

Short biography of Bishop Mar Shlemun Odish Warduni

Born on July 23, 1943 in the village of Batnaya, State Of Mousel from a religious family. His father's name Odish Iskharia Warduni and his mother's name Najma Georges Hana. Completed elementary school at his village and high school at Simon Peter Patriarchal Seminary in Mousel 1954-1959. Afterwards, he was sent to Rome, Italy, 1961 for his exceptional performance. There, he completed his philosophy and theology studies in 1968 and continued his studies from 1969 to 1971 to get a doctorate degree in philosophy with specialty in education from the Anton University. At the same time he earned a masters degree in the History of the Eastern Church from the Oriental Institute in Rome and a diploma in meriamology, religious education, social science and modern atheism. He returned home and worked for 7 years to be called by his Beatitude Mar Paulus the second Shaikho to head the Priestly Institute in Dora. 60 priests graduated from the institute during his tenure. He ran that institute for 19 years (1978-1997) during which he taught many philosophy subjects: Logic, sociology, education, natural theology, existence science and theology subjects: church theology, one God, Christology, Sacraments and the family, Aramaic and Syriac languages. He taught at Babylon College for Philosophy and Theology since its establishment from 1990 to 2007, as he was one of its founders. He worked at the Second Court of Appeals 1992 – 1998, Head of the Unified Court of First Instance 1998-2001, and Head of the Church Appeal Court. He was a member of the pontifical Council for the interreligious Dialogue 1981-1997.

In 1997 he became the Shepard of Virgin Mary Church in Palestine Street. He was voted as a **Bishop assistant to the Chaldean Patriarch** on February 16, 2001 and as a General Guide to the Love and Joy Group after the death of his Beatitude Bishop Paulus Faraj Raho. He was voted the Head of the Love Sodality (Caritas) and secretary General of the Christian Groups in Baghdad then Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops Council.

On the intellectual side, he translated some religious books and contributed articles to several magazines as the Alfikr Almasihi, Najim Almashrik, Zanbaka, and Rabbanootha. He was awarded the “Peace Love and Freedom” prize from Saint Bona association in Pizza- Italy on June 30, 2005. He won the Peace Prize of 2010 of Lombardia District – North of Italy awarded to him by Mr. Roberto Formiconi the District Governor. In 2014 was awarded the Interreligious Dialogue award.

He worked to build and complete more than **20 projects** that serve the Christians in Iraq such as: Priests house in the Village of Batnaya, Halls for the Youth, The

Church of the Two Apostles at the Mechanic Neighborhood of Dora – Baghdad, residential complex at Mar Oraha Seminary (Batnaya), Senior Citizens home in Baghdad, Students and Youth complex with meeting halls and a Bishop House with priest's suites at Virgin Mary Church – Palestine Street, and 5 Kinder Gardens buildings at five churches.

Bishop Mar Shlemon Wardouny