



# THE TANTUR ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

## A Summer of Change

*Dan Koski, Tantur Staff*



### *Greetings from Tantur!*

Our thanks to those who have patiently waited for the return of our newsletter while its publication was suspended during the late spring and early summer.

While we intend to return to releasing monthly editions starting in September, we have opted to merge the monthly editions from May to August into a single Summer Edition and we try out this new format.

We are also discontinuing our "Scholars' Corner" quarterly as a separate publication and will be

presenting scholarly submissions as part of this newsletter while we examine new ways to provide a media platform for this part of the work of Tantur.

As our rector, Fr. Timothy Lowe, and his wife Lisa mark their third year "On The Hill," we wish to pause for a moment to thank all staff, volunteers, residents and program participants who have made Tantur a part of their lives in the past or present, and hope that you will be with us, each in your own way, in the years to come.

### Tantur At A Glance: Summer 2013 Partner Programs



Building off of its 2012 curriculum, the Jerusalem Summer Program of the University of Notre Dame ran from mid-May to the end of June. The program is designed to provide immersion learning while providing UND undergraduates with academic credits towards their chosen degrees.



The Italian Studies Department of the University of Notre Dame, in cooperation with the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, held its annual International Summer Seminar at Tantur in June. This year's focus was Dante's Theology, attracting a host of scholars, lecturers and researchers who participated in the two-week event.

## Father and Son Time

By Chris Lamb of Perth, Australia with Peter Lamb.

I first asked my father if he would consider looking after my children aged 16 and 14 so that I could ask my wife, Julie, if she would like to join me in attending the Tantur continuing education four week program. He was more than happy to oblige. Julie's maternal instincts kicked in strongly and I was given a very quick reply, "I couldn't leave the children for that long". On giving dad the news he wasn't required for domestic duties he quickly put up his hand and said "pick me!"

Initially we had some doubts about whether my father, Peter, at 82 years would be able to handle some of the walks. Tantur's rector, Fr. Tim, assured us that there would be plenty of opportunities to take a rest along the way and that as long as I could put up with him for that amount of time it shouldn't be a problem. :)

We arrived at Tantur a day before the program started, which gave us a chance to recover from the flight from Australia, settle in and explore the premises. We had separate rooms with a shared bathroom but on overnight trips we shared the same room: the closest living together we have experienced for many years.

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*"Life is about relationships. No doubt Jesus would have had many wonderful family occasions."*

Chris Lamb (left) with his father Peter Lamb at Rachel's Tomb.

## Tantur's Grounds: Looking Better than Ever!



Maintenance Supervisor Khaled Bannoura shows off his work on our renovated courtyard fountain.

Truth be told, we've never been shy in promoting our courtyard as one of the most beautiful outdoor spaces in Jerusalem. Not to be content with resting on our laurels, we've undertaken some major renovation projects since the start of spring.

The installation of our New Jerusalem icon has been complimented with a stone pavilion, benches and a landscaped green space. Nearby, a set of canopy swings has proven to be a most welcome addition by staff and residents alike. Last but not least, our courtyard fountain is running after many years of disuse, adding a unique atmosphere to the entire area.

We still have quite the to-do list, but our frequent visitors have noted the change with great enthusiasm. You can also follow our work via photos on our [Facebook](#) page.



## An Excursion to the Rose-Red City of Petra

A participant on our Easter 2013 program, Paul Bametzreider, writes of his journey with Sister Joseph Mazur and Fr. John Kelly (shown in photograph) to the archaeological city of Petra in the Kingdom of Jordan.

On Saturday, April 5, 2013, the Tantur Easter program participants had returned from traveling in the Galilee region of Israel. Galilee had been a very peaceful and informative period touring the various sites which comprised the Galilean ministry of Christ and the early Apostles. Fr. John Kelly, Sr. Joseph Elzbieta Maria Mazur and I had decided to spend the next day visiting the ancient city of Petra in the Kingdom of Jordan. Fr. Kelly had contacted a local agency which arranged the trip.

In order to spend the day at Petra it was necessary for us to awake at 3:30 in the morning in order to be ready for a 4:00 a.m. departure. After a rather hurried breakfast, our driver greeted us at the front gate of Tantur. In the early morning darkness, we drove through Jerusalem and out towards Jericho and down past the Dead Sea to the town of Eilat where we crossed the border from Israel into the Kingdom of Jordan. When we arrived at Eilat dawn was just beginning to break over the city of Aqaba and the Jordan desert which was to the east. We crossed the border from Israel into the Kingdom of Jordan which was relatively easy and uncomplicated. We were met by our affable and knowledgeable Jordanian guide and his driver who led us through the Jordanian Desert on the King's Highway to the ancient city of Petra. The King's Highway itself is surrounded by desert which consists of large barren hills as far as one can see. Our guide referred to this area as "Lawrence of Arabia territory", and from what I remember of the film, it looked like the terrain in "Lawrence of Arabia".

We arrived at Petra at about 11:00 in the morning and found an ancient city consisting of rock-cut architecture cut into the basin of mountains which are the eastern flank of the Wadi-Araba which is a large valley running from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba. Some also believe that Petra lies at the base of Mount Hor where the Hebrew Scriptures record the death of Moses' brother, Aaron.

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## An Excursion to Petra (Continued from Page 3)

Petra was the ancient capital of the Nabateans and also lies in the area identified in the scriptures as Edom. In order to access Petra, we descended a long valley ultimately emerging in a basin surrounded by red stone on all sides. Into the red stone were carved various monuments and structures of majestic quality. The primary structure we visited was identified to us by our guide as the "Treasury" which was an amazing and massive structure carved into the side of the mountain consisting of pillars and ornate carvings which one can only wonder at the craftsmanship which was required to create such an edifice.

We spent approximately 3-4 hours wandering through the various structures of Petra in the hot desert sun, and then ultimately made the climb out of the valley back to our transportation. We stopped at a Jordanian restaurant on the way out which served excellent Middle-Eastern cuisine. We were informed that the Jordanians "like their spice". I could certainly attest to this after enjoying the lunch. Then it was back to the King's Highway into Aqaba where we crossed back over into Israel and back up through the desert to Jerusalem arriving at Tantur at 9:00 p.m.; seventeen hours after leaving in the early morning darkness, we returned to Tantur in the evening darkness. We were certainly a little tired and footsore, but nevertheless, enjoyed a fulfilling excursion to the ancient city of Petra.

*Editor's note: Petra excursions are currently not on any Tantur continuing education programs. Our Guest Services office can offer suggestions to our program participants for independently organizing such a trip.*

## Father and Son Time (Continued from Page 2)

We had some wonderful shared experiences with our June group, both spiritual and social. One of our favourite times was enjoying a social drink (after hours of course) and reflecting on the day's events and what tomorrow may bring.

Even in the last few days of the program we continued to choose to be together at lectures, on field trips, at prayer meetings and meal times, a sure sign that our relationship was as strong as ever!

Life is about relationships. No doubt Jesus would have had many wonderful family occasions. Certainly the time we spent at various religious sites provided us the opportunity to grow a little closer to our God and each other at the same time and has proved to be a real blessing.

*Chris Lamb is an educational professional in Perth, Australia, and participated (with his father) in our June 2013 One-Month Continuing Educational Program.*

## Staff Shot



### Keith Begg A Fond Farewell for Tantur's Resident Irishman

It is more than fitting that the first edition of our new format for the newsletter includes a send-off note for Keith Begg, Tantur's Marketing Director for the better part of the last three years. Since his arrival to Tantur in 2010, Keith, a native of Ireland, has been an integral part of our community, assisting in everything from media and marketing, to programs and guest services, even being known to assist in the kitchen at a moment's call. This last June, Keith said his farewells to us all. Keith has since moved to Sweden and begun an internship with a non-profit human right organization. Keith's outgoing personality, helpful demeanor and colorful flair is already missed.

*Slán go fóill Keith!*



## Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, Founding Father of Tantur, Celebrates 70 Years in the Priesthood

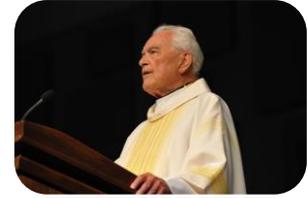
This past June, a celebration at the rotunda of the United States Capitol marked the seventieth anniversary of the priesthood of the Rev. Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C.; 15<sup>th</sup> President of Notre Dame, civic leader, and notable figure in the story of the Tantur Institute.

Entrusted by Pope Paul VI to make the vision of Tantur a reality following his 1964 visit with Greek Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras in Jerusalem, Father Hesburgh made it possible for Tantur to open its doors in 1972. Indeed, much of what we know Tantur as today is a result of Fr. Hesburgh's resourcefulness and

ingenuity. Fr. Hesburgh was also the orchestrator of the Tantur International Advisory Board, which still functions in much the same manner as he initially envisioned and created it.

[In an online article posted by the University of Notre Dame](#), Fr. Hesburgh calculates that he has celebrated more than 25,000 masses since his ordination. From all of us at Tantur, we wish Fr. Hesburgh as many more as his heart desires!

For more information about the fascinating life of Fr. Hesburgh to date, visit [hesburgh.nd.edu](http://hesburgh.nd.edu).

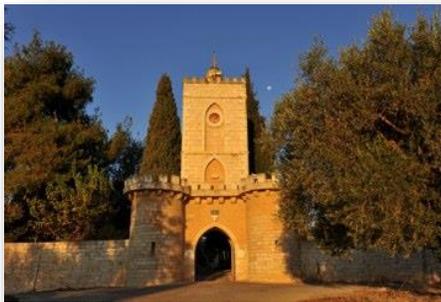


Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, with 70 years of the priesthood at 96 years of age, has celebrated more than 25,000 masses, and continues to do so daily.

*Tantur is an institute for ecumenical and theological studies, situated on a beautiful hill in Jerusalem close to Bethlehem. It serves as a welcoming place in The Holy Land for visitors who come from all over the world seeking an oasis of learning, community, and hospitality.*

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*You can also follow us on Facebook and become a "friend" of Tantur:*

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