



# ANNALES

ORDINIS EQUESTRIIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

2015



The Order's support for refugees from the Middle East



Bartolo Longo, an example for all members of the Order

**“Our Lady, Daughter and Queen of the Holy Land, pray for us”**

VATICAN CITY  
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The icon presented here of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, Patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, can be venerated in one of the rooms of Palazzo della Rovere, the Grand Magisterium's headquarters in Rome. It was hand-painted by the nuns of the monastery of Bet Gemal in Israel. The picture of this icon is available, upon request, from the Communications Office of the Grand Magisterium (comunicazione@oessh.va), especially in order to spread the image with the prayer that is on the back.

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# “Education is the most powerful weapon”

Our publication *Annales* 2015 lays out in four long chapters certain events from the previous year which are important to each of us. Among its diverse characteristics, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre is above all a pontifical institution, and it is upon this identity that we base our engagement to closely follow all which concerns the life of the universal Church. This is why this edition of our publication revisits essential events like the Synod on the Family; the Order which constitutes of more than 28,000 members in the world, has lay members as the grand majority, who for the most part are married and are parents.

On the following pages, we also remember the Jubilee of Mercy, opened on December 8, 2015, for which a very precious spiritual book was put together by the Communications Service of the Grand Magisterium, in order to help us allow the presence of Christ grow in us during this jubilee year.

Another important chapter in *Annales* 2015 concerns more specifically the life of the Grand Magisterium. In these pages is presented the summary of themes addressed by the members of the Grand Magisterium and by the Lieutenants during their meetings. A good part of their news is already widely known thanks to our *Newsletter* which is published each trimester. Some people may ask why come back to the same messages twice. Here is the reply: one of the objectives of our annual publication is to gather into just one document all the important information, thus forming a precious historical source to consult, to share and to archive for the interest of future members of our Order which never ceases to develop, especially in Asia.

The third chapter of the review is entirely devoted to news of the Holy Land, where there are projects which are financially supported by the Order, by demand of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. We prioritise our actions to support this Latin diocese which extends from Jordan to Cyprus, even whilst the Holy See asks us to broaden our work in favour of all the inhabitants of biblical territories, in line with the Congregation for Eastern Churches. The mission confided to us by the Pope is to work in service of the “culture of encounter”, particularly through works in education which enable young people of diverse beliefs to grow together in learning to respect their differences and so discerning a richness therein.

“Education is the most powerful weapon”, willingly admits the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Grand Prior of the Order. In this pastoral framework, universal fraternity is our principal objective, in faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, the final chapter of *Annales* 2015 allows us to see the extraordinary vitality of the Order across five continents, by giving voice to the Lieutenancies, that is to say to the groups of Knights and Dames present in some forty countries. The testimonies that we publish show an even more intense participation of our members in the life of the local Church and in union with the bishops, of which a large number are part of the Order.

Dear readers, I wish that you may find in *Annales* 2015 things to give thanks and to intercede for, may the communication we offer you become a path to communion and an inspiration for our relationship with God in prayer, the only force capable of transforming darkness into light.



*Education projects enable young people of different faiths to grow together, learning to respect differences and to discover the richness in this.*

**Ivan Rebernik**

*Chancellor of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*

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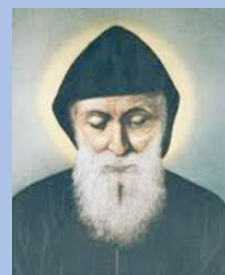
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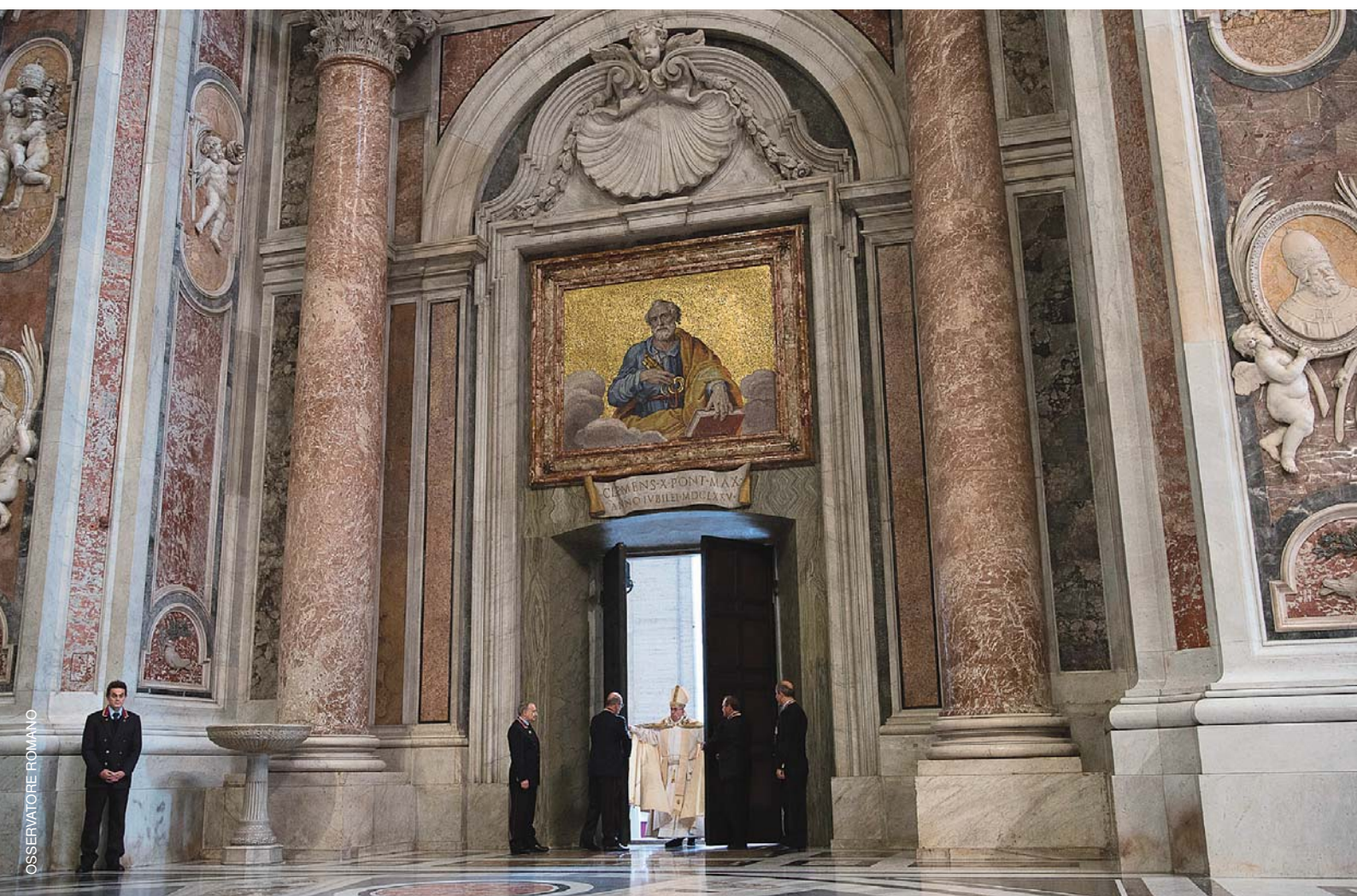


THE ORDER IN UNION WITH THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

# JUBILEE OF MERCY

*A New Future Offered to Mankind*

Traditionally, every 25 years the Pope proclaims a holy year. The next one was scheduled for 2025... However, during the “24 Hours for the Lord” penitential celebration on Friday March 13, 2015, the Pope surprised us all: on the occasion of the second anniversary of his papacy, he announced an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Opened on December 8, this event will go until November 20, 2016, the Feast of Christ the King.





## Pope Francis' Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy

*Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,  
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.  
Show us your face and we will be saved.  
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;  
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;  
made Peter weep after his betrayal,  
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.  
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:  
"If you knew the gift of God!"*

*You are the visible face of the invisible Father,  
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:  
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.  
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel  
compassion for those in ignorance and error:  
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.*

*Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,  
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,  
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,  
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,  
and restore sight to the blind.*

*We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy;  
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.  
Amen.*

**T**he Jubilee celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, as the Year of Faith (2012-2013) marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening. From Pope Benedict XVI to Pope Francis, the Catholic Church speaks with one voice to proclaim the Gospel in a new language, as initiated by the Council Fathers and prompted by the Holy Spirit a half century ago.

The address by Pope Paul VI, during the last general meeting of the Second Vatican Council on December 7, 1965, giving the Good Samaritan as the model for the renewal of the Church, is an important

*After passing through the Holy Door, the Holy Father was followed by his predecessor. This common experience is a sign of their deep unity at the service of a Church that is "open to the world", 50 years after the close of the Council pope emeritus à Pope Emeritus participated in as a young theologian.*

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reference for understanding the meaning of what we experience during the Holy Year. “Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful” (*Luke* 6:36): each of us needs to personally obey Christ’s call and live accordingly, together as a missionary people proclaiming God’s love and tenderness. In this perspective, the Pope hopes that this Jubilee is also occurring in local Churches, in a

decentralized manner, and that initiatives are complementary. Therefore, each diocese has had the opportunity of opening a Door of Mercy, particularly in Marian Shrines.

Regarding the Roman Calendar (see [www.im.va](http://www.im.va)), in addition to the major events planned such as the one for volunteers actively involved in the works of mercy on September 4 or for detainees on November 6, the Pope plans to symbolically visit the “existential peripheries”, hoping that bishops and priests will do the same throughout this Holy Year, to witness the spiritual conversion through gestures of forgiveness, support, help and love. This will also be an invitation to Judaism and Islam to

**“ We all have the opportunity to give up the certainty of feeling ‘just’ and constantly judging others, to abandon the pride that pushes us to always be right, to love and forgive generously ”**

continue discussions on the common basis of mercy.

Citing a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness (*Exodus* 34:6), the Hebrew Bible uses the word “rahamin”, which evokes the maternal womb, the place from which life comes. The Hebrew word “hesed” is also used in the scriptures to express other aspects of merciful love, faithfulness,

kindness, goodness and solidarity.

**“Making space for the Lord so that he can come and change me”**

The love of God is inexplicable, “it is something that no theologian can explain. One can only feel and cry with joy,” said the Holy Father during a morning Mass, emphasizing the Gospel of the day, which described the healing of the royal official’s son. This man believed that Jesus had the power to heal his son and set out to find God. Faith means “creating a space for love” that is the power of God, Pope Francis added brightly: “it’s

**“The Church is called to reach people wherever they are, in order to bring the joy of the Gospel to them...”**

**D**ecember 8 marked the 1,000<sup>th</sup> day of Pope Francis’ papacy. Saint Peter’s Square was cordoned off by police, yet the faithful, who arrived at dawn, were able to be present in large numbers at the opening of the extraordinary Holy Year on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The beauty of the celebration opened our hearts to the promise of renewed life.

The weather, cloudy at first, cleared up as usual when the Pope appeared, as he would soon open the “Holy Door of Mercy”. “We carry out this act, so simple yet so highly symbolic, in the light of the word of God which we have just heard. That word highlights the primacy of grace,” he explained during his homily, commenting on the visit made to Mary by the angel Gabriel at the Annunciation.

“When Gabriel entered her home, even the most profound and impenetrable of mysteries became for her a cause for joy, faith and abandonment to the message revealed to her. The fullness of grace can transform the human heart and enable it to do something so great as to change the course of human history,” Peter’s successor emphasized, encouraging us to reaffirm our confidence in God’s love “which precedes, anticipates and saves.”

“Yet the history of sin can only be understood in the light of God’s love and forgiveness. Sin can only be understood in this light. Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures. But the promised triumph of Christ’s love enfolds everything in the Father’s mercy”.

The Immaculate Virgin stands before us as a



the power of the one who loves me, who is in love with me and who wants to rejoice with me.” “This is faith,” he concluded, “making space for the Lord so that he can come and change me”. We will first experience this in the sacrament of reconciliation, in the heart of all our tears, on the occasion of the Holy Year of Mercy, to then become humble and joyful witnesses.

During the great persecution of the Christ’s Church in many countries from Pakistan to Nigeria through Libya, Syria and Iraq, Saint Peter’s successor will feed his sheep in many tribulations. May this Jubilee “bring comfort to every man and woman of our time,” as Pope Francis wants, recalling that “God forgives all, and God forgives

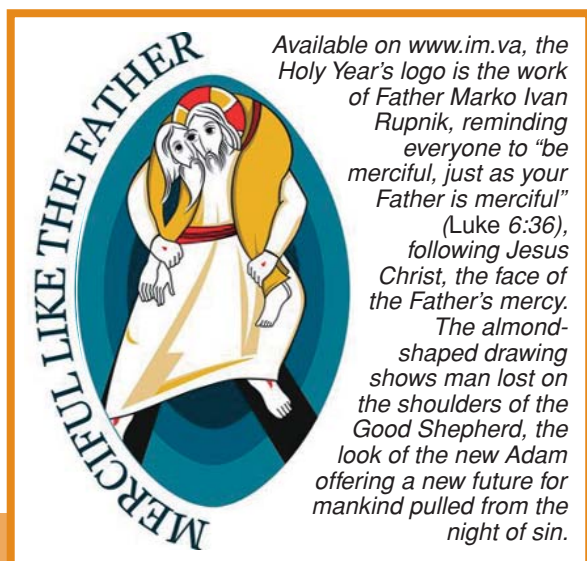
always.” (homily of March 13, 2015).

Let us henceforth entrust this Year to the Mother of Mercy, “that she turn her gaze upon us

and watch over our journey: our penitential journey, our year-long journey with an open heart, to receive the indulgence of God, to receive the mercy of God.” More broadly, we all have the opportunity to give up the certainty of feeling “just” and constantly judging others, to abandon the pride that pushes us to always be right, to love and forgive generously. As Pope Francis said in the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus* (no. 20), based on Psalm 50: “God’s justice is his mercy”.

Emmanuel Nayeve

OSSERVATORE ROMANO



“privileged witness of this promise and its fulfillment”.

Pope Francis urged us to pass through the Holy Door knowing that we ourselves are part of this mystery of love. “Let us set aside all fear and dread, for these do not befit men and women who are loved. Instead, let us experience the joy of encountering that grace which transforms all things”, he continued.

The Ave Maria of Lourdes set the tempo of the mass, in an atmosphere of intense prayer. Francis’ predecessor, Benedict XVI, followed him through the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica, showing their deep unity in service to a Church “open to the world”, 50 years after the closing of the Second Vatican Council, in which Pope Emeritus took part as a young theologian.

“A genuine encounter between the Church and the men and women of our time. An encounter marked by the power of the Spirit, who impelled the Church to emerge from the shoals which for years had kept her self-enclosed so as to set out once again, with

enthusiasm, on her missionary journey. It was

the resumption of a journey of encountering people where they live: in their cities and homes, in their workplaces. Wherever there are people, the Church is called to reach out to them and to bring the joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis explained, talking about a “missionary drive”, and that the Jubilee causes this openness “in the spirit which emerged from Vatican II, the spirit of the Samaritan”.

“May our passing through the Holy Door today commit us to making our own the mercy of the Good Samaritan,” he concluded, eager to lead the whole People of God in an evangelical renewal movement, expressed in concrete gestures of solidarity.

Borrowing the words that the Pope used during the Angelus, let us pray and ask every day of the Holy Year that “through the intercession of Immaculate Mary, may mercy take possession of our hearts and transform our whole life.”

F.V.

# LIVING THE JUBILEE OF MERCY IN THE HOLY LAND

Our readers will soon be able to download a spiritual aid that will be available on our website ([info.oessh.va](http://info.oessh.va)). It was made possible by the Communication Services of the Order in Rome, in coordination with Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, biblical scholar and Master of Ceremonies of the Order, and is intended to accompany the Jubilee journey in the Holy Land, mainly in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. This booklet may also help to nourish prayer there, where everyone is connected in communion with our brothers and sisters who live in the lands of the Bible. For those who have the opportunity of visiting the Holy Land, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has opened various “Holy Doors”, which we describe to you below.

On Sunday, December 13, in the Basilica of the Agony at Gethsemane, Msgr. Fouad Twal, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, opened the Holy Year of Mercy in Jerusalem. Two other Holy Doors allow pilgrims to live the Jubilee: one that was opened in Bethlehem on December 24, at the Latin Church of St. Catherine – beside the basilica which was built on the site where Jesus was born – and the other in Nazareth on December 27, the Feast of the Holy Family, at the Basilica of the Annunciation. Other Jubilee Doors are also open in the Holy Land, dedicated more closely to the local communities. In particular, with regard to Catholics belonging to the Latin Rite, Msgr. Twal opened the Holy Door in Gaza on December 20 at the Church of the Holy Family, while in Amman, Jordan, the Holy Door was opened on December 12 at the Church of St. John the Baptist de la Salle.





# DISCERNING GOD'S WORK IN EACH FAMILY REALITY

*The Synod on the Family reveals a loving Church*

After three weeks of intense work in October 2015, the Synod on the Family ended with a solemn mass in St. Peter's Basilica. "Dear Synod Fathers, we have walked together [...] in the search for the paths which the Gospel indicates for our times so that we can proclaim the mystery of family love," Pope Francis said to the members of the Synod who came to share their life experiences with him. "Let us follow the path that the Lord desires. Let us ask him to turn to us with his healing and saving gaze, which knows how to radiate light, as it recalls the splendour which illuminates it," the Pope invited, encouraging everyone, including clergymen, to "never allow ourselves to be tarnished by pessimism or sin," but rather "seek and look upon the glory of God, which shines forth in men and women who are fully alive."

**"M**ake Jesus' words our own and, above all, imitate his heart," were the instructions given by the Pope to the participants of the Synod when returning to their dioceses around the world. He cautioned them against a "spirituality of illusion" and the risk of "becoming habitually unmoved by grace." "A faith that does not know how to root itself in the life of people remains arid and, rather than oases, creates other deserts," Pope Francis said and, while broadening the missionary dynamic initiated by the Synod, added that "the journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from his Church", meaning that He will "walk with us" and that it has always been His "dream" to "unite us as one people", "a family of families" where there is a place for everyone, including one for "the blind and the lame, the women with child and those in labour," according to the prophet Jeremiah (31:8).

## **The doctrine is nothing other than the living tradition of the Church**

The Synod fathers, bishops and cardinals, who closely approached the reality of current family situations – for example in public seminars with audience members and fraternal delegates – voted on a large consolidated pastoral text which will

serve as a basis for a papal exhortation. They show that "the true defenders of doctrine are not those who uphold its letter, but its spirit; not ideas but people; not formulae but the gratuitousness of God's love and forgiveness", as Pope Francis said in concluding the work of this historic meeting where the Holy Spirit was undoubtedly present.

The prayers of more than one billion Catholics in the world have certainly affected the combined result presented to the people, especially given that all those who were baptised were consulted for the first time in history, before the first Synod on the Family in 2014. A synergy developed through this long process, and the commission responsible for drafting the final document worked in view of a path that opens, showing that the doctrine is nothing other than the living tradition of the Church.

In summary, the Synod reaffirms the doctrine on marriage between a man and a woman who accept the gift of children born from their love and is also a sign to all those who have experienced marital failure so that they always feel as though they are full members of God's people. The attention brought to concrete aspects of family life indeed characterizes the proposals made by the Synod to the Pope, who will have the final say. It, therefore, has no general solution, for

example in regard to allowing those who are divorced and remarried to receive Holy Communion, but an invitation to “figure out how God works in the lives of families”, as explained by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, spiritual son of both John Paul II and Benedict XVI, who favoured a constructive dialogue between different points of view. In his apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (no.84), St. John Paul II had already emphasized 34 years ago the obligation of clergymen to discern different situations through love of the truth, and the Synod lays out criteria to achieve this, in perfect continuity with the teaching of the Church that preceded. The role of the priest, who accompanies couples, is thus highlighted in this discernment, in the light of consciousness – in the “internal forum” – in connection with the bishop of the diocese where the couples live. Far from abstract reasoning, this helps people to look over their own story, identify their responsibilities in order to enter a process of deep reconciliation where communion with Christ becomes possible again. “Taking a severe stance favours laxism,”

Cardinal Schönborn confided, believing that “discernment is the best way to prevent laxism.” On this basis, “conservatives” and “reformers” have come to an agreement, untying the knot of discord around the question of those who are divorced and remarried.

### **“He is a God who goes out to look for all of us”**

“We experienced a historic moment of grace” Father Antonio Spadaro, Jesuit director of *Civiltà Cattolica* tweeted, just before the press conference Saturday evening, October 24 where the votes of the meeting were made public: 94 articles had just been approved with two-thirds majority, including no. 85 about opening up Communion to the divorced and remarried which almost met the quorum requirement by a single vote (178 votes against 80). Together, the Synod fathers saw that if there had been serious sin at one point, the new situation can objectively contain elements of virtue and generosity to consider, as St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Clement of

## **“Membership in the Order: a blessing for the family”**

*Testimony of Helene Lund, Magistral Delegate of Norway*

**H**elene Lund, wife and mother of a family, has been the Magistral Delegate for Norway since 2013. During her visit to Rome for the meeting of the European Lieutenants she granted us an interview, in which she spoke of her decision to join the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the role that the laity and families have within it. We publish this interview in light of the Synod on the Family held in October 2015.

**Can you describe how you felt called to enter and become part of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and the way in which this path is helping you to respond to your call to holiness?**

I have always been very devoted to the Holy Land. I was lucky enough to go to Jerusalem and the Holy Land, and encountering the local Church in some way changed my life. I was born Lutheran, I studied theology and I later became Catholic in 1999. Throughout the process, I carried my story and my relationship with the Holy Land with me. This is why, when I came to learn about the Order and was asked

to consider becoming a part of it, I was deeply moved by the fact that there was an Order within the Catholic Church with the mission of protecting Christians in the Holy Land.

I was welcomed within the Order in 2008. Since I was the only candidate from Norway, the Investiture, presided over by Cardinal Foley, took place at Notre Dame de Paris. That same year the Magistral Delegation in Norway was created, and I became part of it as a chancellor. When the then Magistral Delegate retired, I was asked to take his place and I





Alexandria and St. Maximus the Confessor taught, in opposition to the radical position of St. Augustine who saw only vice among the “pagans”. Also, how can we forget that the biblical character of Job, loved by God beyond all his trials, was considered a pagan?

Therefore, the message of the Synod is finally that of a loving Church, a Church of mercy – who cares for those who are in misery – showing that “the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would ‘indoctrinate’ it in dead stones to be hurled at others,” according to the strong words of the Pope in his closing speech in which he reminds us that “the Church’s first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim the mercy of God”, of the God of Jesus Christ who “desires everyone to be saved” (1 Tim 2:4).

“Truth is like a mountain: we must not lower it, but help everyone to climb. Collaboration and proximity bring out all the good things of the Christian way of life,” Cardinal Eduardo Menichelli, Archbishop of Ancona, clearly explained coming out of the Synod.

## As times change, the Church gets closer to real life

New pastoral approaches will, therefore, be implemented to accommodate, return, embrace, forgive and include those who moved away from God because of a rigid stance suspected or encountered in the Church. So it is therefore the universal Church who is now revitalized by the Synod Assembly whose pastoral propositions open a new path for the families of “the Holy People of God spread throughout the world,” in the words of the Holy Father. “Accompany, discern, integrate” are the three keywords that will be communicated in parishes and communities throughout the Holy Year of Mercy, a new stage in the great work of evangelisation implemented under the leadership of the Jesuit Pope. He encourages us to widely live out the “Exercises” of his spiritual master, St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, based on the discernment of different situations. In the complex world in which we live, while times are changing, the Church grows closer to real life and the fragility of

try to do my best in filling this role.

**The Order is an entity composed mostly of lay people. What do you believe is the added value that having a family and working in society brings to the service of the Order for the Holy Land and within the Church?**

The majority of the faithful in the Church are the laity, and we are called to witness to our Faith and to be part of the Church’s mission. For this reason, working with other laity, and being part of an order that is composed mostly of lay people, sustained with the help of priests, is a blessing, and it encourages people to understand their daily lives within the light of the work of the Church. I believe this is what Pope Pius IX encouraged when he decided to re-establish the Order. What distinguishes this Order from others is its double foundation: on the one hand the spirituality shared with the Universal Church, and on the other a mission to economically assist the Church in the Holy Land. Responding to this call, we do not ask others to give money, but we contribute with our own money. There is something Jesus said that has always struck me: “It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 19:24). I believe that these words are especially relevant for us Norwegians, since Norway is a rich

country where many people possess more than they need for their daily needs.

**How do you live out this call within your family?**

I am married and have two children, and our family is somewhat special. My husband was ordained a Catholic priest last May in a beautiful ceremony which was attended by the Grand Master Cardinal O’Brien and a few Lieutenants. Having been ordained in the past within the Lutheran Church, the canonical code provides, in some cases, the possibility of becoming a Catholic priest of the Latin rite while being married.

As a family we are all very attached to the Holy Land. My husband was also present on the journey to the Holy Land that I mentioned at the beginning of the interview. Our children are used to living the life of the Church up-close. For them it is natural to live both in a family and within a wider community. We are also planning to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with them next fall. I think that when you recruit new members, it is important to invite them to reflect on their family ties. Belonging to the Order must be something that unites, and it is important to have the support of your spouse so that it can become a blessing to the family.

**Interview by Elena Dini**

families in crisis, avoiding locking up human realities and viewing the world as “black and white”.

The Synod was a meeting open to the work of the Holy Spirit to truly offer everyone the opportunity to discover that our God is not “a petty God” or “a closed-minded God”, but rather, as the Pope says, “a God who goes out to look for

all of us.”

This means that we must now, as stated by the Holy Father, “continue to walk together, to carry in every part of the world, in every diocese, in every community and in every situation, the light of the Gospel, the compassion of the Church and the support of God’s mercy!.”

F.V.

## THE REAL EXPERIENCE OF A “CHURCH FAMILY”



*Testimony of Maria  
Angelica and Luis  
Haydn Rojas  
Martinez, a married  
couple from Columbia  
who participated in  
the Synod of October  
2015, in the presence  
of Pope Francis, in  
Rome*

“We have readily agreed to tell the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, for the *Annales*, our experience of brotherhood at the Synod with bishops, the Pope, lay people and families. It was wonderful from start to finish.

The Pope began by explaining the meaning of the Synod, which literally means walking together as a Church, in which everyone should speak with “parrhesia”, i.e. with boldness and freedom and also listen with humility. We can then receive the Holy Spirit for discernment and realize what God wants.

A dynamic of communion was then gradually initiated among the bishops. When one spoke, the other listened. On several occasions, also during the small working groups called “minor circles”,

we replaced one idea with a better one or we came to an agreement on a plan. This dynamic has been very rewarding for us, families and lay people; it provided an opportunity to share our experiences and thus allow this “walk” together, to better understand how much the family is an ideal place to live the Gospel, where many propositions may arise.

We attended and exchanged many small and true acts of love, for example, when Luis used his cell phone to film a bishop greeting the Pope. After telling him, we sent him the recording by e-mail, something he was very happy about.

They were real acts of love, small but beautiful. For example, someone coughed and we brought him or her some honey. We all paid attention and took care of each other, like in a family. Even where





we were staying, we were able to create a very close relationship with five or six Synod fathers. We all had breakfast together and that is how we decided to organize a musical evening with songs from each country to create a moment of joyful communion. Each family presented a dance or a song. Even the bishops sang or told a joke and had fun with us. It really was a wonderful moment as a family. Someone said: "This is a very beautiful aspect of the Synod," everyone felt at home, which was also very important.

For example, when it was announced in the audience hall that it was someone's birthday in the audience hall, everyone sang "Happy Birthday". We received many congratulations on the day of our wedding anniversary... In fact, a family mentioned it at the beginning of the meeting and

the Cardinal announced it to everyone in his greeting, which triggered a great applause. Everyone kindly participated in this loving family atmosphere. Then, the Pope had lunch with us, listened to what we had to say and let us take several pictures with him. This was a beautiful testimony of what the inverted pyramid means for the Holy Father, the symbol of a church where the ministers are the servants. Then, he went on to say that each of us must be of service to others and that power is that of the cross, in service to others.

I think this experience involved walking together and understanding that God wants a society full of life living in brotherhood. It is true that we are on the right path, but if everyone does their part, we can truly live as a family. This has been our experience of brotherhood." ■

# CHRISTIANS OF THE MIDDLE EAST IN POPE FRANCIS' HEART AND PRAYERS

**D**uring the Way of the Cross at the Coliseum, and throughout the Paschal celebrations of 2015, the Holy Father launched a heartfelt appeal for persecuted Christians, these “martyrs of our time, more than in the first centuries”, crucified and killed before our eyes in a “complicit silence”.

He spoke widely for “the defense and protection of our brothers and our sisters persecuted, exiled, killed, beheaded for the mere fact of being Christians”, calling on the international community “not to look away”, “not to stand by, mute, inert, at such an unacceptable crime, which constitutes a worrying drift away from the most basic human rights”.

Faced with the violence against religious minorities in the Middle East, Catholics, Orthodox and Protestants live a true “ecumenism of blood”. During his Lenten message, Pope Francis made the

invitation to resist the “globalization of indifference” – which particularly affects those faithful of Christ discriminated against in the land of their ancestors – and proposed a concrete initiative of “24 hours for the Lord”, on March 13 and 14, to show the necessity of prayer in order

that “we do not get caught up in this spiral of distress and powerlessness” as we are flooded with news reports and troubling images of human suffering. “We can pray in communion with the Church on earth and in heaven. Let us not

underestimate the power of so many voices united in prayer!” he insisted, in speaking of this initiative which was largely observed by the dioceses, in particular with the assistance of members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre who also help by acts of charity.

Thanks no doubt to the permanent attention

“ *That which they did to Jesus, they have done with the Body that is the Church throughout history* ”

## The gaze of two people committed to the refugee situation

### ROSETTE HECHAIME

Rosette Hechaime is the Regional Coordinator of Caritas MONA (Middle East and North Africa). In an interview that we released in October – which is available in its entirety on the partner website Vatican Insider – she recounts the situation of refugees and displaced persons in the Middle East.

**“T**he conflict in the Middle East does not seem to be near its end and the situation of instability that all countries of the region find themselves in renders the situation of refugees all the more complex and difficult in this part of the world. When they made the decision to leave their respective countries these people perhaps did not foresee an extensive exile. They

were ever hopeful of a quick end to war or at least that “well disposed” countries might in a spirit of welcome open their doors. We can expect the war in Palestine to continue another fifty years, and today there is the conflict in Syria, not to mention those countries caught up in the famous “Arab Spring” that do not seem to have as of yet found a way out.”

[...]“One needs to enter a church in the welcoming country, to see the blind faith of a people proud to have been born in a region within the very heart of Christianity in order to understand how hard it is for Christians to decide to leave: to leave this bosom is what costs them the most. And yet all the others have felt disoriented by the confusion: they are sometimes taken ‘without discrimination’ to be terrorists and seen as such.”



the Holy Father pays to our persecuted brethren living in the vast area of the biblical territories, more specifically in Iraq and Syria, the UN Security Council decided to hold a meeting on the defense of Middle Eastern Christians threatened with extinction, chaired by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs. In an interview with Vatican Radio, the Director of Aid to the Church in Need in France had “some reservations about these attractive statements” by shedding an interesting light on the situation: “Unfortunately, we have to acknowledge that, for the moment, there is a kind of unanimous consensus to continue to support and fund all jihadist mercenaries in eastern Syria with the primary aim of overthrowing Bashar al-Assad”. Regardless of this cynical geopolitical opportunism, the Pope does not cease to draw worldwide attention to the plight of these innocent people, victims of a real religious cleansing.

During the summer, Pope Francis wrote an important message to the numerous refugees who, since 2014, have been fleeing from the terror orchestrated by the self-styled Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and pouring into the Holy Land, especially to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. On the occasion of the Secretary-General of the Italian Bishops

## PRAYER OF SAINT EPHREM THE SYRIAN

*“Lord our God,  
You chose the East to send Your only  
Son and fulfil the plan of salvation.  
It is a young woman of the East, the  
Virgin Mary, you chose to carry and give  
birth to Your only Son.  
It is in the East that He grew up,  
worked, and chose His apostles and disciples.  
It is in the East where He conveyed  
Your will and Your teachings, where He  
performed miracles and wonders.  
It is in the East where He gave Himself up.  
It is in the East where He accepted  
suffering and death, and rose again.  
It is from the East that He ascended into  
heaven to sit at Your right hand.  
We ask You to give the necessary  
strength to Your children in the East so  
that they may be fortified in the faith and  
hope of Your holy apostles.  
Amen.”*

Saint Ephrem the Syrian



*The Icon of Our Lady Woman of Valour,  
protecting migrants in Israel.*

## FATHER DAVID NEUHAUS

Many foreigners come to the State of Israel from various parts of the world. Among them are around 70,000 migrant workers and asylum seekers who are Catholic, mostly of Asian and African origin, who are not citizens but residents. On the occasion of the first Mass for the feast of Our Lady Woman of Valour at the centre for migrants named after her in Tel Aviv, Father David Neuhaus, Patriarchal Vicar for Hebrew-speaking Catholics in Israel and Coordinator of the Pastoral Care of Migrants recounts:

“Our Lady Woman of Valour is a representation of Our Lady as protector of the migrants in Israel. This is the name of our new Pastoral Centre, opened in February 2014, and largely funded by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The icon written for the centre says it all: Our Lady gathers all the migrants under her cloak. Many of these migrants are strong women who have been forced to abandon their homes and families in order to support them financially.”



*Pope Francis has denounced, before the members of the Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches, "those for whom the life of thousands and thousands of families – women, men, children, elderly – seems to weigh less on the scales of interests than oil and arms..."*

Conference's visit to Jordan, he offered the Pope's letter, as a "word of hope", to Msgr. Maroun Lahham, the Patriarchal Vicar for Jordan. The letter constituted an appeal to the international community, asking that they do not remain silent and passive with regards to the fate of persecuted religious minorities.

A few weeks before, on the occasion of the annual audience granted to members of the ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches), which the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is a part of, Pope Francis vigorously denounced "those who appear as tacitly complicit, those for whom the life of thousands and thousands of families – women, men, children, elderly – seems to weigh less on the scales of interests than oil and arms", condemning the hypocrisy of those with power "who speak of peace and justice" while, at the same time, "permit the traffickers in death to operate in that land."

"Many Christians today continue to be persecuted in the complicit silence of many with

power," he said during his morning homily in the chapel of Casa Santa Marta, emphasizing that this is persecution and that "this story began with Jesus; that which they did to Jesus, they have done with the Body that is the Church throughout history."

What is needed now is trying to see Christ's face in each migrant who is welcomed into Europe; He who promised to remain with us until the end of the world. We can relieve his suffering by meditating and putting into practice the words spoken by Pope Francis to Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, after he returned from a visit to Christians in the Nineveh Plain, refugees in Kurdistan: "In those eyes that asked you for help and pleaded for peace, there was Jesus looking at you, asking of you that charity that makes us Christian."

**See Page 52 for our article on the situation in the Holy Land.**



# BLESSED BARTOLO LONGO IS A MODEL FOR ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

*Interview with Msgr. Tommaso Caputo, Archbishop and Pontifical Delegate of Pompeii, Prior of the Section “Napoli – Blessed Virgin of the Rosary” of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*

**C**ould one say that Bartolo Longo represents for Pompeii what Bernadette is for Lourdes; that is to say, the true witness who, in a certain way, makes real the divine message of love given to pilgrims at the Marian Sanctuary?

Bartolo Longo was described by Pope John Paul II as “the man of the Virgin Mary”. In the homily of his beatification on October 26, 1980, the Holy Father also said of him that “by his love for Mary he became a writer, apostle of the Gospel, propagator of the Rosary, founder of the famous Sanctuary despite enormous difficulties and hardship; by his love for Mary, he created charitable institutions, he became a beggar for children of the poor, he transformed Pompeii into a living citadel of human and Christian goodness; by his love for Mary, he endured tribulations and slander in silence, passing through a long Gethsemane, always trusting in Providence, ever obedient to the Pope and the Church.” His human and spiritual journey is in itself a message of love. Through him, his story and his work, the Lord wants to show us how great His mercy is and how powerful conversion can be. Every day here in Pompeii, pilgrims experience the love of the Virgin Mary, as did Bartolo Longo. Today too, she continues to say to all of us, “If you seek salvation, propagate the Rosary.” To see the Sanctuary and all of its charitable works, built from scratch with “a penny a month”, enables us to touch on the veracity of the message of love that God, through the Virgin Mary, has given Bartolo Longo, not only for himself, but for all of us.

**Could you explain why the message of Bartolo**

**Longo is more relevant today than ever?**

Bartolo Longo was a man who always had a long-term vision; his intuitions have always been rightly described as “prophetic”. He took care of the children of prisoners when nobody else wanted to get involved. He built houses for the workers well before *Rerum Novarum*, the social encyclical of Pope Leo XIII. His fundamental message, uniting faith and charity, is very relevant today. From the first years in Pompeii, where he arrived in 1872, he realized that, besides the Sanctuary of stone that Our Lady had requested, he also had to

build a sanctuary of charity: that of the crown of social works which, even today, makes Pompeii a unique place in the panorama of sanctuaries around the world. He argued, indeed, that “charity without faith would be an absolute lie; faith without charity would be an absolute inconsistency”. He, who had personally experienced the mercy of God, wanted everyone to feel loved, and to this end he sheltered the poorest, the marginalized, and the excluded. His works, the structures and operating

methods of which have changed, 130 years later still continue to be an oasis of hope for children at risk, unwed mothers, adolescents in crisis, the poor, elderly people, former addicts, people with disabilities, migrants, etc.

**Bartolo Longo is the only lay member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to be beatified. In your opinion what message could he give to the 28,000 members of the Order throughout the world? Could he become their Patron, and in what way?**

Bartolo Longo, who received the title of Knight





*Pope Francis in Pompeii, in silent prayer before the body of Blessed Bartolo Longo, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, servant of the poor, and Apostle of the Rosary.*

Grand Cross of the Order on May 30, 1925, was a shining example of a lay person engaged in the evangelical witness of faith and charity, just as members of the Order are today called to witness to their faith, the practice of an exemplary Christian life, with an ongoing charitable commitment to support Christian communities in the Holy Land. We have no absolute information on a specific commitment on his part in favor of the Holy Land, but we can say with certainty that he prayed and invited others to pray for the Holy Land as he considered that the Sanctuary of Pompeii was inextricably linked to Jerusalem.

Knights and Dames of the Order will certainly find, in the person of Blessed Bartolo Longo, a prime example of Christian life which will inspire them, and endeavouring to imitate him in his virtues and his commitment to faith and charity, they can progress on their own spiritual path.

As for patronage, we would obviously be delighted. The rule provides that it is the Holy See that grants it after examining a well-reasoned request by the competent authority.

**For you personally, what is the profound grace of Pompeii? What did Pope Francis say to you, on this subject, during his recent pilgrimage?**

The grace that I felt when I started my ministry in Pompeii, and I continue to experience every day, is that of living every day under the gaze of Mary. I feel that I love her more and more each day, and I see growing in me the desire to take Mary like the apostle John, who “took her to his own home” (Jn 19:27), so that I can bring her into everything that makes up my inner life, that is to say, into my human and Christian “I”, as Saint John Paul II taught us in the Encyclical *Redemptoris Mater* (RM, 45). Every Christian should introduce Mary into his house, to live with Mary, come to Christ

with Mary and for Mary, because she, in the words of Saint Augustine (Sermon 291), is the spiritual mother, the mother who nourishes Christians with salvation that comes from her breast.

And every day I have proof that the Sanctuary of Pompeii is the House of Mary; the place where she, Mother of Mercy, gives her children her love and forgiveness in abundance. The faithful who come here often tell us they actually feel the presence of Mary. A visit to our Sanctuary is like a stopover that refreshes the soul, recharges the mind and gives new strength to face the day.

On March 21, Pope Francis wanted to start his visit to Naples in Pompeii, precisely to entrust himself and all of us to Mary. The intensity of his gaze of love on all the faithful present, especially the sick, children, elderly and disabled, as well as the depth of his devotion during the silent prayer before the icon of the Virgin of the Rosary, gave us the measure of his spirituality. After placing on the altar, as a gift to the Virgin Mary, a precious crown of the Rosary, the Pope also wanted to pay homage to the remains of our founder the Blessed lawyer Bartolo Longo, by praying in the chapel dedicated to him. He then went into the confessional area, “the heart of the sanctuary,” and he told me, twice, to recommend to the confessors to be merciful when administering the sacrament of reconciliation and have a big heart like God who forgives all of us. I wish the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to personally experience the great love of God, and I invite everyone to be a pilgrim, even individually, in the sanctuary founded by the only lay member of the Order to become Blessed to date. May the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii, he so loved, bless and protect you always.

**Interview by François Vayne**



# FOR A “SPIRITUALITY OF THE RESURRECTION”

*Let us continue to contemplate the Holy Shroud*

**T**he Shroud draws our attention to the tormented face and body of Jesus and, at the same time, directs our attention toward the face of every suffering and unjustly persecuted person. It takes us on the same path as the gift of love of Jesus,” Pope Francis told us on June 21, 2015, after pausing in silent prayer before this icon of “the greatest love” (Jn 15:13), exposed in the Cathedral of Turin. During the celebration of Mass on the same day in Vittorio Square, he stressed “the faithful love” of the merciful Father, who “makes everything new”, and of Whom Jesus is the “face”. Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, Honorary Assessor of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, participated in this pilgrimage of the Holy Father, accompanied by Pier Carlo Visconti, Advisor of the Grand Magisterium, three days before the closure of the extraordinary exposition of the Holy Shroud.

The Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre went to Turin from April 25 to 26, just after the inauguration of the exposition, to pray

before the Holy Shroud for the intentions of the inhabitants of the Holy Land in communion with all the members of the Order around the world. At the inauguration of the extraordinary exposition on April 19, the Order was invited to participate in a program on “RAI Internazionale”, broadcast on Sundays on the five continents: Msgr Antonio Franco, Assessor, was interviewed by Sister Myriam Castelli about the “Resurrection spirituality”, whilst Father David Neuhaus, Patriarchal Vicar for the Hebrew-speaking Catholic community in Israel, intervened live from the Holy Land. Moreover, the Communication Service of the Grand Magisterium of the Order worked in partnership with the Edizioni Terra Santa during the exposition of the Shroud. The free application of an e-book for Smartphones and Ipad, downloaded on Google Play (“Il mistero della Sindone”), enabled pilgrims who went to Turin to become aware of the spiritual mission of the Order. ■



OSSERVATORE ROMANO

## “THE ICON OF LOVE”

The Holy Shroud shows us the face of all the persecuted people: this is essentially what Pope Francis said after praying in silence before the Holy Shroud in Turin on June 21. According to the Holy Father in a speech during the prayer of the Angelus, after the celebration of Mass in Piazza Vittorio in the capital of the Piedmont region, this mysterious shroud is the “icon of love” of Christ. The printed image of the body of a tormented man, tortured and crucified, directs us to “the face of every suffering and unjustly persecuted person,” and questions the conscience of each one of us regarding our own personal complicity with evil in today’s world.

# “THE HOLY LAND IS FRUITFUL AND BEARS FRUITS OF HOLINESS!”

## *The message of the two new Palestinian Saints*

**S**t. Peter's Square was filled with many languages and colors on Sunday May 17, including the colors of the Palestinian flag. The joy of the crowd, and in particular of around 3,000 pilgrims who came directly from the Holy Land, was tangible. Four saints were canonized, two of whom were Mariam Baouardy and Marie Alphonsine Danil Ghattas, daughters of the Holy Land and the first two modern Palestinian saints. Respectively founders of the Carmel of Bethlehem and of the Congregation of the Rosary Sisters, the two saints lived their call to holiness from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Mariam Baouardy died while she was very young in 1878) until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Marie Alphonsine Danil Ghattas died in 1927). Also present in the square was President Mahmoud Abbas, who had met with Pope Francis the previous day. During their meeting, as reported by an official statement, “great satisfaction was expressed regarding the agreement reached with regard to the text for a

comprehensive Agreement between the Parties, about certain essential aspects of the life and activities of the Catholic Church in Palestine.”

During his homily, Pope Francis recalled Mariam Baouardy's “docility to the Holy Spirit”, which “made her a means of encounter and fellowship with the Muslim world”. He went on to highlight how Marie Alphonsine Danil Ghattas “understood clearly what it means to radiate the love of God in the apostolate, and to be a witness to meekness and unity. She shows us the importance of becoming responsible for one another, of living lives of service one to another.”

What does it mean today, therefore, to be children of the Holy Land, and what spiritual fruits can this happy event bring forth to Palestinian Christians and the whole Christian community? His Beatitude Fouad Twal, the Latin Patriarch of

*Many sons and daughters of the Palestinian land were present in Rome to honor two of their compatriots who were canonized by the Pope on May 17, 2015.*





*Members of the Order, from different countries, participated with fervor and enthusiasm at the canonization of the first two Palestinians Saints.*



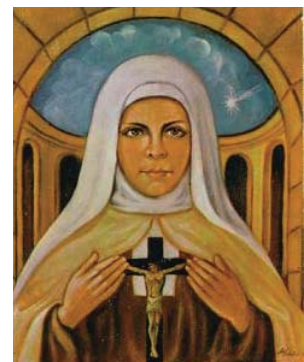
Jerusalem, sees this event as a spiritually significant moment for his land: “In the midst of all our difficulties, Mariam and Marie Alphonsine are a light on our path, an invitation not to be discouraged and to keep our eyes fixed on our goal and our shared vocation as Christians: holiness. If today the Holy Land, so torn by violence and divisions, sometimes seems disfigured, our two saints come to restore its sanctity. It is as if Mariam and Marie Alphonsine, by their example, were saying to us, ‘Yes, the Holy Land can be fruitful, and it can bear fruits of holiness’.” His Beatitude continued speaking about the message left by these new saints: “It is a message of hope and love, a

message of encouragement to holiness through humility and simplicity.”

The Patriarch’s words were echoed at the festive celebration held on Saturday, May 16, at the Basilica of St. Sabina in Rome, where a delegation from the Holy Land was gathered, along with many devotees of the new saints, including members of Order of the Holy Sepulchre from various countries. Archbishop Maroun Lahham, Patriarchal Vicar to Jordan of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, before entering the prayer vigil, said in all earnestness: “These two saints teach us that the last word is never suffering, it is never abandonment, it is not the cross but

**M**ARIAM BAOUARDY was born in Ibillin, Galilee, and since the moment of her birth her life was the result of hope and total entrustment. Mariam was in fact the thirteenth daughter to her mother Mariam and her father Georges, but sadly her twelve siblings each died after birth. Mariam and Georges decided to make a pilgrimage to Bethlehem, to place themselves under the maternal protection of Mary, to whom they asked for a daughter. That daughter was born to them on January 5, 1846. There are many deeply moving events in the life of the young Mariam Bawardi, many cities that she went through and apparent obstacles she faced, but there was a desire in her heart that always remained constant: the search for God.

The Virgin appeared to Mariam for the first time in 1859 and cured her of a serious throat injury, and in the following years several other encounters took place, ecstasies and finally the stigmata and transverberation of the heart. At the age of 19 she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Marseille, but when her request to take vows was rejected she then entered the Carmel of Pau in the Pyrenees with the name of Mary of Jesus Crucified. The “little nothing” of Jesus – as she liked to call herself – always invited herself and others to live the virtue of humility: “Holiness is not prayer, neither is it visions or revelations, nor the science of speaking well, nor the cilice, nor penance, but humility.” In Lourdes Mariam clearly felt the call to found a Carmel in Bethlehem and the authorization to achieve it came to her signed by Pope Pius IX. The Carmel was inaugurated on November 21, 1876. Less than two years later, Sister Mary of Jesus Crucified died at the age of 32.





*On July 3, 2015, many participated at the Mass of thanksgiving for the canonization of the two Palestinians saints at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.*

instead the glory, the resurrection and the light. Calvary is not the last word but the gateway to a better life.”

In the midst of the crowd were those who distributed flags and liturgy booklets. Among them was Ibrahim, who looks very young but is already a doctor living and working near Ramallah. He shared that he was “proud that there are two saints coming from Jesus’ land, and that this is a message for the whole world: our land is still alive.” When asked what the future had in store for him, he replied: “I’m studying German because I want to specialize in my work, but I want to continue to work for my people and to help them.”

The message of Mariam Baouardy and Marie Alphonsine Danil Ghattas is a message that is destined to resound forcefully both within the Church and beyond. Patriarch Twal concluded: “Their search for wisdom and their divine message represent a model of perfection for Christians as well as for Jews and Muslims. Both have Mary, Miriam, as their first name; and this name, common to our three traditions, is also a sign for our time, indicating that they can speak to all three without distinction.”

### **A gift which people do not cease to be thankful for**

Following May 17, many occasions of thanksgiving took place for the gift of these two witnesses of the faith. After the Mass that was celebrated the day after the canonization in Rome, at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, it was time for celebration in Jerusalem, Amman, Nazareth and Bethlehem. In Jerusalem, a solemn Mass of thanksgiving took place on June 6 at the Dominican Convent of Saint Stephen, where St. Marie Alphonsine Ghattas was accepted into the Dominican Third Order in 1890. On Friday, June 12, another joyful Mass was celebrated in Marj Al-hamam (Amman) with the Sisters of the Holy Rosary. Nazareth continued to celebrate the joyful event for the entire summer in one way or another. The canonization effectively sparked a number of initiatives, some of which included art by Christians of the Holy Land. A good initiative worth mentioning is that which took place on June 24 in the auditorium of the school of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Nazareth: a concert entitled “The Holy Land, nursery of Holiness”, which was held by the Marian Ecumenical Choir, bringing together 30



singers from all of the churches in Galilee. In the evening the group performed 14 songs inspired by the Psalms and the life of St. Mariam Bawardi and St. Maria Alfonsina. Relics of the two Saints were exposed on the stage of the theatre, which for that evening gathered more than 600 people. A few days later on July 3 in the Basilica of the Annunciation, a large crowd again gave thanks for the canonization of the two Saints. In addition to Patriarch Twal and the Apostolic Nuncio Lazzarotto, many Catholic bishops of the various rites were present, as well as the Anglican bishop, ambassadors, consuls, a wide representation of the Sisters of the Holy Rosary and of the Discalced Carmelites, faithful Christians and also Muslims friends. Among those present was also young Kafar Kanna, who on November 22, 2009, received the grace of the recognized miracle which allowed the canonization of Saint Marie Alphonsine to proceed. Another Mass of thanksgiving was held in Bethlehem on August 26.

The Community finally had the joy of celebrating the liturgical memorial of St. Mariam Baouardy for the first time on August 30. The Patriarchal Vicar for Israel, Msgr. Marcuzzo, presided at Mass at the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. On this occasion it was possible to buy the series of twelve stamps that the Israeli post produced in memory of the canonization.

E.D.

**M**ARIE ALPHONSINE DANIL GHATTAS was born in Jerusalem in 1843 to a pious family from whom she learned the beauty of prayer and, in particular, of the Rosary, which was prayed daily with relatives and neighbours at her home before a statue of the Virgin. Despite her father's disapproval, the young Sultaneh entered the order of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition when she was 17 years old, and received the name Marie Alphonsine. In the homily Patriarch Fouad Twal gave on the occasion of the Saint's beatification on November 22, 2009, he recalled two particular aspects of this woman's holiness: on the one hand her love of silence and the hidden life, and on the other her love for the cross and sacrificing. The Virgin Mary appeared to Marie Alphonsine for the first time in 1874. Since then, a series of visions confirmed for the young nun the inspiration to found the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Rosary. The path was not easy, but, as Patriarch Twal noted, "all divine plans need the cross and sacrifice to succeed and [...] Mother Marie Alphonsine carried her cross with love, in silence, without murmuring and without complaint." Under the guidance of her spiritual Father Joseph Tannus, Sister Marie Alphonsine was able to see the birth of the Order in 1880 and maintained total silence regarding her visions, which only Fr. Joseph knew about. Like Mary, who "treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart" (Luke 2:19), the Saint for whom we rejoice today lived in silence and humility. It was only after her death in 1927 that the other sisters learned of the story that led to the birth of their congregation.



## A bilateral comprehensive agreement

**A** year after Pope Francis' journey to the Holy Land, the Holy See announced on May 13, 2015, the recognition of the State of Palestine, a prelude to the signing of a "global agreement".

After being in production for fifteen years, the bilateral comprehensive agreement was officially signed on June 26, 2015. It concerns the activities of the Catholic Church and its legal recognition in the Palestinian territories and it reaffirms the hope of a solution to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians as part of a two-state solution envisaged by the UN since 1947 (the "two-state solution"). Msgr. Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, and Riad Al-Maliki, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Palestinian State, have signed this historic document, which consists of 32 articles divided into eight chapters. This agreement makes the Vatican the 136<sup>th</sup> State to recognize the State of Palestine, thus confirming the international support that was expressed in the UN General Assembly's resolution on November 29, 2012, that had made Palestine a non-member observer State.



OSSEVATORE ROMANO

## Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, received by the Pope, recalled “the common origin of Judaism and Christianity”

“The importance of interreligious dialogue and the responsibility religious leaders have to promote reconciliation and to build peace”, was emphasized on September 3 at the Vatican, on the occasion of Pope Francis’ first meeting with Israel’s President Reuven Rivlin, for which the Pope’s main collaborators were also present. The occasion allowed them to discuss the socio-political situation of the region that has been characterized by several conflicts, and “particular attention was given to the situation concerning Christians and other minorities.” They discussed problems with relations between Israel and the Holy See, the local relationship between State authorities and Catholic communities, “the desirable prospect of the conclusion of the bilateral agreement that is currently in negotiation,” particularly addressing the situation of Christian schools in Israel facing the drastic reduction of state subsidies.

The head of the State of Israel, who succeeded Shimon Peres in July 2014, wished to “remember the common origin of Judaism and Christianity,” and offered a stone tablet as a gift to the Holy Father, on which can be read the verse of a psalm. In return the Pope gifted him with a bronze medallion displaying two separate rocks joined together by an olive branch as a sign of peace, with the inscription: “Search for what unites. Overcome what divides.” A few days before his meeting with the Pope, President Rivlin wanted to offer reassurance to Christians in the Holy Land, and met with the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem in Tabgha, Galilee, in the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves, which had been damaged in an arson attack by Jewish extremists on June 18.



# INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE: THE WAY TO PEACE

## *Celebrating 50 years of the Declaration Nostra Aetate*

*"The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions", which "often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men" (NA 2)*

The span of 50 years in the biblical world immediately brings to mind the grace of the Jubilee Year. And so, as Pope Francis also recalled during his homily for the opening of the Jubilee of Mercy, the 50 years that have passed since the close of Vatican II are a time to celebrate. During the meeting that was held at the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome on December 2 for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Nostra Aetate*, the Conciliar Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions, Cardinal Kurt Koch, the president of the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity, recalled that "this commemoration has the character of a small jubilee and we have every reason to celebrate." He added that this declaration "is the shortest text of the Council, but has changed history."

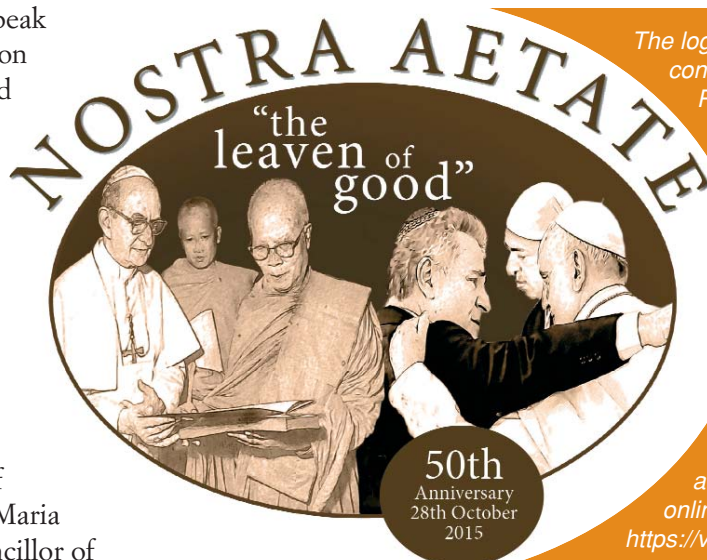
Tracing the history of this document, it is important to remember that initially the text was meant to speak exclusively on the relation between the Church and the Jews. In this regard, John XXIII's meeting with Jules Isaac, a French Jewish historian and survivor of the Holocaust, was providential. The two were able to meet thanks to the mediation of a tireless promoter of dialogue, the Venetian Maria Vingiani, the then Councillor of

Fine Arts in Venice. After that meeting, Pope John XXIII entrusted Cardinal Augustin Bea with the task of working to prepare a document that would address relations with the Jews. Only afterwards was the declaration extended to address other religious traditions. Cardinal Koch summarized this when he said: "the Church has a special relationship with Judaism that she does not have with other religions although she speaks about it in a larger declaration."

For this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary we wanted to publish a few of the responses to this historic document by Jewish and Muslim people in the Holy Land.

It is evident that re-reading *Nostra Aetate* today has a particular tone within the only context in the world where Christians live in a society in which the majority of people are Jewish and Muslim, unlike in the West where Jews and Muslims are a minority.

The Patriarchal Vicar Fr. David Neuhaus explains this well in an article he published on the website of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem: "Whereas for the formulators of *Nostra Aetate*, the



The logo used for the official conference, organized in Rome by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration *Nostra Aetate*. The video is entitled "The Leaven of Good" and was created by the Pontifical Council for this joyous anniversary. It is available online at this link: <https://vimeo.com/145252146>

watershed in Christian-Jewish relations was the Shoah, which provoked an awakening to the prevalence of a teaching of contempt for Jews in a part of Christian doctrine, from the perspective of many Holy Land Christians, the question of Palestine is at the center of relations with Jews and Muslims. Whereas dialogue from the European perspective often includes a focus on the struggle against anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism, the focus on justice and peace is an essential element of any prospective interreligious dialogue within the Holy Land context.”

### Christians and Muslims: a common call to action

*The Church regards with esteem also the Moslems. They adore the one God, living and subsisting in Himself; merciful and all-powerful, the Creator of heaven and earth, who has spoken to men; they take pains to submit wholeheartedly to even His inscrutable decrees, just as Abraham, with whom the faith of Islam takes pleasure in linking itself (NA3)*

In his article, Father Neuhaus also recounts

how in 2000, at the end of a five year-long Synod, the Catholic Church in the Holy Land published a pastoral plan, which also reflected on *Nostra Aetate*, making the Holy Land a concrete field in which to work and experience dialogue. As the Patriarchal Vicar noted: “It is interesting to note that whereas, in discussing the relationship with Muslims, *Nostra Aetate* begins with common religious principles, the *Synod document* mentions common religious principles in the last place, after stressing the other important levels of commonality: historical experience, social neighborliness, co-existence and civil identity. In very realistic terms [...], the Synod document describes the positive and negative aspects of contemporary Christian-Muslim co-existence, laying out a program for the development of this co-existence.”

Mustafa Abu Sway – holder of the Integral Chair for the Study of Imam Ghazali’s work at the Al-Masjid Al-Aqsa and Al-Quds University in Jerusalem, as well Professor of Philosophy and Islamic Studies at the same University – granted us an interview in 2015, in which he stresses the importance of acting together. The starting point for greater cooperation between Christians and

## “There’s no relation, no matter how bad, that can’t be transformed”

*“God holds the Jews most dear for the sake of their Fathers; He does not repent of the gifts He makes or of the calls He issues” (NA 4)*

*“Furthermore, in her rejection of every persecution against any man, the Church, mindful of the patrimony she shares with the Jews and moved not by political reasons but by the Gospel’s spiritual love, decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone” (NA 4)*



In this interview, Rabbi David Rosen – International Director of Interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee and, among other charges, a member of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel’s commission for interreligious relations and its representative on the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land – traces the history of relations between Jews and Catholics on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Conciliar Declaration *Nostra Aetate*.

**What do you think have been the most important changes and steps that have been taken in recent years in Jewish-Catholic dialogue?**

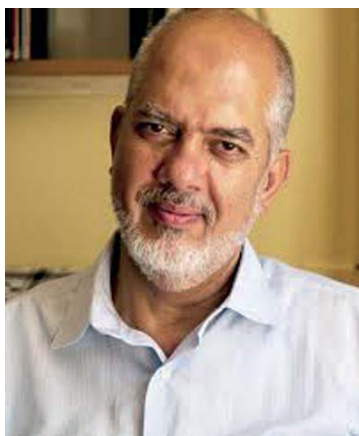
In terms of history, *Nostra Aetate* was issued just

yesterday and it is a revolution. We have gone from a situation of where we were seen as rejected by God, as cursed and condemned to wander forever, to a situation where the Jewish people is described by



Muslims, due to shared values, concerns the defense of the family, which is central to the two traditions. Abu Sway continues: "It is time to also accord the larger human family its proper place, and renew the call for wiping the debt of the third world. The south needs a break from the impact of decades and centuries of colonialism. Catholics (also other Christians) and Muslims, the two largest religion can and should address global issues including climate change, poverty, disease, famine, illiteracy, and of course the roots of political violence that plagues many parts of the world."

Returning to the publication of *Nostra Aetate*, Abu Sway recognizes that this document was a milestone in the relationship between the Catholic Church and other religions, and he asks if, in the future, when drafting similar documents, the Church will consult a Muslim scholar. Moreover, in the process of dialogue between the two communities, the



*Mustafa Abu-Sway, from Jerusalem, touches on several important aspects for dialogue between Christians and Muslims and leaves us with a prayer for peace for his country.*

professor from Jerusalem recalls the open letter entitled "A Common Word Between Us and You", which was addressed to Christian leaders on October 13, 2007. The author of the letter was Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, but there were many signatories of this text, which reads: "Muslims and Christians together make up over half of the world's population. Without peace and justice between these two religious communities, there can be no meaningful peace in the world. The future of the world depends on peace between Muslims and Christians."

Speaking of peace, Abu Sway comments on the comprehensive Agreement signed by the Holy See and the State of Palestine in 2014, affirming that, in this way, "the Vatican took a major step to advance peace in the Holy Land." It brings to mind the words of Pope Francis to the Israeli authorities on his trip to the

Popes, in the words of Saint John Paul II, as "the beloved elder brother of the Church, of the original covenant never broken and never to be broken". This is a theological revolution.

*Nostra Aetate* was to some extent facilitated by the fact that there were contexts in which Jews and Catholics already had personal friendships and that made it easier to internalize the theological change when it came. Then of course there was the impact of the Shoah that led to a serious reassessment on the part of Catholic Church about its relations with the Jewish people. I don't think that any other transformation in human history has been as dramatic as this and that must be properly appreciated. If such a relationship which was so chronic and negative can become so positive and constructive, there is no relation – no matter how bad – that cannot be transformed. This is important for Jews also in terms of relationship with the Muslim world today.

Another big aspect concerns Israel. The establishment of diplomatic relations at the end of 1993 was especially significant because it facilitated

the visit of Pope John Paul II in 2000. That event had an enormous impact because not many people read now as they used to, and certainly people do not normally read documents. Most Jews would not know Catholic documents but people watch TV and they saw the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, in tearful solidarity with Jewish suffering at the Yad Vashem, and at the Kotel, the Western Wall, putting there the text of the prayer he had composed for the liturgy of repentance in St. Peter's two weeks earlier, asking God's forgiveness for the sins committed against Jews through the ages. This was mind-blowing for many Israelis and made them realize that there was really a change, a different reality.

**If you think about what steps are still to be made, above all in Israel, in Jewish-Catholic relations, what is the first one that comes to your mind?**

The first thing that comes to my mind are the responsibilities of Israel, more so than responsibilities of the Holy See, because Israel has not yet fulfilled all the commitments she gave under the Fundamental Agreement concluded at the end of 1993 which established diplomatic relations. Things that have not

Holy Land: “The ‘two State solution’ becomes a reality and does not remain a dream.” The hope that the current state of things will soon come to an end is deep in the words of the Palestinian scholar. Referring to the prayer of June 2014 in the Vatican Gardens, the Professor draws a clear link between prayer and action on the field: “The Pope’s invitation in June 2014 to religious and political Palestinian and Israeli leaders to pray for peace in the Vatican Gardens was a nice gesture. Prayers are important but political leaders should express the measures that will create peace on the ground.”

At the end of the interview, Professor Abu Sway also shares a prayer for the Holy Land, as Rabbi Rosen had done, and for its inhabitants: “O Allah! You are Peace, and from You comes peace, Blessed are You, the Majestic the Generous. We pray to You to guide our world leaders to live up to what You have revealed to humanity, to do what is best for our universe, for life on earth, to help end political, economic and social injustices

## “ The future of the world depends on peace between Muslims and Christians ”

everywhere, to put an end to colonial realities, to bridge the gap between the north and the south, and to help the peoples of the Holy Land to recognize the relationship between truth, justice and peace, and to make the Holy Land truly the Land of Peace, and Jerusalem the city of peace. Amen!”.

### *Nostra Aetate?* A lesson for us Muslims

Mohammad Sammak is the Secretary-General of both the National Committee for Christian-Muslim Dialogue and the Islamic Spiritual Summit in Beirut, Lebanon. While passing through Rome in the winter of 2015, during a conference held by the National Federation of the Italian Press, he spoke of how Muslims can learn from *Nostra Aetate*. With clearly marked words he said: “We cannot learn if we do not realize that we need to learn, and we cannot realize this if we do not sense that we have made a mistake somewhere. We have to be extremely brave in order to recognize the

been concluded are the legal internal structure of the Church under Israeli law and the fiscal and taxation status. There is an outstanding debt especially to the memory of Pope John Paul II to whom Israel’s representatives promised we would resolve these matters within two years of the signing of the Fundamental Agreement.

From the Vatican side what needs to be addressed is the degree to which *Nostra Aetate* and the transformation in Catholic teaching is transmitted down to the grass roots. This depends naturally on the sociological context but if the Holy See was to decide to embark on a campaign in Latin American for example – especially now with a Latin American Pope – to ensure that teachings of the Magisterium on Jews and Judaism are a required part of seminary preparation and formation and of Catholic education, it could have an enormous effect.

#### **What is your comment on the Comprehensive Agreement that the Holy See signed in June with the State of Palestine?**

I understand, with regards to this Agreement the Holy See signed with the Palestinian Authority, that the Holy See referred to the State of Palestine

because many countries in the world already do so. The government of Israel is not happy with that, but this is a political issue, so they can agree to differ on the political terminology. The substance however is that this is a very important agreement for the Holy See with the Palestinian Authority because it confirms the religious freedom and rights of the Church in a society which has already proclaimed itself to be essentially run by Islamic law, as formulated in the establishment document of the Palestinian Authority. To agree to a document which affirms the integrity of the Christian communities and their rights of freedom of worship, education and communications is therefore a great achievement.

And in fact, Israel should applaud this document because not only does it protect the Christian communities but, in affirming the principles of religious pluralism, Israel should be able to hold the Palestinian Authority to task also with regards to defamation of Judaism which happens regularly in mosques and in Palestinian media. If it is agreed now that Christianity should be respected, we should ask that this happens with Judaism as well.

A little over a year ago, you were here in the





*The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nostra Aetate was also celebrated in Jerusalem, with the Jerusalem Expo 2015, an evening in which various groups were on stage offering artistic performances and testimonies of dialogue. The event was introduced by three presenters in three languages: Hebrew, Arabic and English.*



**Vatican Gardens praying with the Pope and other religious and political leaders for peace. To what extent can prayer play a role in this context?**

One aspect of the question concerns what the value of prayer is in itself while the other is the value of Pope Francis' initiative.. Obviously, as a believing religious person, I believe in the power of prayer, above all, to transform the person who is praying. The Hebrew word for prayer is a reflexive use of the verb "to judge", *hitpallel*, which means "to judge oneself". This word may even come from a root which relates not so much to judgment as it does to wonder. In both cases it is reflexive: it means affecting oneself, to critique yourself, to reflect on your values and actions, above all to reflect on God's Creation physical and spiritual and to be full of wonder of God's presence. It is first and foremost something that you do in yourself, but like any other aspect of life, if you do something powerfully, it can affect others around you and it certainly can be an inspiration to others.

In the Jewish tradition, by praying we testify to God's presence and love in human society by the way we relate to each other, because if each human being

is created in God's image – as both Judaism and Christianity teach – if we do not love our neighbor, we do not really love God. Therefore showing that we genuinely respect each other's diversity, and especially diverse religions, is a way of loving God and showing God that we love Him by bringing people together. From this point of view a prayer gathering is very important.

The idea of bringing Israelis and, not only Palestinians, but Arab Muslims and Christians together is one of the most important things that has to be done. If Jews, Christians and Muslims may be seen to live together in peace in the Holy Land, the global ramifications are enormous. Therefore I am delighted that Pope Francis focused specifically on this and that he invited Israeli leaders and religious representatives to come together. I hope that Pope Francis will not give up on this initiative, and that next time this will be done also with people who are currently in positions of political power or connected with the power structures and not those who are purely representative figures that have no impact on the political reality because, in that case, the initiative would have no political consequences.

need to learn from other experiences, especially when they come from outside our community.”

Hinting at tensions within the Muslim community and at the relationships between Muslims and non-Muslims that are not always easy, as well as at the sad spectre of violent extremism, Sammak calls for sincere self criticism and, looking at the history of *Nostra Aetate* and of Vatican II, he confesses: “I am very humbly seeking a Muslim Angelo Roncalli”.

There are many initiatives and voices that rise up in defense of pluralism and coexistence within the Muslim world, and of this Sammak is well

“ **Go forward with courage on your path of dialogue and fraternity, because we are all children of God!** ”

aware, but he says: “I do not know who would have the moral authority to bring together 2,450 wise scholars and keep them together until they reach a uniform interpretation of how to live the Islamic principles in the XXI century”.

At the conclusion of the year, during which we have celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this document which continues to speak not only to those who are within the Catholic Church but which also offers itself as food for thought and an invitation to dialogue to anyone who reads it, Pope Francis returns to the theme of dialogue. During the Angelus on December 13, he

offers words of encouragement to various members of the Focolare Movement and the Italian Islamic communities, promoters of the “Builders of Peace” initiative, saying: “Go forward! Go forward with courage on your path of dialogue and fraternity, because we are all children of God!”.

**E.D.**

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*An “interreligious” exchange of smiles took place at the audience on Wednesday, October 28, in St. Peter’s Square, in which Pope Francis addressed a special greeting to the participants of the conference in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the Declaration Nostra Aetate. Here we see him together with Rabbi Rosen and one of the Muslim representatives, Rasoul Rasoulipour from Iran.*

**Could you share with us a prayer for the Holy Land and its inhabitants?**

I would take it from Psalm 122. There are two verses in that Psalm which are very interesting. One verse is very famous: “Seek the peace of Jerusalem, those who shall love you shall prosper”, this verse seems rather counterintuitive because, if you look at the history of Jerusalem, those who have loved Jerusalem have not prospered. There has probably been no city of which there have been more tears

shed and more blood spilled than Jerusalem. So what does it mean?

There is a verse earlier on that explains it: “Jerusalem that is built up is as a city joint together.” The Rabbis of the Talmud said that a city joint together means a city that joins people together. This was taken of course from the ancient image of the pilgrimage of which the

Israelites of all different tribes would come up to Jerusalem as a symbol of unity in diversity.

The true message of the peace of Jerusalem is unity in diversity. Therefore when we will seek the peace of Jerusalem, unity between Jews, Christians and Muslims, or respect for each other’s attachment to Jerusalem, then we shall truly prosper. Prayer needs to be for the true peace of Jerusalem.

**Interview by Elena Dini**



## A HISTORIC LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS TO THE GRAND MASTER



OSSERVATORE ROMANO

**To Our Dear Brother Edwin Frederick  
Cardinal O'Brien  
Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore  
Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the  
Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem**

We are delighted now to turn Our attention to you, Our Venerable Brother, as you prepare to celebrate the golden jubilee of your ordination to the priesthood with a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving. Indeed, fifty years have passed since that memorable day – the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 1965 – when, having diligently completed your philosophical and theological studies at the archdiocesan seminary of Saint Joseph in Dunwoodie, you were ordained a priest.

The occasion of this happy jubilee offers us a welcomed opportunity to recall the various stages

of your pastoral journey, first in your native Archdiocese of New York, then among soldiers in Vietnam as well as within the United States of America. Later you studied in Rome at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas, earning a doctorate in moral theology. Returning to your archdiocese, you assiduously carried out your many pastoral duties while fulfilling the responsibilities of Vice-Chancellor. You then showed your many talents as archdiocesan Director of Communications and as private secretary to the Archbishop of New York. In the following years, you devoted yourself to the prudent and wise formation of priests, first as rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers and then as rector of the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Having recognized your skills and your priestly zeal, Saint John Paul II raised you to the rank of

Bishop and appointed you Auxiliary of New York on February 6th, 1996. From 1997 to 2007 you carried out the role of Ordinary of the Archdiocese for the Military Services of the United States of America, tirelessly preaching salvific truths to the enlisted men and women with due consideration to the needs of the present day. Then, in 2007, Our Venerable Predecessor Benedict XVI appointed you Metropolitan Archbishop of Baltimore, whose people you led in the way of truth and holiness for four years. You made great strides there in advancing the new evangelization, and you took particular care to promote vocations to the priesthood and to the revival of Catholic schools. Now, as you fulfill the duties of Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, which you began in 2011, ever faithful to your episcopal motto *Pastores dabо vobis*, you carefully attend to the spiritual life of this ancient and venerable association. On February 18th, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI elevated you to the rank of Cardinal, thus showing you his particular admiration, thanks, and trust in your outstanding abilities. Neither are We unaware of the energy and expertise you bring to several Roman dicasteries, especially the Congregation for Eastern Churches, the Congregation for Catholic Education and

Institutes of Study, the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and the Pontifical Council *Cor Unum*.

We also wish to acknowledge your zeal, your fidelity towards the Church's Magisterium and your eagerness in carrying out whatever duties you are entrusted with. In both your priestly and episcopal assignments, you have always placed primary importance on the spiritual wellbeing of those you serve, as well as of those with whom you serve.

In a spirit of fraternal charity, therefore, We are extremely happy to join you in giving thanks to God, the giver of all good gifts, and to commend you for your fruitful ministry.

We also extend our most sincere wishes to you, Our Venerable Brother, that the Good Shepherd, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may vigilantly watch over you with his care and protection. As you celebrate this special anniversary, We wish to impart to you Our Apostolic Blessing, which We also extend to all those who will join in celebrating with you. At the same time, We beg your prayers and theirs, so that We may assiduously carry out the Petrine mission entrusted to Us.

Vatican, May 5, 2015,  
*the third of Our Pontificate*

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# LETTER FROM THE GRAND MASTER ON WELCOMING REFUGEES IN EUROPE

*In Autumn 2015, Cardinal O'Brien wrote to the European Lieutenants*

**T**he picture of the Syrian child whose body was found washed up on the beach, which was widely circulated by the media, as well as the tragedy of 71 migrants from the Middle East who were suffocated to death in a refrigerated lorry in Austria, have caused a shock and awareness in European public opinion.

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, the Archbishop of Vienna and Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, has spoken in favor of welcoming our “human brothers and sisters” at all levels, while barriers are being erected to stop their way.

During the Angelus on September 6, the Sunday following these events, the Pope specifically asked that every parish, religious community, monastery and sanctuary in Europe, welcome one family of refugees. The drama of the Middle East now concerns European citizens very closely and, in the name of the mission of the Church, the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – alongside many other volunteers who exhibit exemplary generosity – commit themselves to confronting the humanitarian emergency, in response to the letter of the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, that we publish for remembrance and history. ■

Excellencies,

As the world knows, our Holy Father has launched an appeal to all Catholics in Europe to host refugees fleeing terrorism and war in their countries. As members of this Pontifical Order of the Holy Sepulchre, we have a special duty to be at the forefront in our parishes and communities to meet this challenge of solidarity, especially towards our brothers from the biblical territories. May I ask for your assistance?

I would hope that, in each European Lieutenancy, concrete initiatives would be undertaken to this end. In this severe crisis, sacrifices are called for in fulfilling the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Please prayerfully consult and determine within your Lieutenancy how you will respond. I would hope to hear the results of your deliberations and will share them throughout the Order.

The Feast of Our Lady of Palestine will be a perfect opportunity to show our mobilization publicly.

I count on your urgent attention on this matter, and assure each one of you of my daily prayers.

In Christ,

**Edwin Cardinal O'Brien**

*“As members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, we have a special duty to be at the forefront in our parishes and communities, to meet this challenge of solidarity, especially towards our brothers who come from the biblical territories. May I ask for your assistance?” the Grand Master wrote to Knights and Ladies in Europe, through the Lieutenants of different countries.*





# THE TWO MEETINGS OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM IN 2015

## THE SPRING MEETING

**Members of the Grand Magisterium of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre met in the presence of the Grand Master on April 21 and 22, 2015, thereby fulfilling their mission of coordinating the 63 Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations throughout the world.**

**D**uring this Spring session the questions of the spiritual life of the 30,000 members of the Order were addressed, and also the material needs associated with their support of the Catholic Institutions in the Holy Land.

Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, opened the meeting, welcoming the presence of the new Master of Ceremonies, Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, renowned biblical scholar, hoping to, with his help, develop a greater spirituality within the Order.. He affirmed his willingness to continue visiting

Lieutenancies, having already covered 26 countries. He had planned a dozen additional trips before the end of the year, in particular for Investiture Ceremonies. He said he would then be available to respond to further invitations addressed to him.

The Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, recalled that no Grand Master had ever travelled the world so much, meeting members of the Order on their home territory, trying to promote on-site links with leaders of the local Churches. This was again the case in October, during the first joint meeting of the Lieutenants of Asia and Oceania in Australia, which included the bishops who have the responsibility of Grand Priors in the Lieutenancies. In a quick review of recent months, the Governor General also welcomed the development of the Order in Latvia and the Czech Republic, as well as the positive results of the accounts of the Grand Magisterium. The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Fouad Twal, then spoke of the great event of the canonization in Rome on May 17, 2015, of two Palestinian Sisters, Mariam Baouardi and Marie-Alphonsine Ghattas, with the participation of a delegation of about 3,000 pilgrims from the Holy Land.

He stressed the urgency of not forgetting the plight of the people of this region, particularly the desperate living conditions of the survivors of the bombing of the summer of 2014 in Gaza, and especially the plight of refugees from Syria and Iraq in Jordan.

The debate continued for several hours, behind closed doors, on a delicate subject: the unexpected



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*During the spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium, the Patriarch Msgr. Fouad Twal shared the Church of Jerusalem's joy for the two religious Palestinians who, a few weeks later, would be declared saints. In this photo we see the relics of Mariam Baouardy and Marie-Alphonsine Ghattas exposed in St. Peter's Square on May 17, 2015, during the canonization Mass.*



debt that affects the University of Madaba, founded with the support of two Popes, Saint John Paul II and Benedict XVI, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Archbishop Antonio Franco, Assessor of the Order, analyzed the facts on behalf of the Commission set up a few months earlier by the Secretariat of State of the Holy See, to study the problem. He highlighted the good current academic management of the institution, explaining the debt by initial investments for which payment has not been honoured. A letter to Lieutenants was formulated during the meeting of the Grand Magisterium, to keep them informed of the decision taken by the Holy See to support the University with new guarantees, through a Vatican Foundation, specifying the lack of responsibility of the Order in this situation, but by appealing to the solidarity of its members in the interest of the universal Church.

#### **68 parishes and 44 schools for 90,000 faithful Catholics of the Latin Rite**

The meeting then resumed, following the original agenda. The General Administrator of the Patriarchate described several human issues in the Holy Land, including housing of families in Jerusalem, reception of migrants, teachers' salaries, and pastoral care of young people, many of whom wish they could go to Krakow in 2016 for World Youth Day.

With 68 parishes and 44 schools for 90,000 faithful Catholics of the Latin Rite (42,000 in

Jordan, 30,000 in Israel and 18,000 in Palestine), the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is facing many challenges – from Cyprus, through Israel and the Palestinian Territories, to Jordan. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre supports various projects each year to help with the situation, in addition to the monthly assistance paid to the Patriarchate for institutions such as schools, for example.

The President of the Holy Land Commission, Thomas MacKiernan, presented a report on those projects after a field visit in March. In 2014 the Order helped the Centre for Migrants in Tel Aviv, the school of Mafraq, the Zarqa parish, and the Na'our school. Among the new proposals in 2015, the Order will help fund a home for children in the Galilean parish of Jaffa, a multicultural area at the Centre of Our Lady of Peace in Jordan, and a home for refugees in a parish church of Amman.

The Grand Magisterium, which manages donations from all Lieutenancies, had a better record than the previous year, with 10,981,000 Euros in total, as explained by Engineer and Advisor Pier Carlo Visconti. Pierre Blanchard, for his part, described asset management and investments of the Order in the service of the institutions of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Finally the Chancellor Ivan Rebernik kept members of the Grand Magisterium abreast of the latest work involving communications of the Grand Magisterium, especially the creation of a new website, which is in progress, and the important work undertaken to better conserve the historic archives. ■

## **THE AUTUMN MEETING**

**On November 10 and 11, members of the Grand Magisterium gathered in Rome together with the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, and in the presence of the Grand Prior, His Beatitude Msgr. Fouad Twal, Patriarch of Jerusalem. They prayed together and entrusted the inhabitants of the Holy Land to Our Lady of Palestine, whose icon is found in one of the rooms in the Palazzo della Rovere (Palace of the Rovere, Rome) where every morning Mass was celebrated before all seated proceedings.**

**O**n the first day Cardinal O'Brien spoke of his latest visits to the Lieutenancies in various countries such as Denmark, Slovenia, France, the

United Kingdom and Australia. He furthermore announced his intention to travel, in the future, to Guam, the Philippines and Taiwan. The Grand

Master insisted on the necessity of continuing the allocation of funds for individuals fleeing from the Middle East who are pouring into parts of the territory of the Latin Patriarchate in Jordan. He also reiterated the importance of the initiatives undertaken by Lieutenants in marking the participation of the Order in the Jubilee of Mercy in dioceses, encouraging local pilgrimages according to the instructions indicated in the Bull of Indiction of the Holy Year, *Misericordiae Vultus*.

The Governor Agostino Borromeo then gave a few words, extending a special greeting to Mary O'Brien, an American and presently the only female member of the Grand Magisterium. Agostino Borromeo likewise made mention of the first meeting in Australia of the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates of Asia and Oceania, emphasizing the capacity for expansion of the Order that for some years now has not ceased to grow. He also informed the Grand Magisterium of a decision of the Italian Corte di Cassazione (Court of Appeals) that would soon allow the renovation of the management of the hotel, which thus far is entrusted to the Columbus society, to the benefit of the activity that aids the Holy Land.

### **The Priority of the Support of People: “Living Rocks”**

For his part Patriarch Twal made a point of the situation of countries where he has pastoral responsibilities (Palestine, Jordan, Cyprus and Israel) and his displeasure over some of the

episodes that have damaged the will to dialogue – such as the construction of the separation wall in the Cremisan Valley – and yet his joy in the educational and social action of the Patriarchate, something made possible through the support of the Order, to confront a “crisis that seems to have no end.” Currently, the Middle Eastern migrants number at 20,042,000. Those who arrive in Jordan benefit from the educational standards for their children, often in the Catholic schools of the Patriarchate, where Christians and Muslims live out a “meeting of cultures” on a daily basis.

Speaking of these nearly fifty Christian schools in the Holy Land, the General Administrator for the Patriarchate, Father Imad Twal, presented the 2015 budget and forecasts for 2016, carefully noting that up to this point the Israeli government, which seeks to assume all schools into the national system, no longer guarantees regular subsidies, but only what is extraordinary. This is something that renders the entire system fragile.

Following a discussion, the Grand Magisterium approved sending thirty-five thousand dollars more per month to the Patriarchate for the schools and institutions like parishes and the minor and major seminary. “The formation of local clergy is essential”, the Patriarch underlined. He furthermore reminded all that the schools in the city and villages of the Holy Land are peculiar in that they depend directly on the parishes. On behalf of the Holy Land Commission in charge of

*Members of the Grand Magisterium surrounding the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem after a morning mass celebrated in Palazzo della Rovere, in Rome.*





projects, Heinrich Dickmann added that supporting people, the “living rocks”, is more and more a priority, as is the better coordination of assistance in a quinquennial plan.

Thomas McKiernan, President of the Holy Land Commission, presented said Commission’s report and valorized three projects: a children’s playground in Jaffa in Nazareth, the church of Marj el Hamam in Jordan and the multicultural pastoral center Our Lady of Peace near Amam, which also carries out humanitarian work. The report also gave a summary of the Commission’s visit that took place during the month of October. During this visit there were profitable ideas exchanged for the future, in particular with those in charge of structures that deal with education and health.

Bartholomew McGettrick, one of the three members of the Commission, placed emphasis on the necessary task of supporting the formation of the Christian community, which has been rendered quite weak, so that they might continue to play a role of mediation in resolving injustices.

At the conclusion of the session on November 10, engineer Pier Carlo Visconti presented a provisory budget of the Grand Magisterium’s accounts where it was shown that since January 2015 almost ten million dollars have been already sent to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, of which this year a remarkable and enormous gift of one million dollars came from the United States.

### **The project of a continental meeting in Asia**

The second day of proceedings, concluded with the traditional friendly and brotherly reception in honor of Our Lady of Palestine, began with a report on the schools of the Patriarchate that have recorded deficits.

Father Imad Twal showed in all clarity the importance of this parish and academic channel for the Christian minority. Muslim children who grow up here build friendships that will bear fruit for all of society in the future. The Gaza Strip, for example, holds three schools of the Patriarchate whereas Catholics number at only 130 out of

almost two million inhabitants. “At the heart of our mission we are pastoral and at the service of dialogue by means of education,” said Patriarch Twal, to which Cardinal O’Brien publicly manifested his support in favor of the social impact of the Christian presence in the Holy Land. The salaries and pensions of professors must continue to be adequate and this cannot be a disregarded challenge.

This was followed by a report on the work in Gaza that demonstrated how above all emergencies must be addressed because reconstruction is tied to a peace accord between two parties in conflict.

The next item of the day was an account given by Paul Bartley of what has happened during the first meeting in Australia of the Lieutenants of Asia and Oceania, once again stating the idea of an upcoming meeting in Singapore to specifically grow closer to the Lieutenants of the Philippines and Taiwan.

He underlined the importance of maintaining the relationships between the Grand Magisterium and the farthest geographic Lieutenancies from Rome for the better circulation of news.

Msgr. Antonio Franco, Assessor of the Order, then brought to the attention of the members of the Grand Magisterium the current situation of the Saint John the Baptist Vatican Foundation (Fondazione Vaticana San Giovanni Battista) for culture and formation in the Middle East. This pontifical Foundation was born in May 2015 and, presided over by Cardinal O’Brien, has already found ways for the reduction of the deficit of the University of Madaba. In this sense it continues in its work, leading negotiations with banks, and yet there is still much more to be done.

Lastly, the Chancellor Ivan Rebernik provided the details of the statistics of the Order, which welcomed 1,164 new Knights and Dames in 2014. He described the work of the Communications Service that is creating a new internet site for the Grand Magisterium. He also spoke of the work undertaken to increase the space for the paper archives of the Order. He furthermore suggested and encouraged the creation of a documentation service for the Order in the future. ■

“ *At the heart of our mission: the service of dialogue through education* ”

# THE HOLY LAND COMMISSION OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

*“The members’ eyes, ears and conscience on the ground”*

Several years ago I was asked to speak about The Holy Land Commission at an investiture in the USA. The lieutenant commented that many members are not aware of the existence of this commission or its function.

This began a series of talks I have given about the role of this commission. The response has been excellent as our members are eager to learn how the projects we fund are being monitored.

There is no written history of the Holy Land Commission but Dr. Heinrich Dickmann and Dr. Christa von Siemens of Germany have provided information to suggest it had its genesis with the already existing Holy Land Commission of the German Lieutenancy. The German Commission consisted of members Mrs. Margarete Underberg, Mrs. Elisabeth Verreet, Mrs. Luise Werhahn and Mr. Michael



*Members of the Holy Land Commission in a business meeting in Beit Jala (above) and with the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Msgr. Fouad Twal (below).*

Wirtz. In the beginning this was a private initiative of the German Lieutenancy.

Mrs. Verreet took over the Commission from Mrs. Underberg in 1986 and remained its president for twenty years. During this time she also began the “Sozialfond” which is now known as the Humanitarian Fund.

Mrs. Verreet invited Dr. Christa von Siemens, a member from Munich, to participate in the visits to the Holy Land. An additional confrere during this era was Robert Benson, Lieutenant of England and Wales. Mr. Benson describes working with Elisabeth Verreet as a significant personal blessing. Mr. Benson succeeded Mrs. Verreet as president of the commission.

After Mrs. Verreet’s death in 2006 and the retirement of Mr. Benson a few years later, Dr. vonSiemens became the president of the commission.

Adolfo Rinaldi of Italy, Mrs. Constance van Wesemael of the Netherlands and Dr. Michael Whelan of the United Kingdom were also members of the Commission over these years.





When Dr. von Siemens completed her mandate on the Grand Magisterium, I was asked to succeed her as president and Professor Bart McGettrick of Scotland and Dr. Heinrich Dickmann of Germany were appointed as members.

Professor Bartholomew [Bart] McGettrick, is a recognized writer and speaker on Christian educational leadership and Dr. Heinrich Dickmann, had a distinguished career in business as CEO of a European insurance conglomerate. My background is in secondary education and business. I was administrator of a Catholic high school; while also serving on the board of a bank and as trustee of a foreign mission foundation pledged to the Holy See. The combination of education, business and missionary outreach, in addition to our genuine friendship and respect for each other has made for a balanced team.

Dr. Dickmann is intent on carrying on the original German initiative of “Sozialfond” and he works to balance solidarity and subsidiarity with our Christians of the Latin Patriarchate. It’s a delicate balance; too much of either can cause Christians to lose their dignity and create atmosphere of dependency. Not enough lessens their chance to survive and prosper on their own.

Professor McGettrick brings the concepts of Christian leadership to the principals and teachers in the schools of the Patriarchate. He, like Dr.

Dickmann and I, believe education is both the best gift you can give anyone and also the only ladder out of poverty.

The commission is advisory to the Cardinal Grand Master. We do not set the priorities of the Patriarchate, those are determined by the Patriarch. However, with the recent situation of migrants & refugees, especially in Jordan and Tel Aviv, the commission is looking beyond the usual capital improvement and building projects and urges a redirection of our special funding, at least temporarily, to humanitarian aid and pastoral concerns.

In my talks about the Holy Land Commission, I tell our members that we go, we observe, we advise and we report and with respect to their donations for projects in the Holy Land, we, the Commission are their eyes, ears and conscience on the ground.

This is not a definitive history of The Holy Land Commission but I believe it is a reasonable summary of its beginning and current status.

**Thomas E. McKiernan, KCSG, KGCHS**

*Member of the Grand Magisterium*

*President of the Holy Land Commission*

**Additional information about the Commission and our semi-annual site visits can be found in *Annales* 2014, pages 50-54.**

*Professor Thomas McKiernan, current president of the Holy Land Commission, on a field visit, along with Dr. Christa von Siemens whom preceded him in this role.*



# RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IN THE HOLY LAND

## The approved projects of the Grand Magisterium

As is done every year, in addition to the monthly support for the expenses of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre selects certain projects to be carried out. These projects, among those presented by the Patriarchate, have been positively evaluated by the Holy Land Commission. In 2015, three projects were selected, and are briefly described below.



### RENOVATION OF THE MONASTERY OF JAFFA OF NAZARETH (ISRAEL)

Jaffa of Nazareth is situated only a few kilometres north of Nazareth, in the state of Israel. The local parish includes some 580 families and the complex includes, apart from the church itself, a school, a kindergarten, the residence of the Parish priest including his office, and a house for the religious sisters. The work that will be implemented over the next three years includes the expansion of the number of classes to enable the school to accommodate students to the level of higher secondary education with the consequent displacement of the kindergarten, and of the accommodation of the priest and sisters to a new building. Currently, the school and kindergarten have 555 students.

### FINAL PHASE OF THE NEW CHURCH AND THE MARJ AL-HAMAM COMPLEX (JORDAN)

Located on the outskirts of Amman, the city of Marj Al-hamam directly serves an area where there are about 1,500 faithful. The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Apparition live in the Convent of Marj Al-hamam. They currently have 15 novices and postulants. The pastoral work of this community is of great help to the people.

Whereas the church could accommodate up to 120 people, the new Parish, under construction, will have a capacity of 600 people and a new hall for 500 people.

The work is currently in its final phase.





## **COMPLETING THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE CENTRE OF OUR LADY OF PEACE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CULTURAL CENTRE (JORDAN)**

**T**he Centre of Our Lady of Peace was opened near Amman in 2004 by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and currently offers a range of services for people with disabilities, as well as supporting Church youth movements in Jordan in various ways. In finishing the ground floor of the Centre, more office space will be available, as well as meeting rooms and an apartment for the sisters who live there.



## **Projects carried forward in accordance with the Congregation for the Oriental Churches**

**In addition to projects that respond directly to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre also supports projects related to ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches). Agostino Borromeo, the Governor General, represented the Order during the annual Plenary in 2014, in which the situation of religious minorities in Syria was thoroughly discussed, and Msgr. Mario Zenari, Apostolic Nuncio in this country at war, participated.**

### **RESTORATION OF THE MELKITE PARISH CHURCH IN TAYBEH (PALESTINE)**

**L**ocated in the district of Ramallah, the small Christian village of Taybeh has 1,300 inhabitants of which about 150 are Greek-Melkite. The Greek-Melkite church was built in 1964 and since then maintenance work has never been scheduled. This current project aims to secure the structure in order to allow the local community to benefit in peace.

### **RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF QENA PRIMARY SCHOOL (EGYPT)**

**T**here are just under 100 children attending the school of the Franciscan Friars Minor in the village of Taweirat, which is in the Diocese of Thebes-Luxor and the province of Qena. The school is free and open to all children of the village, where the majority of inhabitants are Muslim, and where there is a very active population of about 1,500 Catholics who have been given the joy of

many religious vocations. The building, which was built in 1954, is no longer safe and there is urgent need for it to be demolished to allow for the construction of a new building that can peacefully accommodate the growing number of students.

### **CONSTRUCTION OF A FENCE FOR THE HOSPITAL OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL COMPLEX IN NAZARETH (ISRAEL)**

**I**n 1898 the Daughters of Charity founded the “French Hospital” of St. Vincent de Paul, to serve the area of Nazareth and nearby cities. Currently the establishment works mainly in the fields of gynecology and pediatrics, thus providing crucial support to the local people. Located near one of the main streets in the centre of Nazareth, the hospital complex has recently been a target of theft and vandalism. Constructing the fence will lower the possibilities of further damage in the future. The Lieutenancy for France was happy to take charge of the entire project and we extend our gratitude for the generous commitment.

## **RENOVATION OF THE BUILDING, PARISH OFFICES, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PARKING LOT AT THE GREEK-MELKITE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. ELIAS IN ISFIYA (ISRAEL)**

Isfiya is a village in which the majority are Druze, but where there is great religious diversity. In fact, there are 1,800 Greek-Catholics living in Isfiya, in the area of Mount Carmel, in addition to 200 Maronite Catholics, 700 Muslims and 50 Jews. At the end of the renovation work, the church of St. Elias will undoubtedly offer better services to local people.

## **RESTORATION OF THE MARONITE PARISH CHURCH ST. GEORGE IN KORMAKITIS (CYPRUS)**

The village of Kormakitis is inhabited by a small Catholic Maronite community. The church of St. George is located at the centre of the village and was built at the beginning of the last century. It is currently in urgent need of structural work as well as improvement in the management of its outdoor spaces that will be able to accommodate religious and cultural events.

## **PURCHASE OF TECHNOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL GAMES FOR THE “PETER NETTEKOVEN” KINDERGARTEN IN BEIT SAHOUR (PALESTINE)**

The “Peter Nettekoven” kindergarten of the Greek-Melkite Catholic Patriarchate has five classes, plus one dedicated to teaching the English language, and it welcomes about 140 children between ages three and five. In educating the younger generation, the ability to help children to grow to

be familiar with technology has become important. This current project therefore includes purchasing equipment, such as computers and projectors, as well as greater utilization of educational games at the service of pupils, which are an excellent means of learning for this particular age group. We extend our gratitude to the Dutch Lieutenancy for funding this project.

## **CREATING A PLAYGROUND AT THE “AL-LIQA’A” KINDERGARTEN IN BEIT HANINA (PALESTINE)**

The “Al-Liqa’a” kindergarten is located on the outskirts of Jerusalem and belongs to the Greek-Melkite Catholic Patriarchate. The structure accommodates about 150 children of which around half are Christians. The project includes constructing an area for sports and playing, which can be used not only by the children of the kindergarten but also by youth groups.

## **THE OPHTHALMOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT THE ITALIAN HOSPITAL IN KERAK (JORDAN)**

The Italian Hospital in Kerak, a town of about 250,000 inhabitants, which is considered to be among the poorest of the Jordan, was founded in 1935 and is run by the Comboni Sisters. It is a small hospital with 50 beds and various operating units that serve the entire population, which has recently grown due to the large number of Syrian immigrants. The structure is self-financing but, in the case of extraordinary expenses, it relies on the generosity of donors. The ophthalmology

department opened six years ago and recorded around 4,000 cases in the year 2014 alone. The project includes purchasing medical equipment that would allow surgeries to take place on site, to avoid sending patients to Amman (140 km away) for cataract operations. ■





# THE THREE CONTINENTAL MEETINGS OF THE LIEUTENANTS OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

**A**nnual meetings are regularly planned for the European and American Lieutenants and, starting this year, for the Lieutenants of Asia and Oceania. These meetings are important occasions that allow the Order, which has the joy of being present in so many countries around the world, to ensure that the leadership is in agreement on fundamental issues and that everyone is informed about recent events concerning both the Holy Land and the Order's structure itself.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN LIEUTENANTS IN ROME

**On May 11 and 12, 2015, some 30 European Lieutenants of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre held their annual meeting at the Palazzo Della Rovere, headquarters of the Order, situated near St. Peter's Square, Rome, in the presence of the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, and representatives of the Grand Magisterium.**

**I**n opening the session the Grand Master especially welcomed the new Master of Ceremonies, Msgr Fortunato Frezza, responsible for supporting the spiritual life of the Order, as well as new Lieutenants from Germany and Portugal, and the Magistral Delegate of Latvia, a country where the first Investiture took place last November. He then stressed his willingness to continue to visit members of the Order on all continents, to offer his contribution in mobilizing them in favour of Eastern Christians, many of whom have found refuge in the parishes of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, particularly in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Governor, Agostino Borromeo, continued by responding immediately to a libel that Lieutenants had received in previous days with regard to the restoration project of the Grand Magisterium's headquarters. Clarifying the situation, he explained that, since 2001, in compliance with the Constitution of the Order, the successive Grand Masters decided to increase the financial "reserve" in order to maintain and restore all of the block of the Palazzo della Rovere, part of

which has been leased to the Columbus Hotel for the past fifty years. The latter will vacate the premises soon and the future rental envisaged with another company should enable the Order both to cover all expenses of the Grand Magisterium and to generate profits for the Holy Land. There is therefore total transparency in this operation, as was demonstrated by the Governor who, having explained the situation, decided personally to forgive his accusers, and to extend a hand of friendship in view of the Jubilee of Mercy. Lieutenants unanimously assured the Grand Master and the Governor of their full support.

After this clarification the Chancellor Ivan Rebernik spoke of the numerical growth of the Order, presenting the statistics of the previous year, rejoicing that new members have joined the Order, offsetting recorded deaths. He also spoke of the communication efforts made in recent months, particularly with the decision to create a new website in five languages, at the level of the Grand Magisterium, in conjunction with the services of the Holy See.

The Engineer Pier Carlo Visconti for his part



*The European Lieutenants of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, who gathered in Rome, affirmed the desire to strengthen the quality of Christian life of its members, men and women, so that through their testimonies, the Order might still grow, far from worldliness, watching to definitively avoid those seeking honors and medals, and to better welcome humble and generous candidates who are truly devoted to Christ and committed in their local Church.*

presented the financial report of the Grand Magisterium, showing an increase in donations for 2014. Pierre Blanchard gave details on the management of investments and securities.

**“No other organization does as much as you do for the Holy Land”**

The President of the Holy Land Commission of the Grand Magisterium, Thomas McKiernan stressed the need for a kindergarten for the Saint James Vicariate serving the Hebrew-speaking Catholics in Israel, before describing the three projects in 2014 in Jordan: work in the parish of Mafraq, in that of Zarka North, and for the school of Na'our. The 2015 projects are related to the parish of Jaffa in Nazareth, Israel, and the adjoining school, the Center Our Lady of Peace which hosts refugees in Jordan, and to the parish of Marj Al-hamam, Amman, where caravans are installed for the Middle East refugees. “No other organization does as much as you do for the Holy Land,” said Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, the Apostolic Nuncio in Israel and Cyprus and Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine, receiving the members of the Holy Land

Commission.

The discussion with the Lieutenants related in particular to the wish to see the emergence of more projects of a pastoral nature, which will be passed on to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which addresses requests to the Grand Magisterium that are, indeed, often related to its real estate capital in Jordan, currently the most stable country in the Middle East for Christians.

The issue of recruitment also occupied part of the meeting; the Lieutenants affirming their desire to strengthen the quality of Christian life of members, men and women, so that through their testimony, the Order can develop further, away from worldliness, ensuring that those only seeking honours and medals are excluded to better accommodate humble and generous candidates, truly committed to Christ, engaged in their local church. “The difficulty is not to find candidates, the difficulty is to find good candidates,” summed up a new Lieutenant. Everything will be done now for the evangelical renewal of the Order, in the spirit of the pontificate of Francis.

The debate continued on the issue of the significant debt relating to the University of Madaba, following the information letter addressed to Lieutenants after the meeting of the



Grand Magisterium, in late April. Archbishop Antonio Franco, Assessor of the Order, recalled the decision of the Holy See to save this university founded in Jordan with the support of two Popes, noting that the Order – which has no responsibility in this issue – is invited to participate in this action

through a Vatican Foundation. The members of the Order, especially through their connections, can help the Providence of God to gradually restore the financial equilibrium of the university that is seen in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan as an institution involving the Church of Rome. ■

## AMERICAN LIEUTENANTS ANNUAL MEETING IN CANADA

**From June 4 to 6, 2015, the North American Lieutenants met in Quebec to have an opportunity for discussion and fraternal dialogue.**

**I**n addition to Cardinal Grand Master, Edwin O'Brien, the Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, the Vice Governor General of North America, Patrick Powers, and other members of the Grand Magisterium, the meeting brought together ten Lieutenants from North America. Also present were the consultant Msgr. Robert Stern and Msgr. John Kozar of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).

The busy schedule included various work sessions following the Grand Master's opening address and an introduction given by the Governor General. Vice Governor General Powers briefly summarized the Order's financial situation, while Thomas McKiernan, the President of the Holy Land Commission, described the projects that were implemented by the Order in 2014 and introduced the selected projects for 2015. After a short break, the floor was given to Msgr. Kozar who shared CNEWA's perspective on the current situation in the Middle East, after which the annual reports of the Lieutenancies were presented.

Ample time was dedicated to an "open forum", which took place the entire afternoon of June 5, and which allowed the Lieutenants the opportunity of discussing themes such as membership in the Order,

spirituality, ongoing programs, and administration. The morning of June 6 was devoted to topics on the agenda such as communication, the situation of the American University of Madaba, fundraising, and the end of the contract with the Hotel Columbus Society.

The meeting officially concluded that same day with a closing reception, which was organized by the Lieutenancy for Canada-Quebec under the direction of Lieutenant Jean-Claude Michaud, the Grand Prior, Cardinal Gérard Cyprien Lacroix, and the council.

During the month of August, the Vice Governor General Patrick Powers held a conference call with the five lieutenants who were not able to attend the meeting in Quebec City, to update them on the information that was shared at the meeting. ■



*The Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre surrounded by Lieutenants of North America in Quebec, on June 2015.*

## A REGIONAL MEETING HELD IN AUSTRALIA: THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS A SHARED JOURNEY

On October 17 and 18, 2015, Adelaide hosted the first meeting of the Lieutenancies of Asia and Oceania which was also attended by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, the Grand Master, and Agostino Borromeo, the Governor General. Since 2004 there had not been a meeting organized between the five Lieutenancies of the Order in Australia. Paul Bartley, an Australian member of the Grand Magisterium, who was in Rome for the meeting of the Grand Magisterium in November, commented on the event during an interview he granted us.

Compared to other regional meetings that currently take place for the Lieutenancies of Europe and America, the October meeting saw the participation of not only the Lieutenants but also of other members of the Order engaged in various responsibilities within the local councils (chancellors, treasurers, secretaries and masters of ceremonies). "It definitely provided the Grand Master and the Governor General with a different point of view compared to the other meetings of this type", commented Paul Bartley.

One of the most appreciated moments of the two days in Australia was that of the session on the Order's spirituality. François Kunc, Supreme Court Justice, had prepared a discussion which involved all participants. Another key moment was the meeting between the Lieutenants, Paul Bartley vested as a member of the Grand Magisterium, the Governor General and the Grand Master.

Paul Bartley wished to especially emphasize the

work that is still to be done and the things that need improvement. It became evident that the various Lieutenancies do not follow a common line and that not everyone knows about the documents produced by headquarters. On this point, the member of the Grand Magisterium affirms: "I absolutely do not believe that the Lieutenancies deliberately act inappropriately, but that we have gradually been detached from the rules without people realizing. That being said, as a knightly order, the rules are important and we should work to have a certain conformity." Every Lieutenancy, as has been reported, is very active on various fronts, with charitable activity and spiritual commitment in first place, and this is a great source of joy and inspiration for the Order throughout the whole world. A greater cooperation and sharing among Lieutenancies of the region will certainly bring great results in the future.

Another emphasized point was that of the formation of Lieutenants. The formation of new Knights and Dames is generally widely addressed, and the proposal was advanced for evaluating the possibility of also organizing a course for new Lieutenants.

The meeting in October brought forth various resolutions and above all the desire to meet more frequently. First of all, a telephone appointment was scheduled for the Australian Lieutenants,

*Participants at the first meeting of those responsible in the Order for Asia and Oceania, which was held in Australia.*





which took place on December 6, and the idea is that this might be repeated every six months. In addition, the importance of meeting in person and the great opportunity of counting on the presence of the Grand Master and the Governor General, has become apparent. Australia, Bartley commented with a smile, is isolated to the point that it is always safe from any contagion of infection that affects the rest of the world, but this

also means that reaching the country is not so simple, neither for the Lieutenants of Asia, nor for those coming from Europe. Therefore, the proposal which may be suitable would be to meet in Singapore on a weekend in 2016.

Paul Bartley concluded his interview by saying: "When we speak of the Order, it is not about honours and titles. We are not here for the glory of any one of us." ■

## THE GRAND MASTER'S VISITS

■ During the year 2015, Grand Master Edwin O'Brien had many opportunities to meet with the Lieutenancies and members of the Order. In addition to the meetings in Rome, in Palazzo della Rovere, of the Grand Magisterium (in April and November) and that of the European Lieutenants (in May), the Cardinal often visited various countries for Investiture ceremonies and other joyful occasions. We also have the pleasure of remembering that on May 29, 2015, His Eminence celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priestly ordination, an event for which the Order continues to offer congratulations, and gratitude to God.



*Cardinal Edwin O'Brien travels around the world to meet with members of the Order, and to encourage them to nourish their commitment to the Holy Land more and more with a profound spiritual life.*

■ Cardinal O'Brien participated in various events related to the life of the Universal Church, such as, for example, the Consistory of the College of Cardinals on February 12 and 13, the pilgrimage to Turin in April for the exposition of the Holy Shroud, and the opening of the Jubilee of Mercy in St. Peter's Square on December 8.

■ Regarding his visits to the Lieutenancies, the Grand Master was in Disentis, Switzerland, from May 8 to 10, to preside over the ceremony of Investiture of new members. Then in early June he attended the meeting of the American Lieutenants that took place in Quebec.

■ During the month of September His Eminence

visited various Lieutenancies for Investitures: Scotland (September 5), Sweden (the exceptional ceremony of the Lieutenancy for Sweden took place in Denmark on September 7, and was also the occasion for a meeting between the Grand Master and the Grand Priors of Scandinavian Europe), Slovenia (September 12) and USA Northwestern (September 20). Also in September, Cardinal O'Brien was alongside Pope Francis during his visit to the United States, and he participated in the Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

■ In October, the Grand Master celebrated the Ceremonies of Investiture in Toulouse (October 3) and La Valletta (October 10). Cardinal O'Brien then traveled to the Oceanic continent, where he attended the first meeting of the Lieutenancies of Asia and Oceania in Adelaide on October 17 and 18, and also presided over the Investiture of the Lieutenancy for South Australia.

■ In addition to the happy event in Belgium of the delivery of collars to the King and Queen on November 17, the 2015 visits of His Eminence concluded in Italy: to Bari on November 15, Cagliari on November 21, and Acquapendente on December 6 for the occasion of the Act of Entrustment of the Delegation of Viterbo to Immaculate Mary at the Co-Cathedral Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. ■

# OUR LADY OF PALESTINE, A CELEBRATION THAT UNITES ALL MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

The feast day of Our Lady Queen of Palestine was celebrated by the Grand Magisterium on November 11, 2015. The following article provides a glimpse at how some Lieutenancies decided to celebrate this day that is so intimately linked to the spirituality of the Order.

**T**here could be no dearer patroness to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre than Our Lady Queen of Palestine. Moved by the desire to devote themselves to the service of the land, where her Son Jesus was born, lived and worked for our redemption, the 30,000 Knights and Dames of the Order in the five continents are placed under the protective mantle of His and our Holy Mother.

For this reason, October 25 is a day that is celebrated with joy and devotion within the various Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations. The feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen is celebrated by the Catholic Church on August 22. However, the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine is a feast commemorated on October 25 that compels only the diocese of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, to which the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is rightly associated.



*Last November 11, Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien received guests, members and friends of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, in honor of Our Lady of Palestine, in the halls of the Palazzo della Rovere. In this picture we see him together with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of His Holiness.*





*The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Msgr. Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, during a Mass he celebrated on the occasion of the Grand Magisterium's autumn meeting, before the icon of Our Lady of Palestine, recently placed in Palazzo della Rovere for veneration.*

Every year in Rome, around the proximity of this date, the meeting of the Grand Magisterium of the Order is held, which in 2015 took place on November 10 and 11. At the conclusion of the Grand Magisterium's meeting, as is customary, a reception was held in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine at the premises of the Order on the afternoon of November 11. This was an opportunity to allow the Grand Master and the participants of the meeting to greet friends and benefactors of the Order, present together with important representatives of the Holy See – including Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State – and to share a convivial moment.

If this took place in Rome at the Grand Magisterium, one must not forget how deeply this holiday is felt by all members of the Order. It is also an occasion of great fraternity which allows members of the Order to come together, as happened in Caltanissetta and Pistoia for example, where, respectively, all of the members from Tuscany and Sicily gathered to celebrate the anniversary. This year, many have decided to entrust prayers to Mary in a special way for peace in the Holy Land, which is undergoing situations

of tension.

This anniversary also lends itself particularly to promoting an in-depth analysis of the plight of Christians in the Holy Land. The Florence Delegation of the Order, for example, sponsored an event on October 24 entitled “The Holy Land of Christians: addressing the root causes, understanding the present, thinking of the new humanism of tomorrow by means of historical paths, life experiences and plans for the future”, which was attended by various experts on the topic.

Just before the festivities, Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, Master of Cerimonies of the Order and renowned biblical scholar, spoke in Spello on October 24 at the presentation of the restoration of the Polyglot Bible of 1645. This ten-volume Bible consists of around 4,000 pages and contains the full text of Sacred Scripture in seven ancient languages arranged in parallel columns on each page.

As often happens, in order to take advantage of celebrating the feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine in Deir Rafat, the sanctuary that is dedicated to her, the Lieutenancies have the pleasure of organizing a pilgrimage to the Holy Land around this date. This year, among the faithful gathered from all over the Holy Land, members of the Lieutenancy of England and Wales were present, who were taking part in a pilgrimage led by their Lieutenant David Smith. ■

## Homage to Graziano Motta, a great journalist

Former director of the *Annales* and the Order's publications, Graziano Motta received the Silver Cross from Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, in a friendly ceremony in Palazzo della Rovere in Rome. We send our best wishes for a good and happy retirement to this distinguished journalist, known as one of the best specialists in the Holy Land where he lived and served for several years, including working mostly for the Ansa Italian news agency. His memoirs are a gold mine for valuable to all members of the Order.



## APPOINTMENTS

### Msgr. Fortunato Frezza appointed as Master of Ceremonies of the Order

The new Master of Ceremonies of the Order, Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, was officially presented at the headquarters of the Grand Magisterium on Tuesday January 20, 2015. Msgr. Frezza was born in Rome in 1942 and was ordained a priest in 1966. In these years he has brilliantly succeeded in combining his academic and pastoral activities. He obtained a degree in Theology and a Doctorate in Sacred Scripture, and has taught at various Institutes. Chaplain to some religious associations or organizations, he currently holds several positions in the Vatican: Honorary Prelate of His Holiness as well as Canon of the Papal Basilica of Saint Peter in the Vatican since 2013 and "Primo Sindaco" of the Chapter of the same Basilica since

2014. "I see a strong and beautiful link between my work in the service of a better understanding of Holy Scripture and this work for the Holy Land. In this spirit I shall serve the spiritual life of the members of the Order with all my heart" declared Msgr. Frezza, commenting on his appointment. This position had been vacant since the end of Msgr. Francis Kelly's mandate.

### Mary Currivan O'Brien appointed as member of the Grand Magisterium

Mary Currivan O'Brien, entered as a Dame of the Order in 1987, was Lieutenant for North Western USA from October 2008 to September 2015. A native of San Francisco, she is married with four children and five grandchildren (the sixth on the way). Mary O'Brien is also involved with various non-profit charities and has been a member of the Board of Regents at the University of Bethlehem for four years. We congratulate the Lieutenant of Honor on her appointment as a member of the Grand Magisterium on September 19, 2015.

### The Commission Appointments and Promotions of the Grand Magisterium

Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and Msgr. Frezza – Master of Ceremonies of the Order – are, as of January 29, 2015, members of the Commission for Nominations and Promotions.





# IN MEMORIAM

## DEATH OF GRAND MASTER EMERITUS OF THE ORDER AND THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CARDINAL FOLEY'S DEATH

On Friday December 11, 2015, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, celebrated a Mass at the Grand Magisterium of the Order, in memory of Cardinal John Patrick Foley, Grand Master of the Order from 2007 to 2011, who passed away exactly four years before at the age of 76, on December 11, 2011.

During the celebration, the Grand Master also prayed for the repose of the soul of Cardinal Carlo

*Cardinal Furno, Grand Master Emeritus of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as Archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica, had the coat-of-arms of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem engraved on the Holy Door of the Basilica, which was blessed by Pope John Paul II on December 8, 2001.*



Furno who left this world two days before, on December 9, 2015, the day after the opening of the Jubilee of Mercy, at the age of 94. Originally from Northern Italy, near Turin, he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Peru, Lebanon, Brazil and Italy before being appointed Grand Master of the Order, a position which he held from 1995 until 2007. He was also Archpriest of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome, where his body now rests.

## THE HONORARY CHANCELLOR RETURNS TO THE FATHER'S HOUSE

Msgr. Juan José Dorronsoro's funeral took place on August 11 in the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major. Among those present was a delegation of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, for whom Msgr. Dorronsoro had been Master of Ceremonies since 2003, and then served as Chancellor from 2005 to 2012, with the rank of Knight Commander with Star. Cardinal Carlo Furno, Grand Master Emeritus of the Order, was present, along with many prelate friends of the deceased. The Mass was presided over by Archbishop Francesco Canalini, the Vicar of the Basilica and former apostolic nuncio. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order, who could not be present due to being abroad, sent a letter which was read at the beginning of the ceremony, in which he assured the assembly of his spiritual solidarity, and paid homage to Msgr. Dorronsoro, a great servant of the Church. Born on November 16, 1931, in Zumarraga, Spain, Dorronsoro was ordained a priest in 1957

and held several important positions in the Holy See before becoming Canon of the Basilica of St. Mary Major and Chancellor of the Order. He died on the night of August 10, after having had the joy of assisting in the celebrations of the Dedication of the Basilica on August 5. "The service that he gave to our Order will be remembered with gratitude for a long time," Cardinal O'Brien said in his special message.



## THE ORDER AND THE HOLY LAND

# TWELVE MONTHS IN THE HOLY LAND

**It has now been over a year since the events that wreaked havoc in the region of Gaza, shortly after Pope Francis' visit to the Holy Land, and there is still no rest. The situation in Gaza continues to be problematic, and in addition is the tension in Israel of what has been called the "Intifada of knives".**

**I**n reflecting upon the events of 2015, it is important to remember Israel's Parliamentary elections, held on March 17, which brought the victory of the Likud Party of the Premier Benjamin Netanyahu with 30 of the 120 Knesset seats in Israeli Parliament. In this regard, the regional director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, Sami El-Yousef, in his Eastertide letter expressed concern with respect to what he saw as "the most right-wing government in the history of the State of Israel."

### **Politics and Diplomacy: The Holy See and the Meeting of Two States**

In what pertained to the Holy See directly, the global agreement between the Holy See and Palestine was established May 13 and later sealed June 26. The text clearly recognizes "the State of Palestine." This bilateral accord mainly touches upon the activity of the Catholic Church and its juridical recognition in the Palestinian territories – already an object of discussion for some fifteen years – and expresses the desire that, in drawing up the solution of two States, conflict between Israelis and Palestinians might be resolved. As for relations with the State of Israel, the first meeting between Israeli President Reuven Rivlin (in office since July 2014), Pope Francis and collaborators, took place on September 3 in the Vatican. On this occasion it was fitting to talk about the regional socio-politics, characterized by the plethora of conflicts: "Particular attention was given to all the different Christians and other minorities." The problems in the relations between Israel and the Holy See, and likewise the local relationships

between Catholic authorities and communities, were taken into consideration "in the hope that a bilateral accord in negotiation might come to a conclusion."

### **Tabgha and the Dangers of Radical Nationalism**

The summer witnessed many grave incidents that led to the deaths of Israeli and Palestinian citizens, such as the car attack on four Israeli 20 year-olds returning home from a basketball game, and which in turn resulted in the death of one of the boys; or the arson committed by a few Israeli settlers on a Palestinian house near Nablus wherein a father and 18 month-old child lost their lives. Among the items on this sad list of events one must certainly also remember the attack endured by the Church of the Multiplication of Bread and Fish in Tabgha, victim of a harrowing fire on the night of June 18. President Rivlin visited the Christian community in Tabgha at the end of August where he was welcomed by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Msgr. Fouad Twal. President Rivlin wished to express his support of the community and issue a formal condemnation of this gesture carried out by a group of Jewish extremists named "price tag".

At the beginning of August, the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land filed a complaint against Rabbi Bentzi Gopstein of the anti-assimilation movement known as "Lehava" (which means "flame") that, as one reads in the expressed statement, "does not hesitate to claim that Jewish law calls for the destruction of the idolators in the land of Israel and, consequently, that churches and mosques can be set on fire."



“One cannot remain defenseless before this situation”, said Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Custos of the Holy Land, to a press agency, adding that this is “also one way of telling our people that we are not indifferent towards what is happening.”

### A Hope for Christian Schools in Israel

Another piece of news directly linked to the life of Christian communities in the Holy Land pertains to the situation of Catholic schools. On May 27 the Office of Christian Schools in Israel conducted a protest in front of the Ministry of Education in Jerusalem, coming out against the discriminatory politics that for three years have been applied by the Ministry to the harm of Christian schools, which are seeing more and more reductions in State subsidies. Indeed, since September 2014 there has been a commission that after eight months of work announced its

proposition that all Christian schools become part of the public system, meaning the loss of opportunity for a Christian education. Faced with this less than satisfactory option, a group of around seven hundred people met to protest to the sound of chants such as “Hands off our schools” and “Christian schools are not for sale.”

These protests continued into the new academic year in 2015 and took on the form of a strike. After lengthy meetings with the representatives of the Office of Christian Schools, the Israeli Ministry of Public Education presented a collection of proposals that were accepted. A budget of fifty million shekels was thus assigned to Christian schools for the 2015-2016 academic year, which would help cover a portion of their real debt. Therefore, after 27 days of missed classes as a form of protest, more than 30,000 students from more than 40 Christian schools in Israel returned to their school desks.

## THE ROLE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**C**LAUDIO MAINA, Director of the Secretariat of Solidarity for Schools and Institutions in the Holy Land, comments on the important role Catholic schools have in creating a culture of encounter.

“As we focus on primary and secondary schools, over the last year more than 56,000 students have attended Catholic school in the Holy Land. Of this number 48% are Christians of various denominations, while the majority of the others are Muslim, and some are also Druze or Jewish. This data is enough to show the importance of Catholic education for Interreligious Dialogue and the important role that our schools play in promoting an encounter and peaceful coexistence between people of different faiths.

It is a fact that many of our schools have an excellent reputation amongst both Christians and non-Christians, and that parents are jumping at the chance to have their children enrolled. Young people are being taught to open up, to exercise critical thinking, to debate respectfully with others, to show solidarity towards those in need; these personality dimensions are crucial in order to stem the fundamentalist tide.”



*Students of the Latin Patriarchate school in Taybeh at the graduation ceremony.*

## The Choice for the Holy Land: European Bishops' Pilgrimage

In 2015, the decision of the Council of the European Bishops Conferences to hold its plenary assembly in the Holy Land from September 11 to 16 was received with joy. In the final message shared at the end of the proceedings one reads, "With this pilgrimage, the European Bishops also wish to encourage pilgrimages to the land of Jesus so as to renew faith and support the Christians in these places." Among the discussed issues that referred to the local reality was attention and consideration of the refugees and a mandatory call for peace in the Middle East.

### Intifada of Knives?

Yet, unfortunately, precisely in those days an escalation of tension began that later became a more systematic violence in the month of October. Prior to certain Jewish occasions, as happened on Tisha b'Av (July 26, a day of fasting in which one remembers the destruction of the Temple, and when the faithful gather to pray at the Western

Wall) and above all on New Years (September 13) there were reported skirmishes between Palestinians and Israeli police in the Al-Aqsa compound. On September 9, the Israeli Prime Minister of Defense, Moshe Yaalon, prohibited the Muslim group of Murabitun, a group of civil volunteers who provide the service of surveillance of the Al-Aqsa mosque, from entering the sacred area and the conflicts seem to be tied to actions that limit the access to the area and the liberties of Muslim faithful.

On this point, the concern of Christian religious leaders can be read in the released statement of September 21: "We condemn all attempts to undermine the *status quo* in force in the mosque of Al-Aqsa (Haram al-Sharif), in the courtyards and all nearby buildings, and in the entire city of Jerusalem. Any threat to its continuity and its integrity could lead to unintended consequences in the current political climate. Muslims have the right to free access and worship in the mosque of Al-Aqsa."

The reaction of the Israeli government first led to the decision to worsen the punishments issued the Palestinians who threw stones, and then to

authorize the force of order and, as one reads in the summary of the Pontifical Mission, "even common citizens who carry a weapon to shoot and kill any Palestinian that behaves in a suspicious manner." What is worrisome, the document signed by Sami El-Yousef continues, is also the sharing of violent incidents on local networks and Facebook.

The rebellion has taken on a violent character in various regions. In Gaza the Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, announced his full support for that which he describes as "the intifada to liberate Jerusalem" and in October there began talk of the "intifada of knives." Those involved are young and even very young Palestinians who, armed with whatever they



*Several times in the past, leaders of Christian churches went on the Temple Mount to show their solidarity and the importance of respecting holy places for every religious community. In this photo we remember the visit which occurred on September 30, 2013.*



## TENSIONS IN THE HOLY LAND

**A**t the end of October, we spoke with Msgr. William Shomali, Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem, on the tension in the Holy Land. The following is an excerpt of the interview, which is available in its entirety on the Order of the Holy Sepulchre's partner website, Vatican Insider:

**Is it correct to refer to a third "Intifada"?**

The manifestations indicate a third Intifada, with the difference being that neither the Palestinians (including Hamas) nor the Israelis want it. We ought not to forget that Mahmoud Abbas did everything possible to put an end to the second Intifada.

**The summary executions of suspects can give the impression that people do not matter. How does the local Church, which you represent, react?**

The disproportionate use of force, the use of soldiers, does not favor a climate of détente. On the contrary, violence has increased since the Israeli Prime Minister has allowed the summary executions of all suspects. We must also condemn all of the other violence, such as killing or injuring someone with a knife who was found in the wrong place at the wrong time, or hitting people with cars. Here too it would seem that life has no value. The Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land has, since the very beginning, condemned every attack on human life. The message Pope Francis gave on Sunday, October 18, recalled the same principle.



can find (often knives and scissors), go out and attack whatever Israeli crosses their path. As chief police inspector Micky Rosenfield said in an interview with *Famiglia Cristiana*, "the difficult part of this situation is that we are dealing with a bunch of lone wolves. There is no leader, no coordinator and no strategy." There is, then, no tactical influence from political leadership but a real revolt from the bottom, something to which even adolescents unite, as in the case of the 14 and 16 year-old Palestinians responsible for one of the attacks.

The situation has become tense in Jerusalem where Israelis are afraid of being attacked and Palestinians fear being accused and penalized for any manner considered to be suspicious by the forces keeping order and even passers-by. And the atmosphere is no more relaxed in the West Bank. For example, on October 25 during an incursion of Israeli soldiers at dawn around a hospital in Hebron, a relative of a man wanted by the police was killed. In various cities fighting broke out between Palestinians and Israeli police. The final count at the end of December 2015 numbered at

about 20 Israeli deaths and a little more than 130 Palestinian deaths.

### Cremisan: One More Wall

One item of news that in these months has particularly saddened the Palestinian population, and especially the Christian community, was the resumed work to build a wall of separation between Israel and the Palestinian Territories on August 17. This wall is in the Cremisan Valley where there are two Salesian religious houses and the land belonging to 48 Christian families, which would be confiscated. What makes it so difficult to understand this action taken by Israeli authorities is the fact that on April 2 after nine months of legal contest the final verdict of the Israeli Supreme Court was announced regarding the construction of the wall in the Cremisan Valley, blocked on account of being "harmful for the local population and the monasteries in the valley." In the newspaper of the Italian Bishops Conference, *Avvenire*, one reads the comment given by Father Mario Cornioli, priest of the Latin Patriarchate of



*On April 2, 2015, the Christian community in the Holy Land initially rejoiced upon learning of the Israeli Supreme Court's verdict, which blocked the construction of the separation wall in the Cremisan Valley. A few months later, however, the Supreme Court issued a final ruling that gave the green light to construction beginning on the Wall.*

Jerusalem, based in Beit Jala: "It is useless for a monastery to remain here and all the people's olives to be elsewhere, this is unacceptable and it is utterly unjust [...] it is useless to save a monastery if the wall then carries off an entire valley and two mountains full of olives and the land of 58 Christian families."

### **Gaza Today**

We would like to close the account of this past year with a look to Gaza. After the events of this last year, the United Nations named a investigatory commission that in June 2015 published a report in which both Israel and the Palestinian factions, including Hamas, are accused of violating international law and of likely committing war crimes. Father Raed Abusahlia, General Director of Caritas Jerusalem, without looking to the past, seeks to interpret the present and think of the

future, inviting those who desire it to participate in an initiative of solidarity to deliver Christmas gifts to the poorest families in Gaza. Furthermore, Father Raed provided certain statistics pertaining to the current situation: "Unemployment has reached 60%, and poverty is at 80%. The water is salinized and electricity is only available five hours per day. In all of this are 1,300 Christians, Catholics and Orthodox, and on the whole 350 families." As was discussed during the meeting of the Grand Magisterium of the Order in November 2015, there are around 130 Catholics in Gaza but the Catholic community manages three schools where the clear majority of the classes is not Christian. The call to love and service means to be present where there is need, regardless of the community to which one belongs, and the community in Gaza knows this all too well and lives it out on a daily basis alongside their Muslim neighbors. In this Holy Year of Mercy it is a beautiful notion to think of who has had and who will have the joy of passing through the holy door in Gaza. Indeed, on December 20, Patriarch Tawal opened the Holy Door in the small parish of the Holy Family in Gaza. As desired by the Holy Father, the Jubilee of Mercy is an occasion to live where one is. This is a real and commanding notion for the Christians in Gaza who have difficulty in being mobile and are in particular need of the grace of Mercy – something to be received by all, but also something to give to others!

**Elena Dini**



*The Caritas Jerusalem fundraising campaign made it possible for the children of Gaza to receive gifts this Christmas.*



# AT THE VERY HEART OF THE CHURCH'S MISSION: THE CULTURE OF DIALOGUE

*Interview with Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine, and Apostolic Nuncio to Israel*

**M**sgr. Giuseppe Lazzarotto, in what way could the agreement signed on June 26, between the Holy See and the State of Palestine, be described as historic, and in your opinion what fundamental elements does it contain?

We can certainly call this an historic agreement because it is the first Treaty between the Holy See and the State of Palestine. But its real importance lies in the fact that it offers a clear recognition and precise legal guarantees to the Catholic Church and its institutions in Palestine.

Regarding the content – which will be released after the ratification of the Agreement – the very title indicates it. This is a “global agreement” and thus covers all aspects of the life of the Church, its members, clergy and faithful, its structures and institutions. An important chapter concerning religious freedom and conscience is elaborated and detailed. Other aspects of the life of the Church in Palestine are also addressed: its jurisdiction, personal status, places of worship, social and charitable activity, means of social communication. Another chapter is dedicated to taxation issues and other aspects of church

property.

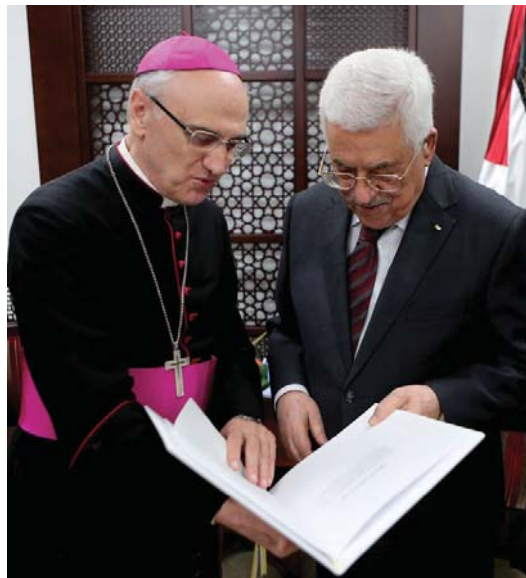
**Can we consider that this agreement is a model for organizing the presence and life of the Church in all other Muslim-majority countries?**

The Agreement can surely be an important point of reference for other Muslim-majority countries where the church can boast a long tradition of presence and activity on behalf of the Christian community and society in general. But I believe it is important to understand why the Holy See negotiates and concludes such agreements. At

the same time as seeking to achieve legal security, the Church also intends to offer concrete ways for its members to promote the welfare of the society in which they live.

**Regarding the agreement with Israel, which is still under negotiation, do you think we are heading for a signature in the short term?**

The agreement with Israel is virtually defined in its essential aspects. There are only a few technical points on which the Government of Israel has yet to decide. Various circumstances, including the formation of a new Government, have so far delayed the conclusion of the Agreement. For its part,



*A photo of Msgr. Giuseppe Lazzarotto, Apostolic Nuncio to Israel and Delegate for Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories, with President Mahmoud Abbas, during a visit to the Presidential headquarters in Ramallah on November 4, where he delivered Pope Francis' approval of the bilateral agreement signed in the Vatican on June 26, 2015.*

the Holy See hopes we can soon resume negotiations and find a common agreement on the points that are still pending.

**How does the Church promote the culture of encounter and interreligious dialogue in the Holy Land, and what role do Catholic schools have in this area?**

I would say the promotion of the culture of encounter and dialogue is at the heart of the mission of the Church. It is the Gospel message, which she is called to proclaim, that requires it. In the Holy Land the Church accomplishes this by all its institutions and especially by its network of schools that can boast a long tradition of teaching and high level of education recognized by all. I think it is essential that, in our schools, we engage further in seeking new educational pathways to meet the challenges which arise from encounter and dialogue in the specific context of the Holy Land and, in general, the Middle East.

**Can you briefly describe the legal status of Catholic schools in Palestine on the one hand, and Israel on the other, and tell us in this regard what challenges face the Church in the two countries?**

Both Israel and Palestine recognize the right of the Catholic Church to exercise its educational mission and to establish schools. The State of Israel also provides some financial support, as it does also for other schools in the same category. Currently the level of economic commitment of the State is the subject of a dispute between Christian schools in Israel and the Ministry of Education. President Reuven Rivlin's recent visit to the Vatican offered the opportunity to express the common wish that this issue could quickly find a satisfactory solution. What the Church asks in truth is to fulfill its mission in the most efficient manner.

**In your opinion what are the fruits of Pope Francis's visit to the Holy Land in May 2014?**

Pope Francis's visit in May 2014 remains a point of reference and encouragement, strong and clear, to all who sincerely work for peace in the Holy Land. The words and gestures of the Holy Father are also an appeal to all the leaders to open up to a higher dimension of politics. I think especially of the moment of prayer to which he invited the President of Israel and the President of

Palestine in the presence of the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople.

**How are the people of Gaza living today, a year after the "protective edge" operation, in particular the members of the small Catholic community, and what can we do for these people in a concrete manner?**

In Gaza the situation is very difficult after the war last year. Even the reconstruction has not yet been initiated. Our small Catholic community continues to offer a generous and courageous testimony among many difficulties. It does so mainly through the three schools and the homes for assistance to disabled children and the elderly.

**Are refugees from Iraq and Syria welcomed in Israel and also in Palestine, as they are in Jordan? Are these refugees victims of anti-Christian persecution, as claimed by some Western media, or do you think that their plight is the subject of a global operation to promote the "clash of civilizations" in the strategic interest of one particular camp?**

Regarding the situation of Christians in Iraq and in Syria, and more generally in the Middle East, we all know the frequent calls by Pope Francis, who continues to invite us to prayer and action on behalf of all the Christians who suffer persecution because of their faith. The situation is certainly very complex and very difficult to decipher. Nevertheless the words of the Holy Father are clear and push the international community to think seriously about the injustices of which Christians are the victims.

**How do you see the future of the region, from the outpost of Jerusalem, what is your hope, and how can the Order of the Holy Sepulchre participate even further in the service of peace in the Middle East?**

The general framework of the situation and the future in the Holy Land and the Middle East remain bleak. But we have learned from the Lord that we must never cease to sow hope even when discord seems to stifle everything. This is the great challenge for the Church in these times, well beyond this region. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre will find its place and continue its commitment to dialogue and collaboration with the local Church and its institutions.

**Interview by François Vayne**



# “WE ARE VERY SENSITIVE TOWARDS THE JEWISH PEOPLE, TOWARDS THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE”

*The Hebrew speaking Catholic Community in the Holy Land*

Sixty years have passed since temporary permission was granted to the Work of Saint James by the then Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Alberto Gori, and since the first mass was celebrated in Latin in Jaffa. The Association has been called to work for the development of the Catholic community, to help Jewish converts to Catholicism to integrate both into the Universal Church and into the Israeli community, to raise awareness within the Church of her Jewish origins, and to combat anti-Semitism. In 2013 the Vicariate of Saint James was established: it pursues the Work's mission and promotes pastoral care as well as evangelization and training for migrant workers, refugees, and asylum seekers.

Speaking about the vocation of the *kehillot* (Hebrew speaking parish communities), Father Neuhaus, head of the St. James Vicariate for Hebrew speaking Catholics in Israel, said: “part of the vocation of these *kehillot* is to live in a Hebrew speaking Judeo-Israeli society. Some of us are Jews, others are not. We form a discreet and loving presence that carefully respects the society around us. We are very sensitive towards the Jewish people, towards their history and culture.”

Father David Neuhaus recalls how there is good reason to be thankful for all that has happened since the first day of these communities: the conciliar document *Nostra Aetate*, which marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel, and the



*The faithful from Hebrew speaking parish communities are, for the most part, migrants who work in Israel, and whose children speak Hebrew at school.*

growth of the *kehillot*, which today are seven in number and belong to this Vicariate.

But there are also many challenges that these communities are facing. Perhaps the most significant is finding ways to transmit the Faith to the new generations that are increasingly tempted to assimilate into Jewish and secular society, and sometimes, to convert.

## Creating a bridge between two worlds

To celebrate the 60 years since the first *kehillot's* founding in Israel, a documentary was produced (<http://cmc-terrasanta.com/en/video/the-kehillot-60-years-9626.html>), in which one can listen to the various testimonies of community members of all ages. It is beautiful to see that the words most often repeated are “home” and “family”. For the



*The priests of kehillot during the annual retreat of the Saint James Vicariate (at the bottom of this page is the header of the homepage of the Vicariate's site – catholic.co.il). This year the retreat was held at Mount Tabor from September 29 to October 2, 2015, and discussed the theme of Jewish-Catholic relations since the Declaration Nostra Aetate.*

youngest ones there is a group called “The flowers of the desert” – a name that is in itself very significant – and the teenagers joyfully spoke about the great experience of summer camps, during which they learn a lot about their faith but also simply spend time together to play and have fun. A young seminarian who is serving in one of *kehillot* explains how the relationships that young people form at these camps are important: “These children live in a non-Christian society. Many of them attend public schools and only have Jewish friends. This could give the impression of being isolated and marginalized by society. At the summer camps, they meet other young Christians and build relationships that will last.”

In addition to the teenagers, the Vicariate pays special attention to the youngest children. Sister Claudia Graziano tells of the particular situation of

**“ Hebrew speaking and Arabic speaking disciples of Christ are called to show that justice, peace and equality are possible in our land ”**

the children of migrant workers. “We try to work for the new Christian population of the country. There are children – and the children you see in the video are under two years old – from Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Eritrea and South America, and they are all Christians. The majority belong to families with single parents.” The presence of a single mother for a child, or even of both parents but not of grandparents, is reflected in the great difficulty of having the time to take care of your son. These people, Sister Cristina says, “often work as cleaners without formal contracts, and this means they have no holidays to spend with their children.”

Another particular challenge is creating bridges between the Palestinian world and the Israeli world. Father Neuhaus writes in his pastoral letter: “We are all invited to reflect on the fact that God Almighty has planted the seed of faith in Christ deep in the soil of both Palestinian (and Arab) and Israeli societies. Does this have significance for the vocation of Christ’s disciples who, though separated by

walls of enmity because of the ongoing conflict, are united by their faith in Christ? [...] Brought together, despite the walls of enmity, because “He is our peace”, Hebrew speaking and Arabic speaking disciples of Christ are called to show that justice, peace and equality are possible in our land.”

Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See, informed the Vicariate of Pope Francis’ apostolic blessing on this celebratory anniversary.

E.D.



## Saint James Vicariate

### For Hebrew Speaking Catholics in Israel




Pastoral Letter

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# A PONTIFICAL FOUNDATION FOR PROMOTING FORMATION AND CULTURE

**During the Autumn meeting of the Grand Magisterium, on November 11, 2015, Archbishop Antonio Franco – Assessor – presented an important notice regarding the new Saint John the Baptist Vatican Foundation that particularly sustains the University of Madaba in Jordan, territory of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.**

**Your Eminence, Your Excellencies,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,**

In our meeting in the month of April 2015, speaking of the work in favor of the University of Madaba, which was being carried out by the Commission “*ad hoc*”, established by the Secretary of State, this project was also alluded to, which was a study of the creation of a Vatican Foundation which could have broader goals than those of the Commission, even if, for the time being, the work would continue as a priority.

The proposal was accepted and the Foundation, called “St. John the Baptist Vatican Foundation”, was erected with the *Rescriptum ex audientia* N. 36723/A on May 30, 2015, by the Secretariat of State, and properly enrolled in the relevant registers for canonical legal persons and for those of the Vatican, kept at the Governor of Vatican City State, respectively n. 52 and n. 44.

The Foundation has as its goal “*the promotion of the formation and culture of Christians and peoples, with special attention to the countries of the Middle East*” (Statute, Art. 1.1). However, for the time being it must continue the work of the special mentioned Commission and must facilitate the financial recovery of the University of Madaba, making the development of the same University’s structures possible and assisting it until it has reached full self-sufficiency in all respects.

Having just described the general and immediate goal, it comes as no surprise that the Secretary of State has entrusted the Presidency of the Foundation to the Grand Master of our Order, H.E. Cardinal Edwin F. O’Brien, and six of the other twelve Members belong to our Order. The

Order, in fact, has the Holy Land as an area of interest and action, with special attention to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and the University of Madaba is an initiative of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, intended first of all for the good the Christian community in Jordan, whose stories will necessarily affect the entire Patriarchate and the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. However, the two entities, the St. John the Baptist Foundation and the OESSH are distinct and should not be confused.

The Foundation, which is based in the Palazzo delle Congregazioni in Piazza Pio XII, 3, Rome, has promoted the establishment of a “*Not-Profit Private Shareholding Company*”, which was established by H.B. Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal by signing, on August 13, 2015, the *Memorandum of Association* and the *Articles of Association*, and was registered by the competent civil authorities with the name of *Mukawer Castle* (site of the martyrdom of St. John the Baptist) *Company*.

With the registration, the Society has obtained legal recognition and can act with respect to the University with the powers of the “Owner” transferred to it by the Patriarch with the signing of the Statute which regulates the action. Therefore, the implementation of the plan of action in favor of the University of Madaba is through the joint action of the Latin Patriarchate and the Vatican Foundation.

With regard to the fiscal consolidation, the Foundation, due to guarantees offered by the Secretary of State, has obtained a bank loan, which is still being finalized, and, with the help of local



experts who examine the requests, has already begun to close accounts with contractors and suppliers and hopes to complete the payment within the year, including also the repayment of the loan granted by the Presidency of the Grand Magisterium last February. Discussion with the banks was also initiated on October 21 and 22. It was requested that they waive interest and accept the payment only of the granted loan. All have been understanding and shown interest in the proposal; so far one has accepted, another has not yet decided, the other three would commit to reducing the amount of interest. The negotiations are still open. It is working, therefore, for the development of a 10-year *business plan* for the development of the University's structures, to be able to accommodate up to 5,000 students, and for the amortization of the loan contract by the Foundation, which will result in the alienation of the Patriarchate's immovable property and of other remaining debts.

On the academic side, respecting the autonomy desired by Jordanian legislation, the Foundation has developed and is developing, in cooperation with the local Society, a program of

collaboration with other Universities in Europe and the United States of America.

The Foundation, upon completion of the fiscal consolidation and having paid off the loan contract, will cease to be directly involved with the University of Madaba, leaving the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem with full and independent responsibility for managing the Athenaeum. At present, however, the Foundation, by mandate of the Holy See, with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and the *Mukawer Castle* Society, has the responsibility of ensuring the rehabilitation and development of this University, which welcomed its first graduates in September 2015. The University is seen as one of the most prestigious universities in Jordan and, most importantly, Christians can attend the University without being subjected to difficulty or pressures of a religious nature. In one year it has already come a long way. There still remains much to be done, with God's help and the cooperation of those who love the Holy Land.

**Antonio Franco**

*Apostolic Nuncio*

*and Assessor of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*

## PRECIOUS "DROPS OF PEACE" IN THE HOLY LAND

**F**aced with a situation like that which we see in the Holy Land, and also in many other countries around the world, where even the most peaceful citizens find themselves faced with growing tension towards differences, towards belonging to another religious and immigrant community, there are those who decide to welcome trust and mutual understanding.

They are like drops in a sea, but, as we read in the Gospel, and as we learn from daily life, a small amount of yeast can ferment a lot of dough. Thus, in addition to the necessary updates on the situation in the Holy Land, we want to highlight a series of experiences that open hearts to hope.

### **From heart to mouth, and vice versa...**

We are in Kfar Vitkin, north of Tel Aviv in an Israeli restaurant. Kobi Tzafrir manages a Hummus Bar here, and while tensions were escalating in Israel and Palestine in October, he decided to publish an advertisement on the restaurant's Facebook page: "With us there are no Arabs, and there are not even Jews... With us there are only humans. And great hummus! And great Jewish falafel too!" He also made a discount offer: 50% off for those who sit at a mixed table, Jews and Arabs together, and if you are still hungry plates are refilled for free. Tzafrir's goal was to show that, in addition to what people see on the news, there are many Jews and Arabs who

are not hostile and who eat at the same table. The day following his announcement, the restaurant owner reported that three tables took advantage of the discount offer in place, but that many more tables were mixed and had clients who insisted on paying full price because they wanted to support this initiative.

In Harish too, a town in the district of Haifa in northern Israel near the Palestinian border, a small group of people decided to start making cakes and offering them at intersections and to both Jewish and Arab workers on construction sites. Demonstrating peace, therefore, with good sweets in hand and taking the opportunity to meet each other and bring down some walls of suspicion and indifference.

### At the source of peace: the role of prayer

In times of crisis, the believer can only turn to Him who is the source of peace, shalom, salaam. On October 24, the eve of the feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine, the

Catholic parishes of the Holy Land gathered for a prayer vigil for peace. The initiative came from the Young Catholic Students of Palestine, whose chaplain, Fr. Bashar Fawadleh, commented: "Young people want to pray for peace in the Middle East but especially for peace in Jerusalem, which is our city, our capital, the holy city of peace which, in these days, has again become a

scene of blood, violence, oppression and death." The prayer service was open to everyone – Christians, Jews and Muslims –, and they were invited to pray that God "Almighty and Merciful, touch the hearts of men and free them from hatred, fear and revenge."

On October 29, in response to the environment that Jerusalem is experiencing, an interreligious prayer was organized outside the Jaffa Gate. The event was widely spread across social media, and attended by mostly Jews and Christians, each praying in their own tradition in the spirit of Assisi. Among the institutions sponsoring the event were Tantur Ecumenical Institute and the Elijah Interfaith Institute. "It seems that we have entered into a dead end on the political front – commented

Fr. Russ McDougall, director of the Catholic Tantur Institute, dedicated to study and to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue – and now it is as if we have stormed the gates of Heaven to ask God to help us find a solution."



*Young Christians from the Holy Land, during the prayer for peace that was held at the parish of Beit Sahour in Bethlehem.*

### Educating for peace

In Israel and Palestine, young people have a great responsibility in building the future of the country. The responsibility of their teachers is even greater. There are also several organizations that concern themselves with finding space and possibilities for young Palestinians and Jews to



*On the All Nations Café website ([allnationscafe.org](http://allnationscafe.org)) many colorful hands indicate openness to all.*

share experiences together, to get to know each other and to discover similarities and differences in a fascinating manner. The All Nations Cafe is a place and an organization that creates opportunities for encounter: a room in East Jerusalem next to the Mosque of al-Aqsa where many activities are held, such as organized trips to Jordan, the creation of the first Israeli musical group that has performed at the festival of music and Arab art in Jerash, Jordan, week-long camps for families and young Israelis and Palestinians... Even in these days, on their blog, one can find a member's invitation to the next week-long camp that will soon take place.

Activities do not stop even for Kids4Peace, an association that works with children to support a culture of peace from the smallest, with the idea that the change that you want to see in society begins with personal transformations. The values they support are simple and practical, and it is beneficial to read the first two: "diversity (in the context of family, in political views and religious practice) and equality (between men and women, religions and cultures, nations and peoples)." When visiting the homepage of their website, visitors are greeted with this message: "We will not be defeated. Kids4Peace responds to the violence in Jerusalem by strengthening its community, in dialogue with partners and continuing with its programs. Nothing will be cancelled."

## Heroic acts in daily life

In early September, a group of five young Jewish American students tried to visit the graves of the Patriarchs in Hebron. Not knowing the roads well, they took a wrong turn and found themselves in an Arab neighborhood. Some Palestinian youth reacted to the sight of the group by throwing rocks and trying to set fire to their car. Fayez Abu Hamdia, a Palestinian businessman who was on his way back home after a day's work, saw the scene and took the Jewish teens into his home. Trying to calm them down, without a common language of communication, he called the Israeli police and asked for help. "I'm not a hero, I simply did what I had to do. We are all, first and foremost, human beings," said Hamdia.

The situation in the Holy Land is certainly complicated, but when faced with these small everyday acts, which are at the same time extraordinary, the question poses itself of what each person can do in their own life to build a culture of peace.

**Elena Dini**

*After the recent events that have shaken the Holy Land, Kids4Peace (k4p.org) responds with a smile and with a willingness to continue in their efforts for peace.*





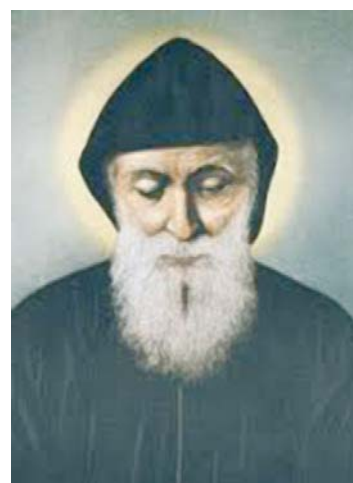
# THE MARONITES IN THE HOLY LAND

Deacon Habib Sandy Haifa, in Israel, sent us the following article on August 15, 2015. The text presents one of the Catholic communities of the Holy Land, the Maronites. The Maronite Church was founded between the late 4<sup>th</sup> and early 5<sup>th</sup> century in Antioch (in the north of present-day Syria). Its founder, St. Maron, was a monk around whom a community began to grow. Over the centuries, the Maronite Church was the only Eastern Church to always be in full communion of faith with the Apostolic See of Rome. This is a Catholic Eastern Rite (Syrian-Antiochian). Today, there are about three million Maronites worldwide, including nearly a million in Lebanon.

**P**resent times are particularly severe for Eastern Christians.

While we are monitoring the situation in Syria and Iraq on a daily basis, we are very concerned about the situation of Christians in other countries like Libya and Egypt. It's true that the situation of Christians in the Holy Land is acceptable in terms of safety, however, there is cause for concern given the events that took place against Churches and monasteries, and the recent fire, an act committed

against the Tabgha Monastery on the Sea of Galilee. Unfortunately in Israeli society there are some Jewish fanatics, encouraged by figures such as Bentsi Gopstein declaring his animosity against Christians and calling his followers to eradicate all that is not Jewish in the Holy Land. This last statement is especially serious and threatens the Christian presence which makes up only 2% of the population in Israel and Palestine. In this atmosphere, the hope and courage of Christians is not lacking, quite the contrary, they continue to root their deep faith here in Our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, incarnate in the Holy Land. In addition, the presence of the representative of the Holy See, His Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio, who defends the interests of the Church and its institutions and watches over the religious



*Saint Maron and Saint Charbel, heavenly protectors of Lebanon.*

congregations and Christian organizations of all rites, gives great support for the presence of Christians in the Holy Land.

The Maronite community of about 11,000 faithful has inhabited the Holy Land for one thousand years; the majority, however, had left Mount Lebanon after the massacres of Christians by the Druze, who were aided by the Turks, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of them then fled to neighboring areas and settled permanently. They currently live in the following towns and villages: Nazareth, Haifa, Akko, Jish, Isifiya, Shefaram, Aïn Kenya (Golan), Jaffa, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Amman in Jordan. Another wave of Maronites left Lebanon in 2000 when the Israeli army withdrew from southern Lebanon. Families settled in Nahariya, Kiryat Shmona, Tiberias, Safed, Ma'alot-



*Cardinal  
Béchara  
Boutros Raï,  
Maronite  
Patriarch (left)  
and his brother  
Msgr. Moussa  
El Hage who is  
head of the  
diocese of  
Haifa, in the  
Holy Land.*



to the Western orders and congregations established in the East, but also helping in the training of monastic families within the Eastern Catholic Christian communities, such as the Melkites in 1736, the Catholic Syrians in 1780, the Chaldeans in 1845 and the Armenians in 1852.

The Maronite community in the Holy

Tarshiha, Karmiel, Haifa, where they still remain today.

The Maronite Diocese of Haifa was established in 1996 after it broke away from the Maronite Diocese of Tyre. After being appointed Vicar General in Bkerke, Lebanon, Msgr. Moussa El Hage succeeded Msgr. Paul Sayah at the head of the Maronite Diocese of Haifa in 2012.

Our community is served by a group of diocesan priests, a religious community of Lebanese Maronites in Jaffa at the Monastery of St. Anthony the Great and a religious Antonin Maronite priest who looks after the Lebanese community, living in Galilee since the 2000. But the Maronite clergy is present in the majority of religious communities of men and women of all faiths in the Holy Land. For example Franciscans, Trappists, Carmelites, Salesians, Vincentians, Capuchins, convents, Sisters of the Holy Rosary, Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of Charity, Carmelite Sisters, Franciscan Sisters of the Cross, Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary, etc.

This community, which was named after Saint Maron the Anchorite, in the 4<sup>th</sup> century, owes its existence to its attachment to the Holy Catholic Church and its spiritual leader, the Maronite Patriarch in Mount Lebanon. It is fuelled by its faith in God and its commitment to the Virgin Mary and the new Maronite saints, especially St. Charbel, a Maronite Catholic priest, monk and hermit.

In the more strictly religious and monastic field, Maronites have helped the Eastern Catholic Churches (also known as “sister churches”), not only providing an impressive number of vocations

Land had a single visit from its spiritual leader, the Maronite Patriarch, Cardinal Béchara Boutros Raï, from May 26 to 29, 2014, for the first time in its history. He was also welcomed with joy by other communities throughout the Holy Land, far beyond our Church. Now we are beginning to enjoy the benefits of this visit at all levels, ecumenically and interreligiously.

The relationship of your Order with the Holy Land is deep and very old. You nourish it through prayer, material support and regular visits to the Holy Land. During these organized visits and meetings, you invoke peace in these places and raise funds for the works that the Order promotes to help the local Christian populations.

We, the Maronites, are united with you in prayer in the Holy Spirit; we pray that Your Order remains a stronghold of faith and spiritual and material support for the Holy Land, and especially for the Catholic Christian community, which is a haven of hope for all the people of the region. ■



*The maronite church of Our Lady of Annunciation in Nazareth.a*



## THE LIFE OF THE LIEUTENANCIES





## THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING TO EXPERIENCE A PILGRIMAGE IN THE HOLY LAND

More than 60 members and guests of the Order welcomed Grand Master Edwin Cardinal O'Brien and Governor General Professor Agostino Borromeo at a reception on October 19. The Grand Master and Governor General were making a brief stop in Melbourne on their way back to Rome following the Regional Consult in Adelaide the previous weekend. A number of guests have since expressed interest in candidacy or had their interest in joining the Order strengthened following the Grand Master's presentation.

On September 12 the Carmelite Sisters again provided facilities at their Monastery in Kew for a Vigil and Mass preceding Investitures of new candidates. The services were celebrated by the Prior of the Dominican Order, Father Dominic Murphy. On Sunday, September 13, the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, Archbishop Denis Hart, celebrated Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral for the Investiture of John and Kaisu Parkes as Knight and Dame. Robed Knights and Dames and the full Cathedral Choir ensured a wonderful atmosphere. Later, members of the Lieutenancy welcomed our new Knight and Dame at a luncheon.

The annual dinner of the Lieutenancy was held on June 22 and attended by Paul Bartley KGCHS, member of the Grand Magisterium. Dr Bartley

spoke of the work of the Grand Magisterium and some of the issues facing the Order as it carries out its mission in support of the Christian people in the Holy Land.

The continuing bi-monthly liturgy of Mass and Rosary, followed by light refreshments, has fostered the spirituality and togetherness of the Lieutenancy as members strive to carry out their mission of faith and works. The final meeting, where Ecclesiastical Knight Fr. Brendan Hayes celebrated Mass and then hosted refreshments at his home, was a fitting preparation for Christmas and finale to the year.

Preparations are well in hand for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land during May 2016 under the spiritual direction of Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies Bishop Peter Elliott KC\*HS.



*The Grand Prior, Archbishop Denis Hart, Knight Grand Cross, Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies, Bishop Peter Elliott, Knight Commander with Star, Knights and Dames gathered outside St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, after the Lieutenancy's mass of Investitures on September 13.*

# DEEPENING OUR FAITH SO AS TO BETTER SERVE OUR BROTHERS IN THE HOLY LAND

**2015 was a dynamic and active year for the Belgian Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Various initiatives stimulated our dynamism and contributed to the nourishment of our spirituality...**

## Some important moments in the life of the Order.

Like every year, a Mass for the Faithful Departed of the Order preceded the general assembly of the Belgian Lieutenancy held on March 14.

Holy Week was followed with devotion in our Capitulary church of Sablon. A choir composed of members of the Order was formed this year, and continues to beautify our offices of prayer.

A retreat was held on June 5-7 to prepare candidates. On June 12 there was a vigil in our Capitulary church of Our Lady in Sablon, the night before eleven knights (of which two are priests) were knighted in a very beautiful ceremony. Four Dames also made their entrance into the Order.

On September 6, we attended a Mass requested by the Lieutenant with the special intention of refugees. The celebration was followed by a Garden Party hosted by our community brother and sister Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Moulder.

For the feast of the King, November 15, a large delegation of the Order attended the traditional singing of the *Te Deum* in the Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudule.

To conclude, with great joy, on November 17, the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien came to Belgium accompanied by the Governor General, Agostino Borromeo. They delivered to their Royal Majesties the King and Queen the emblem of the Knight and the Lady of the Collar. That evening, over dinner, each had the occasion to ask questions which they wished answered. The Grand Master and the Governor General responded with good grace.

The year 2015 has been extremely rich in various activities of all kind. Everything focuses on a common point: the worries of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and the deepening of our faith.

## Welcoming the refugees

Responding to the call of the Cardinal Grand Master, the Belgian Lieutenancy has created a specific cell group in order to look after the refugees.

Comprised of ten people, the action of the committee revolves around three main axes:

- 1 - Accommodation: We must help the Christian refugees in Belgium to find accommodation.
- 2 - To accompany the adults in the appropriate administrative steps, in learning the language, in general integration.
- 3 - To accompany the children (homework, youth movements, etc.)

The generosity of the Lieutenancy of Belgium can be found through time given for meetings, material and financial donations, but also through friendship.

This enables us to realise our objective (modestly, as the task is immense): to warmly welcome our Christian brothers and sisters here at home.

## Conferences

Over the course of a breakfast, which each time brings together more or less 60 people, various lectures were listened to with interest, often provoking many questions. These breakfasts always provide the occasion to get together socially, and at the same time deepen various aspects of our spiritual life.

Amongst many others, here are some of the addressed themes:

SEPTEMBER 22:

"Combat poverty through dignified work." Sr Jeanne Devos, missionary in India.



*On November 17, the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien went to Belgium accompanied by the Governor General, Agostino Borromeo. They presented the emblems of Knight and Lady of the Collar to their Majesties the King and Queen (Copyright: Koninklijk Paleis – Palais Royal).*

OCTOBER 24:

Feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine.  
“Inheritance and hope of Christians from the Middle East.” Msgr. Pascal Gollnisch, director of l’Œuvre d’Orient.

### Diocesan activities

The Sections were particularly dynamic and active during the course of this year. They organised a range of activities such as conferences, visits, meetings with members of different religions, all with the aim of following the theme of this year: ‘The multicultural reality of our world’. This theme, followed throughout the year, enabled us to discover how much more complex our world has become – more rich but more complicated – as

ever is the case. For the year 2015-2016 the theme was “Evangelii Gaudium” which really caught our attention. The richness of this apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis enabled us to develop the pastoral and missionary side to our activities.

Among the meetings of 2015, here are two examples:

MAY 3:

Brussels: Visit to the protestant royal Sainte Chapelle and to the Grand Synagogue.

NOVEMBER 11:

Brabant Wallon-Namur: Visit to the Fraternity of Tiberius. “How do we discover the joy of the Gospel in its simplicity?” Br. Bart.



[www.holysepulchre.be](http://www.holysepulchre.be)

## PILGRIMAGES

During this year, we have participated in various pilgrimages or processions, both within and outside of Belgium. Here following are two of the more significant.

MARCH 6:

Veneration of the Holy Crown of Thorns at Notre Dame, Paris.

AUGUST 14-15:

Night river pilgrimage to Paris and solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## RETREATS

OCTOBER 17-18:

Liège: Apostolic Exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium” - Youth retreat for the young people of the Lieutenancy. With Msgr. Delville.

NOVEMBER 19-22:

Cistercian abbey of Mont des Cats: “Break the bread, why adore it?” With Fr. Jean-Daniel Mischler.



## THE WORK OF MEMBERS OF THE ORDER BEARS FRUIT

**The Lieutenant, throughout 2015, took a number of steps with a view to the development and expansion of our Order.**

One of these was to invite eminent speakers to consider matters of great religious importance. Dr. Marcos Raul Santana who analyzed in detail the Holy Shroud of Our Lord Jesus Christ, from the religious and scientific points of view, came to speak. Among the participants was our Grand Prior of the Order and Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, Cardinal Dom Orani João Tempesta, O.Cist, and the invitation was extended to members of the Union of Catholic Jurists of Rio de Janeiro. Msgr. Sérgio Costa Couto spoke about hope, making a detailed analysis of the virtue, as he had done the year before on the virtue of faith.

General meetings and meetings of the Lieutenantancy's Council, chaired by the Lieutenant, were held throughout the year 2015 in the presence

of Cardinal Dom Orani.

The Lieutenant called upon all the members, and especially Dames Gisella Amaral and Isis Penido, to bring new members into the Order. Their efforts produced excellent results, with the investiture of 20 new members.

### A closer look at two events

On December 9, Lieutenant Gustavo Miguez de Mello presented a cultural event to raise funds for humanitarian work that the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre supports in the Holy Land.

The event took place in Professor Carlos Alberto Serpa's "Casarão Neo Clássico": a beautiful house, built at the beginning of the

century, which today is the center of the Cesgranrio Foundation for Education. Organized by Dames Gisella Amaral and Isis Penido, and Knights Gilson Araújo Jr. and Marcelo Susini, with the presence of the highest civil authorities, religious and military, the event brought together around 200 people.

The delightful evening included art exhibitions and a delicious buffet. We would like to warmly thank all those who collaborated on the event.

On December 10, Cardinal Dom Orani João Tempesta, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro and Grand Prior of the Order, presided over the solemn Mass for the Investiture of 13 new knights and 7 new dames of the Order of the Holy



*An artistic evening organised by the Lieutenantancy enabled us to raise funds for projects under work in the Holy Land.*

*Knights and Dames during the Investiture of 2015, a ceremony in which 20 members were fully welcomed into the Order.*



Sepulchre.

Prior Msgr. André Sampaio concelebrated at the beautiful ceremony, Msgr. Sergio Costa Couto served as the religious Master of Ceremonies, and Isis Penido served as the lay Master of Ceremonies.

Among those who received the Investiture was Princess Maritza de Orleans and Bragança. The ceremony was followed by a cocktail event, organized by Eder Meneghine, and included a special cake prepared by Eliane Sampaio.

## CANADA – ATLANTIC

### A TRUE FRATERNAL SPIRIT

**The Lieutenancy of Atlantic Canada was blessed with several opportunities for the members to come together for worship and fellowship, to pray for peace and to deepen our spiritual lives.**

One of the highlights of our year was in April when the lieutenancy sponsored a public lecture by Sir Michael Higgins, KCHS entitled

“Thomas Merton: A Spiritual Guide for Our Perplexing Times.” This was part of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of world-



*On October 25 a mass was celebrated for the Feast of Our Lady of Palestine, followed by a meeting.*



renowned monk and spiritual writer, Thomas Merton. Award-winning author, broadcaster and Merton scholar, Dr. Higgins, offered an engaging exploration of the contemporary relevance of Merton's life and witness that was an inspiration to the audience.

The Canada Atlantic Lieutenancy was pleased to bestow promotions on Father Paul Morris, KCHS, Sir Anthony Metlej, KCHS and Dame Sabah Metlej, DCHS at our Annual Meeting weekend at St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica, Halifax, Nova Scotia in June. Archbishop Anthony Mancini, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, officiated. Dr. David Deane, Catholic theologian, gave an inspiring address to the members of the

Order and guests relating how the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is an example for all Christians to follow as we embrace and profess the message of God's love throughout the world in a true sense of fraternity with one another. We were very pleased to have Sir John Piunno, KGCHS, guest speaker, representing the Grand Magisterium, who explained how the complexity of the geo-political realities impact the lives of those living in the Holy Land and the importance of the role of the Order in this area.

Members attended mass together at St. Benedict's Church with Fr. James Mallon, KCHS on the Feast of Our Lady, October 25, followed by lunch and a meeting.

## CANADA - MONTRÉAL

### A HISTORICAL INVESTITURE IN THE HOLY LAND

On Wednesday May 6, 2015, members of the Canada-Montréal Lieutenancy had the honour and joy to celebrate an exceptional Investiture: that of Msgr. Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal, held at the Co-Cathedral of the Most Holy Name of Jesus of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The Lieutenant Giuseppe Maiolo was present as was the Grand Prior of the Canada-Montréal Lieutenancy, Msgr. Louis Dicaire. The Investiture was celebrated by His Beatitude Patriarch Fouad Twal and Msgr. William Shomali, Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem. The Investiture occurred on the occasion of a pilgrimage to the Holy

Land by members of the Canada-Montréal Lieutenancy, which began on Monday, May 4, with an olive tree planting ceremony in the garden of the Beit Sahour home of Joseph and Amal Shomali, members of the Lieutenancy who were instrumental in organizing both the pilgrimage and the Investiture.



*A pilgrimage to the Holy Land is always an opportunity for members of the Order to show their spiritual communion with the leaders of the local church.*



## REDISCOVERING BLESSED FRÉDÉRIC JANSOONE

**In 2015, the Lieutenancy of Canada-Québec had a busy agenda once again. One of their more remarkable activities was a pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Notre-Dame-du-Cap on September 25, date of the anniversary of the beatification of Fr Frédéric Janssoone (Order of Friars Minor) founder of the commissionership of the Holy Land at Trois-Rivières in 1888 and co-founder of the first sanctuary, the same year.**

**O**n September 25, 2015, my cousin and I, at the instigation of our fellow brothers and sisters from Trois-Rivières, Québec and Saguenay, joyously replied to the invitation of Fr. Yoland Ouellet, Oblate of Mary Immaculate (OMI), rector of the Sanctuary *Notre-Dame-du-Cap*, to come and celebrate the memory and works of Fr Frédéric Janssoone, beatified the same day in 1988, in Rome, by Pope John-Paul II. As soon as we arrived we gathered in the Little Sanctuary, the first church founded in 1888, where we had Mass concelebrated by Fr Yoland Ouellet and other priests, including Canon Jean Tailleux together with the Chancellor for the Diocese of Québec and Prior coadjutor for the Lieutenancy of Canada-

Québec.

Following that we formed a silent procession which passed over the Rosary Bridge (erected in memory of the miracle in 1879 of the 'Ice Bridge' which in answer to many rosaries prayed by the parishioners, formed over the stream enabling the transport of stone needed to construct the first church) aiming for the replica of the Holy Sepulchre which Fr. Frédéric, ardent defender of the Holy Land, had built near the church. Each pilgrim had the chance to go into the Sepulchre in order to venerate a reliquary of Blessed Fr. Frédéric. In the afternoon, after a good lunch, we went to the Basilica to attend a lecture on its stained glass windows. From the teaching given by

Fr. Paul Arsenault, an expert on the subject, we learnt amongst other things that the Dutch artist, Fr. Jan Tillemans, adopted a technique from the Middle Ages, using glass with the same depth and richness of colour as of that used in the great windows of European Gothic cathedrals such as Chartres or Reims.

As the weather was mild we finished our pilgrimage by following the Way of the Cross erected in the Sanctuary gardens. This regenerating and beautiful day will remain amongst one of the most beautiful memories we have of this year.

**Sylvie Prémont**



*A reproduction of the Holy Sepulchre was built on the site of the sanctuary Notre-Dame-du-Cap by demand of Fr. Frédéric, who was fervently devoted to the Holy Land.*

## THE YEAR 2015 IN PICTURES

*On March 21, 2015, members of the Lieutenancy of Canada-Québec took part in the yearly Lenten reflection in the diocesan minor seminary. Within the context of the year for consecrated life, Sr. Doris Lamontagne, of the Little Franciscans of Mary, gave a atechesis on 'The life and spiritual heritage of St Francis of Laval.'*



*As tradition dictates, every Palm Sunday, the members of the Lieutenancy of Canada-Québec visit a different parish than that of the preceding year. In 2015, the parish they chose to visit was that of St. Romuald. After the homily, our Lieutenant was invited to address a few words to the parishioners, presenting the Order and its mission.*

*Last October 3, around 40 people attended a vigil held at the chapel of the minor seminary's chapel.. Eight members were promoted during the ceremony presided over by Msgr. Luc Bouchard, Bishop of Trois-Rivières. The following day, Sunday, October 4, the celebrations continued at the Cathedral-Basilica Our Lady of Québec for the ceremony of Investitures presided over by Msgr. Gaétan Proulx, Auxiliary Bishop of Québec. Five new members, two Dames and three Knights, one of whom is a priest, were knighted. Photograph: Daniel Abel, official photographer for the Cathedral-Basilica Our Lady of Québec.*





### PREPARING THE FIRST INVESTITURE

**The first attempt to fund a peripheral structure of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to the Czech Republic took place in 2010.**

A group of ten candidates from Prague turned to Cardinal Dominik Duka, asking for help in setting up the home organization of the Order in their country. However, this initiative has not been fulfilled.

The impulse for the current foundation of the Order in the Czech Republic came from Jiří Pořízka, Commander of the Pontifical Order of St Gregory the Great. He was a political prisoner under the communist regime, and left his occupied homeland for Sweden in 1968. In 2013, his friend Stefan Ahrendstedt became Order Lieutenant in Sweden, and during his visit to Msgr. Jan Graubner, Archbishop of Olomouc and Metropolitan of Moravia on September 27, 2013, he initiated the Order's introduction to the Czech Lands with Pořízka.

On May 8, 2014, Archbishop Msgr. Jan Graubner was named Grand Prior at a rank of Commander with Star, and then he named Pořízka to be the secretary for the beginning period.

The Czech Magistral Delegation was founded through the decrees of Cardinal Grand Master



*On May 13, 2015, Msgr. Jan Graubner, Archbishop of Olomouc and Grand Prior of the Delegation, gave Jiří Pořízka his letter of nomination as Magistral Delegate.*

Edwin O'Brien of March 9, 2015, and the first Delegate named was Jiří Pořízka.

The total number of members is eight, comprised of five Knights, one Dame one priest and the Grand Prior. They have a number of tasks before them in building up and consolidating the organization and ensuring that it develops properly. The first investiture is planned for spring 2016 in St. Wenceslas Cathedral in Olomouc.

## DEUTSCHLAND

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### FOUR LIEUTENANTS OF THE GERMAN LIEUTENANCY: A QUARTER OF A CENTURY OF HISTORY

**Honorary Lieutenant Peter F. Heidinger, Stuttgart (1991-1999)**

The oldest German lieutenant still living, took office in 1991.

His objectives were: to give personally and in community a testimony of charity and Christian solidarity whilst keeping alive the knightly virtues of calm, kindness (service, sense of sacrifice),

courage (courage to claim the Faith, nobility of heart, magnanimity) and faithfulness. (quoted from Wolff, in: Dickmann/Oldenkott „Erbe und Aufgabe“ [*Heritage and mission*], Paderborn 2009, p. 339).

In the early years of his mandate, Professor Heidinger overcame a negative representation of the Order in the German media, calling it “the crisis of the media”: “The foundation of the media



commission and the nomination of an intermediary for information and public relations is the true beginning of professional Press relationships" (Wolff *ibidem*, p. 341). Since the time of yearly Investitures, the Press is informed in advance and we organize press conferences with them.

After the first Intifada (1987-1993) we created, under the proposition of the then president of the Commission for the Holy Land, an "Emergency aid fund for the German Lieutenancy" (what became the "Social fund", and is now "German Humanitarian Aid Fund").

The reflections on "How to activate management" (1994) led to new conferences on management (nowadays known as 'congress for managers') and to new specialised commissions.

In 1994, in the new German 'Länder' in the east, the Lieutenancy founded the new Section "East Germany".

Dr. Heidinger's words of farewell during the Investiture in 1998 in Hambourg evoked the image of "a great ship upon which, in our Order, we make the pilgrimage of life" (quoted from Wolff, *ibidem*, p. 345).

#### **Honorary Lieutenant Paul Theodor Oldenkott, Ulm (1999-2007)**

Professeur Oldenkott took his mandate with the objective (quoted from Wolff, *ibidem*, p. 351) "to reinforce the harmony between the brothers of the Order" as well as "to personally and humanly interpret" his mission of management and the indispensable set of rules ("democratic and hierarchic management"). All members of the Order receive as a base to their work the "red book" with the constitution and directives from Rome, and the new set of interior German rules, authorised by Rome. The seat of the Lieutenancy in Cologne (Steinfelder Gasse), along with the church of the Order, St. Andrew, grew in importance.

In 1999 appeared the new version of the book of prayers of the Order. The 'Prayer of our Community' is written to help the personal spiritual life. The 'Spirituality' Commission brought up to date the principals 'Spirituality and



*From left to right: the Lieutenants Heidinger, Oldenkott, Dickmann and Brümmer.*

candidates' (1994). For the year 2007, the Commission proposed a pastoral theme for the first time. Since 2004, candidates gather for a 'night vigil' during the night before their Investiture to pray and meditate.

In order to better the communication in the heart of the Lieutenancy, the review "Deus Lo Vult" was restructured into an annual and the news bulletin "DLV Aktuell" was published twice a year. Between 2005 and 2007, we created the first version of a website.

The directives from Rome in 1999 and 2003 highlighted anew the formation of candidates: since 2004, all candidates are obliged to attend a two day introductory weekend.

The Holy Land was very important for Dr. Oldenkott: he visited it many times with members of the Council of the Lieutenancy. "One of the particular objectives (of the Lieutenant Oldenkott) was the growth of relationships between the German Lieutenancy and the Holy Land... and the clarification of the way in which to form an opinion, between the headquarters in Rome and the community of German members (Wolff, *ibidem*, p. 355).

#### **Honorary Lieutenant Heinrich Dickmann, Fribourg (2007-2015)**

At the beginning of his mandate as Lieutenant, Heinrich Dickmann cited the objectives in which he would particularly like to invest (quoted from Wolff *ibidem*, p. 359):

Strengthening the *spirituality* specific to the Order:

We have created a new version of the prayer of the Order; the candidates prepare themselves for

their Investiture by praying a novena with members of the Order; the Priors attend a congress which is their own; the tasks of the Master of Ceremonies and of the chairmanship of the – all new – ‘Spirituality’ Commission have been put together.

The Investiture in 2013 had particular spiritual importance: there assembled a great number of Dames and Knights of the Lieutenancy around the Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Information concerning the situation and the needs of Christians *in the Holy Land*.

Dialogue with the Grand Magisterium in Rome concerning the needs of a foundation carried by the Knights and Dames of the German Lieutenancy, under the surveillance of the Church.

Personal contact with the Holy Land, a close collaboration with the Grand Magisterium and the development of a transparent treasury in the Lieutenancy led to the nomination of the German Lieutenant to be part of the Holy Land Commission and other Commissions of the Grand Magisterium.

The foundation was born in 2009 – from a

promotion association – as a canonical foundation possessing juridical capacity. Large donations were made increasing its capital to around five million Euros.

Tightening of the *Management Commissions* of the German Lieutenancy.

Bigger involvement of *leaders* in the decisions taken by the Lieutenancy.

The Council of the Lieutenancy made sure that the positions had been given in accordance with the constitution. The conferences of the presidents and the congress of leaders completed the work. A new and detailed version of rules was elaborated.

### Lieutenant Detlef Brümmer, Düsseldorf (2015)

In his first letter addressed to the Dames and Knights, the Lieutenant defined the following objectives for the German Lieutenancy:

To look after the *Holy Land* – to proclaim the *Faith* – to serve *society and the Church*.



[www.ritterorden.de](http://www.ritterorden.de)

## ENGLAND AND WALES

# KNIGHTS AND DAMES IN LONDON REVIVE CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

**The practice of public religious processions has stopped in most places in England.**

**However, in central London there has been a revival of the Corpus Christi Procession in the last two years and local Knights and Dames of our Lieutenancy have given support by participating.**

**M**any Catholics joined this second procession of the Blessed Sacrament in central London on Sunday, June 7.

The procession began at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street and finished at St. James', Spanish Place with a stop en route at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family in Exile next to Oxford Street.

Before the procession left Farm Street, the Cardinal Vincent Nichols addressed the packed church saying that “Today we take Jesus to our

streets, not as a stranger, but as King and Lord of Creation.” He also thanked those in attendance for bearing witness to Christ in such a visible way in the heart of the capital.

Children who had recently made their first communion scattered rose petals before the Blessed Sacrament, a cantor led chants in English and Latin to accompany the procession, whilst members of the Order of Malta handed out small explanatory leaflets to the public. From Farm Street, the procession moved through Berkeley



*Procession in the streets of London: a public manifestation of faith, to witness to the heart of people.*

Square and Grosvenor Square to Duke Street, where it made a station at the Ukrainian Catholic church.

Hundreds of onlookers, both the faithful and the curious, joined the procession through the streets of Mayfair, singing and chanting, to St. James's Spanish Place. There, the Cardinal led benediction to conclude the procession. In his homily at the 7 PM mass he spoke of "unbounded joy, for it is the Feast of the Love of God for us all, the love shown in Jesus".

## THE "FLYING SQUAD" IN THE HOLY LAND

The Lieutenancy of England and Wales is proud of the way in which it has supported the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (LPJ) schools over many years. A new phase of assistance began in 2010 when the Lieutenancy received from Fr Imad Twal, then LPJ Director of Education in Jordan, a request for help with the teaching of English in the schools.

The Patriarchate teachers are highly qualified, dedicated and committed but they are excluded from the substantial assistance for development and training provided to State schools by the international community. Maintaining the standard of teacher training in the LPJ schools is a priority.

Being native English speakers, the Lieutenancy of England and Wales was uniquely qualified to respond to this request. Fluency in English opens employment opportunities. Improved standards would also raise the status of the LPJ schools.

The English Project was built on the experience of the inspired first Lieutenancy online Teacher Training project, and was developed in 2002 by Steve Hirschhorn and the late Michael Whelan KGCHS. The new project was planned with 'Flying Squad' tutors from Eckersley Oxford in 2011 by tutors Jonny Kowal, Richenda Askew and Jackie Halsall (now the Lewis Teacher Training Team), Fr. Imad Twal and members of the Lieutenancy Margaret and Bernard Waddingham. The Lieutenancy's involvement was approved by the Governor General of the Order.

A Five Phase Project was designed for Jordan. This proved so successful that it was extended in 2013 to cater for teachers of English in Palestine and Israel.

### TESTIMONY

*"Believe it or not, this training was the peak of my whole career. I've been an English teacher for 20 years. It's not only material, methods, and ways of teaching, but also a great contribution to my being and my soul. I could see the effect on us all."*

Eman Mi'ib, Rameh School, Israel,  
September 2011

*"Flying Squad is different in that instead of offering teachers a class without ever seeing them in action, they fly to the teachers and observe them in their classes. This creates a personal bond between the teachers and the tutors, and the latter are able to be much more effective."*

LPJ schools Newsletter September 2013



The Lewis Team also provided training sessions for other teachers of English in the Patriarchate schools. Over ten days, nearly sixty Jordanian teachers received some level of training. Some of the teachers have already led in-service training in their schools. In May 2013, several led training days for all LPJ teachers in Jordan. These teachers are developing leadership and management skills and are already planning with and training fellow teachers of English. Cascading best practice has begun.

Peer Mentoring was a further development, with teachers self-evaluating, reflecting on their strengths and noting areas where they wished to improve, before being observed by their colleagues.

The final session in Ramallah ended with a drama production of *A Dream within a Dream*. Adelle Spindlove, from Theatre Express (part of Lewis School), led thirty students at Al Ahliyyah College to demonstrate a new approach to English. They gave a passionate and moving performance in English.



*Above: Rula and Samar with their certificates, accompanied by Lieutenant David Smith and by Margaret Wadding, Dame of the Order.*

*Below: participation, commitment and practicing English are among the characteristics of formation sessions.*



The considerable funds for this unique project were raised by several Sections of the Lieutenancy of England and Wales, by many parishes in England (mainly through Crib Collections) and by Fund raising balls organised by both the Lieutenancy and by the Jesuit Parish of the Immaculate Conception in London. Other donations were made by *Cambridge Nazareth Trust*, *The Catenian Association* and generous individual benefactors. The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem itself funded the transport for teachers and

the Lewis Team.

“This is truly a great opportunity and we would like to thank the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in England and Wales, for putting these sessions together for our students and teachers” and “KHS has helped these teachers, who are a candle that lights up the field of education to illuminate the paths of others with hope”, stated Fr. Faysal Hijazeen, LPJ Director of Education in Palestine and Israel.



[www.khs.org.uk](http://www.khs.org.uk)

## ESPAÑA OCCIDENTAL

# SHINING A LIGHT ON THE PURPOSE OF THE ORDER

**The Lieutenancy of Western Spain lived intense and important times throughout the whole year of 2015.**

**I**n February we prepared our hearts at Eastertime by participating in a spiritual retreat at the Colegiata de San Isidoro at León (Northern Spain).

In April, during Holy Week, we took part in the Offices and processions of Holy Thursday; a Spanish tradition which the Order has kept since before we can remember. We were present at

Santillana del Mar (Santander), Madrid, Seville and La Laguna (Canary Isles).

Both Spanish Lieutenancies were reunited at the Collegiate of the Holy Sepulchre at Calatayud for the joint Chapter where the new Knights assumed their new function as honorary Canons, during a solemn act presided over by the bishop of

The ceremony of Investiture of new Knights and Dames took place at Jerez de la Frontera, in southern Spain (in our photo there is a new Dame of the Order accompanied by her godmother during the celebration).



Tarazona.

The month of May was the month of pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The new Knights and Dames received the pilgrims' shell from the hands of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

During the month of June, in Madrid, the annual donors' dinner was held, following the traditional tombola. It was a great success and the profits have already been sent to the Holy Land.

During the month of September, the neophytes went on retreat together which helped them to get to know each other better. This meeting also gave them time to talk about the organisation and the purpose of the Order with the Knights and Dames who were accompanying them.

The end of September heralded the most important celebration in the Lieutenancy: the ceremony of Investiture of new Knights and Dames at Jerez de la Frontera (Southern Spain).

November was marked by the requiem ceremony celebrated for the brothers and sisters of the Order who passed away during the year. This celebration was presided over by the Grand Prior, Cardinal Amigo.

The year concluded with the traditional Christmas Dinner, which served to consolidate relationships between us all and was the occasion for us to share best wishes for the coming year.

### **Spanish Knights become honorary Canons of the Collegiate of Calatayud**

The introduction of Canons of the Holy Sepulchre into Spain dates from the year 1130 and their presence has always been associated with the

Royal College of the Holy Sepulchre, at Calatayud. It's the oldest place of Christian worship in Europe to have maintained, without interruption, the denomination of Holy Sepulchre since 1156 until present day. It was the seat of a Grand Prior upon which depended all the churches, colleges, commanderies and hospitals of the Order established in Spain: Barcelona, Valencia, Huesca, Logroño, Toro, Fuentespreadas, Salamanca, Palma, Segovia, etc.

This Grand Prior managed to escape the Vatican's annexation by force to the Order of Saint John decreed by the papal bull *Cum Solerti Meditatione* in 1489. Ferdinand, the Catholic king opposed it and obtained from Pope Innocent VIII the permission for the Grand Prior of Calatayud to be exempt from it. For eight years, the Prior of the Holy Sepulchre of Calatayud had been the only to exist in the world, with his own canons and Knights. We could say that the priors had the function of Grand Master up until Pope Alexander VI cancelled the Bull and declared himself Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, by the Bull *Pactorales Offici Cura* in 1497. Leo X did the same again with a Bull in the year of 1513.

The Collegiate of Calatayud continued with its own regular Council until 1901, the year when the liberal Spanish government demanded the Holy Father get rid of this collegiate, as well as others in Spain, in order to recuperate its large revenue. The Spanish Chapter of the Order opposed this and sent a letter to Leo XIII begging him to declare the collegiate an honorary to the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Calatayud, which is exactly what happened through *Sancta Templi Dei* released on



*The Knights of both Spanish Lieutenancies take possession of their faculties as 'ad honorem' Canons during a joint solemn ceremony with the priestly canons, presided over by the Bishop of Tarazona, in the Collegiate of Calatayud.*

September 18, 1901.

The members of the Chapter of canons were not anymore as before where, by the Constitution of the Order in 1868, the Knights must be either lay or religious. The canons of Calatayud couldn't be religious anymore, but instead were secular priests and dependants of the Bishop of Tarazona.

In recognition of what the Spanish Knights did to maintain the Collegiate, the Council unanimously decided to include in article X of the new Constitution, approved by the Bishop of Tarazona on June 3, 1903, that we recognise in Spanish Knights of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre the right to the honours and privileges of the canons of St. Augustine. This recognition used to be effective when they reunited during religious solemnities and it consisted of wearing the habits and emblems of the canons of the Holy Sepulchre, whilst remaining laity.

Every year in this Collegiate we celebrate the joint Chapter of both Spanish Lieutenancies during which, the Knights take possession of their state as canons "ad honorem" during a solemn ceremony with the priestly canons and which is presided over by the Bishop of Tarazona. All this explains why the Spanish Knights are allowed to wear the clerical habit and the patriarchal fleur-de-lys cross, double width, emblem of the canons of the Holy Sepulchre, during ceremonies such as Investitures and the Offices of Holy Week. In other ceremonies and Investitures they must wear the cloak of the Order.

## ESPAÑA ORIENTAL

# AN EXTRAORDINARY COLLECTION TO HELP THE REFUGEES

**In 2016, the Lieutenancy of Eastern Spain will celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its restoration under its modern form, in its spiritual centre found right in the heart of the gothic quarter of Barcelona, in the historic monumental ensemble of Saint Anne. An authentic piece of the Holy Land in the metropolis, founded in the XII century by the canons from the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.**

**T**he Lieutenancy is guided by the current Lieutenant, Enric Mas and the Grand Prior, Cardinal Lluís Martínez Sistach. Daily life takes the rhythm of a calendar similar to the other Lieutenancies in the world.

The members of the Lieutenancy attend the principal solemn liturgies of the year, accompanying their respective bishops, whether they be in Barcelona or in the cathedrals of different capitals of sections or delegations:

Zaragoza, Valencia, Palma, Alicante-Orihuela, Pamplona, Girona or Tarazona.

Once a year we organise a pilgrimage for members of the Lieutenancy, in which friends and sympathisers of the Order are allowed to join. It begins with a blessing in the church Saint Anne, ancient collegiate of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, and finishes in the Holy Land where pilgrims experience the joy and the graces of walking in the birth land of the Lord, wandering



through the principal places of His Life, His Passion and His Resurrection.

The Knights and Dames of the Order assemble every month for Mass, followed by social time at the the Order's headquarters. Some celebrations had a more specific aim, like that of March 17 where we all gathered for what we call the *Jubilee of Forgiveness*, at the end of which, we publicly venerated the *Holy Rock*, a relic of the Holy Sepulchre of our Lord; the solemnity of Our Lady Queen of Palestine; or the celebration for the Faithful Departed. We must also highlight the yearly celebration of the joint Chapter with both Spanish Lieutenancies, which is charged with a profound sense of fraternity, in the basilica of the Holy Sepulchre in Calatayud.

Culture and formation have an important place and so, once a month, we get together for lectures on texts and current aspects of the Church, led by one of our expert ecclesiastic members of the Order. After the theory session there is a time of sharing between one another to go deeper into the theme of the day. Sometimes there are monographic conferences and outings to places linked to the spirit of the Holy Sepulchre.

The charity shown towards our brothers in the Holy Land, a true charism of the Order, is particularly highlighted through different activities

organised every year aimed at collecting funds to help the Latin Patriarchate, such as, for example, the excellent dinners or concerts for the Church in the Holy Land. These moments are also an opportunity to get to know, in a more relaxed atmosphere, the spiritual and social work that the Order, as servant and member of the Church, develops by order of Saint Peter and in following the directives of the Grand Master. In this context, we must highlight the extraordinary collection taken to help the refugees who have arrived in Spain, coming from ancient Biblical Lands.

To finish, it must be added that once a year is held the most solemn celebration in the life of the Order: the days of knighthood and Investiture. This year they were held in Zaragoza, in great symbolic churches like *La Seo* or the Cathedral, church of Saint Charles Borromeo and the Basilica of the *Virgin of Pilar*. Before this day, the new Knights and Dames must participate in an intensive formation course and retreat to prepare for their new life in the Order. These ceremonies are very important for the Order, as they provide a time of fraternity between nearly all the European delegations, showing the growth of the Order; as well as the chance to increase the vocation of service towards the Holy Land, which we all share as a common inheritance.

## FINLAND

# AN INVESTITURE IN COPENHAGEN IN THE PRESENCE OF THE BISHOPS OF FOUR NORDIC COUNTRIES

**We had the pleasure of attending the Investiture in Copenhagen, Denmark, in early September. This Investiture, which was organized by the Swedish Lieutenancy together with the Danish Catholic Church, to invest Danish Knights, was a very special occasion because it was indeed the first Investiture in Denmark.**

**T**he Investiture was a very special event because it was part of the celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the re-entering of the Catholic Church in Denmark as an officially approved Church, as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the consecration of the Catholic Cathedral, Sankt Ansgar Kirke.

This celebration was also a very special one

because it brought together the Knights and Dames from four Nordic countries – Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland – together with their bishops. Let us hope that this is a starting point for a more intense Nordic co-operation. Indeed, the atmosphere among the Ladies and Knights was very warm and friendly.

The program started in the late afternoon of



*The Grand Master presided over the Investiture in Denmark, in the presence of many members of the Order from all over Scandinavia.*

September 5 in the Monastery of Our Lady, a short walk from Magleås, the Conference Centre. The Vigil of Arms was held there with the Grand Prior, Bishop of Stockholm, Anders Arborelius acting as the celebrant.

On Sunday there was a Jubilee Mass in the

Catholic Cathedral: a very special mass for a very special anniversary. After this we had a nice and relaxed lunch break in the center of Copenhagen, close to the lively neighborhood of Nyhavn. In the afternoon there was the celebration of Vespers under the leadership of Copenhagen's Bishop

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OF THE YEAR

In February 2015 we had the yearly retreat in Tallinn, Estonia in the Bridgettine Convent, with our Grand Prior, Bishop Teemu Sippo acting as the moderator. Our Lieutenancy has had this event for many years, usually in February. The Bridgettine Convent is a wonderful place to have a retreat. It's situated next to the ruins of the ancient Catholic church, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Bridgettine Sisters are warm and take good care of us, making us feel as if we were at home.

In late April we had our Annual Meeting in Stella Maris, which is the recreational center of our Diocese, some 30 kilometers west of Helsinki at the waterfront of the lake Lohja.

In June we attended the Corpus Christi procession and mass. This has been a traditional event for us for many years.

In early September we, a group of six Knights and Dames, attended the Investiture in Denmark near Copenhagen.

The pilgrimage to the Holy Land took place in November. It was a good time to make this trip, regardless of the tight political situation there, because several of our new Knights and Dames had not yet visited the Holy Land.

In late December we had a charity dinner in Turku, the old capital of Finland, where several Knights and Dames reside. This event was organized together with the Order of Malta in Finland. The Dinner was preceded by a mass in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, which was built on the site of an ancient medieval church. As the guest of honour, besides our Grand Prior Bishop Teemu Sippo, we also had the Lutheran Archbishop Emeritus in Finland Jukka Paarma, who gave a speech about Catholic bishops in Finland during the Middle Ages.

At the end of the year 2015 we were 9 Dames, 16 Knights and 3 priests. Matias Sarimo is the Lieutenant of the Finnish Lieutenancy.

Czeslaw Kozon. All the Knights and Dames formed a solemn procession to the church. The Vespers were memorable. Afterwards we had a reception, where we all had a good opportunity to discuss with each other and to make new acquaintances. We also had a chance to continue our discussions in Magleås in a more relaxed way, with some refreshments.

On Monday we lined up for procession to the Pontifical Mass and Investiture in the Cathedral. Our Grand Master Cardinal O'Brien presided over the celebration. It was good to meet him again. The Investiture was a historical one, an important milestone in the future course for our Order in Denmark, and therefore also for



*Msgr. Shomali, Patriarchal Vicar of Jerusalem, welcomed Finnish pilgrims to the Holy Land.*

the whole Scandinavia.

We all felt as if we were one family. Let us all do our best to let that feeling grow in the future.



[www.pyhahauta.katolinen.fi](http://www.pyhahauta.katolinen.fi)

## FRANCE

# "YOU HAVE MADE A PROMISE, YOU MUST KEEP YOUR PROMISE AND BE WITNESSES TO THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS"

**Uniting from all over France, hundreds of Knights and Dames attended celebrations for the Investitures in the presence of the Grand Master of the Order, at the beginning of October 2015 in Toulouse. We have chosen to publish a synoptic extract of the beautiful homily given by Msgr. Robert Le Gall, Bishop of Toulouse, during the Mass of Investiture in Saint Stephen's Cathedral. There within, where the architectural ribbing crosses, we find the cross of the Occitan with its twelve pearls evoking the twelve city doors of the heavenly Jerusalem, as described in the Apocalypse of St. John.**

**"W**e are fragile when facing the mystery of the Cross, even after the Resurrection, as the Gospel shows us. Brothers and sisters of the Order, dear Knights and Ladies, in the Holy Sepulchre, you never cease to be united, in heart and in a tangible way, with the Pious Women who see the stone rolled away but who do not see Jesus' body. Two men in dazzling clothes, two angels, announce that He is alive. And so the Knights here are a bit like the angels with their white cloaks, aren't they, now that you see them in such number

in this cathedral. Angels of the resurrection who must announce the resurrection exactly after the suffering of Jesus (...). Last night's Vigil in the basilica *Saint-Sernin* and this morning's ceremony in the Saint Stephen's cathedral, the first martyr, confirms our will in confessing the Paschal mystery in its entirety. Dear brothers and sisters of the Order, you have just made a promise, in front of his Eminence the Cardinal, at the moment of your Investiture. Confess the Paschal Mystery in its totality, without forgetting to honour the great



Saturday, the whole entire day where the Lord is in the tomb, in his body which has tasted death. This is your place. This is your day; this Holy Saturday. Brothers and sisters, when we contemplate the Cross, we are Nazarenes. From the moment that the title, 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews' figures in three languages on the Cross, it becomes a title of derision for the fanatics of Daesh. Last night, during the slideshow that we were able to watch on the Basilica façade, we could observe that there was the Arabic *noun*, the letter N, the first letter of the Nazarenes which defines us as Christian. A title of glory (...).

Brothers and sisters, you have made a promise, you must keep your promise and be witnesses to the death and resurrection of Jesus."



*At the beginning of October 2015, in Toulouse, members of the French Lieutenancy, more united than ever around the Grand Master who had come from Rome, participated intensely and in great number at the Vigil and Investiture of new members, manifesting notably the authenticity of their spiritual engagement during meditative processions in the heart of this great French metropolis.*



## CHRONICALS OF A SPIRITUALLY INTENSE YEAR

JANUARY 10-11 – National retreat for Knights and Dames at the Basilica *Notre-Dame-du-Chêne*.

FEBRUARY 20-22 – Lenten retreat of the Lieutenancy in the domain of *Sainte-Garde* at Saint-Didier (Vaucluse), preached by our brother Msgr. Jean-Pierre-Norbert, on the theme “Stay alert and keep your lamps lit”.

MARCH 19-25 – Applicants’ retreat at the *Foyer de Charité* of the *Part-Dieu* at Poissy.

MARCH 27 – Mass in memory of Adrien d’Esclaibes d’Hust in the capitulary church *Saint-Leu-Saint-Gilles*, celebrated by Msgr. Luc Ravel, Bishop of the Armed Forces.

MAY 16 – Meeting with the Grand Rabbi of France Haïm Korsia, in order to bring to readers of the *News of the Lieutenancy* his vision on a number of important subjects.

MAY 26 – International prize ‘Economy and society’ 2015 given to our brother Pierre de Lauzun for his book *Finance, a Christian perspective*, by the *Centesimus Annus pro Pontifice* foundation.

AUGUST 14-15 – Feast of the Assumption. Traditional processions on foot and by river in Paris.

OCTOBER 2-4 – Ceremonies of Investiture at Toulouse, received by Msgr. Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of one of the oldest dioceses of the Gaules and in one of the most attractive regional metropolises of France. This is the first time that the Investiture ceremonies have taken place there. The Cardinal Grand Master presided over the ceremonies. The Vigil and prayers were held in the Basilica *Saint-Sernin* on Friday night. The Investiture ceremonies were held in Saint Stephen’s Cathedral on Saturday morning. Mass for the action of Grace was celebrated in the Saint Jerome’s Church on Sunday morning.

NOVEMBER 29 – Day of Solidarity with the Holy Land, in Paris in the capitulary church of the Order *Saint-Leu-Saint-Gilles*.

## HOMAGE TO A KNIGHT WHO FOLLOWED CHRIST TO THE CROSS

On March 27, 2015, the French Lieutenancy celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic passing of Adrien d’Esclaibes, count of Hust, who had been Lieutenant in 1932-1945.

As a great supporter of the Resistance he was arrested by the occupying forces on August 25, 1944 and deported first to Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen, then Bergen-Belsen on September 1 where he suffered terrible torture and died for France on February 16, 1945.

During the Requiem Mass in the capitulary church of Saint-Leu-Saint-Gilles, Lieutenant Pierre Murret-Labarthe particularly thanked Msgr. Luc Ravel, Bishop of the Armed Forces, who presided over the ceremony, Msgr. Bruno Lefèvre-Pontalis, who represented the Archbishop of Paris, and Msgr. Luis-Miguel Munoz-Cardaba who was representing the Papal Nuncio. The Orders of the *Légion d’honneur* and of the *Libération*, the first two French national orders, were represented by their respective General Secretaries.

Philippe Plantade transmitted a message to the Grand Magisterium evoking the closeness of the Count of Hust with the Holy See, and notably as secret papal chamberlain to Pope Pius XII. In 1946 the Sovereign Pontiff delegated his close collaborator Msgr. Montini, who later became Blessed Paul VI, to present his personal condolences to the Countess of Hust.

Msgr. Luc Ravel’s homily develops the theme of “the Knight fighting against villainous ideology”. “The Count of Hust entered into the





Resistance from 1941, at 59 years old, refusing to let the hold of diabolical evil follow his barbaric works. He threw down the gauntlet of ideological combat like a true knight. The ‘Villains’ are those who do evil... and it is our role to snatch them from the evil spirits who live in them. With Adrien d’Esclaibes, we think of Nazism, a doctrine which sees the destruction of Man, the most beautiful of God’s creatures. To combat ideologies like this, we must have ‘Knights’. A Knight must possess three qualities in order to live and bring good from his combat:

- First, Humility, which will always be the source of his strength, because it comes from the strength of God.
- Next, Trust, which will always be the force of

his courage, because it draws on his Hope: even death cannot deter it, cannot flee from its purpose.

– Finally, Generosity, which will always be the measure of his action. He gives until the end and under this title, the generosity of Adrien d’Esclaibes reached its full height: in prayer he followed the life of his master, faithful in following him right to the Cross.

The Commemoration of this heroic Lieutenant gives us the opportunity to come back to the roots of our fundamental missions; our commitment to the service of others and our combat against evil, all in profound union with the Universal Church.



<http://saintsepulcre-france.org/>

## ITALIA CENTRALE

# FRATERNAL COMMUNION AND COMMITMENT TO DIOCESAN LIFE

**The Lieutenancy for Central Italy was heavily involved in carrying out various charitable, educational and cultural activities during the year 2015.**

**E**ach semester the annual planned initiatives – on the level of Lieutenancy, Sections and Delegations – are collected in a special “report” and sent to all of the members. This tool has proved particularly effective for, first of all, encouraging local leaders to strive to give vitality and visibility to our being Knights and then to favor a certain transversality that is able to bring together different groups located throughout the area. The aim is to ensure a just operative autonomy but also to avoid the concrete risk of the fragmentation of Delegations, isolated and detached from an essential unity of purpose and organization that only the Lieutenancy, by virtue of its mandate, can guarantee.

The Delegations appear to be strategically crucial in the process of “front line” work, constantly following their members, particularly where tepidity or absence occur, seeking and encouraging worthy aspirants to apply for admission into the Order, especially young people,

and recommending to everyone a presence and commitment in the parishes to which they belong.

The Lieutenancy pays particular attention to the formation of its members, starting with applicants, to whom a formation course consisting of six meetings is devoted. During this course, carefully selected speakers expand upon all aspects specific to the Order, including spiritual, historical, legal, organizational and behavioral matters.

Spiritual retreats are regularly organized with a high number of participants at appropriate locations during important periods of the liturgical calendar. On the first Fridays of the month, the Grand Prior Msgr. Franco Croci celebrates the Eucharist in the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, a place that is especially significant for us because of the precious relics of Christ’s Passion that are safeguarded inside.

The Lieutenancy’s most significant initiatives are indicated below.

The Ceremony of Investiture and Vigil of Arms



of the Lazio Section, during which 23 Knights and Dames received Investiture, was held on May 8 and 9, 2015, in the charming Romanesque Abbey of Fossanova.

A large group in Spain conducted a pilgrimage to Barcelona, Montserrat, Manresa and Zaragoza from June 6 to 11, with the aim of retracing the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola, from his attempt to promote the conversion of the infidels in Palestine, and the practice of the spiritual exercises, to the formation and organization of the Society of Jesus.

### **Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of Blessed Bartolo Longo**

The anniversary of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine and Patron of the Order, was particularly honored with a pilgrimage, led by Lieutenant Saverio Petrillo, in which the whole Lieutenancy went to the Sanctuary of the Virgin in Pompeii on November 7 and 8.

Msgr. Tommaso Caputo, Archbishop Prelate of Pompeii and Pontifical Delegate for the Sanctuary, welcomed – in the presence of Giovanni Napolitano, the Lieutenant for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy, and a large local representation – a large group of Knights and Dames to live two days of intense spiritual activities. Preceded by Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel of Blessed Bartolo Longo, our venerated Brother, the recitation of the Rosary and Mass celebrated by the Grand Prior Msgr. Franco Croci at the altar of Our Lady were particularly moving and spiritually intense.

Among the cultural events was the Spiritual Concert for charity held on November 30 at the Church of Santa Maria in Vallicella in Rome, in favor of the House of Welcome Hogar Niños Dios of Bethlehem for

children with disabilities and orphans who so touched the heart of our Knights during repeated visits, which has always resulted with generously collected funds for the pressing needs of the institution.

Accepting the invitation of the Cardinal Grand Master, of making a concrete gesture of welcome to the many refugees from the Middle East, this Lieutenancy has also funded the purchase of 30 beds (beds, mattresses and pillows) for refugees that will be housed at the Roman Major Seminary at St. John Lateran.

A large group from the Rome Section had a particularly successful private tour in October of the Sistine Chapel, famous for Michelangelo's magnificent frescoes that adorn it. The Director of



*Guided visit to the Sistine Chapel (photo Marco Tossini).*



*Vigil in the papal basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome.*

the Vatican Museums, Antonio Paolucci, made this visit unique and unforgettable with his scholarly and enthusiastic presentation.

The conclusion of the year 2015, as per tradition, was reserved for the Ceremony of the Vigil of Arms in the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major on December 18, and the Investiture

Ceremony of many Knights and Ladies of the Rome Section, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran the next day. To them we extend fraternal good wishes for an exemplary and active commitment.



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## ITALIA MERIDIONALE ADRIATICA

# SUPPORTING MORE THAN EVER THE CHRISTIANS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

**The activities of the Lieutenancy for Southern Adriatic Italy have been very intense and meaningful this year for the Order's purposes and, in addition to the financial support for the Holy Land, two most symbolically significant moments ought to be highlighted in this context: the memory of the sacrifice of our Lord and the expansion of the family of the Order with the ceremony of Investiture of new Knights and Dames unique throughout the Lieutenancy. To this we add the joy of the celebrations for the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine.**

### Stations of the Cross in Monte Sant'Angelo

For several years the Lieutenancy has organized the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week for Knights, Dames and their families: an intense path of prayer and meditation that brings to life the defining tragic moments of Our Lord's sacrifice on

the cross. The choice of the locations in which this prayer encounter is performed has been wisely done to commemorate an environment similar to what pilgrims in the Holy Land live on the streets of the old city of Jerusalem. In the years past, the scenic environment of Sassi in Matera was chosen, with its countless cave-homes overlooking the



streets in the stands of the ravine. This year the place chosen was equally impressive: Monte Sant'Angelo and the ancient Sanctuary of St. Michael, which is recognized as an UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient karst cave, where tradition attests to the appearance of St. Michael the Archangel, has been a place of pilgrimage continuously since the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century to this day, and an obligatory stop for pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land.

Within this context, for the occasion of Lent, the Stations of the Cross took place on March 21 and 22, and was attended by 150 Knights and Dames accompanied by their families. Over the two days one of the most exciting and intense moments was precisely during the ritual of the Stations of the Cross led by Fr. Sabino Scarcelli, chaplain of the Lieutenancy. Under an icy and lashing wind, which failed to dampen the depth of the moment, the long procession stopped for the fourteen stations, accompanied by two readings: excerpts from Holy Scripture and reflections on those passages. The path was formed along the winding route of the urban-architectural medieval plot of Rione Junno, built in the 6<sup>th</sup> century around the Sanctuary of St. Michael the Archangel, and the Knights recalled the ritual of the Stations of the Cross that they walked

more than once as pilgrims in the Holy Land.

During the two days there were also Eucharistic celebrations in the ancient Speco dell'Angelo, and moments of formation for the Knights on the legal nature of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

### The 2015 Ceremony of Investiture in Bari

The annual ceremony of Investiture is the culminating moment in the life of the Order and, following the directives of the Grand Magisterium, for the first time a single ceremony was celebrated for the whole Lieutenancy.

The rite began with the Vigil on November 7, in the picturesque Church of Jesus, in the historical center of Bari. The Church of Jesus is curated by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, as it was entrusted to the Order by the Grand Prior, Msgr. Francesco Cacucci, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bari and Bitonto. The Vigil liturgy was presided over by Msgr. Claudio Maniago, Bishop of the Diocese of Castellaneta and Prior of that Delegation. After the blessing of the Insignia and the Capes of those Invested and of the decorations the Promoted and Decorated, the new Knights and Dames made solemn promises of commitment to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and formally proceeded to the signing of relevant acts.

*Pilgrimage to Mount Sant'Angelo, where the Archangel appeared, in the region of Puglia not far from Bari.*





The Investiture ceremony was attended by over 300 Knights and Dames from all Delegations of the Lieutenancy, and took place on November 15 in the charming atmosphere of the ancient Church of San Sabino, the romanesque Cathedral of Bari, where the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, Msgr. Francesco Cacucci, welcomed the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, who presided over the liturgy and ceremony.

The Grand Master expressed in an interview how he loved *visiting the various Lieutenancies in the 37 countries where the Order is present, receiving inspiration from the example and the sacrifices made by our members*. The 2015 investiture was an occasion for the first visit to the Lieutenancy for Southern Adriatic Italy.

The Mass was preceded by the rite of Investiture of 33 Knights and 9 Dames who, after the letter of Decree of appointment from the Grand Master, were posed the question "*What do you ask?*" to which they responded in unison "*the promise*". They then individually received the symbolic imposition of the sword by the Grand Master and, in conclusion, the Cape by Lieutenant Rocco Saltino. On this occasion, 30 Knights were also conferred the rank of Knight Commander, 17 were given the degree of Knight Commander with Star and two were made Knights Grand Cross; while among the Dames seven were elevated to the rank of Dame Commander and one to that of Dame Commander with Star. In the ranks of the Clergy a

priest was appointed as a Knight and another Monsignor was conferred the rank of Commander. In conclusion, the special distinction of the Golden Palm of Jerusalem was awarded to Msgr. Lucio Angelo Renna and 11 bronze palms to deserving citizens.

### Celebrating Mary, Queen of Palestine

On October 24, the Delegation of Cerignola Ascoli Satriano organized the annual solemn festivities in honor of Our Lady Queen of Palestine, Patroness of the Order.

After a solemn Mass in the Church of Santa Maria delle Grazie, the Delegation's headquarters, celebrated by Msgr. Felice di Molfetta, Prior of the Delegation, Msgr. Carmine Ladogana and Msgr. Vincenzo D'Ercole, the program included a convivial lunch and a benefit concert in the evening. Proceeds from the evening were donated to the Christian refugees in the Middle East, in line with the Holy Father who, in his message for the World Day of Migrants, affirmed that "as the right to emigrate exists, so too does the right to not emigrate, living with dignity in their own homeland. This implies, therefore, the need to put concrete plans of help in place in the countries of origin of migrants and refugees."



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## ITALIA SETTENTRIONALE

# A PROFOUND ATTENTION TO THE FORMATION OF NEW MEMBERS

**Every year formation courses are carried out with a historical nature on the Order's structure, which are obligatory for all applicants and are held at a Lieutenancy level in both Milan and Padua, while those of a spiritual nature are held at the Delegation level.**

**I**n 2015, the Lieutenancy held formation courses in Milan (on February 7 and September 26) and in Padua (March 7 and November 7). Monthly encounters are held in the various delegations for

reciting the Holy Rosary and meditations.

Msgr. Oscar Cantoni, Bishop of Crema and Grand Prior of Lieutenancy, with the help of the Priors, edited and produced a pamphlet entitled



*The Knights' and Dames' Pilgrimage to Lourdes took place in the summer of 2015, under the direction of Msgr. Cantoni, Bishop of Crema and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy.*

“Guidelines for the pastoral activities of the Priors of Sections and Delegations”.

There were several opportunities during the year for organized encounters at a Lieutenancy level, starting with the visit to the Holy Shroud on May 24.

From June 16 to 23 the Lieutenancy's Pilgrimage to the Holy Land took place, led by Fr. Gianni Naletto and Mauro Beccherle, Delegate of the Delegation of Verona.

The Lieutenancy's Pilgrimage to Lourdes took place from July 10 to 12, led by Msgr. Oscar Cantoni, with the participation of the Priors of the Delegations of Brescia, Msgr. Pierantonio Bodini, the Delegation of Varese, Msgr. Claudio Livetti, and the Delegation of Vicenza, Msgr. Ezio Busato.

On July 5 a spiritual encounter was held by the Lombardy Section in the Cathedral of Vigevano, which was led by the Prior of the Section, Msgr. Giordano Ronchi. Subsequently, a Mass was celebrated for the Investiture to the rank of Knight Commander with Star of Msgr. Maurizio

Gervasoni, Bishop of Vigevano, and the delivery of the letter of appointment to Prior of the Delegation of Vigevano.

The Investiture ceremonies of new Knights and Dames were celebrated on June 13 and October 24 in Milan, in the Church of Santa Maria della Pace, the headquarters of the Lieutenancy. Both ceremonies were presided over by Msgr. Oscar Cantoni.

On November 15, the feast of the patroness of our Order, the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine, was celebrated in the Cathedral of Reggio Emilia by Msgr. Oscar Cantoni and concelebrated by Msgr. Gianfranco Gazzotti, Prior of the Reggio Emilia Delegation, and by Msgr. Giordano Ronchi. There was a large participation of Knights, Dames and applicants, as well as of faithful who had the opportunity, through a brief speech by the Lieutenant, to become acquainted with what is the Order is and what its tasks are.



[www.oessg-italiasettentrionale.it](http://www.oessg-italiasettentrionale.it)

## A FRUITFUL SPIRITUAL AND COMMUNAL LIFE

**In 2015 the Lieutenancy in Hungary has performed fruitful and efficient activity in the field of both spiritual and community life: a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, numerous actions of charity, cultural events and lectures of common Christian interest.**



*During the requiem celebration of the Grand Prior Cardinal Laszlo Paskai, members of the Hungarian Lieutenancy confided to the Lord the intentions of the Order of the whole world, that Knights and Dames everywhere may be humble and courageous witnesses to the Faith.*

**O**ur pilgrimage to the Holy Land was directed not only to the usual holy places in Israel and Palestine, but also to Jordan, being the Eastern part of the Holy Land.

As a result of the commitment and contribution of our Knights and Dames, we succeeded to manage essential and urgent infrastructural renovations in the premises of the Chapel Hermina, headquarter of the Lieutenancy, which is a relevant historical and architectural monument in Budapest. We organized the usual spiritual recollections during Christmas and Eastertime with quite big interest and relevant participation. On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of reestablishment of full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Hungary, a conference took place in the Parliament of Hungary. Among the invited high ranking personalities and the diplomatic corps, our Order has not only attended the event, but through its representative has also participated in its preparation.

His Eminency Peter Nersas XIX, Armenian

Catholic Archbishop in Lebanon paid a visit to Budapest, and celebrated a holy mass in the Saint Stephan Cathedral. August 20, St. Stephan's day, our Order attended the traditional holy mass and festive procession.

In September, a group of our Knights participated in Bled, Slovenia, at the investiture ceremony of the Lieutenancy. We had the privilege to meet with the Governor General Agostino Borromeo during his visit to Budapest.

As a sign of the universality of our faith, the leadership of our Lieutenancy took the decision to celebrate the holy mass in Latin during the monthly chapter. Rotating representatives of our Knights and Dames used to pray the Rosary in the Catholic Radio in Budapest. The Hungarian Duna Television Channel performed a one hour documentary film on the history of the Lieutenancy, its activities, offering also an adequate opportunity to introduce the whole Order to the public, its presence in the Christian world, its historical role and commitment to the Holy Land.



## FOR THE FIRST TIME THE GRAND MASTER PRESIDES OVER THE INVESTITURES IN THE MALTESE ARCHIPELAGO

**“Today, becoming a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre means witnessing the Kingdom of Christ, and spreading the Church as well as working for charity with a profound spirit of faith and love.” These were the words recited by Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, during the Investiture of six Maltese Knights held on Saturday, October 10, 2015.**

**K**nights of this Order have been present in Malta as early as the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. However, there was no official jurisdiction and structure until the 1996 when a Magistral Delegation of Malta was installed by a decree issued by Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio on March 10. In the year 2000 the Magistral Delegation of Malta was elevated to a Lieutenancy. Today the Maltese Lieutenancy numbers some fifty Knights, Dames and Chaplains headed by the Lieutenant Knight Commander with Star Eric Fenech Pace.

That a number of people still harbour the outdated perception that obtaining a recognised

knighthood comes with a title, a horse and a sword - the situation is, however, completely different. The Order’s main objectives are “to strengthen the Christian life of its members and to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land by way of providing material aid by offering prayers for peace through the Holy intercession of Our Blessed Lady of Palestine.” In light of this, it is important to remember the real purpose for which our members decided to join the Order, that is, “to place oneself at the service of a noble and difficult cause, a pure and arduous ideal: fighting evil, promoting good, defending the weak, and the



*The Grand Master in Malta, surrounded by members of the Lieutenancy (Copyright: danielstudio).*

oppressed against injustice” (Cardinal Casaroli 1984).

This is the promise that six new Knights of the Lieutenancy of Malta pledged to the Cardinal Grand Master. It was the first time that a Grand Master of the Order presided over an investiture ceremony in Malta. The ceremony took place at the St. John’s Co-Cathedral in Valletta. This cathedral was originally constructed to serve as the conventual church of the Knights of St. John and is characterised by fine baroque art and architecture. During this event the church was filled to capacity with patrons and other distinguished guests, among whom was the Russian ambassador to Malta. The visit was particularly important to the Maltese

Lieutenancy as it provided an opportunity to give an account of its work and relevance within a larger structure despite its limited resources. The excellent outcomes of this event were mainly the result of the constant commitment of the Council and the active members who in recent years worked with a clear roadmap: that of propagating the work of the Order in an effort to increase the awareness among the general public while offering constant support to the Holy Land through spiritual and material needs.

Glen Farrugia



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## NEDERLAND

# THREE QUALITIES TO ENTER THE ORDER: SPIRITUALITY, FRATERNITY AND CHARITY

**On Saturday, April 18, we celebrated the solemn investiture of 22 novices in Maastricht.**

**This city’s history is closely linked to the Holy Land. Bernard of Clairvaux came to Maastricht while preaching the Second Crusade. On the O.L. Vrouweplein, before the famous Basilica of Our Lady, Star of the Sea, he exhorted the city’s people to join. We celebrated our vigil in that basilica.**

**T**he Investiture ceremony was conducted in the Basilica of Saint Servatius, Maastricht’s other basilica. That stunning church also displays its connection to Jerusalem, with a floor mosaic representing a labyrinth. The pilgrim passes through the four cities of Maastricht, Cologne/Aachen, Rome and Constantinople to reach Jerusalem, which is represented at the centre of the mosaic. The solemn Investiture mass gave us a taste of heavenly Jerusalem.

The inclusion of new members who have the desired quality is a matter that requires great care and attention. This demands a careful admissions process, where the principal factor is awareness of the goals and familiarity with the members of the Order. For this purpose, the Dutch Lieutenancy is looking at possibilities for improving how we implement the criteria for admission and at the procedure for including new members.

This theme has been discussed within the separate regions, and close involvement by our members is vital to the growth and continuity of our Lieutenancy: as we stand on the shoulders of those who went before us, so too the new members joining the Order today will constitute the Lieutenancy ten years from now.

The proposed policy for including new members serves as a tool to guide the Lieutenancy’s thoughts on our actions during the time to come. This theme, in one form or another, will be addressed every year at the Order’s gatherings, to offer an opportunity to share experiences and ensure that all our members properly understand the procedure.

In terms of the continuity and growth of our Order, the guiding principle is the quality that we seek in the three pillars of spirituality, fraternity and charity. If we expect a high standard of quality

## CHRONICLE OF SOME ACTIVITIES

The members of the Dutch Lieutenancy have meetings at three levels: the national meetings for Palm Sunday, the Feast of the Cross and Advent; within the regions; and at members' homes for conversations about our faith. The theme of *Evangelii Gaudium* that Pope Francis has exhorted for this year serves as the guiding thought during these gatherings.

Many new members of our Order have families with children. We seek to involve these children in our activities, by organising a modified program for them at national gatherings. Among the many activities, we present an analysis below of some important moments lived in the Lieutenancy.

### ■ TWO PILGRIMAGES TO THE HOLY LAND: A PARTICULAR CARE FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

A special moment during the pilgrimage to the Holy Land (from April 24 to May 2) was the visit to the house where the high priest Caiaphas had his seat. The first-century underground dungeon is almost certainly the place where our Lord Jesus spent the night of his sentencing, tortured and mocked. There we read Psalm 88, drawing us nearer to a prisoner's suffering in total darkness.

As we followed the Stations of the Cross, near the Church of the Holy Sepulchre we encountered a large banner showing a photograph of the decapitation of 21 Coptic Christians by Isis. This image affected us very deeply, bringing the reality and current importance of the Stations of the Cross very close to home. These Copts bore witness with their lives. In these times in particular, so many are dying for the faith.

The one-week youth pilgrimage (July 19-26) to the Holy Land is for the children and grandchildren of members of our Order, ranging in age from 18 to 28, as well as any Catholic friends who are interested. Most of these young people are students. The group is escorted by two members of the Order and accompanied by a clerical member. After the pilgrimage these young pilgrims meet twice each year to talk about faith, under the guidance of a clerical member of the Order. Many themes relating to faith are discussed in an open and honest setting. This further

reinforces and nurtures the sense of connection that they formed while on their pilgrimage.

### ■ FEAST OF THE CROSS

Traditionally, the Feast of the Cross has been celebrated with the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, who have a close connection with our Lieutenancy. A special and touching moment is the commemoration in the convent's square of members and their spouses who died during the past year, followed by a procession towards the church that was held this year on September 12.

### ■ FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH SYRIAC CATHOLIC REFUGEES IN ARNHEM

Recent years have seen numerous Syriac Catholics flee to Europe to escape persecution in their homelands of Syria and Iraq. Over the past few months new refugees have arrived, who have been housed in the *Koepelgevangenis* prison in Arnhem. The Syriac Catholics are part of the Roman Catholic Church of Antiochene tradition.

A member of our Order sought out the priest of the Church of Saint John the Apostle in Arnhem to discuss possibilities for us to show our solidarity and human nearness, based on our spiritual connection. The priest was very pleased to have us join his flock on December 13 to celebrate the Eucharist, and we had coffee with them after, forming small groups to hear their stories and share their concerns.

from our new members, at the same time we as members and as a community are also obliged to offer a high standard of quality in terms of

spirituality, charity and our fraternity: it is our duty to put forward our best efforts towards new members. If we do so, the Order will hold a special





*A moving procession during the ceremony of Investiture in Maastricht, the town which preserves the memory of an historic visit from St. Bernard of Clairvaux.*

place in their lives and ours, and be in the service of the Church here in the Netherlands and of the Christians in the Holy Land.

The quality of today's nominations, recruitments and selections will determine the Lieutenancy's future. This is a great responsibility that we all share whenever we put forward a

candidate.

By continuing to pursue high standards of quality in these three areas (spirituality, fraternity and charity) and a range of capabilities in the individuals nominated, we can strengthen the foundations on which the Order will stand for years to come.



*Mass of Investitures in spring 2015.*

## ADDING VALUE TO THE CHARITABLE INVOLVEMENT OF THE ORDER IN THE HOLY LAND

For the Austrian Lieutenancy, both the congress held in the convent of Heiligenkreuz in November 2015 as well as the Investiture in Vorarlberg, heralded important spiritual occasions.



*Participants at the congress and Investiture at Dornbirn.*

Under the invitation of Lieutenant Karl Lengheimer and of the Abbot of Heiligenkreuz, the Austrian Lieutenancy organised a congress in the Room of the Emperor of the convent in Heiligenkreuz on the subject of "The role model of the Knight in the time of Bernard of Clairvaux and nowadays". This congress was for them a time to reflect on the role of the Knight and to understand what it means to be a Knight in a Lay Order of Pontifical right, especially in the complex situation of our world, all within the context of the Year of Mercy proclaimed by the Pope. In addition to the Abbot of the convent and his predecessor, the

honorary Grand Prior of the Austrian Lieutenancy and the Master of Ceremonies of the German Lieutenancy spoke during the congress, in which a considerable number of members of the Order of our country and others were present, as well as representatives of the Teutonic Order and the Order of Malta. The Lieutenant Lengheimer notably greeted the German Lieutenant Detlef Brümmer, the Hungarian Lieutenant László Tringer, the Grand Prior Alois Kothgasser, Archbishop emeritus, and Msgr. Paul Iby, Bishop emeritus of Eisenstadt. A detailed summary of the congress can be found on the website of the Austrian Lieutenancy.



## The engagement of 25 new Dames and Knights

The second important moment in the life of the Austrian Lieutenancy during 2015 was the Investiture organised by the Local Delegate of Bregenz. As the third Investiture after that of Feldkirch and of Bregenz, Dornbirn was chosen as centre of celebrations. Around 300 guests subscribed to the celebrations of the Investiture during which we welcomed 25 candidates into the Order. The day of the Investiture began Saturday morning with a solemn Chapter in the House of Culture in Dornbirn. On this occasion, Lieutenant Karl Lengheimer greeted Austrian brothers and sisters of the Order as well as those who had come from neighbouring countries, with a great number of guests. In his short address, the Lieutenant laid out the mission of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in clear words, especially during difficult periods. After giving this speech to the whole community of the Order, Karl Lengheimer presented the candidates who were going to make their engagements that afternoon in the form of an Investiture. During the following solemn Chapter, Fr. Imad Twal informed us on the difficult situation of the

Christians in the Holy Land.

The Investiture in the parish church of St. Martin was an impressive celebration. Mass was presided upon by the honorary Grand Prior, the Prelate and Provost Maximilian Fürnsinn. The solemn procession going from St. Martin's church to the House of Culture in Dornbirn profoundly impressed visitors. This notable day closed with a reception for the Land de Vorarlberg and the town of Dornbirn in the form of a festive dinner.

The great occupation of the Austrian Lieutenancy is to attract the attention of people towards charitable engagement in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Land. To do this, during Christmas and Easter markets the local Delegations of the Order sell products made in the Holy Land (olive wood sculptures, olive oil). It is also the objective of the *Austrian Association for the Holy Land*, a charity belonging to the Order who, according to Austrian tax laws, benefits from tax deduction on donations made towards humanitarian projects in the Holy Land.



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## SLOVENIA

# A SUSTAINED COMMITMENT IN THE LIFE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

**The Lieutenancy of Slovenia was established at the very beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium. Before the first Investiture in 2001, the Order was completely unknown in Slovenia. The first Knights were successful to some extent in coping with beginner's problems within the Lieutenancy; however, over the past years the Lieutenancy has had strong participation in activities of the Slovenian Catholic Church, especially within the Archdiocese of Ljubljana. The Order is invited more and more frequently to religious and diplomatic ceremonies, and gains recognition with each event. Although we are not many in number, we accept every invitation and we have become regular guests at certain traditional ceremonies.**

**T**he patron saint of Ljubljana is St. George, who is also considered to be the patron saint of the Knights. Each year, on April 23, his name day, the parishes of Ljubljana organise a solemn holy mass

in the courtyard of Ljubljana Castle, on the hill in the centre of the city. The participation of our Order's members, and members of the Order of Malta, has practically become obligatory.





*Slovenian Investitures, in the presence of the Grand Master and of Dames and Knights of the Lieutenancies of Austria, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Spain... (Photo:Tatjana Splichal)*

We are also regularly invited to a solemn mass offered for the country by the Slovene bishops in the Cathedral of Ljubljana. This religious and diplomatic event is not only attended by the Apostolic Nuncio to Slovenia, but also by leading politicians (the President of the Government, members of the Parliament), ambassadors and representatives of other religious communities. The mass is offered twice a year on the occasions of the most important national holidays, on June 24 and December 23.

As a result of the reorganisation of the local Church's administrative structure, three new dioceses were established. The 10<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the Diocese of Novo Mesto was commemorated on November 25 with a scientific symposium to which the members of our Order were invited by Msgr. Andrej Glavan, the local bishop.

Undoubtedly, the most important and exciting event of the Lieutenancy of Slovenia in 2015 was

the Investiture of new Knights and Dames. The ceremonies took place on September 11 and 12 in Bled, a small town which the Slovene people have a special regard for due to historical and cultural events. On this occasion, we were honoured by a visit of the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien who personally invested one Lady and three new Knights in the Order. The vigil took place in the well-known little Church of the Assumption, which is located on the islet in the middle of Lake Bled and personifies personal sacrificing and conversion for Slovene Catholics. The rite of Investiture was held at the parish church of St. Martin. It is our great pleasure and honour that numerous Dames and Knights from the Lieutenancies of Austria, Hungary, Northern Italy (Section Friuli-Venezia-Giulia), Poland and Eastern Spain participated in the event; many others sent written expressions of support and prayer. The Slovene members of the Order feel deep gratitude for this magnificent expression of brotherly love, connection and spiritual provisions to our new members.

**Marjana Kos**

## THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE ESTABLISHED ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

**Twenty-eight lay men and women, one priest and two permanent deacons of the Archdiocese of Cape Town were formally invested in the Order on Sunday, November 8, 2015.**



*Until 2015 there has never been an official presence of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre on the African continent. Now there is, with the birth of a Magistral Delegation, and the first Investiture of 20 Knights and Dames.*

At their Investiture Mass, they received from Archbishop Stephen Brislin, Archbishop of Cape Town and the Grand Prior of the Order in this Magistral Delegation of Southern Africa, their cloaks and other items of their regalia. In a very moving ceremony, celebrated in Our Lady of Good Hope church, Sea Point, Archbishop Brislin was assisted by Msgr. Clifford Stokes, the Chancellor of the Order in Southern Africa and the Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies, together with Father Peter-John Pearson. Both priests are Knights of the Order and Vicars General of Archbishop Brislin.

Present at the Investiture Mass were Joseph Quinn, Magistral Delegate for the Southern African Magistral Delegation and his wife Nancy, David Smith, Lieutenant of the Lieutenancy of England

and Wales and his wife Lucia, and Michael Cowley, President of the Northern Section of the Lieutenancy of England and Wales.

The Order, which currently has around 30,000 members world-wide, wrote a new page in its history with the Investiture of the newly admitted members of the Order in Cape Town. Although the Order has for many years had a presence in Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Australia, until November 8, 2015, there has never been a formal presence of the Order on the African continent, the continent that gave shelter to the Holy Family when they found refuge in Egypt after fleeing from Herod who sought to kill the child Jesus.

**Dino Gomes**



## KNIGHTS AND LADIES FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT MAURICE

**The Investiture of the Swiss Lieutenancy in May 2015 in Disentis, organised by the local Delegation of Chürratien was marked by the genius loci, “spirit of the place”.**

**W**e celebrated the Investiture in the heart of the Swiss mountains at an altitude of more than 1.130m in the venerable Benedictine Abbey of Disentis whose origins go back to the year 720.

The Abbot Vigeli Monn warmly welcomed into his abbey the 200 members of the Order who participated, as well as their loved ones. This was already the forth Investiture at Disentis, following others in the years 1964, 1991 and 2006. In this venue we were able to celebrate an extraordinary and honourable Investiture of 18 Knights and Dames. It was a great joy that our Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien could preside at this Investiture with great enthusiasm and wish words of welcome to the new Knights and Ladies amongst us. In the heart of the Alps, still covered in snow, he extended contact with the Swiss that we are by greeting us before the gala dinner in a relaxed atmosphere.

Every year at the beginning of August, the

Chürratien Delegation goes on pilgrimage to Ziteil, the highest sanctuary in Europe at 2.434m in altitude. More than 80 Knights and Dames from all Sections, especially from the Swiss-Italian Section, pushed themselves through the challenging climb to the Marian sanctuary. Once we were all at the top, we celebrated Mass together and enjoyed a delicious meal.

At the end of August, the Swiss Lieutenancy was the guest of honour and the sponsor of the central assembly of the “Association of retired Pontifical Swiss Guards” in the impressive sanctuary of Einsiedeln. The Commandant of the Guard, Colonel Christoph Graf came from Rome for it. On Sunday morning, August 23, in the baroque church of the abbey, we celebrated a pontifical Mass presided over by the Abbot, Msgr. Urban Federer, as well as Msgr. Alain de Raemy, auxiliary Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, after an impressive entrance procession



*The Swiss Lieutenancy gathered around Cardinal O'Brien during the Investiture at Disentis.*



consisting of roughly thirty soldiers, non commissioned officers and officers in their well-known uniforms of yellow and blue, standard bearers, musical formations as well as a delegation of Knights and Dames. In his homily, the Abbot Urban reminded the retired Swiss Guards that they must include the defence of the faith in their daily lives, both through their ways of thinking and in their Christian actions. In addition to the Swiss Lieutenancy, there was the Swiss army as guest of honour, as well as André Blattmann (chief of the Armed Forces) and various different representatives of the Government of the canton of Schwyz.

During this occasion, while we prayed together and celebrated the Eucharist, the traditional and friendly contact between the Swiss Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Pontifical Swiss Guards of the Pope was brought out anew in another precious example.

For 15 centuries, pilgrims and travellers find refuge in the Abbey Saint-Maurice of Agaune. Near the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Maurice, the captain of a division of the Roman legion, became a martyr along with all his soldiers because of their witness to the Christian faith. The abbey was founded by the Burgundian King Sigismond in 515, so that this year we celebrated the anniversary of 1500 since its foundation. Furthermore, it is the oldest monastery of the West, to exist without interruption. Until this very day, its walls continue to host the Order of the Canons of Saint-

Augustine and its treasure was exhibited in the Louvre Gallery in Paris last year. The Jubilee year of 2015 was highlighted by UNESCO and was amply celebrated. In addition, the Knights and Dames of the Swiss Lieutenancy were able to visit the Abbey by way of an impressive pilgrimage. Msgr. Joseph Roduit, Abbot of St. Maurice and Prior of the French-speaking Swiss Section welcomed us with the following words: “fifteen centuries of fidelity and praise perpetually celebrated within these walls in memory of the Theban legion Martyrs! If we count the exact time passed there have been 547,875 days, on September 22, 2015, that our Abbey has never closed its doors. Like a humble night watchman is fragile in a world of continuous change, the Abbey of Saint Maurice is the living and lively witness, through history, of the vitality and newness of the Christian message.”

#### **The great joy in welcoming Msgr. Charles Morerod**

In mid-October, the Lieutenancy and especially the Swiss Section enjoyed a particular honour and joy, to be present at the Investiture of Msgr. Charles Morerod, Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg. Just like his two predecessors in the ministry of Bishop, Msgr. Pierre Mamie and Msgr. Bernard Genoud, Msgr. Morerod equally assumed charge of Section Prior as successor to Msgr. Joseph Roduit, Abbot emeritus of St. Maurice.



*At the beginning of August, more than 80 Knights and Dames from all Sections and particularly from the Swiss-Italian Section, walked the pilgrimage to Ziteil, the highest Marian sanctuary in Europe at 2.434m in altitude... Once we were all at the top, we celebrated Mass together and enjoyed a delicious meal.*

Throughout the whole Section, we felt clearly the great joy of having a new Prior.

At the end of autumn, at the seat of the Order, the Collegiate St. Michael in Beromünster, the Swiss Lieutenancy celebrated, as every year, the commemoration of those Faithful Departed in the Order, praying for our departed brothers and sisters. At the end of a solemn mass for the Faithful Departed, the Knights and Dames accompanied the celebrants to the funeral chapel where we paid homage to the departed. This year, we were able to celebrate another Investiture, that of Episcopal Vicar Ruedi Heim, and cordially wished him welcome among us.

Once a year, the Knights and Ladies of the Swiss Lieutenancy are able to deepen a subject of their faith under spiritual direction. At the beginning of November 2015, days of meditation within the Swiss-German Section at Quarten near the lake of Walensee, organised by the Local Delegation of St. Gallen, were led by the Prior of the Section Martin Gächter, auxiliary Bishop emeritus. It is a new thing to have days of meditation annually organised by alternating Local Delegations. This new way looks to attract members of the Order who, thanks to the

geographic proximity, can more easily get to the meeting and participate in at least one part of the three day event. This year, crossing the lake to reach Quinten, a village only reached by boat, as well as the visit to St. George with the white chapel which overlooks the country of Sargans formed part of the retreat days proposed.

The French-speaking Swiss Section organised their retreat in the Cistercian Abbey of Hauterive. The Italian-Swiss Section organised their retreat and their Advent celebrations in Breganzona, Lugano. These days of spiritual reflection and introspection of our Order, show us anew that adhesion to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre is a personal testimony of faith confirming the apostolic works of the Roman Catholic Church in the world.

During the period of Advent, we propose that members of the Swiss Lieutenancy participate in different solemn Eucharistic celebrations and moments of reflection in the many different Local Delegations or Sections.

**Donata Krethlow-Benziger**



[www.oessh.ch](http://www.oessh.ch)

## SVERIGE – SWEDEN

# THE FIRST INVESTITURE OF THE ORDER ON DANISH SOIL

**The Lieutenancy of Sweden celebrated the Order's first investiture, on Danish soil, from September 5 to 7. The celebrations began on Saturday, September 5, with a Vigil celebrated by the Lieutenancy's Grand Prior, the Bishop of Stockholm, Anders Arborelius of the Order of Discalced Carmelites, KC\*HS. The Vigil was celebrated in the monastery of Our Lady, near Copenhagen. The ceremony was celebrated as part of the Holy Mass, concelebrated by all the bishops of the Nordic countries, who gathered in Copenhagen for a meeting of the Nordic Bishop Conference.**

**A**ccording to the Order's ancient traditions, the new Knights (and Dames) should spend the night before the Investiture in vigil, prayer and contemplation. Today, the ceremony of Vigil is celebrated in the evening before the Investiture and is the last step in the candidate's preparation

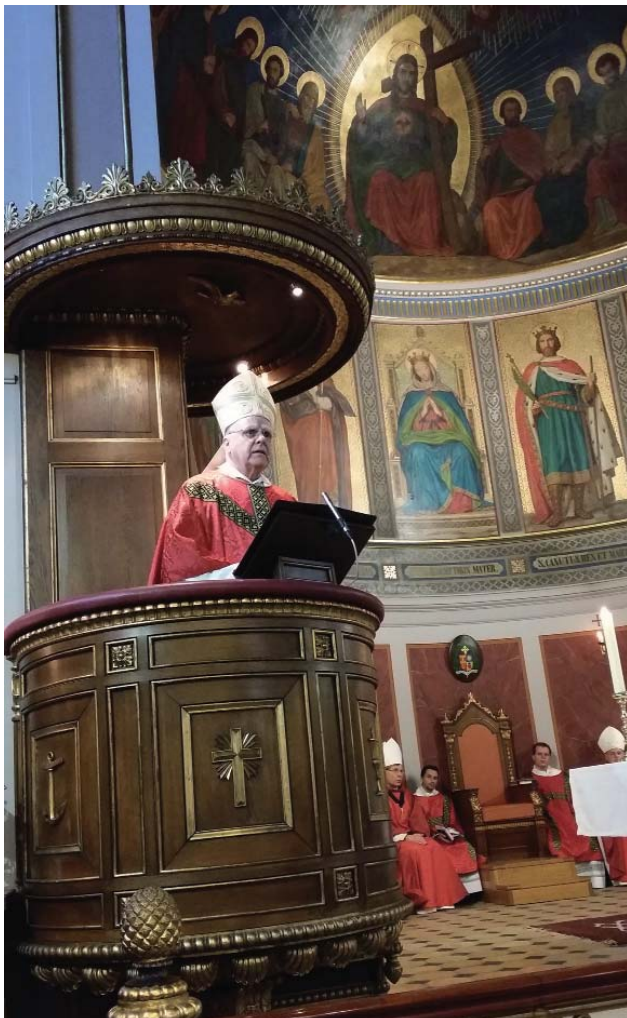
for life as a Knight. The candidate receives yet another reminder about what life as a member of the Order means. During the service the candidates sign their vows before the Investiture. After signing the vows, the candidate's capes and insignia are blessed.





*The Vigil preceding the Investitures was held in the monastery of Our Lady, near Copenhagen, presided over by Msgr. Anders Arborelius, Grand Prior of the Swedish Lieutenancy. The ceremony began with Mass concelebrated by all the Bishops of the Nordic countries who gathered for a session of the Scandinavian Episcopal Conference (Photo: Davor Zovko).*

*Knights and Dames attended celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the Catholic Church in Denmark, with Mass and the office of Vespers in the presence of the Grand Master of the Order.*



Bishop Anders Arborelius began his homily by asking everyone present if they knew that they were all God's temple. Bishop Arborelius said that every Christian life is like a brick in the Church's building. If only one brick is missing, the structure becomes strange and unstable. Every Christian life also is a constant development, and no one knows how close to God one can reach in his or her life. Knights and Dames should be witnesses of Jesus in their everyday living in a holy way, in their families, on their workplaces, in their environment.

On Sunday, the Knights and Dames participated in celebrations of the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Denmark. The Anniversary was celebrated with Holy Mass and a Vesper service, in which also the Order's Grand Master participated.

## YEAR 2015 IN THE LIEUTENANCY OF SWEDEN

In 2015, three days took place that were dedicated to the Order. On January 24 when we discussed the 2014 activities of the Order; a retreat opened for all members during the Lent, starting on March 27, at the Monastery of St. Bridget near Stockholm and a two-part event near the Feast of Queen of Palestine.

On November 6 Bishop Anders Arborelius consecrated the new Burial Ground for the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The burial ground is located at the Catholic Cemetery in Stockholm and was raised at the initiative of, and with support of, our member Christina Doctare LCHS, a well-known Swedish physician.

In addition, in May our Lieutenant participated in the meeting of Lieutenants of Europe and during the year, several meetings of the Council were also held. The main event in 2015 was the Investiture in Denmark.

Our members continue to make their pilgrimage together with other Lieutenancies. In fact, we experience that our collaboration with other Lieutenancies is very good. Members of the Lieutenancy participated in several events arranged by other Lieutenancies. We were also glad to welcome members from other Lieutenancies to our own events.

At the Investiture Mass on Monday September 7, four new Knights, among them the Bishop of Copenhagen Czeslaw Kozon, were included in the worldwide Community of Order's members.

The main celebrant of the Investiture Mass was the Order's Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. Several Bishops of the Nordic countries and a number of priests concelebrated the Holy Mass.

Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy of Sweden participated in the celebrations, together with several guests, including: representatives of the Order's Grand Magisterium, Lieutenants of Finland, Spain Oriental, and Belgium, Grand Priors of Finland and Norway, representatives from Lieutenancies of Germany, England and Western Spain, representatives of the Sovereign Order of Malta and the German Order of St. John, representatives from a number of other organizations, families and friends of the new Knights and many other guests.

In his homily the Grand Master said that Christ has called us all to follow him. Christ's call is immediate and total. One cannot follow Christ only in part. All the people whom Jesus called, left their lives completely and followed him without hesitation. Knights and Dames should live a deeper Christian life.

Investiture Mass was followed by a reception

and a formal dinner at the Study center Magleås, situated next to Our Lady Convent. The reception and the dinner gave every present person an opportunity for festive and joyful communion with the Order's Grand Master, members of the Order, friends and guests.

Grand Magisterium's representative, Bo Theutenberg KGCHS, recounted in brief the history of the Swedish Lieutenancy. He also mentioned that our Lieutenancy supported the Order's establishment in Norway, the Czech Republic and Croatia, now also in Denmark.

During the dinner two paintings of Swedish heraldic artist Davor Zovko KC\*HS were sold for the benefit of the Order's humanitarian work in the Holy Land. One of the paintings was already sold a few years ago. However, after having paid for framing, the buyer donated the painting back to the Lieutenancy, and this is why the Lieutenancy was able to sell it again. At the dinner in Magleås the same occurred: even the new buyer donated the painting back to the Lieutenancy!

A video recording of the entire investiture can still be seen at the homepage of the Diocese of Copenhagen:  
<http://katolsk.mediaplatform.dk/video/channel/63>



[www.oessh.se](http://www.oessh.se)



## USA MIDDLE ATLANTIC

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# LADY ROSE'S GENEROSITY BRINGS FORTH MANY BEAUTIFUL WORKS IN THE HOLY LAND

**T**he Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy, USA, received a bequest from Lady Rose Bente Lee, LC\*HS. Lady Rose was invested in 1995, and was devoted to the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land. Upon her death in 2014, Lady Rose generously remembered the Order, has supported Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, endowed a Scholarship in Lady Rose's memory at Bethlehem University, benefited St. Louis Hospital in

Jerusalem, established "Rose's Nurseries" in Tel Aviv under the direction of Fr. David Neuhaus, assisting Christians fleeing persecution, supported Caritas Jordan to provide assistance to Iraqi Refugees in Jordan, and contributed to the general mission of the Grand Magisterium.



[www.midatlanticeohs.com](http://www.midatlanticeohs.com)

## USA NORTHEASTERN

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# THE LIEUTENANCY CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

**Many members may not know that the Order came to the United States only 87 years ago, on April 30, 1929. It was not until 52 years later, on March 21, 1981, that the Northeastern Lieutenancy was established as a Magistral Delegation, when the Eastern Lieutenancy had reached a membership of nearly 2000.**

**T**he first meeting of the Delegation was held the same year it was created, on November 7, 1981, in Boston. With the sixty-two original members who had transferred from the Eastern Lieutenancy, and those who were newly invested, a total of 135 members were in attendance. It was at that time the Delegation was elevated to a full-fledged Lieutenancy by the Order's then Grand Master, Cardinal Maximilian de Furstenberg. Sir Norman E. MacNeil, who later went on to become a member of the Grand Magisterium, was named the first Lieutenant and Cardinal Humberto Medeiros was designated the first Grand Prior.

Since Norman E. MacNeil, four additional men have served as Lieutenant of the Northeastern USA Lieutenancy: George T. Ryan (current Vice Governor General of Honor), Dennis J. Looney (current Grand Magisterium Member of Honor), John J. Spillane (deceased), and current Lieutenant, John J. Monahan.

Cardinal Seán Patrick O'Malley, OFM, Cap, KGCHS is our current Grand Prior.

Now that you know where we came from, let us tell you where we are today. The Northeastern Lieutenancy is alive and well with offices in Worcester, Massachusetts, and blessed with dedicated members who live in five of the six New England States: Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Rhode Island, the smallest of all 50 states. Four of the five states touch the Atlantic Ocean, but of those, only Maine can claim to have the Eastern most point in the contiguous United States, and therefore the first state in the U.S. to see the sunrise. With a combined geographic area a little under 58,000 square miles and a total estimated population of 11.1 million people, ours is much smaller than the rest of the U.S. Lieutenancies, including our neighbors in the Eastern Lieutenancy, with 3 states covering 100,000 square miles, and an estimated population of 41.6 million.

*The North Eastern Lieutenancy is territorially the smallest in the United States, founded in 1981 (in our photograph are three of its successive Lieutenants, the fourth is deceased). Its current Grand Prior is Cardinal O'Malley, member of the group of cardinals created by Pope Francis with a view to reforming the Roman Curia.*



### **A light that was born from people's spiritual commitment**

While we may be smaller in size, what we lack in square miles we have in grace-filled smiles on the faces of our Knights and Ladies. Today we continue to be a vibrant organization whose members are very active throughout the year on both a Lieutenancy and Diocesan level. In addition to four annual Lieutenancy-wide events, the Section Representatives of our eight Dioceses organize smaller, local events for Knights and Ladies in their respective areas. These gatherings provide members with an opportunity to meet in smaller, more intimate settings than our Annual Meeting and Investiture, which this year was attended by 350 members and guests, and allow members to enjoy a rewarding spiritual and social experience, form stronger relationships, and most

importantly, develop a sense of belonging. We firmly believe that it is this sense of belonging that has not only helped us to grow, but helps us to retain our members.

This year the Northeastern USA Lieutenancy celebrates its 35<sup>th</sup> year, and we are confident that by the end of 2016, we will have grown our membership to 900. While we are happy to be celebrating these milestones in numbers of years and membership growth, we have much more to celebrate. We believe that a Lieutenancy's success is not based on the length of its existence, but on the men and women who serve it daily through their prayers, loyalty, participation, dedication to the Church, and their commitment to both their Lieutenancy and the Order's mission in the Holy Land. We believe that is the perfect description of every Knight and Lady who hails from the Northeastern USA Lieutenancy and it is that dedication that we celebrate. How lucky are we to be graced with men and women, both clergy and lay members, who not only believe that each and every one of us can make a difference in the life of the people we have promised to serve, but men and women who put that belief into action by doing what they can to insure that there will always be Christians in the Land made Holy by Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection.



[www.eohsjnortheast.org](http://www.eohsjnortheast.org)



# CARDINAL O'BRIEN PRESIDED OVER INVESTITURE IN ALASKA

**T**he 2015 Annual Meeting of the Northwestern Lieutenancy was most auspicious and historical. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order, presided over the Investiture of twenty-eight new members including Bishop Peter Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of Portland, Oregon, as

well the promotions of twenty-two other Knights and Ladies. However, the four days of gorgeous liturgies and fun-filled, social-bonding activities spent in Anchorage, Alaska, also provided the occasion for other very important and special events. The Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample,

## SIR JOHN MCGUCKIN MENTORING AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

**T**he Sir John McGuckin Mentoring and Internship Program is funded by Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre: USA Northwestern Lieutenancy, USA Western Lieutenancy and Canadian Atlantic Lieutenancy. For the third year running the Program sent ten Bethlehem University students to intern with Catholic Charities USA ([catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://catholiccharitiesusa.org)).

For the first time three additional students joined the McGuckin Internship Program in Australia where they did student teaching at Loyola College in Melbourne, Australia ([www.loyola.vic.edu.au](http://www.loyola.vic.edu.au)).

The purpose of the McGuckin Internship program is to provide students of Bethlehem University with opportunities to gain valuable career focused as well as cultural experience from an international setting – and to also provide an opportunity for the participants to contribute back to both Bethlehem University as well as the Palestinian society by sharing their experience with others in coordination with the Alumni Relations and Guest Relations offices upon their return to Palestine after the internship experience.



*Thanks to the internships, adding value to their competencies, students from the University of Bethlehem benefit from the support of three Lieutenancies of the Order to acquire international cultural experience.*

*From left to right, during the Investitures at Anchorage: Msgr. Roger Schwietz, Thompson Faller, Mary Currivan O'Brien, the Grand Master, Thomas McKiernan, and Msgr. Peter Smith.*

Archbishop of Portland, was announced as the Lieutenancy's new Grand Prior. Sir Thompson M. Faller, KGCHS, was installed as the new Lieutenant replacing Lady Mary Currivan O'Brien, LGCHS, who was appointed to the Grand Magisterium of the Order. Professor Thomas McKiernan, a member of the Grand Magisterium, was the featured speaker at the Education Forum.



## USA WESTERN

### BEIT JALA ADOPT-A-SEMINARIAN PROGRAM

Since 2005 the Western USA Lieutenancy has supported young men in formation to the priesthood at the Latin Patriarchate Seminary in Beit Jala, Palestine. The Adopt-A-Seminarian Project was discussed by the Lieutenancy Council and as the Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies, Msgr. Sir Kevin Kostelnik stated at that time, "Whenever we can put a face to a project, such as a seminarian, we are sponsoring a worthwhile project!"

Chancellor Emeritus William Green, KGCHS and his wife Lady Sally Green, LGCHS initiated the program in cooperation with the Seminary and its then rector, Fr. William Shomali. The Greens adopted a seminarian in his first year of the Major Seminary, Issa Hijazeen, who was starting his last four years of formation. The Greens remained close to Issa throughout the following years and attended his ordination in 2009. Following his ordination, Father Issa wrote to Bill and Sally, saying, "The original vocation lived by the Christians in the first century, when the apostles collected the help from the people of Jerusalem has a theological meaning, describing the love between the Christians. Thank you for what you did, and for what you do, and for what you will

do for our diocese."

The entire annual cost for tuition, room and board is \$5,000 per seminarian, making it a wonderful project for the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. Those who have supported these seminarians financially, spiritually and with



*The Lieutenancy of USA Western is committed to serving priestly vocations through material and spiritual sponsorship of seminarians in the Holy Land.*

regular communication have found this experience truly rewarding.

Bill and Sally Green adopted their second seminarian, now Fr. Baha Stephan and following their example, Nancy Iredale, LGCHS joined the initiative and adopted Fares Siryani, who was ordained in 2014. Nancy describes her experience as if one of her own sons had become a priest. She remains close to Fr. Fares and when his newly assigned parish was in need of funding, he reached out to Nancy, who happily helped.

Members of the Western USA Lieutenancy have “adopted” 12 seminarians: 3 have been ordained and 9 are in formation. Currently all eligible major seminarians are being sponsored. We pray for more

vocations! My wife and I had the privilege of having lunch with several of the seminarians in November 2015 at Beit Jala. We are grateful for their generous response to the Lord’s call.

Bishop William Shomali of the Latin Patriarchate sums up the importance of the program, saying, “Sponsoring a seminarian is not just paying for his scholarship, it is also a human relationship and a spiritual twinship, where prayer and friendship are important factors in the integral growth of the seminarian. Thank you!”.

**Michael Scott Feeley**



[www.eohsjwesternusa.org](http://www.eohsjwesternusa.org)

## UNDER THE SIGN OF GENEROSITY

**O**n January 1, 2015, the Cardinal Grand Master appointed Sir Michael Scott Feeley, KGCHS, as the seventh Lieutenant of the Western USA Lieutenancy. The Lieutenant then appointed Margie Romano, LGCHS, as Chancellor, Rita Liebelt, LGCHS, as Treasurer, and Diane Grange, LGCHS, as Secretary.

Members gathered to pray the Rosary on the First Monday of each month at 14 locations throughout the Lieutenancy.

They gathered 12 times for Days of Recollections, Retreats, and to support our bishops at important liturgies and 22 times as honor guards at the funerals of deceased members.

On June 13, over 100 knights and ladies participated in the funeral of William H. Davidson, KGCHS, the sixth Lieutenant, celebrated by the Grand Prior, Cardinal Roger Mahony.

545 members joined together at 9 Mid-Year Meetings while 585 members gathered in San Diego, California, the weekend of September 26 to celebrate the promotions of 32 members and the Investiture of 31 new members.

29 knights and ladies received Pilgrim shells.

Deacon Ryan Adams and Lady Wynsdey Adams organized Masses in 9 parishes to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine, in the month of October.

Members funded backpacks, school supplies, and winter coats for several hundred children at St. Pius X School and Twelve Apostles Parish School in Zarqa, Jordan, as well as fully funding the summer school programs at both schools and parish repairs.

Members sponsored 9 major seminarians at Beit Jala seminary, funded Palestinian youth to attend the canonization in Rome, and made special grants to the Society of St. Yves, St. Vincent’s Home for Disabled Children, St. Joseph’s Hospital, and Bethlehem University.

In December, the Lieutenancy launched a new website.

*Members of the Order have financed backpacks, educational equipment and various lessons for many hundreds of schools in the Latin Patriarchate.*





## THE GIFT OF REDISCOVERING HOLY SCRIPTURE DURING THE JUBILEE

Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, Master of Ceremonies of the Order and renowned biblical scholar, has published two books offering support for the way of the faithful during this Jubilee of Mercy. The first, *Passi di Misericordia. Cammino di Giubileo* ('The steps of Mercy. Way of the Jubilee') is a biblical itinerary described by the author as being "a handbook, a vade mecum, a little dictionary. A collection of meditative notes which help us journey along the path to understanding the Bible; travel notebook, pocket code book". Perusing its pages, the reader encounters its key themes – The Beatitudes, Giving, Trust, Promise – seen through the eyes of a selection of texts from Holy Scripture and brief commentaries by the author.

His second work, published after the start of the Jubilee, is a new edition of the Bible with an assortment of two bodies of quotes which, for each book of Scripture, suggest a path of *Lectio divina* and of *Lectio mystica*: it is an aid to prayer which makes a voyage into the heart of Divine Revelation, by discovering ever more deeply its unity and richness.

MSGR. FORTUNATO FREZZA, *Passi di Misericordia. Cammino di Giubileo. Itinerario Biblico per il Giubileo della Misericordia* (The steps of Mercy. Way of the Jubilee. Biblical itinerary for the Jubilee of Mercy), Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 188 pages. In Italian.

MSGR. FORTUNATO FREZZA, *Sacra Bibbia* (The Holy Bible), Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1254 pages. In Italian.

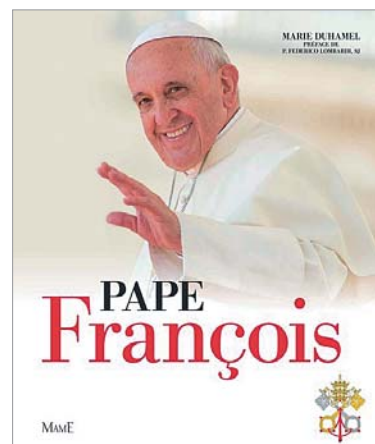


## A MAGNIFICENT ARTISTIC ENSEMBLE ABOUT POPE FRANCIS

It is with joy that we present to the readers of *Annales*, a unique publication without precedent, for them to know more intimately the Pope of Mercy; the Pope from the peripheries.

Over the course of an in depth work by Marie Duhamel, a journalist from *Vatican Radio*, the reader will discover the life and pontificate of Jorge Bergoglio, perusing documents ranging from his baptismal certificate to his book of notes taken during Seminary to even... his football supporter card! The book offers 250 photographs and more than 50 facsimiles, all to better know the face of Francis. The publication is prefaced by Fr. Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office.

MARIE DUHAMEL, *Pape François*. Editions Mame, 138 pages. In French. Soon to be published in English, Italian and Spanish.



# ECCLESIASTIC HERALDRY IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

**H**eraldry, the science and study of Coat of Arms, was developed across Europe in the Middle Ages as a coherent system of identification, not just of individual persons but of genealogies and human collectives. It was a unique emblematic system during an époque where identification was rarely realised in writing. The word ‘herald’ means ‘to announce’ and the Arms of a knight enabled him to be recognised during tournaments. Heraldry was born in the heart of chivalry but was rapidly diffused into Western society: clerics, nobles, middle-class, peasants, women, communities... It next served as representation for professional corporations, towns and less commonly for regions and countries. Heraldry also had its place within the Catholic Church, and was especially used for Episcopal Arms. Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, honorary Assessor of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, has published a reference book on the subject, which we are happy to recommend to *Annales* readers. Architect turned priest who later became apostolic nuncio in numerous countries of the world, notably Israel, Cardinal Montezemolo understands perfectly the rules of ecclesiastical heraldry, a working knowledge which he practices with passion and precision. Incidentally, the task is often given to him to design the crests of men in the Church called to high service. In this way he created for example those of Benedict XVI and of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State for Francis. Heraldry is a language, which in the case of bishops or popes has a pastoral and spiritual meaning, so as at the same time to illustrate an ideal to be followed and a remembrance to be honoured.



CARDINAL ANDREA CORDERO LANZA DI MONTEZEMOLO, *Manuale di araldica ecclesiastica nella Chiesa cattolica* (Manual of Ecclesial Heraldry in the Catholic Church), Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 206 pages. In Italian.

## THE CONTRIBUTION OF CARDINAL MARELLA TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHURCH IN ASIA

**A**s the Order of the Holy Sepulchre develops in Asia, we are granted the opportunity to deepen our knowledge of the recent history of the Church in this part of the world. Pierre Blanchard, eminent member of the Grand Magisterium of the Order, proposes a well-documented study on the relationship between the Holy See and Japan in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In collaboration with Régis Ladous, Pierre Blanchard enables us to relive the ecclesial mission of Msgr. Paolo Marella, who was apostolic delegate for the empire of Japan from 1933 to 1949 and in close relationship with the Congregation for Evangelisation of Peoples (Propaganda Fide). His work contributed to making the structures of the Church in Asia less dependent on European

missionaries, favouring the nomination of native bishops. Following that Cardinal Marella became Papal nuncio in France from 1953 to 1960 and the first president of the Secretariat for non-Christians, the future Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Today, his life and works continue to inspire readers of this book dedicated to him; especially members of the Order who are called in a spirit of universal fraternity to be artisans of encounters between diverse traditions and cultures.

RÉGIS LADOUS e PIERRE BLANCHARD, *Le Vatican et le Japon dans la guerre de la grande Asie orientale* (The Vatican and Japan during the war of Greater East Asia). Editions Desclée de Brouwer, 432 pages. In French.



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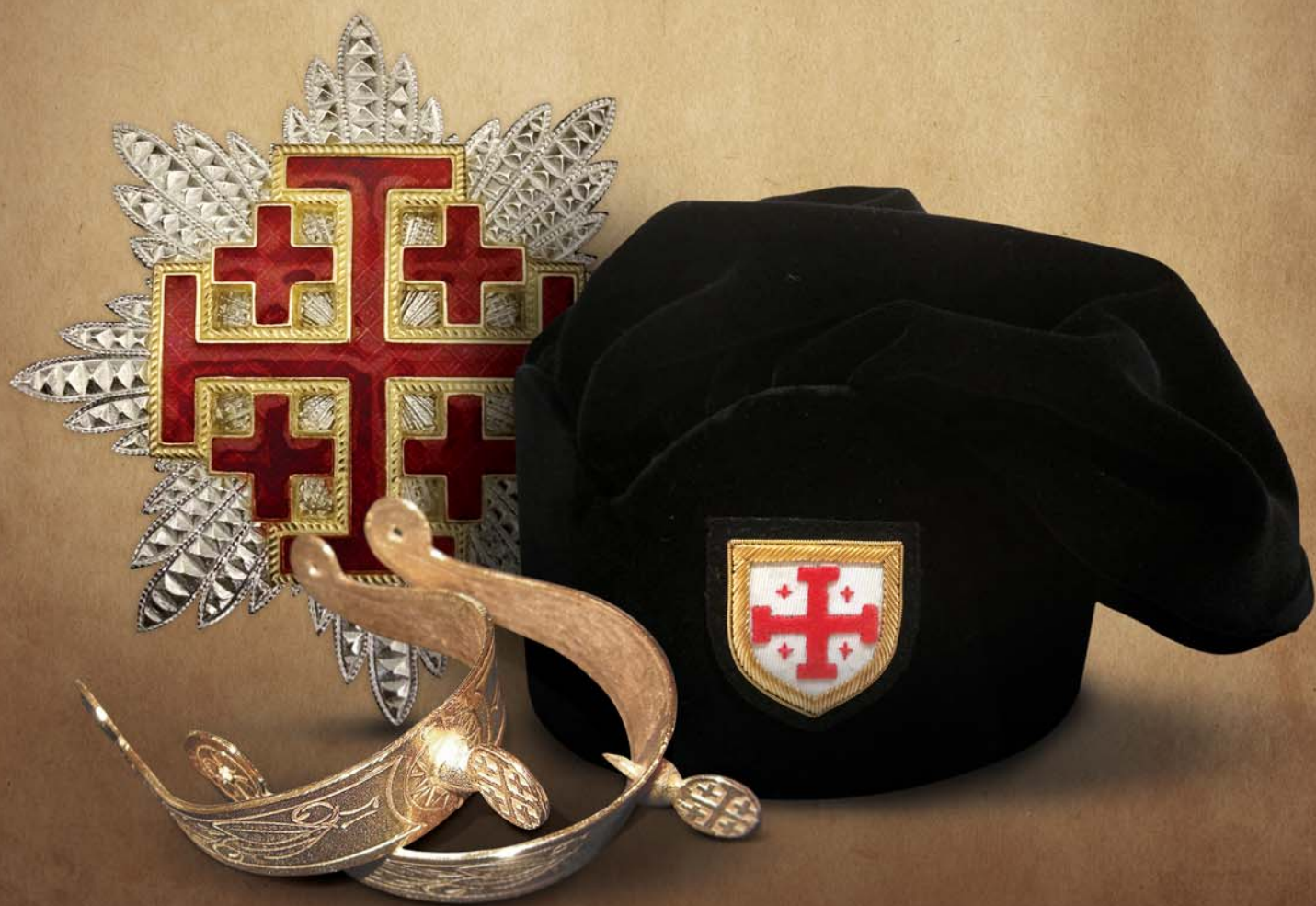
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