

BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

Press Release: 29 September 2008
New Vice Chancellor Announced

His Excellency Archbishop Antonio Franco, Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine, and Chancellor of Bethlehem University, announced today (29 September 2008) that upon the nomination of the De La Salle Christian Brother Superior General, Brother Álvaro Rodríguez Echeverría, FSC, the Holy See has appointed Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD, as 8th Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University in the Holy Land.

"We are pleased to welcome Brother Peter to Bethlehem in November 2008 as the Vice Chancellor-designate," said Mr. Fuad Kattan, Chair of the Board of Trustees of Bethlehem University, "and we look forward to him assuming office as the Vice Chancellor and CEO on 1 February 2009."

"Bethlehem University is a unique and important oasis in a troubled land – a place where people experience justice, peace, and joy as they make meaning in their lives and build up the Palestinian society," said Brother Peter, reflecting on his appointment as Vice Chancellor and recalling his Christmas 2007 visit to Bethlehem. "I look forward to working collaboratively with my colleagues at Bethlehem University and the other Palestinian universities, as well as the many friends and benefactors of Bethlehem University as together we face the daunting challenges before us. I realize that I am not alone in leadership and am confident that we will stay on the journey together in solidarity with one another."

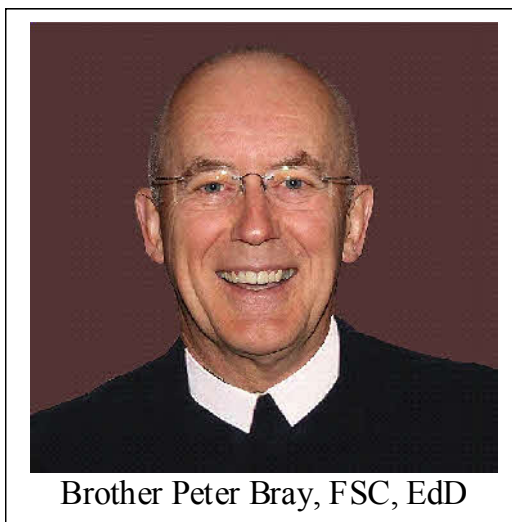
Brother Peter, a native of New Zealand, holds a doctorate in education from the University of San Diego, USA, and comes to Bethlehem University

with more than 30 years of educational leadership experience from primary school to graduate degree programs, having served for the past seven years as the Director and CEO of the Wellington Catholic Educational Centre, New Zealand.

"As we commemorate this 35th anniversary of Bethlehem University, on behalf of the entire university community, I want to express my gratitude to Brother Robert Smith, FSC, PhD, who, in

addition to fulfilling the duties of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, has also served for the past 9 months as the Interim Vice Chancellor," said Archbishop Franco. Brother Daniel Casey, FSC, the former Vice Chancellor who died on 30 July 2008, left the university in January 2008 to receive treatment for a recurrence of cancer.

"We are eager and excited to welcome Brother Peter, an internationally recognized educational leader, teacher, and administrator," said Brother Robert. "I am delighted that Brother Peter will soon be joining our university community. He is very positive and hopeful about the opportunity to serve the Palestinian people and the educational community of Bethlehem University."



Brother Peter Bray, FSC, EdD

Bethlehem University, the first university established in the West Bank, is a Catholic Christian co-educational institution of higher learning open to students of all faith traditions which currently enrolls more than 2,970 students in its degree and diploma programs in the Arts, Business Administration, Education, Nursing, Science and Hotel Management and Tourism, with an additional 1,200 students enrolled in professional diploma and on-going education programs through the Institute for Community Partnership. Bethlehem University, a member of the Association of Arab Universities, International Federation of Catholic Universities, and Lasallian Association of Colleges and Universities, is one of more than 1,000 Lasallian educational institutions in 80 countries of the world in which about 6,000 De La Salle Christian Brothers and nearly 80,000 dedicated religious sisters, priests, and lay women and men of all faith traditions serve.