

# Between Herod & Jesus

## Christmas Meditation In a Dark Night

**Fr. Dr. Rafiq' Khoury**

"Herod is alive". This is what one of my friends told me on the telephone after a sudden curfew was imposed in Bethlehem. Herod who tried to impose himself by might and trickery and whom the folly of might took him to the extent of killing the children of Bethlehem (always the children so that he cancels with them the infant Jesus), this Herod is still alive and living in the same logic and the same mentality. We see his destructive action (for himself and for others) everyday and in every place in the Palestinian land.

The conflict is still going on between Herod - the authority, and the child- the dream in our country and in the world. The infant Jesus wants to open a new road in the world of man, and Herod insists on closing this road. And here we are in the Nativity church with this parish, a few meters from the Grotto of the Nativity, thinking, contemplating and praying so that we do not allow Herod to kill the child in us.

### **Our Questions are Many**

Life is feasts and this is the feast of Bethlehem par excellence. Feasts are not mere external rituals. Rather they are a call for stopping and thinking, contemplating. That is going inside our internal world, individuals, groups and people so that we charge the energies of life in us (what is required of us is more than the capacity of a human... nevertheless, we accept the challenge). The feast this year comes in a dark night which we live and our people lives, whereby we find ourselves defenseless and powerless before a hellish military machine which is merciless and which has lost all human meaning. In the feast of Bethlehem, we come together in our churches, our sanctuaries and our holy places amidst our rituals, hymns and prayers so that we derive strength from them in order to confront the darkness of night.

*(Cont'd on p.2)*

## Happy Muslim & Christian Feasts

2003 - 2004

The Board of Trustees of Ali-Liqa' Center, its working committees and staff would like to extend their warmest greetings and best wishes to all benefactors and friends throughout the world on the occasion of Muslim and Christian feasts: Ramadan Fiter (Nov.2003), Christmas (western and Eastern rites, Dec.2003-Jan.2004) and Al-Adha (Feb. 2004) hoping that these holy events will bring with them peace and prosperity to the peoples of the Holy Land, the region and the world.

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# Dear Benefactors and Friends of Al-Liqa' Center

We hope this latest Newsletter will find you well hoping that we will continue to keep in touch with each other through AL-Liqa' Center's publications, forums, annual conferences and special events. In order to proliferate our mission throughout the world, Al-Liqa' Center has developed its own Web Site:

[www.al-liqa-center.org](http://www.al-liqa-center.org)

We hope you will have the opportunity to visit the site. Besides, we will appreciate any comments and any suggestions that would help us to improve the content of our site.

*(Cont'd from page 1)*

## **"Oh, Ye God!"**

I will never forget the old Palestinian peasant woman who raised her eyes and hands to heavens and began to shout with all the anger, pain, hurt and spontaneity in her: "Oh, Ye God!" This cry is a prayer, the prayer of the hurt human who feels pain. And this is our prayer in these days and the prayer of an entire people. How many times have we heard this complaint (we complain about God to God) from ordinary people: where is God in all of this? Where are you, O Lord? Why are you silent? Why don't you do something? Why did you leave us alone in front of this fierce savagery? Why are you silent in front of this tyrant? All the world is silent, let it be so! However, it is unbearable that you are silent too and heedless. Why don't you call the unjust for a reckoning? Why don't you put a limit for them? Why do you let the tyrants (Herod today) do whatever

they wish, however they wish and wherever they wish? Why do you permit them to slight you and your creatures? In the land in which the Word became a human being, and in which every stone says a word from your words, why are you suddenly silent? Did you forsake our land to leave us alone? Why did your steps disappear when we had become used to see their traces beside the traces of our steps?

These questions are not infidelity; rather they are prayers, the prayers of the humiliated, the offended, and the crushed. We are entitled to express our protests, anger, pain and despair in front of God and to God. Aren't we His creatures and His children? These protests are psalms of faith. Hadn't we believed in God, we would not be concerned about His silence. These prayers of protest are not new. They are the prayers, questions and protests of the suffering and crushed believers in every time and place in front of their Lord.

# Al-Liqa' Center's Most Recent Publications



**Al-Liqa' Journal (in English)**, Volumes 18/19, December 2002: A Special issue on Religion and poverty. This issue focuses on the Problem of poverty in Palestine from both an Islamic and Christian view. The contents of the Journal revolve around how poverty affects Palestinian people and their social, economical and political life. A report on Urban-Rural Mission workshop on the marginalized and a book review are included.

**Al-Liqa' Journal (in English)**, Volumes 20/21 December 2003. This is a special issue on Christian Arabs. The content includes a Christmas meditation, emigration of Christian Arabs, identity and future of Christian Arabs, their role in presenting the issues of nation, the Church in the Holy Land, role of Muslim Arabs, reports on Al-Liqa' Center's annual conferences as well as other features.

**Al-Liqa' Arabic-Language Quarterly review**, Volume 18, No. 1, 2, 3 (2003). Articles revolve around the role of clergymen in the third millennium and how to select them with a field study about their lives; an interview with Fr. Maroun Al-Laham; the role of Rabbi in the Jewish tradition; and the role of Muslim scholars in society.

**Al-Liqa' Arabic-Language quarterly review**, Vol.18, No.4 (2003). This special issue focuses on "dialogue and the uni-polar world order", the 20th anniversary of the founding of Al-Liqa' center (1983-2003) and the death of Edward Sa'id. It includes as well documents and book reviews of Al-Liqa's annual conferences.

**The 16th Christian-Muslim Conference**, Bethlehem, 8-9 November (2001). The book contains proceedings of the conference. The lectures focused on "Pressing issues in Muslim-Christian relations during the past fifty years: locally, nationally and internationally"; "Religious discourse and the role of religious institution in Muslim-Christian Relationship"; "National unity from legend to reality"; and "Together toward the future: the experience of the past, the reality of the present to the horizons of the future". It contains also photos taken for the conferees and the final communiqué

**Fr. Dr. Rafiq Khoury: The Book of Days: In Search of the Lost Word (in Arabic)**, November 2003. An anthology of Fr. Rafiq's inspirational diaries and reflections beginning 1 January 2001 and ending in Aug 2003.

# On The Occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Founding of Al-Liqa' Center

1983-2003

**Mr. Harald Suermann**

Missiology Institute (Aachen-Germany)

From September 9th until 11th, 1983 the first conference of the newly founded al-Liqa' Centre took place. It is now twenty years ago. The place of the first conference was significant. It was the Tantar Ecumenical Institute for Theological Studies, where years before Geris Sa'ed Khoury the founder of the al-Liqa'-Centre had been the director of the Study Program "Christianity in the Holy Land" and where the idea was born to start a study centre like al-Liqa'. The basic motivation for such a foundation come from the rediscovery of the Islamic-Christian dialogue in the Golden Age of the Arabic civilization. The two themes "Christianity in the Holy Land" and "Islamic-Christian dialogue" became the leitmotiv of the work of the al-Liqa Centre in the next years. The first conference was held under the title "The Arabic Christian-Muslim Heritage in the Holy Land". And a tradition was started to hold every year a conference on the Christian-Muslim Dialogue and Heritage (with only a few exceptions). In 1987 the first conference on "Theology and Local Church" was held. It was the starting point of the second series of important conference. Both series were the public back bone of the al-Liqa'-Centre. The publications of the proceedings are witnesses of the discussions and the progress

of the work. For foreigners it was difficult and it is still often difficult to get notice of these discussions. The reason is that the work of the Centre is first of all a service for the local community. And of course Arabic is the language of discussions and proceedings. But after a while, the English al-Liqa' Journal was founded in order to inform the international readership. The effort to develop a local theology and a local Muslim Christian dialogue has been bearing its fruits. Today many of those who started the Centre or were collaborators are now in very important positions in the Churches: Michel Sabbah is the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Lutfi Laham is now the Melkite Patriarch of Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria and Younan Munib is Bishop of the Lutheran Evangelical Church. Others assume also important tasks. From the Muslim side I want to mention Dr. Thiab Ayyoush, Vice President. of the Board of Trustees, who is Secretary of the Palestinian Council of Higher Education and. Professor of Sociology and Sheikh A. Abu Shkedem, who is Mufti of the Palestinian Armed Forces. Now it is time when the ideas of the beginnings of Al-Liqa are to be put into practice including by those who are now leading the local church. It is the time of the probation.

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The work of the al-Liqa' Centre also has become known outside the country. Theological dissertations were written on the recent development of the Palestinian Theology with special consideration of the theology of the "al-Liqa group". Research is done on the Islamo-Christian dialogue conducted in the Centre and translations have been done. There is an increasing interest in the theological developments of the Palestinian Church.

But the Centre is also challenged by the circumstances and politics. It witnessed the first Intifada, the hopes of the Oslo peace process and the disappointments afterwards. The collaborators of the Centre faced the biggest challenge with the second Intifada and the politics of Israel, the emigration of the Christians and the economic disaster. Many people think that this is now the time of mere survival. There is no other important question for the Christians and their Muslim compatriots. Is this a hopeless situation? Is this the situation of Good Friday? Is the newly proclaimed road map for peace the first glance of a new day, though the start is very difficult and not very promising? Or is it only a fata morgana? After 20 years of work and research for the Islamo-Christian dialogue, for the local church and for a local and meaningful theology the al-Liqa'-Centre is facing its biggest challenge. And the question is, whether it can again give hope to all people in the Holy Land for a meaningful life in their own country.

The end of the Oslo peace process entailed a brutal violence of both sides with suicide bombing, curfew, military occupation and dehumanizing actions on all sides. What can Christians do in this situation? What can Muslims do in this situation? What can they do together? What can the al-Liqa group do? How can the Christians witness the life giving good news of the resurrection of Christ? This witness is not at all easy and it can even be highly dangerous, as the word martyrdom may indicate. What can the Muslims do as the Koran also calls for peace and freedom? For them, too, it may become dangerous to witness God as the Merciful.

As a European living in a safe place, I must not give advices on how to witness, but I have to

recognise and to listen to the witness given by my brothers and sisters in Israel and Palestine, as well by all men of good will being Muslim, Jew or Christian. The whole Christian community is invited by Christ to testify his love to all human beings. A big step toward this common witness has already been done. Often the heads of the Christian communities give public common statements on the current political situation. New quarrels among the Christians must not be admitted. But even more ecumenical and international work is to be done, on the side of the Arabic churches as well as on the sides of the non-Arabic Churches and those who newly arrived. Only together our Christian witness will become credible to Jews and to Muslims. In a dialogue the Christians will only united be a serious partner for Muslims and Jews.

Together with Muslims and Jews, Christians have to dialogue and search for a peaceful way of living together. Dialogue is a way to understand the other. It presupposes the respect of the dignity of the human person, his liberty including his religious liberty. Only open and honest dialogue can pave the way to a future accepted by all sides. This is true on the political as well as on the religious level. In continuing the dialogue, even in hard times, all the members of the Centre are working in order to shape the future of all who are living in this region.

The Christian hope does not only find its expression in a contextual theology, which reflects the actual situation on the basis of theological assumptions and vice versa - this has always to be done in a still more deeply and systematic way - but it also finds its expression in feasts. Feasts, Christian and secular ones, as well as those of other religions, are the most powerful expressions of hope and of resistance to hopelessness. In that sense I wish a great and hope giving celebration of the 20th anniversary of al-Liqa'-Centre and its work together with all collaborators and well-wishers being Christian, Muslim or Jew translations have been done. There is an increasing interest in the theological developments of the Palestinian Church.

*Al-Liqa' Newsletter Welcomes Your Comments And Suggestions*

R e p o r t

## The 11th Session of the conference on the Theology and the local Church in the Holy Land

T i t l e d

# “Christian Presence in Palestine”

27,28,29 June 2003

The Bethlehem Hotel, Bethlehem



The Conference began on Friday the 27th at 4:00 p.m. with the traditional ceremonial opening speeches by H.B. Latin Patriarch Michael Sabbah, President of Al-Liqa's Board of Trustees, Chief Islamic Judge in Palestine, Sheikh Tayseer Rajab Al-Tamimi, Chief spokesman for the Eastern Orthodox Church in the Holy Land, Archimandrite Dr. Atallah Hanna; and Director of Al-Liqa', Dr. Geris S. Khoury. Speakers stressed the pluralistic nature of this presence, Christian-Muslim unity in the Arab-Israeli conflict, the dire consequences of Palestinian Christian emigration, the preservation of both Christian and Muslim holy sites, Christian Palestinian presence not in the church of stone but in the church of culture, heritage and civilization...

Church of past, present and future, and the rights and duties of Christians. The opening ceremonies were attended by tens of Palestinians from all walks of life and included the Mayor of Bethlehem, Mr. Hanna Nasser, Lutheran Bishop, Dr. Munib Younan and the Deputy Governor of the Bethlehem District and a distinguished Italian delegation headed by Fr. Dr. Nicola Borgo. A reception followed.

At 17:30 proceedings of the conference began with a lecture by Dr. Bernard Sabella on "Christian Presence between Identity Crisis and the Will of Belonging". It was followed by a lecture on "Christian Presence in Politics", by Fr. Dr. Jamal Khader.

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Next morning the 28th, the proceedings began with prayer and meditation by Italian friends led by Fr. Dr. Nicola Borgo.

At 09:30 Dr. Sameer Hazboun lectured on "Christian Presence in Economics", while Dr. Johnny Mansour focused on "Christian Presence in Cultural Life". Following lunch and rest the conference reconvened at 18:00 for lecture "The Role of a Christian Arab as seen by a Western" by Fr. Dr. Nicola Borgo of Italy and "Theological Components of Right Of Return For Palestinians Refugees", by Dr. Geris Khoury. Next morning the 29th and following prayer and meditation proceedings continued with a panel on "Palestinian Theology and Israeli Settlements" with Fr. Dr. Rafiq Khoury and Rev. Dr. Naim Attik. A second panel on "The Palestinian Church's Stand towards Christian Zionism" included Bishop Dr. Munib Younan, Professor Manuel Hassassian and Fr. Dr. Maroun Lahham.

Following each lecture and panel, lengthy discussions took place which enriched the proceedings with views expressing pluralistic shades of thoughts. At the conclusion of the Conference, the following recommendations were put forth by participants:

1) Gatherings for young peoples must be convened to discuss in depth topics that had been discussed in this conference.

- 2) Cultural dialogue between people of the world must be deepened in order to build bridges between cultures and peoples.
- 3) More time and more in depth discussions must be focused on important topics such as "Theological Components of the Right of Return".
- 4) Both the local church, political officials and friends in the West should strive to establish a press center which will promote Palestinian concerns in general and those of Palestinian Christians in particular to Western countries and friendly peoples.
- 5) Conferees appeal to church and political authorities as well as social and economic institutions to do their utmost to halt the phenomenon of emigration in order to preserve Christian presence. This presence concerns the Muslims in the same degree. A bird doesn't fly with one wing. The same is true of Palestine and the dire need for its two wings, the Muslims and the Christians to be present.
- 6) There is a need to organize lectures and panels in the midst of population centers, schools and universities.
- 7) The conferees fully espouse the local church's position toward Christian Zionism. This latter does not represent our churches and we reject their political interpretation of the Bible. We must challenge their position logically, scientifically and with a theology that preserves human dignity and Palestinian rights while uncovering the wrongs of Christian Zionism to their churches and to their people.





R e p o r t

## The 17th Session of the conference on the Arab Heritage for Christians and muslims in the Holy Land

T i t l e d

# “Dialogue and the Uni-Polar World Order”

21,22,23 August 2003

Al-Liqa’ Center, The Bethlehem Hotel, Bethlehem

Al-Liqa’ Center has been holding conferences since 1983 on the Arab Christian and Muslim Heritage in the Holy Land. This year the conference was special because it included the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Al-Liqa’ Center. The 17th session of the conference, was held 21-23 August 2003, entitled “Dialogue and the Uni-Polar World Order”. Despite hardships and the critical political situation which were expected to prevent many of the guests to attend, the members of the Center insisted on holding the conference at its appointed date, thus, challenging the Israeli obstacles.

The conference began on Thursday, 21 August, at 4:00 p.m. with the traditional ceremonial opening speeches. Mr. Musa Darwish began the ceremony by welcoming the conferees and other guests. He was followed by H.B. Latin Patriarch Michael Sabbah, President of AL-Liqa’s Board of Trustees, who thanked the center for all what it offers to Palestinian Christians as well as Muslims. He talked about the difficult political situation and the pressures that the United States was and is exerting on the Arab world. Mr. Laurence Sammour on the other hand talked about the difficult situation that Palestinians live and the critical period during which the conference was held. Dr. Geries S. Khoury confirmed this point and said that many of the conferees could not reach Bethlehem because of the Israeli siege. It is worth mentioning that Al-Liqa’ Center is one of few centers which succeeds in gathering Palestinians who live in Israel with their

fellows in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as it strengthens the fraternal bonds between people from diverse backgrounds and religions. Dr. Geries Khoury mentioned that the activities of the center are not restricted to the Arab Palestinian community but they have extended to the whole world giving an opportunity to researchers to benefit from its activities and.....?

publications. Following the traditional reception, the opening speeches were followed by a panel by Dr. Geries Khoury and Fr.Dr. Rafiq Khoury on “Twenty Years of Christian-Muslim Dialogue at al-Liqa’ Center” which was moderated by Mr. Darwish who also read Prof. Thiab Ayyoush’s paper. They all agreed that one of the most important achievements of the center is its ability to survive despite all Israeli attempts to limit its activities and to restrain its freedom. (Cont’d on page 9,10)







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Proceedings of the first day ended with a dinner followed by an evening of heritage and arts performed by Arabella Ensemble with the cooperation of The Bethlehem Academy of Music.

Next morning the 22nd, the proceedings began with breakfast and prayers followed by four lectures. The first was on "Dialogue and Democracy" presented by Dr. Mahdi Abd El-Hadi and moderated by Dr. Charly Abu Sa'da in which the importance of dialogue for Palestinians and the participation of political and social leaders in this dialogue were discussed. The second lecture was entitled "Is there Dialogue in a Uni-Polar Order?" presented by Mr. Albert Aghzerian and moderated by advocate Ali Rafe' in which the American attempts to tyrannize the world on the pretext of exterminating terrorism and the absence of freedom and dialogue were discussed. Then, the conferees visited the exhibition of the Palestinian Heritage center and "our Bethlehemite House". The third lecture was on "Are we in need of inter-Arab dialogue?" presented by Dr. Nasry Qumsieh in place of Dr. Riad Malki and moderated by Dr. Adnan Musallam in which they discussed the need of dialogue to understand the other and the need to activate the role of the Arab world to face the current challenges. The fourth lecture was on "Dialogue is the way to peace" presented by advocate Ali Rafi' in place of Judge Ahmad Nator and moderated by advocate Badira Khoury.

The third and the last day included two panels, the first entitled "pressing issues in Muslim-Christians relations: locally and internationally" presented, in place of Dr. Younis Amr, by Dr. Abd Ar-Rahman Abbad who also moderated the panel by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb and Dr. Peter Qumri. Every lecture was followed by discussions in which the main issues of the lectures were discussed and questions were asked. It was agreed that the absence of local and national security somehow affected Muslim-Christian relations. On the other hand, Dr. Peter Qumri presented the conclusions of a research which he had undertaken about the pressing issues in Muslim-Christian relations which indicated that both Muslims and Christians insist on keeping the good relations despite Israeli attempts to sow division among them. The second lecture was on "Popular opposition

to globalization: causes and motives" presented by Miss Zahira Kamal and Dr. Mustafa El-Barghouti and moderated by Dr. Adnan Musallam. Different definitions of globalization, its motives and effects were discussed in this lecture besides the difficulties that movements of popular opposition pass through and their progress.

The conference ended by recommendations and the final communiqué which was as follows:

The conferees underlined the importance of the activities held by the Center for the sake of supporting the shared living and deepening the national unity between Muslims and Christians in Palestine. In this regard, they hoped that Al-Liqa Center increases its support to researches and studies that benefit the mission of the conference and encourages researchers and intellectuals to assume the responsibility of this mission. For all these reasons, the conferees count on the supporters of the Center to increase their financial and moral support. In addition, the conferees gave much importance to the activation of the youth who are going to carry on with the mission of the Islamic-Christian brotherhood and the mission of peace and justice.

The discussions centered on the importance of the dialogue among nations and institutions because it would be no less important than that among the leaders if the latter at the end adopt it. The conferees appealed to the world to support the Palestinians' national resistance and their right for freedom, self-determination and independence.

The conferees highly appreciate the financial and moral support offered by all institutions; for without their support it would be difficult for the center to continue its missions. They thanked all personalities and institutions who had sent their special greetings on the 20th anniversary of the conference. To mention some of them, Mr. Harold Seurmann (Missio Institution), Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour (the Secretary General of the Middle - East Council of Churches) and H.B Patriarch Lutfi Laham (former President of Al-Liqa's Board of Trustees).

The conferees concluded the communiqué by reiterating the unity of our people and our right to establish our own country with its capital, Jerusalem.



# Evening Forums and Joint Activities

2002-2003

\* **8 Oct.2002:** Open forum on the role of mosque, church and school in furthering positive relations in Palestinian society. Discussions were led by prominent Muslim and Christian religious personalities.

\* **13 Nov.2002:** On the occasion of Ramadan, the Islamic sacred month of fasting, Al-Liqa' Center held a lecture in the Bethlehem Hotel in Bethlehem with the title "the coming elections in Israel" by Prof. Aziz Haidar. The panel was preceded by a Ramadan Iftar / dinner.

\* **27 Nov.2002:** On the occasion of Ramadan, the Islamic sacred month of fasting, Al-Liqa' Center held a lecture in Notre Dame Hotel, Jerusalem. The panel entitled "the Concept of Fasting in Christianity and Islam" was led by Shaikh Tayseer Tamimi and Fr. Dr. Attallah Hanna. A fasting breaking dinner preceded the lecture where many people of all walks of life were invited.

\* **9 April.2003:** Prof. Manuel Hassassian, Executive Vice President, Bethlehem University, focused his presentation on the unfolding events in Irak in light of American-British invasion of the country.

\* **11 Nov.2003:** Professor Manuel Hassasian gave a lecture in the Bethlehem Hotel in Bethlehem on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of Edward' Said's death entitled " Who is Professor Edward Said". The lecture dealt with Sai'd's life, works, achievements and his stand toward the Palestinian problem.

\* **18 Nov.2003:** Al-Liqa held the traditional annual, Ramadan Iftar dinner which was attended by Muslims and Christians from the Bethlehem and Jerusalem areas. Speakers stressed the importance of fasting in Islam.

\* **13 Dec.2004:** Al-Liqa' organized a panel discussion led by Dr.Geries S. Khoury and Dr. Abed al-Rahman Abbad entitled " the pains of the country and the hopes of Christmas". It dealt with the suffering in which all the Palestinian people are going through and the hopes they feel during Christmas times despite all obstacles and hardships.

\* **20 Dec.2004:** Al-Liqa' organized its annual Christian-Muslim celebrations of Christmas. The birth of Jesus in the New Testament and in the Qur'an was highlighted by Christian and Muslim speakers.



List and Prices Of  
**Al-Liqa's Publications**  
 (1983-2003)

(All publications are in Arabic unless specified)

**Christian - Muslim Dialogue Conference**  
 (1983 - )

1. Proceeding of the First Conference, Jerusalem, 1983 \$6 (221 pages).
2. Second Conference, Jerusalem, 1984 (257 pages). \$6
3. Third Conference, Jerusalem, 1985 (257 p.). \$6
4. Fourth Conference, Jerusalem, 1986 (289 pages). \$7
5. Fifth Conference, Jerusalem, 1987 (206p.). \$7
6. Sixth Conference, Jerusalem, 1988 (216 pages). \$7
7. Seventh Conference, Jerusalem, 1989 (143 p.). \$6
8. Eighth Conference, Jerusalem. 1990 (143 pages). \$7
9. Ninth Conference, Jerusalem, 1991 (149 p.). \$7
10. Tenth Conference, Jerusalem, 1992 (143 p.). \$7
11. Eleventh Conference, Jerusalem, 1993 (82 p.). \$7
12. Twelfth Conference, Jerusalem, 1994 (154 p.). \$7
13. 13th Conference, Bethlehem. 1995. \$15  
 (see no. 9 Miscellaneous)
14. 14th Conference, Bethlehem, 1996 (107 pages) \$7
15. 15th Conference, Bethlehem, 1998 \$7
16. 16th Conference, Bethlehem, 2001 \$7

**Al-Liqa' Journal (in English)**  
 1992 - 2003

- |               |                   |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Vol. 1 - 1992 | Vols. 7/8 1996    | Vols. 18 /19-2002 |
| Vol. 2 - 1992 | Vols. 9/10- 1997  | Vols. 20 /21-2003 |
| Vol. 3 - 1994 | Vols.11 /12 1998  |                   |
| Vol. 4 - 1994 | Vol. 13-1999      |                   |
| Vol. 5 - 1995 | Vols. 14 /15-2000 |                   |
| Vol. 6 - 1996 | Vols. 16 /17-2001 |                   |
- Annual subscription:
- |                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Individuals         | \$ 15 |
| Institutions        | \$ 30 |
| Price per one issue | \$ 7  |

**Al-Liqa' Arabic Language**  
**Quarterly Review**  
 (1985 - 2003)

- |                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Year 1-Year 3 (3 issues each)  | \$ 20 per Year |
| Year 4-Year 18 (4 issues each) | \$ 30 per Year |
| Price per one issue            | \$ 7           |

**Al-Liqa' Center's Documents**  
 (Available in Arabic and English)

1. Theology and the Local Church in the Holy Land, (16 pages) \$ 4
2. In Jerusalem, Justice and Peace Embrace Each Other, (5pages) \$ 2

**Palestinian Contextualized Theology**  
**Conference (1987-1996)**

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| Proceedings of the First Conference, Jerusalem 1987 (196 pages).                   | \$7 |
| Second Conference, Jerusalem, 1988 (208 p.).                                       | \$7 |
| Third Conference, Jerusalem 1989 (193 p.).   | \$7 |
| Fourth Conference, Jerusalem, 1990 (234p.).  | \$7 |
| Fifth Conference, Jerusalem, 1991 (174p.).   | \$7 |
| Sixth Conference, Jerusalem, 1993 (125 p.).  | \$7 |
| Seventh Conference, Jerusalem, 1994 (177 p.).                                      | \$7 |
| Eighth Conference, Jerusalem, 1995 (199p.).  | \$7 |
| Ninth Conference, Bethlehem, 1996 (Contained in Al-Liqa' Journal, Vol. 9/10, 1997) | \$7 |

**Miscellaneous**

1. Fr. Peter Madrous, Paul the Apostle and the Man (67 pages) \$5
2. Najib Nassar, Under the Protection of the Arabs (91 pages) \$5
3. Younis Amr, Jerusalem the City of God (152pages) \$5
4. Louis I. Hazboun, Principles of Sociology of Religion (162 pages) \$5
5. Western Christian Zionism, (43 pages) \$3
6. Jerusalem Between Religious Freedom and Political Sovereignty,(in English) (78pages) \$5
7. Christian Feasts between Unity and Pluralism, (96 pages). \$5
8. Qustandi Shomali, El-Carmel (534 pages) \$10
9. Jerusalem: Palestinian Muslim- Christian Studies (600 pages) \$15
10. Anton Shomali, Collected Poem's (255 Pages) \$7
11. Fr. Rafiq Shomali, Contextualized Eastern Churches (393 pages). \$7
12. Jamal Salsa', Palestinian Poetical Message Between Religion and Nationalism (174 pages) \$7

# International Activities

1. Dr. Adnan Musallam, member of the Board of Trustees of Al-Liqa' joined religious and lay people from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan in the Urban-Rural Mission Workshop on "Spiritual Principles Guiding Word with the Marginalized", in Deir Aiya Napa, Cyprus, 8-12. October 2002. Dr. Musallam gave a presentation on the situation in Palestine, and the activities of Al-Liqa' Center.

2. Professor Thiab Ayyoush, member of the Board of Trustees and of Al-Liqa' represented the Center in the proceedings of the Muslim-Christian Arab Dialog Group's Workshop which took place in Cairo, 17-19 December 2002. The Workshop revolved around the following: globalization and religious values; political conflicts and Muslim. Christian relations; religious fundamentalist movements: causes, reflections and repercussions; and Israeli policies, Palestinians and Jerusalem.



3. Dr. Geries Khoury Director of Al-Liqa' Center participated in the proceedings of the Urban-Rural Mission's workshop on the Marginalized in Deir Aiya Napa, Cyprus, 8-12 July 2003. Dr. Khoury spoke on poverty and the current Palestinian situation and called for active church and faithful role to help the marginalized as to restore his/her dignity.



## Al-Liqa' Center

In Jerusalem, the city sacred to billions of diverse believers, a Palestinian interfaith initiative led to the establishment of "AL-Liqa' Center", a unique place of research, study and dialogue on the religious traditions, institutions and daily life of the people of the Holy Land and the region. The program includes interfaith dialogue, Palestinian Contextualized Theology in the Holy Land, international activities, and the publication of journals, newsletters, books, and occasional papers. Patriarch Michael Sabbah, President, Board of Trustees, and Dr. Geries S. Khoury, Director.

### Location

Al-Liqa' Center's Headquarters are located south of Jerusalem on the left side of the main Jerusalem-Bethlehem road just at the entrance to Bethlehem.