



## Hikmat Dandan – Christian Refugee Relief Director

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### **Worthy District Deputies, Grand Knights, & Dear Brothers,**

My name is Hikmat Michel Dandan, the Ontario Christian Refugee Relief Director. All the Knights of Columbus initiatives are important but Christian Refugee Relief is most important because it deals with persecuted and at-risk Christians. The Supreme Council has adopted this year a resolution for Solidarity with persecuted Christians. My recommendation to all Ontario councils is to encourage them to appoint a Christian Refugee Relief Chairman at the council level. I am ready to make a ZOOM PRO or TEAMS virtual meeting at short notice to explain in detail to interested brothers how their councils can participate in charitable initiatives that satisfy the Christian Refugee Relief category which is under life but different from typical Life initiatives and with many options that touch lives. Knowing what the urgent needs are, I have developed initiatives that satisfy many aspects of relief that will bring aid, to more refugees, needy students, hungry families, orphans, priests, seminarians, Christian craft workers, churches, hospitals, elderly, and the families of departed brother knights. Of course, participating in any of these initiatives will also earn the council credits towards achieving your Columbian or Star council awards. Many of the Christian Refugee Relief initiatives can also be classified under FAITH, COMMUNITY as well as LIFE. Since the council promotions will be with parishioners, it will also boost your image and increase your membership as the parishioners will see how the council is helping the most needy and will be impressed to join the order. All the initiatives are described here and under [www.christianrefugeerelief.org](http://www.christianrefugeerelief.org). Some websites are still being developed but all the initiatives are active. Do not put your charity eggs in one basket but distribute it to benefit many more charitable causes. Lastly WHY DO WE DO THIS? Because we are Catholics, which means UNIVERSAL, we look beyond and help brothers all over, so that the light of Christ shines in far-away places all over the world. When you receive a message from me, it is because I need your help to save persecuted and at-risk Christians. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)

There are many initiatives and options:

Donate to: **Knights of Columbus Ontario Charities Foundation**, write in the memo part the name of the initiative. Mention your address and email (Tax receipts will be issued). Visit my website: [www.christianrefugeerelief.org](http://www.christianrefugeerelief.org)

Send your cheques by post to this address: **Ontario Christian Refugee Relief Director, 6428 Yonge Street, Centerpoint 37150, Toronto, Ontario, M2M 4J8.**



## JERUSALEM STUDENTS

Sponsor the education of needy Christian students suffering from economic and other difficulties in The Holy Land. It is very affordable starting at \$21 per month \$250 per year. This will lay the foundation for successful Christian families that will grow to populate the area, thus strengthening the alarmingly diminishing Christian presence, which is now less than 2%. The program received the Supreme Council International Youth Service Award. Thanks to you 24 students have already graduated while being sponsored and joined universities for higher learning. Another 80 students are still being sponsored. Choose your student, read his story, and call me at 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## ROSARY SISTERS' HOSPITAL (BEIRUT BLAST)

The massive explosion on August 4, 2020, resulted in devastating destruction to the city of Beirut and its port and the main Christian area displacing 300,000 people. The Rosary Sisters Hospital was severely affected due to its immediate proximity to the Beirut port (less than 500 meters). The hospital operates under the guidance of the Holy See in Rome, and its funding has always been dependent on donors and charitable organizations. Rebuilding this very vital healthcare institution in this very critical time, requires the Knights of Columbus help. Call me 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsocolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsocolumbus@hotmail.com)



## FOOD FOR SYRIA / CARITAS LEBANON

Syria and Lebanon are the land of the first Christians. There are no FOOD BANKS in Syria or in Lebanon. So, these two projects support providing food for Syrian and Lebanese Christian families who are passing through very difficult times and hardly able to get food for their children. The economies & currencies of both countries have collapsed to unprecedented levels. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email:

[knightsocolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsocolumbus@hotmail.com)



**I AM IRAQI I AM CHRISTIAN**



Do not let this be the last chapter of Christianity in Iraq. The Iraqi Christians are one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. They still speak Aramaic, the language of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This project is dedicated to providing water, food, medicine, shelter (rebuilding of Karamles, a Supreme project) for the returning Iraqi Christian refugees of Nineveh plain, where ISIS devastated the area. A project in final stages of implementation in partnership with Wheelchair Mission is to provide 75 wheelchairs and 150 sticks for the disabled and amputees in the Christian area of Mosul. Thanks to St Agnes Council, St. Joseph Chaldean Council & St. Joseph Syriac Council and many other councils that donated. Another project awaiting your council participation is to provide chronic illness medication for diabetes and blood pressure on a monthly basis for the elderly for Iraqi Christians in Mosul. Call me 416-893 8060 or email:

[knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## **HOLY LAND RESOLUTION**

This is an Ontario State resolution that was voted unanimously to support the Holy Land which I presented in 2016. I encourage you to submit a similar resolution in every state. The summary is that: as the Holy Land is where our Lord Savior Jesus Christ was born, preached, crucified and rose from the dead and also where the Apostles walked and preached, therefore Ontario State Council encourages all Ontario Knights of Columbus councils to annually support through prayer and financial assistance, various Holy Land Churches, charitable organizations, orphanages, and initiatives dedicated to benefiting the Holy Land. After 4 years, let us start making an effort to put this Holy Land Resolution into action. Once a year make a donation to the Holy Land otherwise it is going to become museums of Christianity without any Christians around. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email:

[knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## **ST. VINCENT VOLCANO DISASTER**

This disaster was caused by mother nature. Since April 22<sup>nd</sup> there has been no major eruptions. The Ontario Knights of Columbus are coordinating with CARITAS ANTILLES to support their relief activities for the refugees and clean-up efforts in the island of St Vincent so that they return to their homes. CARITAS is a confederation of 165 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations operating in over 200 countries and territories worldwide. Call me 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



**Orphans for Jesus**

**Foyer De L'AMITIE** Dar Sadaka in Zahle (Lebanon)



**Jabboule Orphanage** North of Lebanon





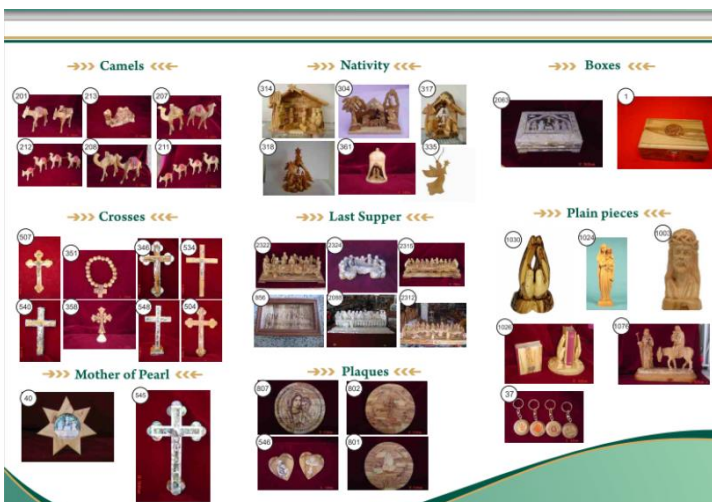
**Home of Peace Holy Land**

**Foyer de la Providence South Lebanon**



## ORPHANS FOR JESUS

Our Lord Jesus is the father of the orphans, and the Knights are chosen to take care of the fatherless. This initiative features orphanages in Lebanon, in the Holy Land, and in Syria. This initiative will make it easy for councils and parishioners to help orphans. Included already in the program are the following orphanages: Foyer de la Providence (South Lebanon), Home of Peace 3 homes in the (Holy Land), Jabboule Orphanage (North Lebanon), Foyer De L'AMITIE Dar Sadaka in Zahle (Lebanon), Allepine Sisters in Aleppo Syria. Donate to all or choose an orphanage to donate to. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## HOLY LAND HANDICRAFTS

Encourage the local Christian handicraft industry, to fight the effects of economic difficulties. Importation of olive wood Christian handicrafts (choose from 500 items) from Bethlehem in the Holy Land for resale, to raise funds for your councils or parishes. This encourages local Christian craft workers. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## The Knights of Columbus Bethlehem Olive Wood Rosary

Order the first Knights of Columbus olive wood rosary. Sold at \$5 to councils who in turn resell at \$10 to members in the council or the parish, to raise funds for their council or parish or to help persecuted Christians. Order a couple of rosaries for your members. They will love it. Our Lady of Guadalupe holy image and the KOFC crest are lazered on the olive wood. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email:

[knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## CHURCHES FOR JESUS

During the Middle East ISIS devastation, many churches were specifically destroyed to eradicate Christianity. This project is dedicated to restoring and preserving churches



where Jesus Christ walked and preached and where Christianity was born. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## **ST ANNE'S PATRIARCHAL SEMINARY**

The Seminary has been providing priestly formation for the Catholic Church for the whole Middle East since 1886 and is currently facing financial difficulties because of the ongoing war in Syria and the collapsing economy in Lebanon and Syria. The Seminary counts essentially on contributions from the Bishops. Because the Syrian Pound and the Lebanese pound have lost their value, the contributions became almost worthless. This has left the Seminary with dangerous deficiency in its budget. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email: [knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)



## **MASS INTENTION IN THE HOLY LAND FOR DECEASED BROTHERS**

The custom of offering a Mass intention is a part of the Catholic culture. When a priest celebrates Mass each day, he offers each celebration of the Eucharist for a particular person, or intention. By doing so he applies special graces from God upon that person or intention. Similar to how we are able to intercede for others by our personal prayers, the Church is able to intercede for us through the celebration of the Mass. However, since the Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" the Mass



possess a power that our personal prayers do not. The practice of offering Mass for particular intention is an ancient one, dating back to the early Church. Canon Law confirms this practice and states, "In accord with the approved practice of the Church, any priest celebrating or concelebrating is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention" (Can. 945 §1). The priest does not take the money for the Mass itself, but for the purpose of supplying the things necessary for Mass and for his own support.

The Mass Intention has immense power and countless miracles and conversions have occurred throughout the centuries by offering Masses for a specific intention or person. Mass intention is a great treasure of the Church and has a spiritual weight that is incalculable. Offer a Mass Intention for the repose of the soul of a departed brother or relative or for any other intention. The offering is C\$10 which goes to the priest for supplies and to assist in his daily life. You will receive confirmation from the priest in the Holy Land. Call me at 416-893 8060 or email:

[knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)

Again please do not put all your charity eggs in one basket but spread the benefit over many initiatives to help the needy. I am ready to guide you how to get your credits by donating to these initiatives and putting your Faith into Action and show you how to attain your Columbian or Star Awards. In case of donations, tax receipts will be issued. Also do not forget to invite me to your council ZOOM virtual meetings. Sir Knight Hikmat Michel Dandan. My email is easy to remember:

[knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com](mailto:knightsofcolumbus@hotmail.com)

**Cell # 416 - 893 8060**

Visit my website to read more: [www.christianrefugeerelief.org](http://www.christianrefugeerelief.org)

**Vivat Iesus**

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• *Best Overall Community Award 2019*



• *Best Overall Church Award 2016*



• *International Supreme Council Youth Service Award 2013*