

Dr. Edward Hazbun Receives the Pio Laghi Award on Behalf of the Bethlehem Association Scholarship Fund.

It was an unusually chilly and snowy November 15, 2018, evening in Washington DC as about sixty friends and supporters of the **Bethlehem University Foundation** gathered at the elegant Apostolic Nunciature (Papal embassy) near Dupont Circle. The Foundation presented two awards in recognition of support for Bethlehem University over many years - one to the retired founding member of the Bethlehem Foundation and the other to the Bethlehem Association Scholarship Fund. The evening was graciously hosted by His Excellency, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America and Foundation Director John Schlageter gave the introduction.



Archbishop Christophe Pierre and Foundation Director John Schlageter keynote speakers at the award ceremony.

On behalf of the Scholarship Fund, Dr. Edward Hazbun was honored to accept from Brother Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, the "Cardinal Pio Laghi Founders Award for outstanding Support to Bethlehem University."



Dr. Edward Hazbun receiving the award from Brother Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University.



Sister Irene O'Neill – Chair of Bethlehem Foundation and Bro. Peter Bray, Vice-chancellor of B.U. presenting the Pio Laghi Award to Dr. Edward Hazbun and Mrs Joan Hazbun (middle) representing the Bethlehem Association Scholarship Fund.

The award was established to honor Cardinal Pio Laghi who helped found Bethlehem University and was its first chancellor from 1973-74. We were pleased to meet again Elias Aburdene - an old member of the Bethlehem Association and George Salem who are legacy patrons of the Foundation and were on the organizing committee for the award event.



Edward and Joan Hazbun with Monsignor Walter R. Rossi, J.C.L., Rector, Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.



Director John Schlageter and Mr. Elias Aburdene, Board Member.



The Pio Laghi award presented during the ceremony by Margaret McCarthy, Director of Devlpt. B.U.F. and Bro. Peter Bray Vice. Chancellor of B.U.

Earlier in the day, Edward and his wife Joan, Vida and Samir Handal and Nina Bazouzi Cullers represented the Bethlehem Association at a smaller luncheon at the Cosmos Club where they met clerics and members of the Bethlehem University Foundation. Vida Handal, represented her mother Linda Handal who has worked very hard in support of the Bethlehem Association and the Scholarship Fund.



Nina Bazouzi Cullers, Vida Handal, with board members.



Mrs. Ronda Salem and Mrs. Annete Aburdene with Mrs Joan Hazbun.

Australian Brother Denis Loft, head of the Advancement Department of Bethlehem University, was a stimulating and sympathetic guest at our lunch table.



Bro. Dennis Loft with Vida and Samir Handal.



Mrs. Nina Bazouzi-Cullers, Board member and our Washington D.C. Representative.

We all appreciated the hospitality and efforts of Maggie McCarty, Director of Development at the Foundation, who organized the event at both the Cosmos Club and the Nunciature and helped us with hotel bookings.

The Bethlehem Association Scholarship Fund has grown since 1990. Family contributions to family named scholarships in its endowment fund enabled about 250 students to attend Bethlehem University, 20 students to attend the Bethlehem Academy of Music and 10 students to attend the BirZeit University. Since its inception, more than \$300,000 have been contributed in tuition fees to Bethlehem University for needy and qualified students. Over the past five years we have been supporting four students at the Bethlehem Academy of Music and several Arts students at Beir Zeit University every year. Applicants apply every summer for the scholarships. Edward Anton Hazbun, Edward Saleh Hazboun and Joan Hazbun Mulholland review the applications and have managed the fund for many years. Your contributions either to the Family funds or the general fund will be greatly appreciated.

By Joan Hazbun, December 2018

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