

LERC Meets Patriarch at Bkerke to present copy of LERC's latest publications

Thursday 14th January 2010, Bkerke

Reported by Elie Nabhan

The Director of the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre dame University, Ms. Guita Hourani, accompanied by LERC Program Developer and Endowment Campaign Drive Manager and President of the Lebanese Development Network Mr Amin Nehme, NDU Fulbright Visiting Professor Dr. George Abdelnour, LERC Project Manager Ms. Basma Abdel Khalek, LERC Indexers Mrs. Liliane Haddad and Mr. Elie Nabhan, LERC Legal Research Affiliate Mr. Melkar el Khoury and LERC IT coordinator Mr. Elias Sfeir, were granted an audience with His Beatitude Patriarch Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir at his winter residency in Bkerke on the 14th January 2010.



LERC at Bkerke (From left-right) Mrs. L. Haddad, Ms. G. Hourani, His Beatitude the Patriarch, Mr. A. Nehme, Ms. B. Abdel Khalek (Jan 2010).

LERC had previously visited the Patriarch in November 2006 to present His Beatitude a copy of the Center's publication *The Impact of the Summer 2006 War on Migration in Lebanon: Emigration, Remigration, Evacuation and Return*.

The aim of the meeting with the Patriarch was to re-introduce LERC as a center involved with migration studies and to present him a copy of the Center's latest book *Our People* and NDU's Palma Journal special issue on Lebanese migration.

The book itself narrates the story of Lebanese migration through historical and contemporary photographs, a visual masterpiece that reaches out to the readers transporting them through a journey in time. This book was specially designed and

published in cooperation with Quantum Communications for LERC endowment campaign drive.



LERC Director Ms. G. Hourani presents the Patriarch with copies of LERC's most recent publications (Jan 2010).

Ms. Hourani introduced each member of the visiting team to the Patriarch, informing him of their roles within LERC and what each person was currently involved in.

Ms. Hourani then described to His Beatitude LERC's current projects especially the research underway on citizenship entitled *Acquisition and Loss of Nationality: The Case of Lebanon*.

Ms. Hourani also brought the Patriarch up to date concerning LERC's other projects: *The Impact of the Global Financial Crisis on Lebanese Expatriates in the Gulf Countries*; *Impact of Naturalization on Employability, Social Mobility, and Economic Development of the Naturalized Kurds in Lebanon*; the book in the process of being printed on the Arabs in Cuba, the book in the making on out-of-country voting.

Ms. Hourani also informed His Beatitude that a book presenting the history of *Zajal* (a popular Levantine form of improvised poetry that is recited in a song) has recently been approved and told him of the upcoming exhibition, *International Art Diaspora on Lebanese Migration*, which will be held in April 2010 at Beirut City Center jointly organized by LERC and Faculty of Arts, Architecture and Design (FAAD) at NDU.

As President of LDN, Mr. Nehme took the chance to brief the Patriarch on the purpose and mission of LDN.



The LERC Team at Bkerke; (From left-right) Mrs. L. Haddad, Dr. G. Abdelnour, Ms. G. Hourani, the Patriarch, Mr. A. Nehme, Ms. B. Abdel Khalek, Mr. E. Nabhan, Mr. M. el Khoury, Mr. E. Sfeir (Jan 2010).