



*Greeting
from the
Evangelical
Sisterhood of Mary*

2023

HAPPY
Hanukkah



***"Remember, O Lord,
how your servants are mocked,
and how I bear in my heart the insults of all the many nations,
with which your enemies mock, O Lord,
with which they mock the footsteps of your anointed."***

Psalm 89:50-51 ESV

Our dear Jewish brothers and sisters,

This Hanukkah our hearts go out to you especially. In what should be a season of rejoicing is marked by tragedy, the greatest since the Shoah. Who can forget that Simchat Torah, the last day of your last celebration, became, without warning, a day of mourning and unspeakable horrors? Today, the faces of loved ones missing at the family table are ever present as you anxiously wait for the return of hostages. Death is never far away, not that it ever was in Erez Israel. Most of you will have family members serving in the IDF. If the crimes of October 7 were not enough, now you are exposed to the insults of many nations (Psalm 89). Yet in all the suffering the Almighty is sovereignly working out His promises. Your very lighting of the Hanukkah candles is an act of faith as you express trust in the God of your fathers, who has preserved the Jewish people to this day. Even in the horrors of the Warsaw Ghetto your song of faith in Messiah could not be silenced: I believe in the coming of Messiah and though he tarry still I await him every day. In the 1950s David Ben Gurion observed, "Ezekiel 37 [the regathering of the Jewish people] has been fulfilled, and the nation Israel is hearing the footsteps of Messiah." The phrase "the footsteps of Messiah" takes on a new significance in the light of recent events. To quote the Mishnah: "In the footsteps of the Messiah audacity (among mankind) is great ... The God-fearing are despised, and truth can be found nowhere ... Whom can we rely on?—Upon our Father in heaven."

*With you we observe this feast of lights amid the darkness and look to the God of Israel,
who calls Himself Israel's Father (Jeremiah 31:9).*

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary