

Gestures of care, signs of Salvation

Mater Misericordiae House

Social and educational project

1. Applicant: Mater Misericordiae Home Silent Workers of the Cross,
Mount of Olives, East Jerusalem

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Person responsible for the implementation of the Project:
P. Luciano Ruga SODC Superior, Project Holder

2. Title: Installation of a Photovoltaic Solar Panel System at the center Mater
Misericordiae, Silent Workers of the Cross
Mount of Olives, East Jerusalem

3. Project Background:

Energy Crisis in Palestine:

A UN sustainable development goal, “Achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 7)”, aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. About a billion people currently live without electricity worldwide, which significantly limits their development opportunities. Yet, the transformation of the world’s energy systems is already under the way and being accelerated by advances in technologies. Capitalizing on this requires strengthened political will, increased levels of investment and action by all stakeholders to scale up the deployment of renewable energy technologies, and improvements in energy efficiency, all of which will make clean energy more affordable. About East Jerusalem and the West Bank, the Palestinian Authority has adopted green energy solutions in the energy sector due to the political process with Israel. Palestine (including East Jerusalem) is dependent on other countries for 100% of its fossil fuel imports and for 87% of its electricity imports. There is a high consumption rate because of high population growth, increased living standards and rapid industrial growth in recent years.

The total energy consumption per person in Palestine/Israel is the lowest in the region (0.79 MW h/inhabitant) and costs more than anywhere else in the MENA region, whereby energy costs form a large portion of household disposal income. Sustainable, renewable energy is key to developing the energy sector to help households, companies and industries cope, as Palestine/Israel has a high solar energy potential, or about 3,000 sunshine hours per year with relatively high solar radiation.

In East Jerusalem, electricity is supplied through JDECO – a Palestinian company working in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, and must adhere to Israeli standards, from the Israeli Electric Corp (IEC). The JDECO company, however, owes millions of USD to the IEC. For the past decade or more, sporadic threats and actual disconnection of the electrical grid has resulted in power outages

in all areas. There has been attempts by the Palestinian Authority to transfer owed debt (USD 214.21 million) but still, there is more money owed. JDECO has signed loan agreements with several Palestinian banks to pay off the debt. The Palestinian Authority have also tried to reduce the dependency, in part by establishing state-and-private sector- funded solar energy projects and have plans to build their own power plant. However, these efforts have not been fruitful, and the PA still owes its debts to the IEC.

4. Where the institution is operating from:

The center "Mater Misericordiae", is located close to the Israeli separation barrier, in East Jerusalem (Zone C), in the Arab neighborhood of A-Tur, in the Mount of Olives.

The local social and political framework is extremely complex. At the international level, it is dominated by the tensions of the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the resulting framework, it is a priority to foster a style that respects fundamental human values, encouraging actions that can create aggregation, encounter, forgiveness and gratuitousness.

Within the framework of social-health activities, Jews, Christians and Muslims necessarily come together. This is a "relational pool" conducive to the creation of different, less conflictual relationships. In the face of illness and suffering, many barriers tend to disappear. In a context where the coexistence of deep diversity is unavoidable, it is necessary to work to increase a positive, constructive and not only to suffer together.

In Palestine, after more than fifty years of Israeli occupation, the health system is in a state of chronic crisis. The occupying country's duty under international regulations to guarantee the occupied population's right to health is systematically disregarded. Nevertheless, weighing on the situation is the conflict, within the Palestinian Autonomy, between different political factions and the absence of sufficient promotion of social progress.

The specific socio-cultural situation present in the area manifests a state of need, related to the conflict situation, areas of poverty (present especially in the Palestinian territories), and difficulties in interconnecting health facilities (in order to qualify and make its service more usable even for people with fewer resources).

On the other hand, the same socio-cultural context is significantly conducive to the understanding, deepening and dissemination of universal anthropological values that are fruitful for the common good. The multireligious and multicultural reality, fostered by a relevant immigrant phenomenon, composes a social framework of exceptional relevance. The operational focus of the project, addressed to the sphere of health action, allows to meet, welcome and promote, people and situations particularly marked by difficulties and at the same time particularly sensitive and potentially active in the promotion of the common good.

5. About the Institution:

The International Association of the Faithful "Silent Workers of the Cross" is approved by the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life (May 17, 2001).

Founded by Blessed Luigi Novarese in 1950, it was approved in 1960 in the diocese of Ariano Irpino-Lacedonia (AV).

Members, men and women distinguished in branches of membership, clergy and lay people, take on the evangelical counsels in the manner expressed by their own duly approved statutes.

They work for the integral promotion of the suffering person, carrying out their activities in the social-health field.

The Association is also operational in complex contexts for situations of poverty and severe social hardship. In the far north of Cameroon, since 2003, in collaboration with PIME, it has been directing and animating the Bethlehem Center (in Mouda, Maroua administrative area), aimed at physical rehabilitation, schooling (inclusive for individuals with sensory and physical disabilities), vocational training, and agricultural development.

In Colombia, since 2005, in Buenaventura (southwest, Valle administrative area) and in Villavicencio (southeast of Bogota, Meta administrative area), he has founded and animates the diocesan associations "CVS Compartiendo," aimed at the social promotion of disabled or otherwise suffering people.

The Silent Workers of the Cross are a constant and active presence in the Holy Land since the 1977, year of foundation of "Mater Misericordiae" in East Jerusalem, in cooperation with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The mission of the Center, since the '70s is directed to implementing an ongoing program of ethical, relational and social education and training of medical and paramedical personnel, sick and suffering people, and those who live and interact with them. Attention to integral human development is prioritized and inclusive.

6. Project description

Training project in the social field entitled "Gestures of care, signs of salvation". By interacting with existing assistance projects in the area, the aim is to promote interconnections, enhancing and qualifying (with a stronger inclusive focus) the active collaboration of people living in Palestine and Israel.

Specifically, the activities in the healthcare sector enable effective action to protect individuals in situations of greater vulnerability. In this regard, the project is not only directed at those working in various healthcare capacities (doctors, nurses, other professionals), but also directly at individuals affected by illnesses, people with disabilities, their families, particularly women, children, and those with mental disabilities.

The project's location in the territories of East Jerusalem situates the project's operational base, Casa Mater Misericordiae, at the central point of these dynamics, on the territorial (both actual and symbolic) boundary between needs and resources.

The first project goal is to restore the functionality of the Mater Misericordiae house, in order to offer a permanent center of reference for educational and training action aimed at the social-health area.

With rising living costs, the congregation devised a plan to target its high electrical costs in as it consists of a significant portion of the Congregations overhead costs annually. Our request is financial support at this time to install a photovoltaic solar panel system on the roof of the building that will reduce electricity costs over the course of at least 15 years, decrease dependency on the electrical grid, and the savings will be used to cover other operating costs. The project will include purchase, delivery, all installation requirements, inspection and connections, in compliance with local laws and fire regulations.

Project Budget:

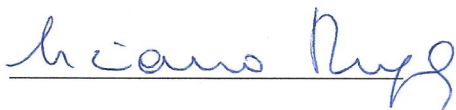
The Mater Misericordiae Home Silent Workers of the Cross requires a total amount of **€36,341.00** from Church-in-Need to install the system.

The table below highlights the project's estimated budget:

Mater Misericordia - Jerusalem					
No.	Item Description	UOM	Quantity	Price €/unit	Total Price €
L1.01	Photovoltaic Modules	No.	39	€240	€9,360
L1.02	Inverter 3Phase 20KW	No.	1	€4,000	€4,000
L1.03	Monitoring system	L.S	1	€500	€500
L1.04	Mounting structure	L.S	1	€2,200	€2,200
L1.05	DC Cables	L.S	1	€800	€800
L1.06	AC Cables	L.S	1	€600	€600
L1.07	Cable Protection	L.S	1	€400	€400
L1.08	DC Panels	L.S	1	€1,500	€1,500
L1.09	AC Panels	L.S	1	€1,500	€1,500
L1.10	System Grounding	L.S	1	€1,500	€1,500
L1.11	Grid Connection	L.S	1	€1,500	€1,500
L1.12	System Installation & Operation	L.S	1	€2,500	€2,500
	TOTAL of L6				€26,360
	17 % VAT				€4,481
	Grand Total of L1 Including VAT				€0,841
	Engineering Fees				€2,500
	Supervision, management & reporting				€3,000
	Grand Total				€36,341

Applicant Signature:

Mater Misericordiae Home Silent Workers of the Cross
Mount of Olives, East Jerusalem



November 25, 2023

SILENT WORKERS
OF THE CROSS
I.D. 5003035100