

Curriculum Vitae
His Excellency Archbishop Dr. Elias Chacour
Arch-eparchy of Akka, Haifa, Nazareth and Galilee

1939	Born in the village of Biram in the Upper Galilee in the Arab Palestine, to a Palestinian Christian family, members of the Melkite Catholic Church, an Eastern Byzantine Church in communion with Rome. Rev. Chacour is the youngest of six children, four brothers and one sister.
1947	At the age of eight, Rev. Chacour experienced the tragedy of his people. He was evicted, along with his whole village, by the arrival of Jewish immigrants and became a deportee and a refugee in his own country, the Palestine of his birth. Because Rev. Chacour remained in the country of his forefathers, he was granted citizenship by Israel when the state of Israel was created in 1948.
1958	Upon graduating from secondary school in Nazareth, Rev. Chacour was sent by his Church to Paris, where he graduated with a <i>Degree in Theology and Bible Studies</i> from Saint Sulpice, the Sorbonne (the University of Paris) in 1965.
1965	Ordained a Melkite Catholic priest in Nazareth on July 24. His first assignment as a parish priest was in the small village of Ibillin in Galilee on August 15. This originally was an assignment for one month, but Rev. Chacour is still in Ibillin.
1967	In September, Rev. Chacour was sent by his Church to the Hebrew University, where he received a <i>Master's Degree in Bible and Talmudic Studies</i> in 1968. He was the first Arab student to study the Bible and the Talmud there. During this time he acted as chaplain to the other Arab students and opened the first Arab Students' Hostel in Jerusalem.
1970	-Appointed Assistant Lecturer at the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Bossey, Switzerland. -At the end of 1970, Rev. Chacour returned to Ibillin and started a long-standing and diversified series of relationships within Israel and abroad. Since that time he has been the founder of, or assisted in the founding of, a number of establishments and organizations, some of which are listed below: -Myriam Bawardi Youth and Adult Center in Ibillin -Myriam Bawardi Kindergarten -Community and Youth Center in Maylia -Saint John Chrysostomus Secondary School and Youth Center in Jish -Saint Joseph Community Center and Youth Center in Tarshiha -Boy Scouts Center in Shefa'amr -Community Center in Fassuta -Community Center in Isifya -Eight public libraries, containing over 150,000 volumes -A Summer Camp for children that has grown from 1,129 children to reach more than 5,000 young people of different religions and denominations from thirty different villages in the Galilee region.
1971	Obtained <i>Ph.D. in Ecumenical Theology</i> at the University of Geneva.

1975	In April, Rev. Chacour visited Beirut and was kidnapped by the PLO, which held him in the Shatilla Refugee Camp.
1982	Opened Prophet Elias High School in Ibillin, one of Rev. Chacour's most challenging projects. He began with 80 students and there are now 1450 students attending. Since then, the school has been developed into Mar Elias Educational Institutions (MEEI). As of November 2002, MEEI has 4,000 students enrolled.
1984	Launch of first book: <i>Blood Brothers</i> . Published by Chosen Books, Baker Book House, USA
1986	Nominated for the <i>Nobel Peace Prize</i> (nominated again in 1989 and 1994).
1989	May 14 th : Received <i>Honorary Ph.D.</i> from St. Michael's College in Winooski, Vermont, USA
1990	Launch of second book: <i>We Belong to the Land</i> . Published by Notre Dame Press, Indiana.
1994	March 10 th : Received the prestigious <i>World Methodist Peace Award</i> that has been presented in the past to such pilgrims for peace as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and the late Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat.
1995	October: Rev. Chacour opened Prophet Elias Technological College, which was awarded accreditation by the Israeli Minister of Education in March 1995, allowing it to award Diploma of Technology and Diploma of Education degrees. As of November 2001, the college has an enrollment of 750 students
1996	Opened the Center for Religious Pluralism at Mar Elias College.
1997	Received <i>Honorary Ph.D.</i> from Texas Wesleyan University at Fort Worth. Established and opened Mar Elias Teachers' Regional Resource Centre for the continuing education of Arab teachers in the Galilee.
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointed Chancellor of the Galilee Diocese, Melkite Catholic Church, Israel. • Appointed Parish Priest of Nazareth for nine months, however, Rev. Chacour relinquished those duties to concentrate on the development of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions.
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 16th : - Opened the School of Arts and Technology for gifted children • Opened the Mariam Bawardi Elementary School that is adding one grade level each year. As of November 2002 there are 160 students in Grades 1 through 5.
1999	June: Awarded <i>Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur</i> by the President of France

2000	<p>April: Received the <i>Marcel Rudloff Peace and Tolerance Award</i> at Strasbourg Received <i>Honorary Ph.D.</i> from Duke University at Durham, North Carolina.</p>
2001	<p>May: Received <i>Ph.D. Honoris Causa</i> from Indianapolis University</p>
	<p>May 10th : Received the <i>18th Niwano Peace Prize</i>, Tokyo-Japan</p>
	<p>May 14th : Received <i>Ph.D. Honoris Causa</i> from Emory University, Atlanta</p>
	<p>May 17th : nominated for <i>Man of the Year</i> award in Israel</p>
	<p>June 28th : Appointed Archimandrite in the Melkite Church in Israel</p>
2002	<p>April: launch of 3rd book: <i>J'ai foi en nous</i>. Published by Hommes de Parole, Paris.</p> <p>May: appointed Bishop-Elect of Jerusalem, Melkite Catholic Church, Israel.</p> <p>September: Department of Divinity and Holy Land Studies, MEEI commenced the inaugural diploma course in the Higher Diploma of Theology. Students will have the opportunity to complete their degree at Mar Elias University in the future.</p> <p>December 10th: Received <i>Dante Aleghieri Peace and Human Rights</i> award from the district of Comune di Castelnuovo Magra Provincia della Spezia in Italy.</p>
2003	<p>Appointed <i>Consultant to the Holy See Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews</i>.</p> <p>March 14: received <i>Prix Mediterranee pour la Paix</i>, from the Accademia del Mediterraneo, Naples, Italy</p> <p>May 18: awarded Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Iowa, USA</p> <p>May 20: received Lion's International award : <i>Man of the Year, Israel</i></p> <p>July 17: Accreditation received from the Israeli Ministry of Education, Committee of Higher Education for the establishment of Mar Elias University Campus as a branch institute of the University of Indianapolis, Indiana.</p> <p>August: received the prestigious <i>2002 Peacemaker in Action Award</i> from <i>Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding</i> New York.</p> <p>October 21: Mar Elias Campus (MEC) branch of the University of Indianapolis Opening of first Arab Christian university in Galilee with three initial degree programs in Computing Science, Communications & Marketing, Environmental Science & Chemistry.</p>

2004	<p>Currently continuing development of campus facilities and curricula of the Mar Elias Educational Institutions (MEEI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new Niwano Peace Auditorium with seating for 1500 people has been completed. - The new Mariam Bawardi Elementary School building with facilities for 850 students is now in service. On September 1st, 450 young pupils from first to seventh grade began classes in their new school rooms. - The new <i>Church of the Sermon on the Mount</i> is nearing completion. It will serve as a witness world-wide to the Catholic Christian foundations of Mar Elias and the continued commitment to building relationships with peoples of all faith traditions. <p>It is Rev. Chacour's hope and vision to expand the facilities to accommodate 5,000 students from all over Israel, and eventually from other countries as well. MEEI is the only private campus in the history of Galilee where Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Druze can live together, learn together, and establish a common future together.</p>
2005	<p>January 19: received the distinguished <i>America's First Freedom Award</i>, First Freedom Center, Richmond, Virginia.</p> <p>April 2: Consecration of the <i>Church of "The Sermon on the Mount"</i>, Mar Elias Educational Institutions in Ibillin.</p> <p>June 4: received a Doctor of Humane Letters Honoris Causa, Ecumenical Theological Seminary, Detroit, Michigan.</p>
2006	<p>February 6: Elected by the Holy Synod and confirmed by the Holy See in the Vatican to be the Archbishop Metropolitan of the Melkite Catholic Diocese of Akka, Haifa, Nazareth and all of Galilee, Israel.</p> <p>February 25: The new Archbishop was consecrated in the church of the "Sermon on the Mount" in Ibillin with the participation of thousands of people.</p> <p>February 26: His Excellency celebrated the first Eucharist and was installed at the Cathedral, Ein Dor St.23 in Haifa.</p>

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