



“ Normal Life in Palestine”

The Vital Role of Civil Society and Faith Leaders in Healing Trauma in Palestine , Championing Women’s Values



sr. Anna Maria Sgaramella,cms
Comboni Sisters Jerusalem

The Comboni Sisters in Palestine- Israel

INVOLVED IN:

- Spirituality Centre: hosting various ecumenical-Interreligious groups
Bible courses
- Nursery school for Palestinian children
- Collaboration with Israeli and Palestinian organizations in the field of health and human rights Activities with some Bedouin communities.



The Comboni Sisters in Palestine-Israel

- **The challenges of the Context**
- **The Challenges of the Human Beings**
- **The Challenges of the living God**



The challenges of the Context

September 2009



Closing of the Wall of separation

The challenges of the Context



The challenges of the Context



Daily Life “Sharing and announcing the universal love of God in Jesus Christ, in particular to the poorest and most oppressed”.

➤ The Challenges of the Human Beings



Bearing witness to the healing power of the Lord, especially to the poorest



Educating attitudes of tolerance, respect, appreciation of the diversities, solidarity and non violence



➤ The Challenges of the Human Beings and healing Processes



- To support and accompany situations of particular suffering and marginalization.

➤ The Challenges of the Human Beings and healing Processes



- To promote a just peace, accompanying the process of reconciliation and giving voice to the unjust situations.

Healing Processes and Human Dignity

Empowering Bedouin women
– in the west banck





**New Assistants
healthcare, Israel
O.T**

***Witnessing God's love that
promotes the person
integrally, putting his or her
dignity as a God's child at
the centre***



**Israel O.T.
New teachers
of school
kindergarten**

The Challenges of the living God



OUR VISION

- ... women who know how to listen to God and His Word ... keeping our ears tuned to the cry of a wounded and excluded humanity
- ... to enter deeply into the spirituality of dialogue in order **to become bridges between peoples, cultures and religions** in order to become **women of reconciliation**

➤ The Challenges of the living God



Why are we here?

“For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually **destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law.** This was to **create one single new man in himself out of the two** of them and by **restoring peace** through the cross, to **unite them both in a single body** and reconcile them with God ...” (Eph 3:14-16).

The Challenges of the living God

Mission in dialogue and culture of peace- The dialogue is a service to life, peace and the future of all creation.

Intercultural dialogue interreligious and ecumenical, is important for a tolerant culture, a culture of peace, understood as people seeking the harmony of living in the diversity of cultures and religions.

In the Christian conception, the basis of tolerance is the conviction that, behind the one who has different ideas, there is the same God, Father of all, there is Christ, the common brother of all mankind, there is the Holy Spirit who makes us one body. Beyond error there is the human being that we recognize and that we cannot judge. (cf. Rom 12.18ff); beyond the provocation of the 'enemy' who challenges us, there is the brother whom we must treat according to the demands of truth, of charity -(cf. Eph. 4.15) and humility: an attitude that redefines us and values the other.



The Challenges of the living God

As Church leaders :the challenges

- The Mother Church of the Holy Land
- (Israel-Palestine) and the Holy Places
- Relations with Jews and Muslims
- Search for Justice and Peace



- No peace without justice
- Justice = freedom and equality
- Two states or one state?



The Challenges of the living God

“I renew the appeal made in this place by Pope Benedict XVI: the right of the State of Israel to exist and to flourish in peace and security within internationally recognized borders must be universally recognized. At the same time, there must also be a recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to a sovereign homeland and their right to live with dignity and with freedom of movement. The “Two State Solution” must become reality and not remain merely a dream.”

(Pope Francis, At Ben Gurion Airport, 25.5.2014)



Patriarch Pizzaballa on our challenge as Christians and Leaders in Israel- Palestine

“To have the courage of love and peace here, today, means not allowing hatred, revenge, anger and pain to occupy all the space of our hearts, of our speech, of our thinking. It means making a personal commitment to justice, being able to affirm and denounce the painful truth of injustice and evil that surrounds us, without letting it pollute our relationships. It means being committed, being convinced that it is still worthwhile to do all we can for peace, justice, equality and reconciliation. Our speech must not be about death and closed doors. On the contrary, our words must be creative, lifegiving, they must give perspective and open horizons.

It takes courage to be able to demand justice without spreading hatred. It takes courage to ask for mercy, to reject oppression, to promote equality without demanding uniformity, while remaining free. It takes courage today, even in our diocese and our communities, to maintain unity, to feel united to one another, even in the diversity of our opinions, sensitivities and visions.”

(Letter to the Diocese, 24.10.2023)

