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FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

The Flight into Egypt is a biblical event described in the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 23-2:13) in which Joseph fled with his wife Mary and their son, Jesus, because they learned King Herod intended to kill all infants in the area of Bethlehem. This émigré Holy Family of Nazareth fleeing into Egypt is the archetype of every refugee family.

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is celebrated on the first Sunday after Christmas by Catholics and Copts. The YWCA of Palestine invites you to use this Sunday or time of year to remember how this Holy Family connects us to all families and refugees.

Palestinians compose one of the largest refugee populations in the world. The displacement of Palestinians from their homes by Israeli forces began in 1948 and continues to the present. Of the 11.6 million Palestinians dispersed

throughout the world, 4.5 million live under a military occupation.

In addition, the Holy Family is said to have stopped in Bir Onah, Beit Jala, on their flight out. Mary is said to have drunk from this ancient well. This holy site is now the site of daily prayer and weekly demonstrations because of the Annexation Wall's route to connect surrounding illegal settlements. The Annexation Wall has already uprooted many ancient olive trees and will separate mostly Christian farmers from their land, thus destroying their ability to cultivate their lands and feed their families.

The YWCA of Palestine invites you to remember your sacred roots to this holy refugee family and to work for the rights and dignity for all families especially refugees and the Right of Return for Palestinian refugees.