ages, helping them live healthier, more productive, and more fulfilling lives.



"Before visiting the Clinic I could do very little. I had to stay close to home and working outside my home was impossible. Today, I am thankful for my treatment and my surgery."

—Heidi,
Well Woman Clinic patient

**2024 WELL
WOMAN CLINIC
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:**

\$200,000

Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL POOR CASE FUND

THE NEED: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR BETHLEHEM'S POOREST FAMILIES

Since opening its doors in 1990, Holy Family Hospital has ensured high quality healthcare regardless of one's ability to pay. While the war zone remains in Gaza, 90% of Bethlehem is without any income as the tourism industry is shuttered. Families have to choose between groceries, electricity, and medical care.

With the region's only NICU caring for babies born before 34 weeks, Holy Family Hospital accepts a disproportionate number of high-risk (and therefore high-cost) cases. Families simply cannot afford the care on their own.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: THE POOR CASE FUND

Holy Family Hospital instituted its Poor Case Fund to ensure that Bethlehem's poorest families have access to the healthcare they need. In addition to a 50% medical subsidy that the Hospital provides to all patients, the Fund offers additional financial support to families who qualify. Costs may be covered anywhere between 51% and 100%

The Hospital employs two social workers to provide pastoral care and to evaluate patients' eligibility for Poor Case Fund assistance. The social workers also provide routine home visits working closely with local NGOs to improve the socioeconomic situation of every family.

THE IMPACT

By recommendation of the social workers, Holy Family Hospital extends additional financial support to over 50% of its patients, translating to roughly 10,000 pediatric, obstetric, and gynecologic consultations each year. Not only does the Fund make Hospital services more accessible to the poor, it also makes available other important social welfare services provided by partnering organizations.

Insaf, 26, and her husband, Hadi, live in the village of Battir outside Bethlehem. Hadi is legally blind, and their son, born at Holy Family Hospital, has a hearing impairment. When they learned they were expecting another baby, they feared they could not afford to care for another child with a special need. Holy Family Hospital's Poor Case Fund covered the cost of Insaf's prenatal care, and baby Celina was born without any complications.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Unfortunately, the need for Holy Family Hospital's Poor Case Fund only growing due to the circumstances of a shuttered economy. Given the current political and economic situation in Palestine, the need is simply too great. Your gift will ensure that the Poor Case Fund never runs empty, and that all Holy Family Hospital patients have access to high quality medical care.



"I chose Holy Family Hospital because I have high-risk pregnancies. It is the only place I trust with our lives.

I trusted them to help me financially because they treat people with mercy, and that's what I need – mercy!"

-Sabrine,
Holy Family Hospital Patient

2024 POOR
CASE FUND
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:

\$450,000

Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

THE NEED: RESPONDING TO PATIENT GROWTH AND MEDICAL NEEDS

Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem has experienced rapid growth in demand for patient services over the course of the past ten years. The Hospital is the region's medical care facility of choice for premature and fragile babies, expectant mothers, women over the age of 45, and women and children seeking outpatient care clinics.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: HOSPITAL RENOVATION AND SURGICAL WING CONSTRUCTION

The total area being added to the Hospital's existing wing is 13,000 sq. feet. The updated and renovated wing will implement modern energy-saving technology and equipment. The construction, restarted work after a necessary pause during the pandemic. Construction is projected to be complete in 18 months.

The expansion and renovation of the surgical wing will create two state-of-the-art operating theaters equipped for lifesaving emergency C-sections, scheduled C-sections, and a variety of OB/GYN surgeries to save and improve lives of the women in the region.

THE IMPACT

The renovation and expansion of the surgical wing will ensure that Holy Family Hospital's medical capabilities remain on par with international standards and enable the Hospital to meet the increase in services to keep pace with the growing needs of Bethlehem's neediest families.

In addition to rebuilding operating theaters for the renovation will include private recovery suites to monitor post-surgery patients and an on site pharmacy to dispense needed supplies and pharmaceuticals. The wing will also add a sanitizing and sterilization facility with modern traffic flow incorporated to minimize the risk of infection, updated teaching facilities and meeting rooms, overnight accommodations for resident doctors or families of premature infants, a workshop for the Hospital's bio-medical engineer, a family waiting room and cafe, and reconfigured parking.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Holy Family Hospital Foundation has raised most of the funding for the construction project. However, there remains a gap of \$1,500,000. This vital construction cannot continue without your help. In order to continue serving the Bethlehem region and meet the growing medical needs of the local community, we need you to help us open our doors a little wider.



"I am looking forward to the new modern operating rooms, which will increase safety and bring us to an even higher standard of care."

**-Dr. Salameh,
Head of Obstetrics/Gynecology,
Surgeon**

**2024 SURGICAL
WING EXPANSION
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:**

\$1,500,000

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HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL GESTATIONAL DIABETES CLINIC

THE NEED: TREATMENT FOR A WIDESPREAD EPIDEMIC

The Bethlehem region is currently battling a longstanding diabetes epidemic that affects an estimated 15% of the Palestinian population (compared to a global average of 5%). Incidence of the disease is even higher among refugees. Diabetes is especially dangerous for expectant mothers, as it can increase their risk of pregnancy complications, birth defects, preterm birth, and miscarriage.

Treatment for gestational diabetes is expensive. Unfortunately, the disease disproportionately affects women of a lower socioeconomic status, making treatment nearly impossible for many families to afford.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: THE GESTATIONAL DIABETES CLINIC

In 2010, Holy Family Hospital launched the West Bank's first Diabetes Clinic specifically for women with gestational diabetes. The Clinic provides vital laboratory testing, detailed scans, Doppler echocardiography, consultations with a dedicated dietician, and, when necessary, hospitalization during pregnancy to regulate complications.

THE IMPACT

The Diabetes Clinic screens every woman for diabetes during prenatal exams and offers a range of monitoring and treatment options for those who are diagnosed. Approximately 80% of women treated at the Clinic successfully manage their diabetes with proper diet alone, and are able to avoid insulin therapy. Perhaps the strongest evidence of the Clinic's success can be seen in the 5% decrease in the number of newborns admitted to the Hospital's NICU since the Clinic's inception.

Rana, when pregnant with her fourth child, was diagnosed with gestational diabetes at age 38. The government hospital where she had delivered her first three children transferred her to a clinic for treatment which she and her husband, Azam, could not afford.

The couple turned to Holy Family Hospital's Diabetes Clinic where the team monitored Rana's pregnancy closely for several months at no cost to her family. Rana remembers, "Holy Family Hospital taught me how to eat the right way and to manage my disease. I was able to carry my baby full term and was blessed with a healthy son."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your donation will help prevent unnecessary pregnancy complications, save lives, and prevent premature births in women with gestational diabetes. You can provide essential testing, scans, dietician services, and hospitalization to help expectant mothers regulate blood sugar levels and safely deliver healthy babies.



"Holy Family Hospital taught me how to eat the right way and to manage my disease. I was able to carry my baby full term and was blessed with a healthy son born at a normal weight."

—Rana, Diabetes Clinic Patient

2024
DIABETES CLINIC
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:

\$150,000

Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land

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HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM

THE NEED: PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Holy Family Hospital is now seeing multiple generations come for prenatal care and delivery. The Hospital remains the only referral hospital for a catchment area of 1 million people. Over 70% of the population of Bethlehem has been born at Holy Family Hospital.

Many talented medical students choose to study medicine abroad in Europe, but often do not return to practice in Palestine. Holy Family Hospital's International Medical Committee has placed great importance on training residents within the region, ensuring that they practice medicine in Bethlehem.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Holy Family Hospital currently has 13 residents. Each resident must commit to stay in the country to practice medicine or if they go abroad for further training, they must commit to practice for three years upon their return.

Ob/Gyn Resident Chair, Dr. Salameh Qumsieh, oversees the five year program, approved by the Palestine Medical Council and the Arab Board of Specialized Training as well as by the RCOG (UK), EBCOG (EU) and NMH (Ireland). Every day, Ob/Gyn residents assist in the Mobile Clinic, Prenatal Clinic, gestational diabetes clinic, Postpartum and Gynecological Clinic as well as with gynecologic surgeries including hysteroscopic and laparoscopic surgeries. They also perform C-sections and help when the midwives need assistance.

The Pediatric Residency program is chaired by Dr. George Zoughbi. All residents rotate between the labor/delivery rooms, the well-baby nursery, the 18 bed Level III NICU and the outpatient clinics including the Mobile Medical Clinic. They benefit from advanced training in high-risk, preterm and uncomplicated deliveries, and neonatal care. Residents gain valuable experience working in the only NICU in the region that can care for babies born before 34 weeks.

THE IMPACT

Since the inception of the residency program in 2000, over 140 are currently practicing Obstetrics/Gynecology or Pediatrics across the region. These residents will provide the next generation with the highest quality medical care at Holy Family Hospital and beyond.

"When the residents are well trained and trusted by the attending doctors, they in turn are more confident and give you what you need. They are the backbone of the Hospital and the medical community." -Dr. Salameh

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You provide education for the next generation of doctors and the future of Holy Family Hospital. As a Catholic teaching Hospital, you can help provide our residents with every opportunity they need to learn to care for high-risk mothers, neonates, and complicated deliveries.



"Holy Family Hospital recognizes education as a vital mission of the Hospital. In addition to providing clinical oversight, our doctors are supportive mentors who really value resident education and service to community."

-Dr. Saba, Medical Director

2024
RESIDENCY
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:

\$150,000

Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL ONGOING OR CONTINUING EDUCATION

THE NEED: HIGHEST QUALITY MEDICAL CARE FOR THE REGION

Holy Family Hospital is the primary referral hospital for a catchment area of one million people. The Hospital has experienced rapid growth and demand for patient services in recent years. Holy Family Hospital remains the reference hospital for high-risk pregnancies, premature or complicated deliveries, care for women over 45, and advanced neonatal and pediatric care.

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL'S SOLUTION: ONGOING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Holy Family Hospital has trained the majority of nurses in the Bethlehem region. More than 220 nurses and midwives come through the Hospital every year for continuing education, entry level training, and practicums. Nurses receive ongoing training in multiple departments, including pediatric, surgical, labor and delivery, and midwifery.

Holy Family Hospital maintains strong relationships with local universities, where nursing students receive four years of education in their field. Holy Family Hospital Foundation offers a scholarship for those with financial need in partnership with the local Catholic parish. It currently funding 14 nurses' education at local universities. As they approach graduation, they will have the opportunity to apply to work at Holy Family Hospital.

THE IMPACT

In a region with little economic advancement, Holy Family Hospital offers opportunities for all. Because of the war in Gaza, 90% of Bethlehem is without a salary, while Holy Family Hospital remains committed to paying full salaries on time. Women become leaders in fields such as medicine and pharmacy. Men become role models as pediatric nurses. Education and subsequent employment at the Hospital provides the next generation with hope for a strong future.

"Given the difficult political and economic circumstances in my country, I chose nursing because there is such a great need. Being a nurse is the best service I can give to my country. I want to care for people and save them." -Scholarship recipient and student nurse, Joyce

Ongoing education is not just for the medical staff. Since Holy Family Hospital is a teaching hospital, each encounter is one of learning. At each visit, the women and their husbands learn about pregnancy, nutrition, childbirth, childcare and parenting.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You can provide education for the next generation of nurses and midwives and the future of Holy Family Hospital. Your donation not only provides our staff and those we train with the ongoing education that they need to maintain medical excellence, it also provides education about nutrition, pregnancy, and childcare to families who come through our doors.



"I want to study midwifery because I love little kids and newborns. Since I was a child, I loved health sciences hoped to work in medicine. I want to help welcome the littlest new angels into the world."

-Talene, Scholarship Recipient

2024
ONGOING
TRAINING
FUNDRAISING
GOAL:

\$150,000

Delivering life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land





Planting Seeds of Hope
Spring 2024 Update
By: Ambassador Michele B. Bowe, GCM



A newborn baby at the Hospital

Almost 6 months have passed since the last pilgrims left Bethlehem. It was hoped that they would return after Christmas. Now, Easter is upon us, and Bethlehem is a locked-down city with a stalled economy. Hotels are closed, shops have empty shelves, and the consumption of bread has doubled. Poverty is not new to Bethlehem, but this time it feels different because there seems to be no end in sight.

Over 100,000 workers who travel from Bethlehem have lost their permits to work in Israel. Medical permits to visit specialists in Jerusalem have become rare. Pilgrims won't be returning this spring. The streets are empty at night. It is dangerous to travel then because security patrols enter the city and refugee camps at night and pop-up roadblocks close streets. Clashes prompted by settlers have become commonplace.

The Bethlehemites are adjusting to the new normal. They have made their tables longer and have been adding some extra rice and bread to the midday meal. Extended family and neighbors are back to relying on the kindness of others to share their tables. Most in Bethlehem no longer have salaries.

Patients in Bethlehem and the West Bank are having to choose between medical care and meals. Patient contributions for services provided by Holy Family Hospital have dropped dramatically as a result. The Hospital's social workers are working around the clock to ensure that families have access to both medical care and basic necessities.

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation is committed to maintaining on-time payment of full salaries for Holy Family Hospital staff despite the loss of local revenue. The Foundation has also increased its contribution to the Poor Case Fund, which subsidizes patient contributions. With additional donations, we will be able to increase the help we offer and ensure that the mothers and babies of Bethlehem do not forgo care.

While the war continues in Gaza, a forgotten Bethlehem struggles with the basic necessities. Parents are doing their best to distract their children from the economic and political problems, encouraging them to focus on their studies. Everyone is glad that the schools are open, and the students have their routines. This is especially important for the children of the Hospital Staff as their parents are still working 12-hour shifts and need the children to be in school.

On the brighter side, the Mobile Medical Clinic has recently resumed making its rounds to the Bedouin areas and the isolated villages. The driver has found side roads and has been able to make the daily visits 95% of the time. The clinic days are long because there is huge pent-up demand for services that became unavailable when the clinic had to close. It is a blessing to provide needed services to these marginalized communities.



Nitric Oxide Machine

I have more good news to share. This winter our brand-new nitric oxide machine was pressed into service twice to save the lives of two struggling newborns in the NICU. Two tiny souls who would not have survived are living and thriving, thanks to the generosity of two families who donated the funds for this lifesaving





Baby receiving lifesaving care in the NICU

equipment. This machine, the only such machine in the region, is expensive and its use is rare, but it is the only means of saving the life of a newborn suffering from pulmonary hypertension.

Our nitric oxide machine not only saved two new lives; it also greatly boosted the morale of our staff each time it was used. There was great rejoicing throughout the Hospital to know that this equipment and our well-trained, dedicated staff were able to save lives that otherwise would have been lost. Every life saved is a big win at Holy Family Hospital. I am grateful to our donors who say yes and help us purchase a piece of equipment or provide a lifesaving gift for the Poor Case Fund.

During this time of war in Gaza, it is important to show that we value each life, no matter how small. Every new life born at Holy Family Hospital is a cause for celebration. Most families still find a way to keep the tradition of bringing a box of candy to share with staff and visitors. The boxes are smaller now, and the candies are rarely chocolate, but the pride and joy on the faces of the fathers and siblings as they present their small gift are emblematic of the hope for the future that new babies bring.

Good things come in threes. My last bit of good news is the progress we are seeing in our hospital construction project. The new wing is now a beautiful addition to the Bethlehem streetscape. The interior is a flurry of plasterers, electricians and plumbers finishing the wing so the work in the adjacent department can commence. This summer the new operating theaters will come into service while the existing ones will be renovated to become dressing rooms and the new home of the sterilization department. The staff is eagerly awaiting the changeover and there will be a big celebration when they perform the first surgeries in the new theaters.



Women of Bethlehem – Project Engineers and Architects

The Foundation and the Hospital are focusing on these bright lights of good news to help us through these difficult times. It is particularly difficult for the staff as they work long hours and support so many additional family members from their own salaries. They cling to the joy of a baby saved, the dignity of an older woman restored by a laparoscopic surgery, and the excitement that comes when a new piece of equipment is put into use at the Hospital. All of these are signs of a better future to come.

Thank you for helping to ensure this better future with your prayers and generosity. Each act of kindness brings hope to a suffering Bethlehem. Together we can be the bridge to the better days ahead and beyond war to peace and renewed prosperity for the families of Bethlehem.



A Primary Work of the Order of Malta



HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL of Bethlehem Foundation

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL OF BETHLEHEM UPDATE MAY 2024 AMBASSADOR MICHELE B. BOWE, GCM

As the war continues to rage on in Gaza, Bethlehem is increasingly suffering the effects. Since the economy is very dependent on the pilgrimage industry, 90% of the workforce is without salaries. Inflation is rising, especially for fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat. Work permits for most workers in Jerusalem have been cancelled leaving tens of thousands from Bethlehem without work.



Hotels are shuttered and most restaurants are closed. Many businesses have failed or simply closed for the duration of the war. Beggars, never seen before, are cropping up in the streets. Patients are unable to contribute to their care as they once did in the past. While many services are free of charge (Mobile Clinic Care, Menopause Clinic Care, Gestational Diabetes care), the subsidy for deliveries, pre/postnatal care and pediatrics is now 75%. The two social workers meet with the poorer patients and can offer sliding scale coverage all the way down to services at no charge. These subsidies are covered by the Poor Case Fund.

Requests for Poor Case Fund coverage have increased by about 50% or more since the beginning of the war. The situation is such that patients choosing to have medical care are often foregoing meals, heating or electricity. Medical care has become a luxury few can afford. In response, we have increased the funds available to help subsidize services for all patients.

Palestine rents the New Israeli Shekel from Israel and cannot print cash to help suffering citizens. There is not a governmental safety net to keep people out of poverty. Instead, families make their tables longer and one salary is now regularly covering over 20 people. The Pastor at the local Catholic Church reports that poverty is increasing at 20% per month. Household financial reserves were wiped out during the Covid Pandemic and 18 months was not enough to replace them. It is estimated that it would take a decade to recoup the losses in Bethlehem.



The war has no end in sight. Israeli Army and Security Forces enter Bethlehem most nights. They search the 3 local refugee camps and often arrest men and sometimes women and children taking them away for unknown amounts of time. There is an air of fear which deepens at night. There are frequent clashes with heavily armed settlers and the villages and rural roads are not safe. The Mobile Medical Clinic was unable to make its rounds in Area C among the Bedouin and isolated villages from October 8 through February 11. While the security situation has not improved, the Mobile Clinic is back in service using goat paths and back roads to avoid settlement areas and military checkpoints. The employees are dedicated to serving those with barriers to care and they could no longer bear the lack of access to care for those in Area C. Unfortunately, since May 10 service to the Bedouin communities has been paused due to settler violence.

Holy Family Hospital is adapting to best meet the needs of the families of greater Bethlehem. The employees have been working 12-hour shifts to avoid travelling in the nighttime hours. The Hospital is supplied for three months and has



A Primary Work of the Order of Malta

procured two new generators to fully supply the Hospital with electricity and a backup generator in case of need. A new diesel fuel tank with twice the capacity has been installed and water storage capacity has increased. Operating under wartime conditions is not new to Holy Family Hospital as it has survived 5 wars and the Intifadas. The employees are knowledgeable about disaster plans and the staff willingly adapt.

Patient statistics demonstrate the economic and security difficulties of the war. The number of deliveries has decreased because patients coming from the south are less able to travel. Women used to regularly pass other hospitals to seek the higher level of care at Holy Family Hospital. This is no longer prudent. Some women have delivered at home rather than using the roads at night.



NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) admissions have spiked since the beginning of the war hovering at about 15% of deliveries up from the usual 10%. This represents about a 50% increase so far this year. The length of stay in level III care is 68% greater than in 2022. The babies in the NICU are sicker and more fragile and require longer NICU stays. Clinic visits at the Hospital for prenatal care have fallen as have pediatric visits due to road closures and increased poverty. In contrast, the Mobile clinic experienced a surge in visits for February since it reopened, increasing patients by 48% even though it was not operating the first 10 days of the short month.

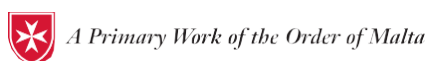
The drop in overall Hospital census, namely deliveries and morning clinics, is partially due to the security situation of the roads and partially due to the lack of cash on hand for patients to contribute to their medical care. This means delayed care as we saw during the pandemic, which resulted in lower levels of general health for women. Specifically, we witnessed an increase in detection of later stage cancer in women.

One clinic with increased usage is the Well Women or menopause clinic which has experienced a significant increase of 28% month over month due to increased messaging about the importance of care for women beyond the childbearing age. The clinic staff have made presentations to women's unions, refugee camps and church groups to increase awareness of the need for checkups and preventative care. These efforts have resulted in the increased census of the clinic.

On the bright side, The Hospital's expansion and renovation project is progressing, albeit slowly. This work includes the updating and expansion of surgical facilities, overnight doctors' quarters, classrooms and administration. The expansion will add an additional 2000 square meters and a renovation of 1000 square meters. This work is a welcome addition to the Bethlehem streetscape and a project which will house decades of care for the mothers and babies of Bethlehem. Additionally, the project currently employs dozens of workers and sources supplies and materials locally. It provides economic leaven in an otherwise stalled economy.



No one knows how long the war will last and what the extent of the economic fallout will be. Holy Family Hospital will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the mothers and babies of the region to the best of its capabilities. The Hospital no longer has any cash reserves. Reimbursements for contracts with UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority are largely unpaid. As poverty grows, the demand for services will increase and cashflow will diminish. Holy Family Hospital is seeking new sources of funding immediately to meet the needs of patients and the very hardworking dedicated Hospital staff.





HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL *of Bethlehem Foundation*

Hope in the Shadows President's Report Ambassador Michele B. Bowe Summer 2024

While the eyes of the world have been focused on Gaza, the town of Bethlehem is being forgotten as it slips deeper into a persistent poverty. Security measures imposed by the ongoing war coupled with travel restrictions and road closures have stalled the economy. Pilgrimages have been cancelled through the end of the year and workers can no longer go to Jerusalem for their jobs.

Hope in the very Birthplace of Hope is becoming allusive against the backdrop of food insecurity and the uncertainty of life in Bethlehem. Pregnant women are arriving in labor to Holy Family Hospital malnourished and with little prenatal care. Infants are born with more complications and low birth weights. NICU admissions have increased by as much as 60% this year.

In these difficult times, Holy Family Hospital shines brightly as a beacon of hope providing jobs, training and the gift of life 365 days a year. When a mother arrives in labor, the whole Hospital responds with warm hospitality and care. It is a moment when she can forget the worries beyond our doors and rejoice in the hope of a new life and the possibilities it brings.

In response to the deepening poverty, **we have increased the usual care subsidies from 50% to 75%** to ensure every family can access our high level of care regardless of their ability to pay. In times like these, when it seems hope is in the shadows, it is important that families maintain their dignity and not forgo essential care.



While the town outside the Hospital is fraught with the problems of the world, inside the walls of Holy Family Hospital, those issues seem miles away. The halls are cool, yet warm and welcoming. The staff smile easily as they greet the young mothers, dads and their families. The sun shines in on the waiting areas and the small children watch the peacocks in the garden while waiting to see the doctor. The atmosphere feels hopeful.

The sum of the care at Holy Family Hospital is the parts of the whole. All departments are interconnected and dependent on one another. Together in a perfectly choreographed way, they provide the high-quality care for which the Hospital is known throughout the region. Upstairs, on the second floor, is where it all comes together providing care and saving lives of the tiniest new citizens of Bethlehem. It is the pinnacle of care – our level III NICU. The heartbeat of Holy Family Hospital.

It is where the everyday miracles take place. Recently, I found the NICU full, with an unusually high number of micro-preemies. These tiny babies arrive before 26 weeks gestation, weighing less than two pounds. Their care is very intensive, often requiring blood transfusions, expensive medications and months of NICU care. The doctors do their very best and then they wait. Dr. George told me when I asked about the prognosis of an

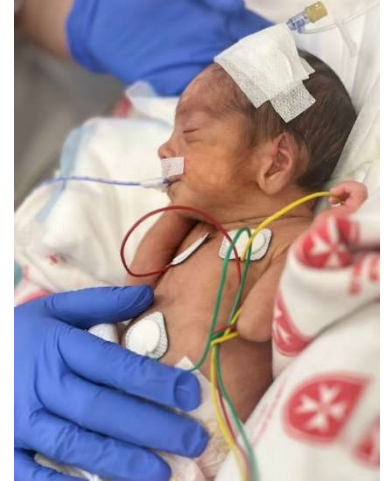


A Primary Work of the Order of Malta

especially small and weak baby, that he followed all the care protocols for that baby. Now they just needed to pray and wait. “God is the author of life; you can’t force a miracle and you can’t get in the way of one. Sometimes a baby who looks to have little chance of life surprises us, and sometimes a baby just can’t be stabilized, no matter how hard we try. It is all in the hands of God. Especially in Bethlehem – we are behind a wall; we don’t always have what we need but we work from our hearts and God provides”.

Seven of our nine ventilators were in use and most of the babies were nestled in highly specialized protected closed incubators reserved for babies in greatest medical need. Our new Nitric Oxide had been pressed into service once again as the only hope to save a newborn with pulmonary hypertension. I believe it is the only such machine in the entire region.

The staff were all tending to the babies. Checking positions, resetting alarms and making the babies comfortable. The NICU felt crowded with 16 babies, the staff and about a dozen moms and dads all sitting vigil or nursing their tiny babies. Two incubators were prepared and ready to receive babies whose mothers were in the Labor Ward experiencing preterm labor some 15 weeks early. Despite the heavy workload, the atmosphere was cheerful and professional. The staff was grateful for the intensity of the work, as busy days leave no time for thinking about the economic situation of their town. New life is a welcome sign of hope – a harbinger of better times to come.



I am happy to share that a generous friend has responded to the cry of the poor from Bethlehem with an unprecedented matching gift challenge of \$100,000 to double the impact of our Poor Case Fund this summer. All gifts will be doubled this summer through September 15 to sustain hope and maintain the dignity of the families of Bethlehem.

Lest we forget Bethlehem – the small town, which had no room at the inn, is struggling. Because of you, Holy Family Hospital’s doors remain open and fully staffed to meet the needs of the women and children of the region. This is especially important as your gift today brings life-changing hope to a struggling family in Bethlehem. With rampant poverty and food insecurity, the need is dire. Please ensure that every mother and child will have access to the hope brought by life-changing care, now and for generations. Your gift of hope will restore dignity to the families we have served for generations. Let us be the bridge to the far side of peace as we accompany the mothers and babies of Bethlehem throughout the stages of their lives.



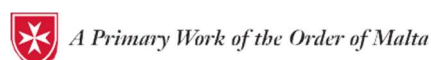
Together with the families at Holy Family Hospital, I wish you all a joyful remains of summer and thank you for your generosity and prayers.

Together we can deliver life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land.

With great gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Burke Bowe".

Ambassador Michele Burke Bowe





ORDER OF MALTA[®] FEDERAL ASSOCIATION, U.S.A.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF MALTA



Grand Masters of the Order of Malta

1. Fra' Gerard Sasso
c. 1040 - 1120
2. Fra' Raymond du Puy
1120 – c. 1158/60
3. Fra' Auger de Balben
c. 1158/60 – 1162/3
4. Fra' Arnaud de Comps
1162 – 1163
5. Fra' Gilbert de Aissailly
1163 – c.1169/70
6. Fra' Gastone de Murois
c. 1170 – c. 1172
7. Fra' Joubert de Syrie
c. 1172 – 1177
8. Fra' Roger de Moulins
1177 – c. 1187
9. Fra' Ermengard d'Aps
1188 – c. 1190
10. Fra' Garnier de Naplous
1189/90 – 1192
11. Fra' Godefroy de Donion
1193 – 1202
12. Fra' Alfonso of Portugal
1203 – 1206
13. Fra' Geoffrey Le Rat
1206 – 1207

0-300s

33 AD: Jesus Christ is crucified in Jerusalem.

312: Emperor Constantine converts to Catholicism, and the Edict of Milan in 313 grants the toleration of Christianity, which is made the official religion of the empire in 380.

326: Constantine's mother Helena travels to Palestine. There she locates the Holy Sepulchre (the tomb in which Jesus' body was laid), has it restored and builds a church at the site. Pilgrimages start shortly thereafter. Legends assert that she also built a hospital there.

570: Muhammad born in Mecca.

603: Pope Gregory the Great sends the Abbot Probus to Jerusalem to erect a xenodocheum (the Greek word xenodokeo means "to render hospitality") there.

610: Muhammad claims to receive revelations from God, through the archangel Gabriel.

632: Muhammad dies. Conquests start immediately.

638: Muslims take Jerusalem.

c. 800: Writing about his pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 870, the Frankish monk Bernard, relays the legend that the Emperor Charlemagne rebuilds the Hospital next the Holy Sepulchre.

c. 1040: Blessed Gerard is born. Sometimes known as Gerard de Sasso, as the city of Sasso in Italy claims to be his birthplace, he is also referred to as Gérard de Martigues, due to a tradition of his place of birth being Martigues, Provence, in France. William of Tyre cites Amalfi as his birthplace. He was a lay brother in the Benedictine Order. Gerard is also sometimes known as Gerard Tenque or Tunc. This is the result of a bad translation made by the 18th century scholar Pierre-Joseph de Haitze, of the Latin adverb of time "tunc".

1054: Great Schism separates the Eastern Church from the Western Church.

1070: Merchants from the Italian country of Amalfi re-build and re-found a hospice for Latin pilgrims in Jerusalem, financed by the wealthy Amalfitan Count Mauro.

1071: The Battle of Manzikert. The Byzantine army under the Emperor Romanos IV Diogenes is defeated by the Muslims under Seljuk Sultan Aps Arslan, leaving Europe in a panic.

1070's: By this time there is a unitary complex of four buildings in Jerusalem located near the south entrance of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. There existed (1) the hospice (or

1000s

14. Fra' Guérin de Montaigu
1207 – c. 1227/8
15. Fra' Bertrand de Thexis
c. 1228 – 1231
16. Fra' Guerin
1236 – c. 1239/40
17. Fra' Bertrand de Comps
1239/40 – 1242
18. Fra' Pierre de Viellebride
1239/40 – 1242
19. Fra' Guillaume de Chateauneuf
1242 – 1258
20. Fra' Hugues de Revel
1258 – 1277
21. Fra' Nicolas de Lorgue
1277 – 1284
22. Fra' Jean de Villiers
1284/5 – c. 1293/4
23. Fra' Odon de Pins
1294 – 1296
24. Fra' Guillaume de Villaret
1296 – 1305
25. Fra' Foulques de Villaret
1305 – 1319
26. Fra' Helion de Villeneuve
1319 – 1346
27. Fra' Dieudonné de Gozon
1346 – 1353
28. Fra' Pierre de Corneillan
1353 – 1355
29. Fra' Roger de Pins
1355 – 1365
30. Fra' Raymond Berenger
1365 – 1374
31. Fra' Robert de Juliac
1374 – 1376
32. Fra' Jean Fernandez de Heredia
1376 – 1396
33. Fra' Riccardo Caracciolo
1383 – 1395
34. Fra' Philibert de Naillac
1396 – 1421
35. Fra' Antonio Fluvian de Riviere
1421 – 1437
36. Fra' Jean de Lastin
1437 – 1454
37. Fra' Jacques de Milly
1454 – 1461
38. Fra' Piero Raimondo Zacosta
1461 – 1467
39. Fra' Giovanni Battista Orsini
1467 – 1476
40. Fra' Pierre d'Aubusson
1476 – 1503

1100s

hospital), (2) the Church of San Giovanni Battista, (3) the Benedictine house for men of Santa Maria dei Latini (It was called St. Mary of the Latins in order to distinguish it from the Greek church of St. Mary in Jerusalem), and (4) the Benedictine house for women of Santa Maria Maddalena (later Santa Maria Maggiore).

1080: Blessed Gerard appointed as rector of the hospice.

1095: On November 27th, at the Council of Clermont in France, Pope Urban II preaches Crusade. "Christians should not rest comfortably in their beds when the holy places associated with the life of Christ were being held by those who did not believe in his divinity."

1097: The 1st Crusade is launched. Initially, there were 70,000 who went on crusade, including 7,000 knights. By 1099, only 12,000 made it to Jerusalem, including 1,300 knights.

1099: On July 15th, Jerusalem falls to the crusaders after a 6 week siege.

1099: Godfrey of Bouillon is offered the crown of Jerusalem. He refuses, saying "No man should wear a crown of gold in the city where our Lord wore a crown of thorns." He uses the title "Defender of the Holy Sepulchre," while his successors use "King of Jerusalem."

1113: On February 15th, Pope Paschal II issues the bull Pie Postulatio Voluntatis establishing the Order as a separate entity from the Benedictine monastery at St. Mary of the Latins.

1120: The Templars are founded in Jerusalem at a church council in Nablus in January of 1120 and are later approved by the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

1120: On September 3rd, Fra' Gerard dies. Fra' Raymond du Puy is made the second superior of the Hospital. He writes a Rule for the Order, and he starts its militarization.

1177: The Order separates the nuns of the Order into their own convents.

1187: The Battle at the Horns of Hattin takes place on July 3rd. Saladin's army defeats 1,500 Hospitaller and Templar knights and 15-18,000 foot soldiers. He executes all prisoners.

1187: On October, 2nd, Jerusalem falls to the Muslims under Saladin.

1191: Acre is captured by the crusaders under King Richard I of England and King Philip II of France during the 3rd Crusade. The Hospitallers move their seat and hospital to Acre.

1230: By this date, the Auberge (meaning "inn" or "hostel") is created at Montmusard, a suburb at Acre, in order to separate the Brothers-at-arms from the Brothers Sergeant-at-arms and Brothers-at-service. This is the start of the separation of the nobility in the Order.

1291: Muslims begin the siege of Acre on April 5th. Acre falls to the Muslims on May 18th.

1291-1308: The Order of St. John moves its seat and hospital to Limassol on Cyprus. From there, not being welcomed, they plan their conquest of Rhodes.

1308: Knights conquer Rhodes and move their seat and hospital there. The Order in Rhodes went from running hospices to true hospitals and undertake advanced medical research and practice. They also change their military from an army to a navy.

1310: Creation of the Langues at Rhodes. On Rhodes, each Langue was given its own Auberge. There are initially seven: Provence, France, Auvergne, Germany, England, Aragon & Italy. The Langue of Castile (1462) & the Anglo-Bavarian Langue (1570) are added later.

1312: The Templars are suppressed and all their properties were given to the Hospitallers.

1300s: Hospitallers take part in the "Corso," legitimized piracy against Turkish shipping.

1480: First Siege of Rhodes by Turkish Muslims. This siege was successfully repelled.

1517: Martin Luther nails his theses to the door of the Church in Wittenburg. The subsequent Protestant Reformation leads to great losses in the holdings of the Order.

1522: Second Siege of Rhodes. On June 24th, a Turkish Armada of over 400 Ships under the command of the Ottoman Sultan, Suleiman I, arrives off the Island and begins the siege. On December 18th, the Order surrenders Rhodes, and the Island falls to the Muslims.

1523: On January 1st, the Ottoman Sultan, Suleiman I, allows the Hospitallers to sail from Rhodes, leaving with full honors. The Order sails for Catania in Sicily.

1525: King Henry VIII asks to divorce Catherine of Aragon. The Pope denies this request.

1530: On March 23rd, at the request of Pope Clement VII, who was a member of the Order, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V gives to the Order the islands of Malta, Gozo & Comino, as well as the city of Tripoli in North Africa. The Order moves its hospital and seat to Malta.

1540: In April, King Henry VIII dissolves the English Priory of the Hospitallers by an act of Parliament, and siezes all of it land holdings. Several members are martyred.

1551: The city of Tripoli, which had been given to the Order, falls to the Muslims.

1200s

1300s

1400s

1500s

41. Fra' Emery d'Amboise
1503 – 1512
42. Fra' Guy de Blanchefort
1512 – 1513
43. Fra' Fabrizio del Carretto
1513 – 1521
44. Fra' Philippe de Villiers
de l'Isle-Adam
1521 – 1534
45. Fra' Pierino del Ponte
1534 – 1535
46. Fra' Didier de Saint-Jaille
1535 – 1536
47. Fra' Jean de Homedes
1536 – 1553
48. Fra' Claude de la Sengle
1553 – 1557
49. Fra' Jean de La Vallette-Parisot
1557 – 1568
50. Fra' Pierre de Monte
1568 – 1572
51. Fra' Jean l'Evesque de La Cassière
1572 – 1581
52. Fra' Hugues Loubenx de Verdala
1581 – 1595
53. Fra' Martin Garzez
1595 – 1601
54. Fra' Alof de Wignacourt
1601 – 1622
55. Fra' Luis Mendez de Vasconcellos
1622 – 1623
56. Fra' Antoine de Paule
1623 – 1636
57. Fra' Jean-Paul de Lascaris-Castellar
1636 – 1657
58. Fra' Martín de Redín
1657 – 1660
59. Fra' Annet de Clermont-Gessant
1660
60. Fra' Raphael Cotoner
1660 – 1663
61. Fra' Nicolas Cotoner
1663 – 1680
62. Fra' Gregorio Carafa
1680 – 1690
63. Fra' Adrien de Wignacourt
1690 – 1697
64. Fra' Ramon Perellos y Roccaful
1697 – 1720
65. Fra' Marc'Antonio Zondadari
1720 – 1722
66. Fra' Antonio Manoel de Vilhena
1722 – 1736
67. Fra' Raymond Despuig
1736 – 1741

1600s

1700s

1800s

1565: The Great Siege of Malta. Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Sultan, attempts to take Malta, with 35-40,000 soldiers. The Knights, who numbered around 500, together with approximately 6,000 footsoldiers, withstood the siege and repelled the invaders. This victory became one of the most celebrated events in Europe, to the point that Voltaire said: "Nothing is better known than the siege of Malta."

1571: The Battle of Lepanto takes place on October 7th. The Holy League, led by Don Juan of Austria, fights the Ottoman fleet in a decisive naval battle. The Order mans four galleys at the vanguard of the fleet, led by Marcantonio Collogna in the Capitana. Victory at Lepanto ended the Turkish naval threat. Pope Pius V instituted the feast of Our Lady of Victory in order to commemorate the victory, which he attributed to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1607: On March 20th, Pope Paul V grants the Grand Master of the Order the title of "His Eminence" and the rank of a cardinal.

1619: Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II confers the title of Prince of the Holy Roman Empire to the Grand Master of the Order, giving him the title of "Prince and Grand Master."

1651: The Order acquires the islands of Saint Barthélemy, Saint Christopher, Saint Croix and Saint Martin in the Caribbean. These were purchased from the French Compagnie des Îles de l'Amérique. In 1665, the four islands were sold to the French West India Company.

1683: The Battle of Vienna takes place. This victory over the Turks was led by King John III Sobieski of Poland, and ended the Turkish threat overland.

1772, 1782 & 1795: The 3 Partitions of Poland – Russia, Austria & Prussia divide up the Kingdom of Poland. The Order suffers great losses in land, as most of its priories there are given to Russia.

1776: The American Revolution begins. 1,800 Maltese and Knights of the Order had enlisted in the French Navy to help the fledgling United States in its War of Independence.

1781: On September 5th, led by the Knight of Malta, François Joseph Paul, Comte de Grasse, Marquis of Grasse-Tilly, and with the help of Maltese sailors, the French Navy defeats the British in the Battle of the Chesapeake off the Virginia Capes. With the defeat, the British were unable to supply their troops. Consequently, the British, under Lord Charles Cornwallis, surrender at Yorktown and end of the war for American independence.

1789: The French Revolution begins. The Order loses significant land holdings in France as well as a large number of French Knights, who had made up a large portion of the Order.

1798: Napoleon conquers Genoa, Venice & Malta on his way to Egypt. Napoleon demands that his 300 ships be allowed to enter the port and take on water and supplies. The Grand Master replies that only two foreign ships were allowed to enter at a time. Bonaparte orders a cannon fusillade against Malta. On the morning of June 11th, French soldiers attack. After fierce fighting, the Maltese in the west are forced to surrender. Napoleon opens negotiations with the Knights in the fortress capital of Valletta. Faced with vastly superior French forces and the loss of western Malta, the Grand Master negotiates a surrender.

1798: On June 18th, the Order surrenders Malta and sails for Trieste, a deep-water port city on the Adriatic Sea in northeast Italy.

1798: The knights are dispersed. Those few left in Europe continue to exist and negotiate with European governments for a return to power. The Russian Emperor, Tsar Paul I, gives a large number of knights shelter in Saint Petersburg. There, the refugee knights attempt to elect Paul as their Grand Master. Paul therefore proclaims himself Grand Master of the Order. Known as "The Mad Tsar," he was not Catholic, was not elected, nor was he confirmed by the Pope, so the election was illegal and illegitimate. However, Tsar Paul I became the "de Facto" Grand Master and not "de Jure" Grand Master, and protected the Order's continuity in one of the most dramatic historic and political moments of its long existence.

1799: On July 6th, Grand Master Hompesch sends two letters, one to the Holy Roman Emperor Francis II, the other to Emperor Paul I of Russia, in which he abdicates as Grand Master. He also neglects to send a letter of abdication to the pope as required by canon law, nor did the pope accept his abdication. He then recants this abdication in 1801. He dies in 1804 at Montpellier in France.

1801: Emperor Paul I is murdered. Alexander I, his son, abandons all claims to the Order.

1802: The Treaty of Amiens between the British and the French is signed. It was agreed that Malta was to be given back to the Order, but the British never gave it up. The British delegation was led by Lord Cornwallis, the same man who had fought and lost the American Revolution. This was Lord Cornwallis' revenge for the Order's help to the Americans.

1803: Pope Pius VII intervenes, and Fra' Tommasi is made Grand Master, settling the Russian affair. The Order establishes its seat first in Messina in Sicily, then moves to Catania.

- 68. Fra' Manuel Pinto de Fonseca
1741 – 1773
- 69. Fra' Francisco Ximenes de Texada
1773 – 1775
- 70. Fra' Emmanuel de Rohan-Polduc
1775 – 1797
- 71. Fra' Ferdinand
von Hompesch zu Bolheim
1797 – 1802
- 72. Emperor Paul I of Russia (de facto)
1799 – 1801
- 73. Fra' Giovanni Battista Tommasi
1803 – 1805

Lieutenants of the Grand Magistr

- 1. Fra' Innico Maria Guevara-Suardo
1805-1814
- 2. Fra' André Di Giovanni
1814-1821
- 3. Fra' Antoine Busca
1821-1834
- 4. Fra' Carlo Candida
1834-1845
- 5. Fra' Philippe di Colloredo-Mels
1845-1864
- 6. Fra' Alessandro Borgia
1865-1872
- 7. Fra' Giovanni Battista
Ceschi a Santa Croce
1872-1879

Grand Masters of the Order of Malta

- 74. Fra' Giovanni Battista
Ceschi a Santa Croce
1879 – 1905
- 75. Fra' Galeazzo von Thun und
Hohenstein
1905 – 1931
- 76. Fra' Ludovico Chigi Albani
della Rovere
1931 – 1951
- 77. Fra' Angelo de Mojana di Cologna
1962 – 1988
- 78. Fra' Andrew Willoughby
Ninian Bertie
1988 – 2008
- 79. Fra' Matthew Festing
2008 – 2017
- 80. Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre
del Tempio di Sanguinetto
2018 - 2020
- 81. Fra' John Dunlap
2023 - present



1900s

1805-1879: With the death of Tommasi, the Order is run by a series of 7 “Lieutenants of the Grand Magistr” until 1879.

1806: Dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire.

1806: The Swedish government offers the island of Gotland to the Order. The offer was rejected since it would have meant the Order renouncing their claim to Malta.

1815: The Congress of Vienna solidifies the British control of Malta.

1826: After Messina and Catania, the Order settles in Ferrara in northern Italy.

1834: Pope Gregory XVI declares that the embassy of the Order to Rome (the Pallazzo Malta) as well as the Casa di Rodi and the Villa Malta on the Aventine Hill were the sovereign territory of the Order of Malta, giving them back a country of their own.

1859: In the second half of the 19th century, the Order’s original mission of medical and social assistance again becomes its main focus, coinciding with the creation of the National Associations, starting with the founding of the German Association.

1875: Founding of the British Association.

1877: Founding of the Italian Association.

1879: Pope Leo XIII intervenes and organizes the election of the Grand Master Fra’ Giovanni Battista Ceschi a Santa Croce, ending the reign of Lieutenants.

1914: Large-scale Hospitaller and charitable works were carried out during World War I including the operation of Hospital Trains and Hospital Ships to help the wounded.

1927: Founding of the American Association in New York City, thus bringing the Order to the United States. Thirteen men from the East Coast were the founding members, and His Eminence, Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, was the first Chaplain.

1939: Large-scale Hospitaller and charitable works, including the operation of Hospital Trains for the wounded, were also carried out during World War II.

1951: Founding of the Western Association in San Francisco. In 1951, the Grand Magistr sends a delegation to the western United States. Subsequently, eight men are invested by the Most Reverend John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, on June 24th, 1953.

1951: The death of Grand Master Chigi leads to the Cardinal Cannalli controversy. Cannalli tries to take over the Order. Later intervention, first by Pope John XXIII, and subsequently by Pope Paul VI saves the Order. This is in contrast to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, which was successfully taken over by Cannalli.

1953: On January 24th, the Tribunal of Cardinals, which had been appointed by Pope Pius XII, affirms the status of the Order as sovereign and a subject of international law.

1961: On June 24th, Pope John XXIII approves a new Constitutional Charter for the Order which further affirms its status as a sovereign entity and subject of international law.

1961: Cardinal Cannalli dies, ending the controversy.

1962: Fra’ Angelo de Mojana Di Cologna, a Milanese lawyer, is elected Grand Master.

1963: To celebrate the anniversary of his election, Fra’ Angelo accompanies the British Association on pilgrimage to Lourdes. Thereafter he asks all associations to attend the pilgrimage as a work of the Order.

1974: Founding of the Southern Association in the United States, headquartered in Washington, DC. In 1974, there were nine original members and eleven transferees from the American Association. This is later re-named the Federal Association, USA in 1985.

1988: Death of Fra’ Angelo. Fra’ Andrew Bertie is elected Grand Master. Bertie had been the first Knight of Justice to make vows on British soil since the reign of Henry VIII.

Today

Today: Its 13,500 members, 95,000 permanent volunteers and qualified staff of 52,000 employees – most of whom are doctors, nurses and paramedics – form an efficient network that includes everything from emergency relief for refugees and the displaced living through war and conflict, intervention in areas hit by natural disasters, to hospital work, medical care and social services. The Order of Malta’s members are now grouped into 6 Grand Priors, 5 Sub-Priors and 48 National Associations on five continents, heirs to the tradition of the ancient Langues. The Order of Malta is an independent, sovereign object of International Law. It has diplomatic relations with 113 countries and the European Union, Permanent Observer status at the United Nations, and international Cooperation Agreements with over 50 states. It operates hundreds of medical facilities (clinics & hospitals) around the world, and Ambulance Services in over a dozen countries. Programs are now active in 120 countries.



1882 The Daughters of Charity bought a large plot of land in Bethlehem where they laid the cornerstone for an 80-bed hospital.

1892 The Turkish Sultan Abdul-Hamid II gave the Sisters of Charity the license to build and maintain a hospital in Bethlehem. At a later date, the Turkish Authorities gave the hospital tax exemption within the Mytilene and Constantinople Agreements signed with the French Government.

1895 The Holy Family Hospital opened its doors, and grew into a busy general hospital, providing medical, surgical and maternity facilities for the people of Bethlehem for almost a century.

1985 The hospital was forced to close due to political and social factors associated with the Arab / Israeli conflict. That same year, in answer to the crisis, the Order of Malta decided to reopen one wing as a 28-bed maternity unit. It received assistance from the European Union for its renovation and equipment.

1989 At the request of Pope John Paul II, the Order of Malta took over the operation and management of the hospital as a maternity and neonatal intensive care unit preserving its Catholic values of life, peace and hope.

26th February 1990 The first baby was born in the new facility.

1997 Due to increase in activity, an extension was added to include two extra delivery rooms, a second operating room, nine extra beds and a neonatal unit. Again, the European Union generously helped in the funding the equipment.

2001 The number of babies taken care of in the neonatal unit was 277, with 1839 deliveries.

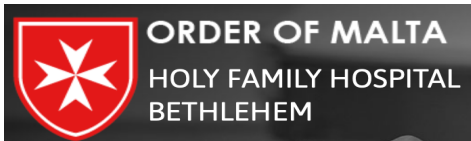
2001 The United States O'Neil Foundation donated a fully equipped, mobile clinic to the hospital. This unit made it possible for doctors to provide at-home medical and social assistance directly to patients living in communities living in the distant hills of the region, where basic services such as running water, electricity and public clinics are lacking.

2007 A milestone year for the hospital with the increase of the capacity from 47 to 63 beds due to the ever-increasing demand (e.g. the occupancy rate of the neonatal Unit was reaching over 120%). A new floor is inaugurated housing a new Labor Ward and a larger Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. A new diabetic clinic for pregnant women has opened in 2010, dedicated to the treatment and management of gestational diabetes that occurs during pregnancy. The clinic provides diabetic care free of charge.

2013 A new pediatric and neonatal care unit is inaugurated thanks to a donation from the Belgian Government. The unit will provide assistance for those living in villages around Bethlehem.

2015 Construction work began for the expansion of the operating rooms and the administration department.

2018 The Mobile Clinic provided over 4,000 medical consultations to mothers and children living in villages around Bethlehem.



Since 1990 more than 100,000 babies have been born in the hospital. The Holy Family Hospital delivers approximately 70 percent of all Bethlehem infants, maintaining a survival rate of nearly 100 percent.

The Birthplace of Hope

Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem is a primary hospital work of the Order of Malta, providing state-of-the-art pediatric, obstetric, and gynecological care to women and children of the Holy Land. The Hospital treats all those who seek care, regardless of their religion, nationality, or ability to pay. Since 1990, Holy Family Hospital has delivered over 100,000 babies in Bethlehem. The Hospital's Mobile Outreach Clinic makes routine visits to remote village communities in order to provide medical treatment to those in need, and its Well Woman Clinic offers screenings and treatment to post-menopausal women for diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases. It is the only the only hospital in the region equipped to care for premature infants and women with high-risk pregnancies. The Hospital unites Christians and Muslims as they work together to foster peace through medicine. Located only 1,500 steps from the birthplace of Christ, Holy Family Hospital is an instrument of peace and a beacon of hope in region filled with strife and uncertainty. It embraces all who seek care and *no one is ever turned away.*