

2019 News

Christus Pax Nostra

«Here is the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word!»



22 January 2019, is a historical day: Pope Francis opens, in Panama, the WYD with the Marian theme: "Here is the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word!"

Mary does not understand everything but she says "yes" to all. Her yes is a total abandonment to the Jesus' gift to her. Mary lets God act in her. In this Annunciation scene, God meets with Mary. He starts with the initiative. Also this, in all our encounters. God always takes the initiative to encounter us. It happens always at home, that is, in our hearts, as it has happened in Mary's heart. Mary's "yes" is a total and definitive.

In 2013, Pope Francis sent us very beautiful Apostolic Exhortation, "The Joy of Evangelism". He presents Mary as "The Star of the New Evangelization" and tells us that "every time we look at Mary, we want to believe in the revolutionary force of tenderness and affect".

For the 2019 WYD in Panama, Pope Francis expressed his wish: to encourage the young people to pray for peace in the world. A rosary made of olive wood tree, entirely produced in Bethlehem for this scope. Thanks your generosity to our Association Saint Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne and the collaboration of Caritas Jerusalem, Pope Francis can offer it, the rosary, to all the young people participating in the WYD in Panama. Thanks from the bottom of the heart!

Therefore, the young people are our "ambassadors" who encourage us to pray for peace, that peace which the world so badly in need. "Peace is a gift from God", says Pope Francis, "but given to all men and women who have been called to achieve it".

God, like Mary, confides us a mission, responsibility. If we responded with no, we remain in darkness. If we respond with yes, we become light carriers. With Mary, with all the WYD youth, let us try to be "carriers of the light and peace" and let us turn to Christ, ur peace!

Bernard Debély, President



The annual "Christus Pax Nostra News" newsletter of Saint Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne Association

The Association "Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne" is an association established according to articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, with nonprofit ends. Its aim to help and support the mission of Bishop Peter Bürcher. Recognized as public utility, and benefits from the tax exemption of the Canton of Vaud. Donations to the Saint Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne Association allow to support Bishop Pierre Bürcher in his mission at the service of the People of God in Switzerland and now in the Holy Land: The Bishop emeritus of Reykjavik resides for half of the year in the land of Jesus to sustain, spiritually and materially, the oriental faithful in difficulty.

A big thanks for your generosity!

To all of you who have donated for several years, thank you! Continuing to sustain us with your donations, it pushes us to continue to support the help projects and the mission of Bishop Peter Bürcher where there are needs. To limit costs, we renounce to systematic thanks but, upon request, we will be happy to send you a certificate for tax exemption and to confirm the payment. With this new annual edition of "Christus Pax Nostra News" we would like to thank you warmly for your much appreciated and indispensable support.

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From Bethlehem to Panama

The peace rosaries

**“You, Daniel,
do you pray for peace?”**

*Asking this
simple question,
Pope Francis has
challenged
the artisans of Bethlehem
and around 800 people
who have been active
since autumn 2017
to produce 1.5 million
rosaries from olive wood.
Explanations.*

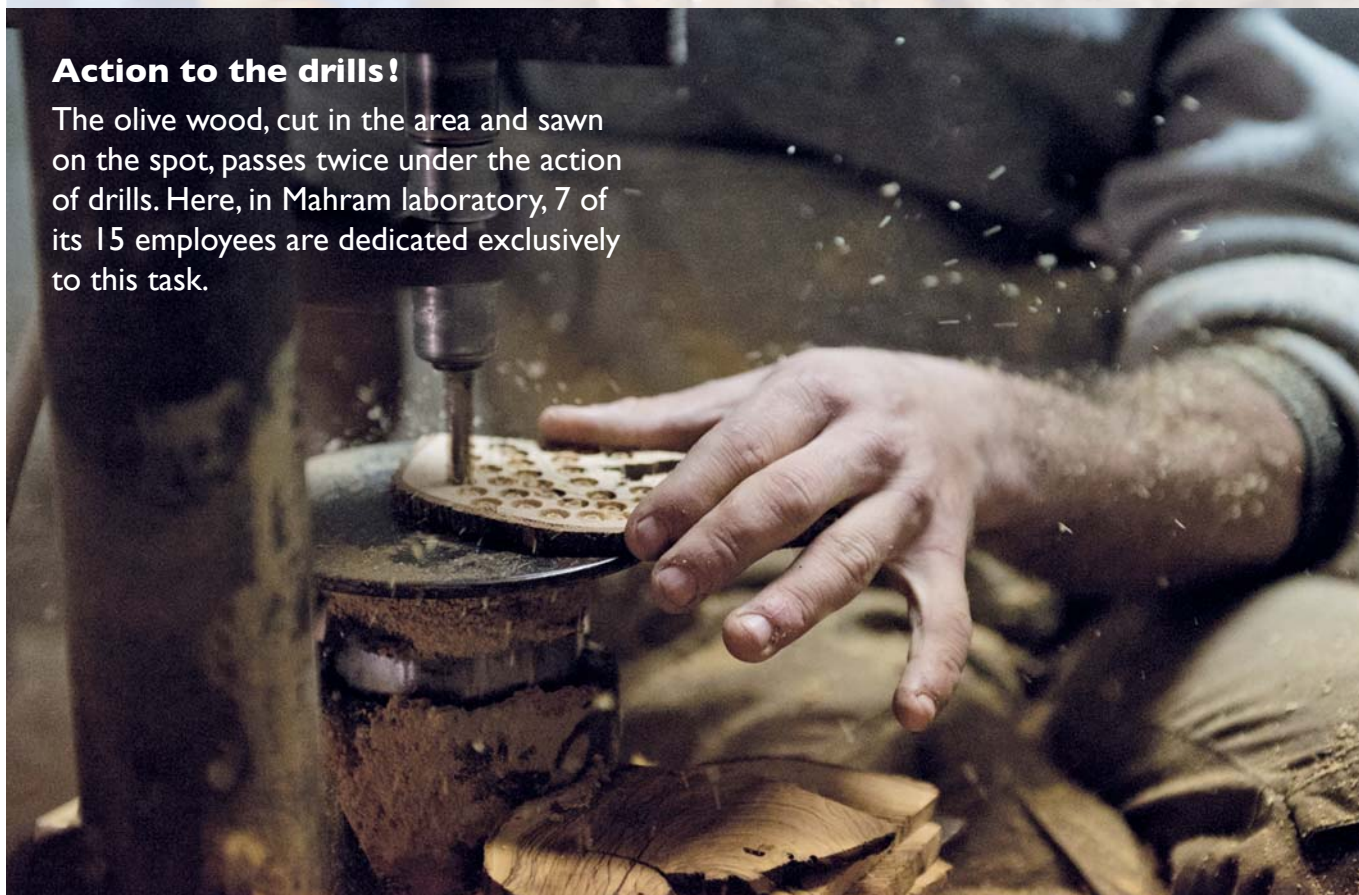
MARIE-ARMELLE BEAULIEU

What is the relationship between Kraków (Cracovia) and Bethlehem, Panama and the peace in the world? The answer is: Pope Francis. It is mgr. Peter Bürcher, Swiss priest and bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Reykjavík in Iceland, to explain it in the office of the Holy Land magazine in Jerusalem.

“In the year dedicated to the consecrated life, the Pope wanted to promote the book on consecrated life of a Swiss called Daniel Pittet. He wanted this work to be translated and distributed worldwide, entrusting the entire project to Saint Joseph. In fact, the book has been translated into fifteen languages, 5 million copies were printed and distributed to the one and a half million young people present at the World Youth Day in Krakow in 2016. On the occasion of the visit made by the project team that came to tell him about the result of the operation, Pope Francis has asked one of the members this question: “You, Daniel, do you pray for peace?” “Of course I pray for peace!”. “And what prayer do you say?” “I pray the rosary”. So the Pope has entrusted him with a new mission: to invite the young people who will participate in the WYD in Panama to pray the rosary for peace. “St. Joseph will take care of everything this time too.

Action to the drills!

The olive wood, cut in the area and sawn on the spot, passes twice under the action of drills. Here, in Mahram laboratory, 7 of its 15 employees are dedicated exclusively to this task.





A push from Switzerland

The bond with Bethlehem has been established in Switzerland, in the office of Bishop Bürcher. Consulted on the project, the bishop answered: “to pray the rosary a rosary... is needed! If the Panama WYD gathers one million and a half of young people like in Krakow, so we need a lot of rosaries. Two possible solutions: Either doing them in China, and in this case I can do no help, or from olive wood – which it is symbol of peace- in Bethlehem”.

Bishop Bürcher knows well the Holy Land, where, since two years, after his resignation for health issues, passes half of the year: “My lungs could no longer stand the icy Icelandic air, and doctors advised me to live in a warm country, so I spend winter here and summer in Switzerland”. Returning to the project, the bishop continues: “We have immediately thought that such an amount of work would have been an advantage for the fragile economy of Christians in Bethlehem, and we wanted, first of all, the work to be given to the poor”.

With these developments, Msgr. Bürcher and Daniel went to find the Pope, who welcomed with joy a spiritual project that allowed to touch the suburbs and the persons who are in precarious situations and are so dear to him.



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It would not have been possible to carry out such a project without going to the site and establishing a collaboration. It is Father Pietro Felet, secretary of the Assembly of the Ordinaries of the Holy Land, to direct them to Caritas Jerusalem.

George Handal welcomed the project and continues to follow it up. It happens that he himself has experience in the production of religious objects from olive wood. When he passes the grains in his hand to check its quality, his verdict is certain. For the production of 81 million grains and one and a half million crosses, Caritas Jerusalem employs about 800 persons in Bethlehem and in the nearby Christian centers of Beit Sahour and Beit Jala.

Two people are employed as full-time for quality control. Bishop Bürcher regularly visits the workshops and houses where the rosaries are made. “Ins-

stead of using a nylon thread to join the grains, we thought we would use an elastic band, since young people like to wear a rosary on their wrists like a bracelet". So you need 750 km of elastic thread ... For reasons of practicality there will not be the grains of the Creed, of the Our Father and of the three Hail Mary's, normally found before the cross, to make the rosary more ergonomic.

"Caritas follows the project technically and financially, explains Bishop Bürcher. Done, shipped and sent to Panama, each rosary costs us \$ 1 (Eur 0.80 - Chf 0.93). "Where do you think you will find a million and a half dollars?" St. Joseph", who is responsible for generating generosity in whomever he wills." On the day of the Holy Name Day of Mary, on September 12, 2017, we received 100,000 Swiss Francs, the first donation ... anonymous". Bishop Bürcher does not hide his joy in seeing that the Virgin Mary herself did not want to miss her blessing on those who participate in the project. "So far we have collected just under half the amount." Note: in September 2018 we were able to transfer \$ 1,100,000 to Caritas Jerusalem. So we have to find \$ 400,000 again. Saint Joseph, if you feel like...



While working in Bethlehem at full capacity, Bishop Bürcher is in close contact with the Archbishop of Panama. He asked that on the cross, in addition to "Bethlehem", is also written "JMJ 2019". Panama will be able to accommodate only half a million young people. Each of them will receive two or three rosaries in a cellophane package, along with a beautiful picture of the Pope. A rosary for him, another to give to a loved

Glory to God, peace to men

All operations are coordinated by Caritas Jerusalem in a room located near the Shepherds' Field in Beit Sahour, where the angels appeared during Christmas Eve. Two young people of the age twenty, of Bethlehem, Basel on the left and Kamel on the right, were recruited specifically to manage the distribution of work, 6 days a week, quality control, counting of the rosaries...

Codename: AVEJMJ

If you want to help the AVEJMJ project, you can do it

- 1) wearing it during prayer;
- 2) organizing a collection of money to help finance the project and sending the harvest to the Association, which is in charge of the fundraising campaign for the project;
- 3) making a donation (which takes into account bank charges) with transfer to:

Bank Postfinance SA

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Causal: "AVEJMJ".

To find out more: www.sjmvlausanne.org

TAKE PART





one in his country of origin. Thus every young person will become a missionary of peace and the rosaries of Bethlehem will be spread all over the world. The first two loads must leave the port of Ashdod in October and November. One last will be sent by plane in December. Everything must arrive in time for WYD, which will take place from 22nd to 29th January 2019.

In Panama, waiting for the rosaries, a group of young people is working to create a smartphone app that helps to pray the rosary. It will be written in a new language, suitable for young people, and translated into multiple languages.

“The Holy Father really wants peace and bears in his heart the Christians of the Middle East and concern for peace in the region,” Bishop Bürcher tells us. At the age of 72 years old, the Vallesan bishop wears his miter less often, but it is more than ever a bishop, that is, a pastor who supervises with calm enthusiasm a project capable of pouring balm in the hearts of the Christians of Bethlehem.

A bishop at the service of the project

Bishop Peter Bürcher had the idea of making the rosaries needed in Bethlehem and its surroundings, of olive wood, from people in need. Living for half of the year in Israel, he has the opportunity to go regularly to the field to meet the workers.

When quantity rhymes with quality

The necessary quantity of rosaries is Pharaonic, time is running out, but not for this an eye on quality is closed. Each grain is polished and treated with a product that protects it, preserving its natural appearance. Each batch then passes a quality check. A process that requires a lot of commitment.

25 years!

Elected Auxiliary Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Friborg by Pope John Paul II, March 12, 1994, in the Cathedral of Friborg, Msgr. Peter Bürcher receives episcopal ordination through the laying on the hands of Msgr. Pierre Mamie, assisted by Cardinal Henri Schwery, by Msgr. Gabriel Bullet and other Swiss and foreign bishops, as well as 250 priests.



Thanksgiving feast for the Silver Jubilee on March 12, 2019, in the Holy Land!
Our best wishes and prayers accompany Msgr. Peter Bürcher.

For many and happiest years!



AVEJMJ

The San Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne Association has managed to collect 1,100,000 dollars so far, sent to Caritas Jerusalem for the realization of the project.

Two loads of Bethlehem rosaries have already been shipped to Panama to be offered to young people by Pope Francis.

Donations still needed (\$ 400,000) can be paid into the CH-postal account of the SJMVL Association (see below) with the cause « AVEJMJ ».

Further information can be found on our website:

www.sjmvlausanne.org

The photos on page 1 are by Andrea Krogmann; those on pages 2 and 5 come from the magazine Terra Santa N° 654, written by Marie-Armelle Beaulieu.

**Thank you so much for both and all of you
for your generosity!**

**Our Association Saint Jean-Marie Vianney Lausanne
thanks you wholeheartedly for your generous and loyal support
and, with Bishop Peter Bürcher, wish you a**

beautiful Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019!

«Donate !»
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THANK YOU !