



GRAND MAGISTERIUM – VATICAN
EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF
THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

At the service of the living stones in the Holy Land

Education is Reopening Doors of Hope in Gaza

Life Returns to Gaza Parish thanks to a School and Kindergarten



Thanks to the Catholic parish in Gaza, young members of the parish and their Muslim neighbors have been able not only to survive the restrictions imposed by the war, but also to regain hope thanks to the reopening of schools, as demonstrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem's visit at the end of June 2026.

Amidst a landscape deeply scared by conflict and loss, a profound milestone of renewal is taking root in Gaza City. The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is leading a vital initiative to restore early childhood education, offering hope and a tangible return to life for the region's most suffering communities. By progressively reopening one of the largest school networks in Gaza across two adjacent locations, this project stands as a testament to human resilience and the enduring power of love and care.

The escalation of conflict since October 2023 led to a total collapse of educational services, leaving over 60% of school-aged children without access to learning and putting hundreds of thousands of young minds at risk of severe developmental delays. Before the war, the Catholic educational network operated three prominent schools open to families of all backgrounds: the Holy Family School in Rimal neighborhood, the Latin Patriarchate School in Zeitoun neighborhood, and the Rosary Sisters' School. As the crisis deepened, these spaces were repurposed, serving for over two years as critical shelters for internally displaced people.

Now, a powerful shift from survival to revival is underway. The institutional anchor of this mission is the Latin School within the Holy Family Parish compound in Zeitoun, which is stepping out of its role as a shelter to reclaim its original educational function, preparing to serve approximately 850 students. Simultaneously, the project is expanding to a second, adjacent location: the newly secured and rehabilitated Building, located almost one kilometer away. This dedicated satellite site will function as a safe, specialized kindergarten, welcoming at least 150 children aged 3 to 5.

Rooted in the universal values of peace, acceptance, and human dignity, this intervention represents the very essence of humanitarian solidarity. It moves beyond emergency relief to invest in the intellectual and emotional architecture of a better future. Central to this recovery is the presence of qualified educators. Drawing from an established network of expert teachers, the school ensures

that these children are not merely minded, but truly nurtured. Furthermore, recognizing the deep psychological toll of prolonged warfare, the Latin Patriarchate is integrating vital psychosocial support. Through structured routines, creative play, and professional care, the initiative directly addresses the devastating trauma experienced by the youngest victims, helping them process their reality and reclaim a sense of normal childhood.

Safety remains the foundational pillar of the entire operation. In a city where infrastructure is heavily compromised, the Latin Patriarchate is establishing a secure, dedicated bussing system. This transport network will bridge the gap between displaced camps or temporary living spaces and the protective environment of the school classrooms, ensuring that the journey to education does not come at the cost of personal security.

By providing guaranteed transportation, the project removes a massive psychological barrier for families who are eager for normalcy but paralyzed by the dangers of a fractured landscape. This logistical lifeline does more than connect points on a map; it creates an unbreakable corridor of care where children are shielded from external hostility from the moment, they leave their families until they safely return. Within these walls, education becomes an active form of peacebuilding, where mutual respect and healing take root.

The impact of this reopening is already echoing through the community, awakening profound joy in the hearts of children and their parents alike. For mothers and fathers, seeing their children step onto a school bus with backpacks instead of facing another day of unstructured uncertainty brings an overwhelming sense of relief and dignity. For the children, the classroom offers a sanctuary of smiles, peer interaction, and discovery. By replacing the sounds of destruction with the vibrant hum of learning, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is proving that even after the deepest darkness, life, peace, and hope can beautifully break through.

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