



Notre Dame de Sion
"SAINT JOHN IN MONTANA"
Congregational Novitiate Jerusalem

Ein Karem, Sunday, 26 January 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"The three kings show that one has to set out on a journey in order to meet Christ. And as Christmas slips into the feast of Circumcision and giving of the name, baptism and the visit of the three kings we hear in the liturgical readings now Jesus calling disciples & followers, preaching, healing and announcing that the Kingdom of God has come.

On December 25 all Sion gathered to celebrate an Agape together for Christmas day. Thanks to Sr. Phil who cooked a tasty and beautiful meal. We are having lots of rain so the Novitiate Cistern is filling up. But as I always say, it needs to be filled up 4 times before we could say we had good rain during this winter rainy season. So let us pray that in the new year the rain continues and the cistern gets filled 4 times. On December 26 Juliana went with some friends in the pouring rain to Talia (a Jewish friend of Sr. Anne Catherine) to light the Chanukah Candles in her house. The next day Talia and her friend from Uganda Rachel came to visit the Convent and had some tea in the Novitiate community.

On the first of January the Jerusalem community met to begin the new year at the Elisha community. During the following few days torrential rain brought the water level in the Sea of Galilee, Israel's major freshwater lake, up by some 200 mm (7.9 inches). And our cistern is now overflowing. We are having strong winds and lots of snow up in the North on Mount Hermon where skiers enjoy the snow. We have more rain coming.

Our 20 January Celebration was celebrated in Ein Karem and prepared by the brothers of Sion.

In this last days of January 49 world leaders arrive in Israel to gather for major Holocaust/Shoah commemoration 75 years of the liberation of the concentration camp Auschwitz 27 of January 1945. By watching and listening to some of the speakers it was the German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier who inspired me most as he said: today's Jew-hatred seen in Europe is the 'same evil' as during Nazi era.' And we thank the Lord our God that this 5 World Holocaust Forum held in Jerusalem passed without major eruption. As Rain continues, Jerusalem is bracing itself for possible snow during these next days.

Wishing you all a blessed beginning of the second month of the new year.

Juliana for the Novitiate Community