

A PLACE FOR  
DIALOGUE, CULTURE,  
RESEARCH  
AND INTER RELIGIOUS  
LEARNING

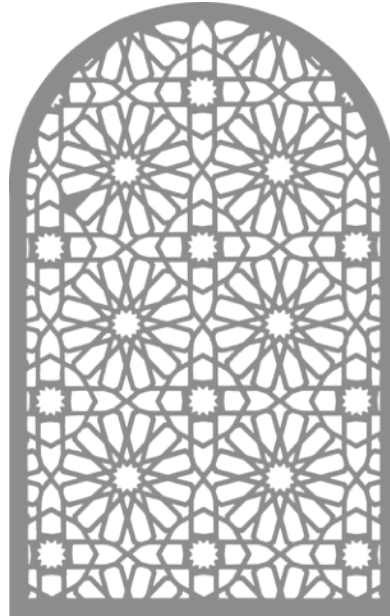


**AL-KHALIL COMMUNITY IN DEIR MARYAM AL-ADHRA**  
(VIRGIN MARY MONASTERY)

SULAIMANIYAH – KURDISTAN REGION – IRAQ  
DEIR MARYAM - ANGLAIS



# THE MULTI-RELIGIOUS MIDDLE-EASTERN CULTURE, A CHANCE FOR PEACE.



In 1982, Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, founder of Al-Khalil community, came across the ruins of the ancient Syriac monastery of Saint-Moses the Abyssinian (Deir Mar Moussa) dating back to the 6th Century.

He settled there for a ten-day spiritual retreat and thought of three ways to breathe new life into this place :  
prayer, hand labor and hospitality.

To him, the Islamo-Christian reconciliation was a necessity  
"Syria admirably synthesises modern citizenship with a strong cultural identity, heir to the classic Arab-Muslim civilisation where the disciples of Mohammed, Jesus and Moses built one rich human civilisation."

Deir Maryam Al-Adhra (Virgin Mary Monastery) in Sulaymaniya, Iraqi Kurdistan Region, was born from that spirit.



AL-KHALIL COMMUNITY  
IN  
DEIR MARYAM AL-ADHRA



# A PLACE ENTIRELY DEDICATED TO CULTURE, RESEARCH, AND DIALOGUE

The project of new buildings in Deir Maryam Al-Adhra's complex is part of continuing the ongoing activities of the community. The complex will host:

## **Places**

For thematic exhibitions, theatre performances, concerts,...

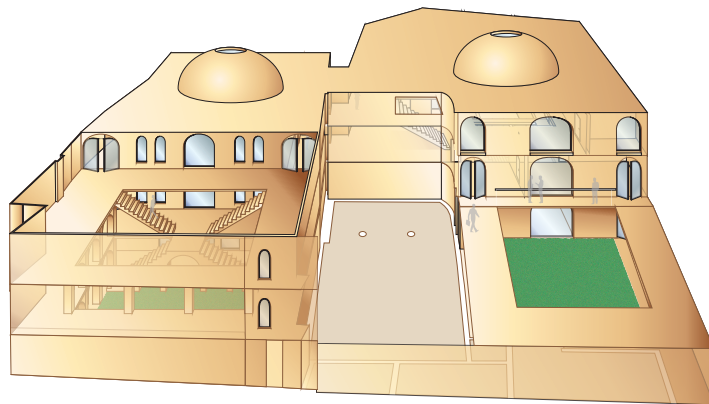
## **The Library,**

Dedicated to dialogue, peace, theology, spirituality, with multi-religious, multi-ethnic, historical, linguistic, philosophical and ethical themes...

With its database of e-books, this library would become a strong base to encourage the ongoing dialogue.

## **The forum,**

Which will explore further the library focus through meetings with the actual people working on the great peace project.



SULAIMANIYAH – KURDISTAN REGION – IRAQ

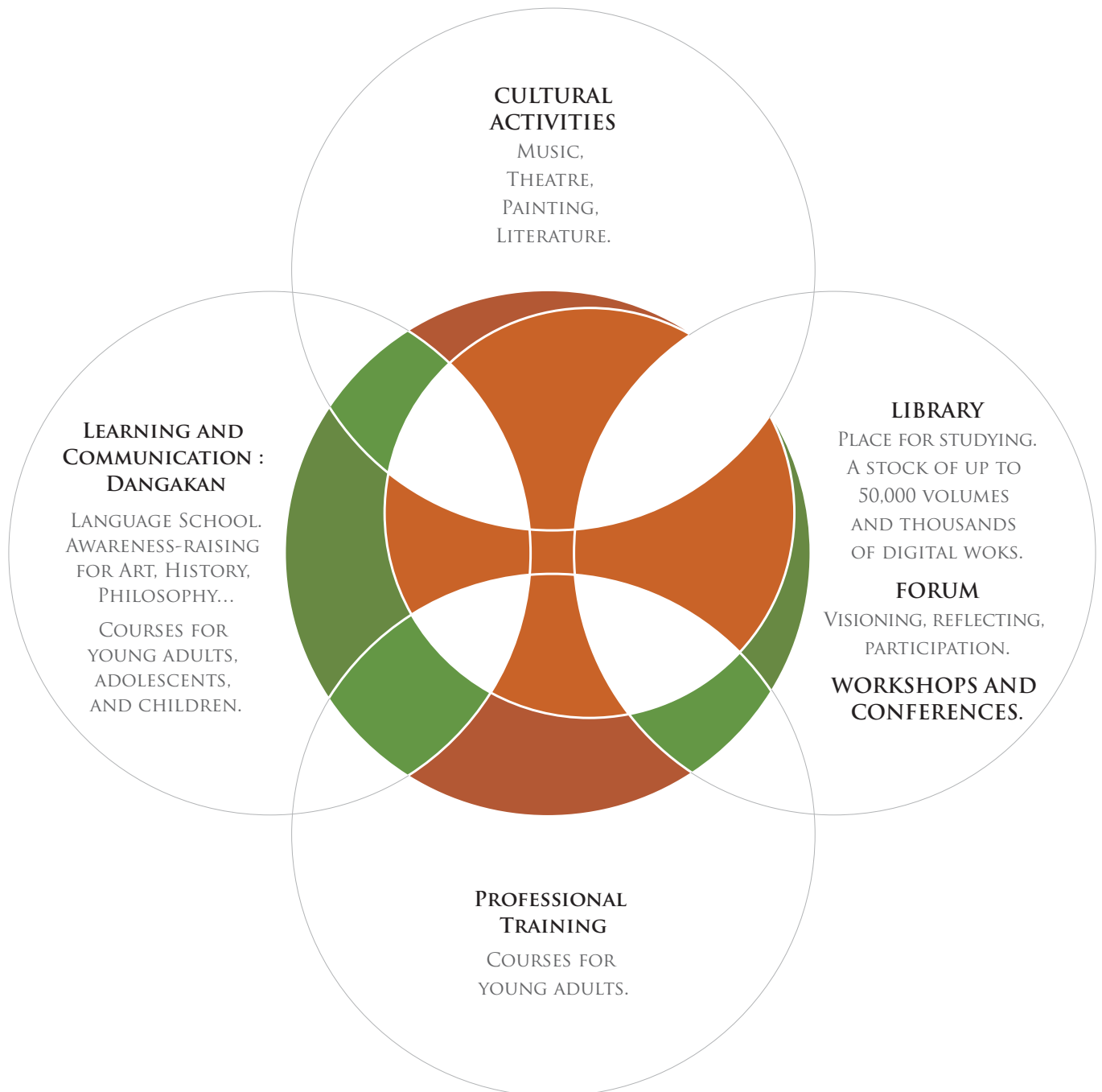


## DEIR MARYAM AL-ADHRA, A HEART THAT BEATS IN NORTHEASTERN IRAQ, KURDISTAN REGION



A heart that beats to the rhythms of singing classes of singing courses, musical notes, drawing workshops or general education. All of those who participate to the activities of the monastery, young adults, adolescents and children, Christians, Muslims, Yazidis... make the Deir Maryam Al-Adhra's heart beat through their eagerness to learn. They hope that through culture, education and learning they might find their place in today's world. It's for them the unique opportunity to venture to communicate with others.

# THE COMMITMENTS OF AL-KHALIL COMMUNITY



DEIR MARYAM AL-ADHRA



## TODAY, DEIR MARYAM AL-ADHRA IS...



A place of :

- Hospitality to women and men
- Discussions around the role of women in the local community.
- Professional training
- Education of young adults
- A theatre group
- Emergency housing
- Tutoring Support



## TOMORROW...

Creation of new areas dedicated to culture and education.

- **A library,**
- **A conference and meeting center,**
- **Artistic and creative workshops,**
- **Special equipment for professional training.**



The project of Deir Maryam Al-Adhra wants to meet the needs of all those in quest of cultural dialogue, education, communication and peace in an interreligious environment.

Deir Maryam Al-Adhra has been designed for offering all these perspectives.









“WE HAVE OPENED  
OUR LITTLE MULTI-ETHNIC,  
MULTI-LINGUAL  
AND MULTI-RELIGIOUS  
THEATRE !”  
FATHER JENS STATED  
WHILE INTRODUCING  
THE CREATION OF A MUSIC  
GROUP.



**Fr. Jens Petzold**  
**Deir Maryam al-Adhra**  
Monastic community of  
**Deir Mar Moussa**

On the property of Deir Maryam Al-Adhra, additional rooms have been built for courses intended to the youth, adult meetings, and entertainment for everyone. These rooms also serve as venues for the English, Kurdish and Arabic as well as various cultural activities, as well as a daycare and a kindergarten. “Our aim is to create a spiritual center, a library of inter-religious research and a hall with 200 seats for inter-cultural meetings.” The Islamo-Christian dialogue through peaceful coexistence and spiritual and intellectual sharing is the mission of Deir Maryam al-Adhra.



## THE EXISTING RESOURCES



The buildings around the church of Deir Maryam Al-Adhra are dedicated for reception and administration. A building accommodates our nuns and female guests. Another is for the monks and male guests. They offer also classrooms for courses and workshops

## SOME FIGURES

- 2011 project launch  
5 buildings available :
- Church.
  - Priest House.
  - North-wing : rooms for catechism since 2012 (Storing the first 1000 books of the library).
  - Donation of books in 2018 : 5500 titles.
  - House of Monks and male guests since 2015.
  - House of nuns and female guests since January 2019.
  - Construction Investments since 2012 : 450 000 €.
  - Costs of courses and meetings since 2015 : 210 000 €.
  - Participants of courses and meetings in 2018 : 812 Persons.
  - Theatre performances staged since 2016 : 8 (A total of 24 presentations including several ones in refugee camps).
  - Accommodated visitors and participants in 2018 : 80 persons.
  - Concerts in 2018 : 10.



DEIR MARYAM AL-ADHRA



## A DEDICATED SPACE FOR HOUSING AND COURSES



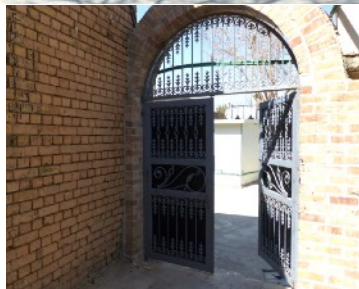
This space, located near Deir Maryam Al-Adhra, was first an emergency home for the families who fled from ISIS. Today, some of these families are still present in a part of these housings, while the other part has been assigned to courses.

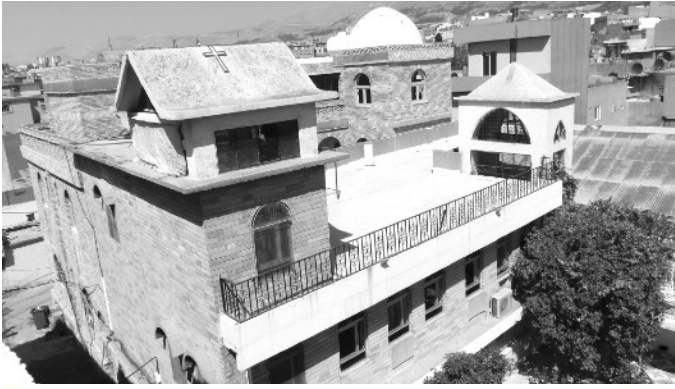
### SOME FIGURES

- 10 container-houses including 5 occupied by the displaced families, and the rest are available as emergency homes or for guests.
- 19 rooms for the community, the volunteers and guests. (With a hosting capacity of 19-65 persons).
- 6 course halls in the buildings.
- 10 course halls in the container-houses.
- 1 reading hall.
- 3 smaller multi-purpose halls.

#### Operation Costs :

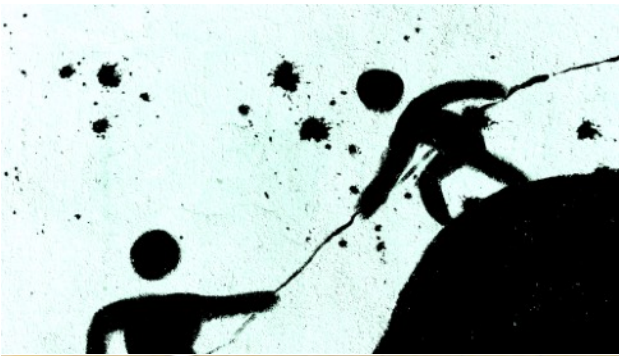
- Support of hosted displaced families :  
4 000 €/year.
- Water, electricity systems (30%) and Electricity generator (60%) for the 5 buildings :  
17 000 €/year.
- Salaries for maintenance :  
15 000 €/year.
- Maintenance, materials and repairs :  
13 000 €/year.
- Hospitality / food :  
11 000 €/year.







## DANGAKAN, VOICES FOR COMMUNICATION



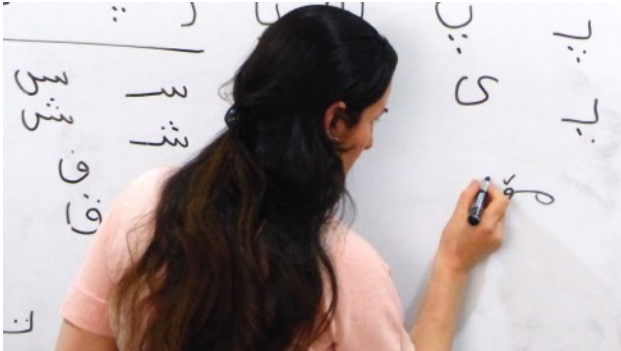
Since the beginning, we noticed at Deir Maryam Al-Adhra the communication problem between the various ethnicities of the local population, especially Arabs and Kurds. And thus we discussed as a community the possibility of creating a language school. In 2015, following the arrival of displaced Christians, we organized courses of Kurdish language to help them integrate. At the end of 2016, the courses were open to all the Arab-speaking displaced people. In 2017, at the initiative of an NGO, we organized English language courses. At the same time, we followed the wish of young Kurds in Sulaimaniyah who were interested in taking arabic language classes. Today, the concept of Dangakan isn't limited to a language school, but is becoming a community college that, through its courses, makes available the fundamental vocabulary for philosophical reflections, inter-religious dialogue, psychology, human rights, science...

### SOME FIGURES

In 2018 :  
- 812 students  
- 64 courses  
- 22 teachers  
- Administrative staff,  
3 part-time employees  
and 4 volunteers



## DEIR MARYAM AL-ADHRA AND THE YAZIDIS OF KANAKAWA



Kanakawa is a small Kurdish village 20 Kilometres away from the monastery, it has hosted the displaced Yazidis from Sinjar after the attack of ISIS.

Since the winter of 2015, humanitarian relationships were developed between our community and the inhabitants of Kanakawa. Among other activities, we organised courses in collaboration with small NGOs, these courses enabled children, adolescents, and adults to follow general cultural education. Since the beginning of 2018, we have been running a small centre of cultural activities founded by a local NGO.

### SOME FIGURES

- 37 Yazidi Families with a total of approximately 200 people.
- 1000 families from the local Kurdish community with a total exceeding 4000 people.
- 154 course participants in 2018.
- Costs :
  - courses : 7 200 €/year.
  - Day care and tutoring : 2000 €/year.
  - Maintenance : 7 000 €/year.
  - Water and electricity : 1 800 €/year.



## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING HAS ITS OWN FUTURE !



The monastery has suitable locations for training for professions like electricity, plumbing, ironworks, welding, carpentry, sewing, administration office,...

The professional formation is part of the range of activities of Deir Maryam al-Adhra.

The accommodation structure and the qualified staff will be available once the financial means allow it.



## SOME FIGURES

6 to 9 13-week Trainings :  
250 hours each (on average)  
for classes of 12 to 18 people :  
from 6 000 € to 10 000 € depending  
on the training.

Course estimate : 63 000 €/year.

Administrative costs  
(Coordinator and Secretary) :  
20 000 €/year.





## A PLACE DEDICATED TO WOMEN



The house of nuns and female guests is a space for communication, meeting and exchange between women. In 2019, this house will become the headquarters for a reflection group focused on the situation of women in the middle east and this region in particular.

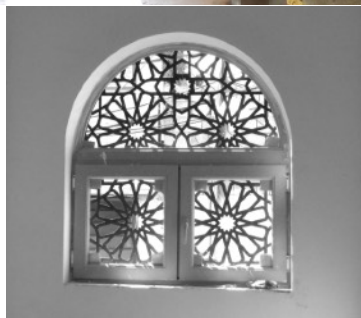


## SOME FIGURES

Accommodation Capacity : up to 35 people  
- The house chapel.  
- 2 halls.  
- 12 rooms.

Costs :

- activities of the group of reflection : 4 000 €/year.  
- compensations : 2 000 €/year.  
- maintenance : 7 000 €/year.  
- water, gas and electricity : 1 800 €/year.







## SUPPORT AND DONATIONS



- **ICO Initiative Christlicher Orient**, Austria
- **CCFD Committee Against Hunger and for development**, France
- **Diocese of Cologne**, Germany
- **Missio**, Germany
- **Œuvre d'Orient**, France
- **Raoul Follerau Foundation**, France
- **Kirche in Not international**, Germany
- **MAGIS**, Italy
- **Francesco Realmonte Association**, Italy
- **Goethe Institute**, Erbil (Theater Group)
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany** (Theater Group)
- **The associations "The friends of Deir Mar Moussa"** in Italy, France and Switzerland
- **Al-Khalil monastic community**

On-site collaboration:

- **Un ponte per**, Italie
- **Diocese de Kirkuk**, Irak
- **Provincia di Bolzano**, Italie
- **Step** (NGO locale), Sulaymaniya, Irak
- **Social Forum**, Irak
- **Social Forum**, Kurdistan



Father Jens Petzold  
Head of Deir Maryam  
al-Adhra (Iraqi Kurdistan  
Region)



Father Paolo Dell'Oglio  
Founder of Al-Khalil  
Community and  
Deir Mar Moussa (Syria)



Sister Houda Fadoul  
Supérieure Head of  
Al-Khalil Community and  
Deir Mar Moussa (Syria)



Father Jacques Mourad  
Co-founder of Al-Khalil  
Community and  
Deir Mar Moussa (Syria)



Sister Deema Fayyad  
Project Manager of  
Deir Mar Moussa (Syria)



Père Jihad Youssef  
Accountant of  
Deir Mar Moussa (Syria)



Sister Friederike Gräf  
Cultural projects of  
Deir Maryam al-Adhra  
(Iraqi Kurdistan Region)



Sister Carol Cooke-Eid  
Head of San Salvatore  
Monastery (Italy)



AL-KHALIL MONASTIC COMMUNITY

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DIALOGUE, CULTURE,  
RESEARCH  
AND LEARNING



DEIR MARYAM  
AL-ADHRA

SULAIMANIYAH – KURDISTAN REGION – IRAQ

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