

## Jerusalem, Mother Church, local and universal

Meeting with Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa and the "living stones"

●Online Saturday 30 January 2021

### INTERVENTION

**Niveen Andraws** from Jordan

First of all, I want to thank all the organizers for inviting us to be a part of this meeting to share the experience of living our Christian values in the community here in our beloved country Jordan. So, Let me introduce myself: My name is Niveen Andrawes, I am 29 years old, I studied Civil engineering with a master degree of engineering management and I work as a quality manager at an international construction materials company. I am a youth member in the JEC movement (Young Christian students – in English) which is a worldwide movement and I am now the Vice Secretary-General and responsible for the development and training committee in the General Secretariat of the Christian Youth in Jordan.



I was raised in a family committed to Church, my father was an altar servant when he was a little boy, and my mother used to wake us up in the morning almost each Sunday to join mass. When I was 10 years old, I've become a member in the youth movement in our parish which is St. Mary of Immaculate Conception Parish in Hoson, a small town located in the north of Jordan.

With years passing by and through participating in many youth activities in our parish such as, but not limited to, summer schools, Christmas parties, parish choir, helping the poor families in our parish and doing some voluntary work such as cleaning the church and helping in preparing it

especially in big events; this all helped me to grow more in faith. It helped me to convert all the written things that we learnt about Jesus and holy bible into daily actions and decisions.



When I was 20 years old, I was chosen to be the general coordinator of the youth movement in our parish who is responsible for representing the youth group between other pastoral movements, and coordinating with them, in addition to organizing the different youth age groups plans and activities. I filled this position for five years and to be honest it was an amazing period of time. Being a university student committed to a voluntary work at the same time and dealing with all the pressure coming from it improved my personal understanding about sacrifice, Love, Joy

and the happiness of giving with no return.

Dealing with all the complications of organizing any event along with dealing with so different personalities developed my way of thinking and making decisions. All of this taught me to listen more, absorb more and most importantly thinking of the greater good. I don't say that it was or it is an easy process or it comes with no challenges or pain even from your closest beloved ones. But knowing the fact that GOD got your back and you are GOD's masterpiece and a result of the greatest love, makes it always possible to overcome these challenges, get up and move forward with God's blessing.

Being a part of the youth helped me to integrate my Christian values into my personal life and my working environment, and with no exaggeration, I do feel very proud when I hear gorgeous comments about Christian workers in different places here in Jordan, how honest and devoted they are to their work and their responsibilities.

People always ask me about the reason why I still am a part of the church's voluntary work, and my answer is because it simply gives the meaning of my life. I know that continuous change and development is the constant thing in life. But I know for sure that being a part of the voluntary work in its different forms will remain constant for me.



Thank you for listening...