Metropolitan
Vassilios of Caesarea
General Patriarchal Representative
Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem
P. O. Box 14256 - Tel. 271331 - Jerusalem

Jerusalem. Xmas 1994.

Dear Mr. Kopan,

Greetings and Blessings from Bethlehem.

Enjoy with your dear family in our Incarnate Lord

ALWAYS!

I was glad to receive your letter of Dec. 5, 1994 and the materials enclosed therein. I thank you for its content and want to assure you that our Patriarchate does its best to fulfill its mission and guarantee its Orthodox presence in the Holy Places and safeguard its ownership in the Holy Shrines. Times are difficult and may become more crucial, but we are committed in our ab antiquo posts. We try with all means to overcome the obstacles, but we don't find the Greek Government response. We trust in God's help and we are sure that our Lord won't disappoint us.

You are in right certainly to complain for certain things we are in need and without money we cannot compete with other Communities - especially Latin, Greek Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican etc.

It seems you are misinformed. Mr. Abu Jamer has succeeded his father in fighting against our Patriarch etc. We don't sell our property, but we long lease our lands to find money and continue our mission here.

Our Patriarchate does not despise the Community

We build for them Churches, ordain priests, pay their salaries build schools, appoint teachers and the Patriarchate pays for them all. Accepts Arabs to our Brotherhood and looks for their education. Unfortunately they seem ungrateful and allow me to tell You, Dr. Kopan, You should not believe what You hear, read or tell You.

That concerning ex Bishop Nikiforos I am sorry to write You Him, he has to show penitence and ask the Patriarch's forgiveness. If You would like to help him, please write His Beatitude and ask him to have mercy on him.

With thanks for Your kind donation & wishes I reciprocate them & warmly wish You a very Merry Xmas, Joyful Holidays and Blessed New Year.

With hugs in our Incarnate Lord
Father Basileios