

**November 27, 2023**

Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed a restful and joyous Thanksgiving holiday.

It offers some consolation to see the most recent developments in the terrible conflict between the people of Israel and Gaza, though we must be cautious in assuming too much at this point. Still, the release of some of the hostages and the continuing cessation of violence are branches to hold onto for the moment.

Some of you attended the Nov. 13th lecture/discussion led by Dr. Bernard Sabella and co-hosted by the Churches for Middle East Peace Catholic Advisory Council and our own Office of Community Relations, Theology and Religious Studies Department, Political Science Department, Ellacuría Initiative and Peace and Justice Studies.

Dr. Sabella, a Palestinian Catholic sociologist and retired professor from Bethlehem University, streamed in from Jerusalem and was graciously present to us from midnight-2am his time. He focused on the responsibility of thinking