

As you rightly assume, the situation in the Holy Land is paradoxical: war is on our doorstep, but the EBAF lives like an island of peace in the midst of the storm.

Since October 7, only the Israeli national airline has been operating flights, increasing costs and complicating travel for our researchers, students and brothers from abroad.

With inflation, the recall of hundreds of thousands of reservists to the armed forces and the closure of numerous checkpoints, pilgrims and tourists have deserted the country and the economic situation of all communities has deteriorated.

As far as we were concerned, some students working for public institutions had to cancel their stay, but the teaching staff mobilized to continue the activity. Classes were held with the people present, but also by Zoom to enable everyone to take part.

After a brief suspension, the course on topography was resumed in the field, with adaptations to incorporate safety instructions. Paradoxically, the students and researchers who were able to reach Jerusalem and who chose to stay are enjoying a unique view of the holy places and archaeological sites, empty of their crowds of tourists and pilgrims.

We all pray for a return to peace, in the hope that everyone will commit themselves to the search for the common good. It will be a long road ahead, but God and our friends are with us.

Thank you again for your good wishes and support.

You can count on my prayers for you and your intentions, and for all our friends in Canada.

Fraternally in Christ.

Fr. Olivier Poquillon o.p.

Directeur

École Biblique et Archéologique Française de Jérusalem