

November 8, 2017

Professor Salim Daccache s.j. is the 26<sup>th</sup> Rector of the Saint Joseph University since August 1, 2012 after having been Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies since September 2008 and Director of the Institute of Oriental Arts since September 2010.

He previously served as Rector of the *College Notre-Dame de Jamhour* Jesuit Lebanon (4000 students) for 18 years and he serves as the editor in chief of the cultural magazine al-Arab centenary *al Machriq*.

Salim holds a PHD in Philosophy on **Muslim kalam** in the tenth century at the University Panthéon-Sorbonne I, Paris and another PhD in Education Sciences on **school pluralism in Lebanon** at the University of Strasbourg-France, a BA degree in philosophy at Université Saint- Joseph of Beirut and a Master of Theology and Philosophy from Centre Sèvres - Jesuits Faculty of Theology and Philosophy in France.

Salim is an accomplished scholar, and the author and translator of several books and publications, in addition to hundreds of articles written either in Arabic or French or Italian or English in the fields of education, Syriac spirituality, moral and political philosophy of churches life in the Middle East, the Islamic studies, the meeting of cultures, interreligious dialogue.

Currently, in addition to his current role as Rector, Salim serves as President of *GLADIC (Lebanese Group for friendship and Christian Islamic dialogue)*, a group that is highly active in secondary schools in Lebanon. He is a member of the Executive Board of the International Federation of Universities and The Vice President of the Board of Directors of AUF and Vice-Chairman of the Board of AUF (2017).

Most importantly, Salim Daccache is a committed mentor, an accomplished and reflective educator and scholar who leads one of Lebanon's two oldest and finest educational institutions during this challenging time of national destiny, leading by example based on principles of ethical engagement, of genuine self reflection and of societal reconciliation. In a period when the entire Arab World is in tremendous upheaval, when Lebanon's future is fragile, Salim has stepped forward as an educational leader of national significance, one committed to the well-being of future generations in a transparent, collegial and ethical manner. For me personally and for AUB, he serves as a vital partner in the process of evaluating, harnessing and improving Lebanon's educational programs in order that the talented, conscientious and diverse youth of these coming generations can at least consider the opportunity to live their future lives as responsible citizens of a nation with an assured and real future. His presence as a role model and as a

partner in these challenging times is what makes Rector Salim Daccache our brother in the efforts to ethically empower tomorrow's youth, and a most distinguished recipient of this year's Anis Makdisi Lectureship. Lebanon will flourish in these circumstances only as AUB and USJ go, and as far as our deepened links grow and endure. In Père Salim Daccache, we have the man that AUB has long looked for to help bring USJ, AUB and Lebanon forward into better days.