

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation

Serving The Leading Obstetric and Gynecology Facility in the West Bank

Give the Gift of Life



**“A Special Project for
the New Millenium.”**

Pope John Paul II



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ABOUT
HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

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Near Jesus' Birthplace – A Haven for Expectant Mothers

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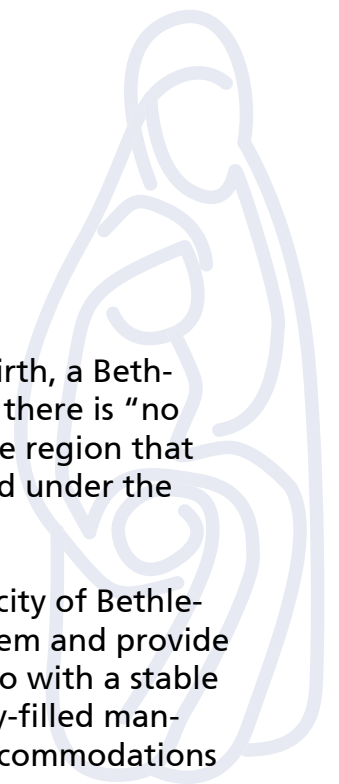
Bethlehem Hospital Ensures that There will be "Room at the Inn"

HOME

BETHLEHEM, DEC. 8, 2005 - A mere 500 yards away from the traditional site of Jesus' birth, a Bethlehem maternity hospital is committed to seeing that no expectant mother is ever told there is "no room." Holy Family Hospital is an obstetrical/gynecological facility – the only one in the region that can handle the complicated medical conditions of women living in extreme poverty and under the shadow of political strife which stalks the birthplace of the "Prince of Peace."

According to the familiar Christmas story, the Virgin Mary traveled with Joseph to the city of Bethlehem, arriving just as her labor began. Desperate for lodging that could both shelter them and provide a safe place to give birth, they found "no room at the inn" and were forced to make do with a stable instead. This may all make for charming nativity scenes with oxen and donkeys and hay-filled mangers, but there is not an expectant mother in the world who would not want better accommodations for her own newborn.

Holy Family Hospital's modern state-of-the-art birthing facilities and neonatal intensive care unit for premies could not be a greater contrast to the primitive stable that served the original 'Holy Family'. But in many ways the contrast remains. Says Holy Family Hospital Foundation's Executive Director



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Colleen Marotta, "Outside Holy Family Hospital's doors, the primitive conditions in which Our Lord was born still exist and women often find themselves delivering their babies in the most unsanitary and unsafe of conditions. 25 % of the women Holy Family Hospital serves live in refugee camps and 13% of the babies born must be admitted into the neonatal intensive care unit. Holy Family Hospital is the ONLY neonatal intensive care facility in the whole region. "

In 1989, at the request of Pope John Paul II, the Order of Malta, an international charitable organization, took over the hospital facilities -- a former general hospital, -- and determined to provide medical services to women and infants. In the year 2000, the late Holy Father named Holy Family Hospital one of his top 100 priorities for the new millennium. Countless lives have been saved since the Hospital opened its doors. In 34,462 live births, there has been only one maternal death – a stunning statistic for the region. Some 200 women a month are overcoming imposed curfews and road closures to reach the hospital for delivery. The doors of the hospital have also never closed due to the political unrest that have made many a not-so-silent night.

Marotta sees the hospital as a refuge of hope for the expectant mothers and fathers, "The women who give birth may have different traditions but they are united in that primal need of all laboring women for safety and care as they bring their children into the world. Like Mary and Joseph, these families are on journey to find a place of refuge, a place of promise, a place where their babies can be delivered safely. In all of the Bethlehem region, only one place is their destination – Holy Family Hospital".

The Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation is U.S. based and serves as a modern day Magi bringing this gift of life to the poor women and infants of the West Bank by raising the needed funds to meet the operational expenses of the hospital. Donations are tax deductible according to current IRS guidelines. For more information about The Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, please visit their website www.hfhfoundation.org.

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About Holy Family Hospital - Overview

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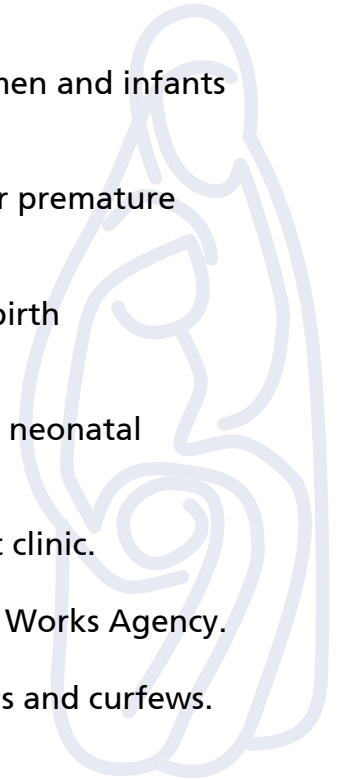
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Today, only 500 yards from the birthplace of Jesus Christ, one special door is still open to poor and destitute expectant mothers – Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem.

Holy Family Hospital provides state-of-the art maternal and child care to the poor women and infants of the region. 25% of those served reside in refugee camps.

- Holy Family Hospital's modern birthing facility, neonatal intensive care unit for premature infants, and mobile clinics have helped saved countless lives.
- In the 34,462 live births, there has been only one maternal death during childbirth at the Hospital.
- An average of 13% of the deliveries at the Hospital must be admitted into the neonatal department for intensive medical care.
- In 2004, the Hospital examined 13,911 women and children in their outpatient clinic.
- Referral hospital to four refugee camps operated by the United Nations Relief Works Agency.
- The ever resilient staff has never closed its doors despite violence, road closures and curfews.
- The Hospital recruits and trains native-born medical professionals.
- Some 200 women a month are overcoming Israeli imposed curfews and road closures to reach the Hospital for delivery.



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- Patient payments only cover 33% of the total cost of operation. (Continued)

About Holy Family Hospital - History

- For nearly a century the French Daughters of Charity provided medical care under the most difficult conditions, and in 1985 were forced to close the Hospital because of insufficient funding.
- In 1990, the Order of Malta refurbished a portion of the old General Hospital and converted the facility into a modern, well-equipped maternity unit.
- His Holiness Pope John Paul II has named Holy Family Hospital a top priority for the new millennium.

To learn more visit www.hfhfoundation.org.

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Available Spokespersons

Kathryn Abell

Kathryn Abell has been engaged in work on behalf of Holy Family Hospital for over 10 years. Recently returned from her 5th trip to Bethlehem, she shares stories of hope and triumph in the midst of intense stress and uncertainty. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of both Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem and the U.S. Foundation. Kathryn is a member of the Order of Malta which oversees the daily operations of Holy Family Hospital. A native of Connecticut, Kathryn makes her home in the Washington, DC area with her husband and three children.

Colleen Marotta

Colleen Marotta is the Executive Director of the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation. Colleen previously worked with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington and has a unique passion for serving the least among us. She has an intimate awareness of the struggles of the women and children of the West Bank and can testify to the tremendous joy and the gift of hope that this Hospital brings to the families of Bethlehem and surrounding communities.

Monsignor Edward Dillon

Monsignor Edward Dillon is on the Board of Directors of the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation & Chair of the Parish Outreach program. Born in Ireland, Monsignor Dillon has been a priest in the Archdiocese of Atlanta since 1967. Monsignor Dillon has visited Holy Family Hospital several times and can speak firsthand to how, in the midst of an area full of misery and despair, Holy Family Hospital serves as a beacon of hope and safe haven for thousands of poor mothers and their children. He sees the Hospital as a true case of Catholicism in action in a very practical way.



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Suggested Interview Questions

1. Tell us a little about the beginning of Holy Family Hospital. How did this maternity hospital come to be located 500 yds from Our Savior's birthplace?
2. What is the main mission of the hospital?
3. What are the women who are served by this hospital up against in the Holy Land?
4. It sounds like the journey of these West Bank families uniquely mirror the journey of the sacred Holy Family. How is this true and where are the families coming from?
5. How many women are served by the hospital?
6. Are there many opportunities for this sort of health care in the West Bank?
7. What sort of expertise does the staff of the hospital possess?
8. Is the work of the hospital an important consideration for the Catholic Church?
9. What happens if the women can't get to the hospital? Does Holy Family maintain any type of outreach program?
10. Describe for us an average day in the life of these women.
11. Has the hospital ever had to close because of the unrest in the region?
12. How many babies have been born in this Bethlehem hospital since 1990?
13. Do the families have to pay for their medical care? Is there health insurance?
14. How can people in the United States help the mothers and babies of Bethlehem?
15. In your opinion, what is the most striking aspect about the work of Holy Family Hospital?



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About Maximus

Maximus Media Group is emerging as a premier public relations firm focused on faith-based organizations and products. As an industry leader in media relations, Maximus is dedicated to delivering creative communications solutions and providing maximum exposure for purpose-driven professionals and businesses seeking recognition in a highly competitive and often confusing media environment.

Maximus is a full-service communications firm comprised of deeply-committed and highly-skilled Catholics who have honed their craft in the secular world. With this expert team of communications professionals, business professionals, and former journalists, Maximus is uniquely positioned to utilize today's ever expanding forms of communication to further the causes of apostolates and businesses whose issues, services, or products assist humanity in moving towards all that is true, good, and beautiful.

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