

# **Bethlehem Creche, Holy Family Children's Home by Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul**

Bethlehem Creche, dates back to 1883 when the Ottoman Empire agreed to the request of the Government of France to open a representation of St Vincent de Paul, who is the father of the poor by the Daughters of Charity. Thus The Holy Family Hospital, and the Holy Family Children's Home (Bethlehem Creche) were established. Nowadays, the children they care for could have been left anonymously at the home, victims of child abuse, abandoned by unwed mothers, orphans, or their parents cannot care for them financially or from social service agencies since there is no other home for abandoned infants on the West Bank.

Bethlehem Creche serves more than 100 children as a part of the nursery program and they do not have known parents. The crèche has around 50 employees ranging from administrators, teachers, social workers, maintenance staff to nurses. The institution has no steady income as it is a charity that offers its nursery services for free to the poor families in the area. The main source of income are the donations from the generous donors.

The Holy Family Children's Home (Bethlehem Creche) has been for the past 20 years the only source of support and help for broken homes, abused mothers, unwed mothers, and regardless of the cause of pregnancy. Also providing care and safe environment for the mother and baby after birth.

Sir Denise, the nun in charge, says that loving the children is more important than just dealing with their malnutrition. This is the true magic of the healing power of Jesus's love.