

PRESS RELEASE

HUNDREDS OF ISRAELIS, PALESTINIANS AND ITALIANS RUN TOGETHER IN THE 8th JOHN PAUL II BETHLEHEM-JERUSALEM PEACE MARATHON

Hundreds of Palestinians, Israelis and Italians ran 10 kilometers from the Church of The Nativity in Bethlehem to the Notre Dame complex in Jerusalem under the banner of the 8th John Paulus II Peace Marathon last month. The unique marathon, an initiative led by the official Vatican pilgrimage organization Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism, offered a fascinating encounter between pilgrims from Italy and other European countries, runners from Bethlehem and Israeli runners. The run was aimed at continuing the path of Pope John Paul II – one of peace, camaraderie and companionship between peoples and religions.

Over 300 runners participated in the festive marathon, which took place this year for the eighth time, in addition to the many pilgrims who accompanied the runners on their journey. 150 runners from Italy ran alongside 150 Palestinians and Israelis, including Italian football stars - Albertini Demetrio, Di Biagio Luigi, Tommasi Damiano, Peruzzi Angelo and Bonavina Diego.

Shortly after the arrival of the runners from Bethlehem, a friendly football tournament took place at Rachel's Crossing, with the participation of Israeli, Palestinian and Italian football players.

Next year, 16th of March Jerusalem has its second International Marathon.

