

News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

A NEW GRAND MASTER

AT THE HEAD OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

We reprint below the announcement, already published on the Order's website, of the change in the government of the Order that took place on 27 June 2007.

"The Holy Father has accepted the resignation, for reasons of age, of His Eminence Carlo Cardinal Furno from the post of Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and has appointed H.E. the Most Reverend Mgr. John Patrick Foley, Titular Archbishop of Neapolis in Proconsulari as Pro-Grand Master of the said Order. Mgr. Foley was previously President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications."

Osservatore Romano, 27 June 2007

MESSAGE OF THE
PRO-GRAND MASTER
H.E. MGR. JOHN
PATRICK FOLEY **II**

MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND
MASTER EMERITUS
His Eminence CARLO
CARDINAL FURNO **III**

APPOINTMENT OF H.E. THE
MOST REV. MGR. JOHN
P. FOLEY AS CARDINAL **IV**

POPE INAUGURATES
RESTORED
BRONZE DOOR **V**

THE ORDER'S
PROJECTS IN 2007 **VI**

SPIRITUALITY IN THE
FRENCH
LIEUTENANCY **VII**

MOSAICS FOR PEACE
IN THE
MIDDLE EAST **IX**

A SOLID FOUNDATION
INSPIRING LIFE-LONG
LEARNING **XI**



IMPRESSUM

GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE
EQUESTRIAN ORDER
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM
00120 VATICAN CITY



MESSAGE OF THE PRO-GRAND MASTER H.E. MGR. JOHN PATRICK FOLEY

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has given me the great honour of appointing me Pro-Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. I am most grateful to him for this expression of confidence, just as I am most grateful to Cardinal Carlo Furno for his outstanding service as Grand Master of the Order and for his gracious and complete co operation with me in this time of transition. I am also grateful to Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio, a former Grand Master, who received me into the Order sixteen years ago. In the months and indeed years ahead, I ask for your prayers for me and for our beloved Holy Land, made sacred by the presence of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and I assure you of my prayers for all of you who have worked and sacrificed so generously. May we pray and work for peace and justice in that troubled land and for a continued and vital Christian presence in the cities and villages where the descendants of the first followers of Christ have lived for two thousand years.

May God bless you all!



MESSAGE FROM
THE GRAND MASTER EMERITUS
His Eminence
CARLO CARDINAL FURNO

Your Excellencies, Dear Knights and Ladies,

On 16 December 1995 the Holy Father assigned me the responsibility of governing the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

On 27 June 2007 the Holy Father transferred this responsibility to H.E. Mgr. John P. Foley.

On this occasion, I wish to thank you all for your engagement, your commitment and loyalty in the performance of your duties: I am positive that the Order can continue to rely on you for the future challenges to be faced.

I will always remember you and your families in my prayers.

I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best and may Lord bless you for all you have done and will be doing for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

May Mary Queen of Palestine always be our Mother and Guide!

Carlo Cardinal Furno



APPOINTMENT OF
H.E. THE MOST REV. MGR. JOHN P. FOLEY
AS CARDINAL DURING
THE CONSISTORY ON 24 NOVEMBER 2007

*A*t the end of the General Audience on 17 October 2007,
His Holiness Benedict XVI announced a Consistory to take place
on the following 24 November during which he would appoint
a number of new Cardinals.

The Pro-Grand Master, H.E. the Most Reverend Mgr. John Patrick Foley, is one of the new group of Cardinals. We are delighted by his appointment to the College of Cardinals and we take this opportunity to express our very best wishes to our Grand Master.



POPE INAUGURATES RESTORED BRONZE DOOR

VATICAN CITY, OCT 12, 2007

(VIS) – At midday today, the Holy Father inaugurated the “Portone di Bronzo” (Bronze Door), the principal entrance to the Vatican Apostolic Palace which is returning to service following almost two years of restoration work.

In his remarks, the Holy Father recalled how the door “was built by Giovanni Battista Soria and Orazio Censore during the pontificate of Paul V who, between 1617 and 1619, ordered the complete refurbishment of the entire structure of the ‘Porta Palatii’. In 1663, following the colossal architectural modifications by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, the door was moved to its current position between the colonnade of St. Peter’s Square and the Constantine Wing”.

As a sign of our appreciation of the Supreme Pontiff and to mark the Year 2000 Jubilee, His Eminence Carlo Cardinal Furno, then Grand Master, decided that the Order should assist in covering the cost of restoring this important work of art which, over time, had fallen into a sad state of disrepair.

There was a great response to the Order’s appeal for funds and we were able to play a major part in financing the restoration.

The work took longer than originally estimated, due to technical difficulties and unforeseen tasks such as reinforcing the architraves and restoring the mosaics above the door, so that restoration was only finally completed in 2007.

“Now”, the Pope said, “it has returned to its place and function, under the beautiful mosaic of the Madonna and Child with Saint Peter and Saint Paul”.

Benedict XVI went on, “Precisely because it marks the access to the House of the one whom the Lord has called to guide the Whole People of God as Father and Pastor, this Portal has acquired a symbolic and spiritual value. Those who come to meet Peter’s Successor walk through it. Pilgrims and visitors on their way to the various offices of the Apostolic Palace enter by it”. In this context, he voiced the hope that “those who pass through the Bronze Door may feel welcomed by the Pope’s embrace as soon as they enter. The Pope’s house is open to all”.

Benedict XVI then thanked the people who collaborated in the restoration work: “the technical services of the Governorate of Vatican City State and the restoration workshops of the Vatican Museums”. In closing he also expressed his gratitude for “the generous financial support of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Credito Artigiano Bank”.



The Order's Projects in 2007

The Grand Magisterium approved eight projects during its meeting on 18 April 2007. Eight Projects have already been completed, while the other three have been delayed for technical reasons.

PROJECTS		The Order's Contribution (US\$ x 1000)
Beit Jala (Palestine) School Extension	A new floor of around 1100 m ² has been erected on top of the existing kindergarten. It will include 6 new classrooms for 150 students in all, 2 laboratories, a library and a multi-purpose hall. The Order is paying 50% of the total costs. The Project was officially inaugurated on 15 November	280
Rameh (Israel) School	The construction of a security bunker for children and two extra floors covering an additional 1010 m ² (8 new classrooms and a library) was completed by the end of September. This will offer families a complete educational cycle from kindergarten up to and including junior high school. The Order is waiting for the Local Authorities to complete their final administrative procedures before paying the last instalment of our contributions.	401
Fuheis (Jordan) School Phase I	There is a constant increase of the Christian population in the area serviced by the school. The construction of a new 4-storey building is required. The first phase consists of the foundations and the ground floor. The cost approved by the Grand Magisterium amounts to US\$ 428,000, to be financed half in 2007 and half in 2008. Until now, the start of the project has been delayed for administrative and technical reasons.	214
Jifna (Palestine) Presbytery	The parish priest's house has been completely renovated, including reconstruction of the kitchen and bathrooms and refurbishing the windows and the external facade.	120
Rafidia (Palestine) Church	The intention of the Project is to reinforce the structure (which has developed cracks in the walls, due to rainwater penetration beneath the foundations), build a new roof, rearrange the front access road and renovate the electrical system and part of the furnishings. The start of the Project has been delayed until now, due to the need for additional technical evaluations.	201
Beit Jala (Palestine) Furniture for the Parish Hall	The hall dedicated to Mme Verreet has been fully furnished and is already in use.	45
Aboud (Palestine) Furniture for the Parish Hall	The hall has been completely furnished. US\$ 102,000, of which US\$ 49,000 were already allocated in 2006 but have not yet been spent.	35
Patriarchate (Jerusalem) Headquarters	The Project consists of replacing 3 big windows of the Cathedral and 15 smaller windows on the first floor of the Patriarchate, plus cleaning and pointing the stone walls of the relevant façades. The start of the Project has been delayed until now because it was necessary to evaluate the best way to do the work. The cost approved by the Grand Magisterium amounts to US\$ 102,000, of which US\$ 49,000 were already allocated in 2006 but have not yet been spent.	102
T O T A L		1.398



SPIRITUALITY IN THE FRENCH LIEUTENANCY

Spirituality is the most important element in the life of the Order and its Members. Strengthening the practice of a Christian lifestyle based on the principles of charity is the first of the objectives set out in the Order's Constitution.

The following is a regulation issued by the French Lieutenancy to support the spiritual commitment of its Members.

The Consulta stressed the importance of spiritual formation for Members of the Order. Therefore, in order to meet this need, the Lieutenant for France issued the following recommendations:

1. Each day, to draw nurture from the Word of God, every Member is to read the liturgy for the day from the "Magnificat" missal.

2. Each section is to form "spiritual development groups" (there are five in the Paris section). Each group meets ten times a year. Each meeting considers one aspect of a spiritual theme, taking as its starting point an introduction to the subject prepared by one of the Members and lasting around 25 minutes.

The year's theme for reflection is selected by Monsignor Jacques Perrier, the Grand Prior of the French Lieutenancy. This year (2006-2007), the theme is "the Christian liturgy", with particular reference to the Constitution "Sacrosanctum concilium" approved by the Second Vatican Council and to Cardinal Ratzinger's book *The Spirit of the Liturgy*. The co-ordinator of these spiritual development groups is Philippe Garabiol.

3. Retreats and spiritual recollections are organised regionally and nationally. The preacher may or may not be a Member of the Order.

4. The six-monthly newsletter *Les Nouvelles de l'Ordre* includes at least ten pages on spirituality, most of which is prepared by Members of the Order.

For instance, in March 2006, No. 62, published:

- A) a commentary on the encyclical "Deus caritas est"
- B) a meditation on "the Christian meaning of suffering"
- C) a presentation of the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.
- D) an extract from the *Osservatore Romano* on souls in purgatory.

In September 2006 No. 63 published:

- a) "Two Gnostic anti-Christian attacks: the Gospel of Judas and the film The Da Vinci Code"
 - b) A study: "Does nature still have a place for man?"
- In March 2007, No. 64, the intention is to publish:

- a) an explanation of the gift known as the "fear of God"
- b) a study on the sacrament of reconciliatory penance
- c) a commentary on the homily of Benedict XVI to the Bishops of Switzerland on the theme "Is the weakening of Christianity in Europe a sign of God's failure or a "stand aside" of Christians?"

Ours is a pontifical Order. So that the spiritual texts published in its newsletters are in line with the Magisterium of the Church, it would be useful for the editor of each newsletter to subscribe to the weekly issue of the *Osservatore Romano*.



What the French Lieutenancy has done is an example of how the advice to develop and to support the spiritual life of the Order must be put into practice. Obviously the programme of spiritual development has to be established by the Lieutenancy Grand Prior and effected via the authority of the Lieutenant insofar as the necessary organizational support is concerned (convocation of meetings, spiritual retreats, publication of articles and news of the Lieutenancy etc).

This is a good example of how spiritual formation activities can be supported and it is hoped that the Order's other Lieutenancies will follow it, though naturally they will need to adapt the programme to the traditions of their individual countries and the cultural preparation of their Members.

The direct participation of the Members of the Order in the above mentioned events and meetings is a duty under Article 12 of the Constitution and a condition of continued membership of the Order.

For further details or clarification, or if you have any suggestions or proposals in this respect, please contact the Order's Chancellor, Monsignor Juan Dorronsoro, who is charged with the care of the spiritual life of the Order as a whole.

If you need further details on the spiritual activities of the French Lieutenancy, please contact Knight Commander Huon de Penanster (Tel. (+33) 14.55.50.148, fax (+33) 14.70.59.876).



We print below an interesting article by Father Michele Piccirillo, Director of the Mount Nebo Archaeological Mission for the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. Fr. Piccirillo tells of the restoration of the mosaics in the Church of the Holy Martyrs, St. Lot and St. Procopius, on Mount Nebo, Jordan. This is an extremely good example of how the recovery of archaeological remains can be used as valuable training for young people in the Middle East and as a message of peace and international co-operation.

MOSAICS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

P. MICHELE PICCIRILLO

Of the many ways of contributing to understanding and peace between the peoples in the Middle East, on Mount Nebo we chose the one that best suits our work as archaeologists. After 30 years, we must say we have been amply rewarded, not only from the professional point of view but also as Friars Minor, disciples of Francis who went to speak words of peace to Saladin's nephew, Sultan Malik al-Kamil. Restoring the mosaics (most of them from church floors built in the region between the V and VIII centuries) gave us the opportunity to preserve an artistic and religious heritage and, at the same time, to develop dialogue and friendship, which are the very foundations of peace.



It all began in early summer 1973 when the Custos of the Holy Land asked me to direct a "first aid mission" to save the mosaics in the Church of the Holy Martyrs, St. Lot and St. Procopius, at Khirbat al-Mukhayyat on Mount Nebo. The mosaic is one of the most typical works by the mosaic craftsmen who worked in the region of Madama in Arabia in the VI

century, the days of Emperor Justinian, and it was showing such dreadful cracks that it was ready to break up entirely. The mission lasted from 3 August until 22 September and took place on the eve of the Nth Arab-Israeli war (fighting broke out again only two weeks later). The other members were Brera Academy's Prof. Glauco Baruzzi (scientific director) aided by his assistant Raffaele Beretta from Como and by architects Cesare Calano and Father Alberto Prodromo from Rome University. They were joined for a few weeks by Father Bellarmino Bagatti, one of the pioneers of the Mount Nebo excavations, with his memories of 1935, when the mosaic was uncovered completely thanks to the industriousness and all-involving endeavours of Fra Girolamo Mihaic, who had taken it upon himself to protect the precious discovery in a stone building. As with the other projects that followed over the years, the unconditional help with logistics received from the Brothers of the Franciscan Custody in the Holy Land at Amman and throughout the Middle East and the friendship of the priests from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in the nearby parish of Madama were determining factors in the



success of the venture. So, our mission as the saviours of an artistic heritage began in a rather adventurous and make-shift way. Nature herself was endangering the work the Byzantine craftsmen had entrusted to the grip of the lime underlying the mosaic tiles and to the interlocking system of adjacent little cubes that form the pictures and geometrical designs.

Over 30 years after that initial rescue operation, in summer 2007 we were again involved with the same work and the same mosaic, albeit using different means. With the benefit of long experience, we had decided to go to the root of the problem and solve it by removing the whole mosaic floor and re-laying it on a new unbroken bed, which would overcome the troubles that had caused us so much worry over the years, even after our efforts way back in 1973. The novelty of the new mission sprang from those involved in the complex operation of restoration whose logistics were planned in Jerusalem by Fr. Michele Piccirillo, the architect Osama Hamdan and Dr. Carla Benelli (the same group that was at the origin of the Bilad es-Sham Project). The Arabs use the geographic term “Northern Countries” to indicate the regions of the three Romano-Byzantine provinces of Arabia, Syria and Palestine, to the north of Mecca and Medina, which became part of the new Islamic Empire in 636 AD, following the battle fought on the banks of the Yarmuk River. The primary aim of the project is to

train young people from Bilad es-Sham to restore and preserve the ancient mosaics in these regions. It has been approved by the authorities in Jordan, Syria and Palestine. Each year’s course consists of three months’ training for three young people from each of the three countries. Guided by mosaicists from the Franciscan Archaeological Mission to Mount Nebo, Antonio Vaccalluzzo from Ravenna and Franco Sciorilli from Rome, they restore three mosaics, one per country. The costs of the operation are covered jointly by the three participating nations, the European Community (this year via the Anna Leendh Foundation based in Egypt, at Alexandria), and by benefactors of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land (this year by the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre).

In fact for the last six years, the month’s training in Jordan has taken place on Mount Nebo, continuing the 30 years of work by the Franciscan Archaeological Institute (the name by which the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum is known in this area). The five training courses held so far have led to the restoration of the mosaic in St. George’s Church (536 AD), the upper mosaic in the Chapel of the Priest John (mid-VI century) and, this year – thanks to enthusiasm and acquired skill – the mosaic of the Holy Martyrs, St. Lot and St. Procopius (mid-VI century), which is finally safe after so many onsite attempts to halt the increasingly dangerous damage.



The experience of a young man who, thanks to his training at Bethlehem Catholic University, now plays a part in promoting tourist activities, holds an optimistic view of the future and is convinced that peace is not just a dream but an attainable objective.

A SOLID FOUNDATION INSPIRING LIFE-LONG LEARNING

BY RAMI KASSIS (BU '94)

In 1991, at the very beginning of my enrolment at Bethlehem University to pursue my undergraduate studies in social sciences, I was confronted by a sudden academic, social and cultural transformation. Being an adolescent fresh out of high school, I looked at this new environment as a theatre play, and I was the actor who had to develop his conscience, character and options in order to deserve the applause when the curtain fell.

At that time, Palestine was in a volatile political situation. It was exactly four years after the outbreak of the first Palestinian Intifada, and confrontations between Israelis and Palestinians were endless and on the rise. Yet Bethlehem University was a sanctuary where minds were nurtured, experiences shared and one class after another graduated. It took in students and faculty from all walks of life, including an amalgamation of religions, such as the Muslim and Christian faiths.

My four years at Bethlehem University flew by in the blink of an eye. Today, when I look back, I realize that I made great achievements and matured tremendously at the intellectual, social, political and cultural level. My systematic and analytical way of thinking made me realize that I could actually transform what I had learned into practice and take steps toward meeting demands.

Believing that the future of Palestine lay in the tourism sector, I decided after graduation to use the knowledge and skills acquired at Bethlehem University in my work with the Alternative Tourism Group – ATG.

Today, as the director of ATG, I am grateful to Bethlehem University for the solid foundation it provided me with as a young adult and for the opportunities it continues to furnish: through a co-operative agreement between Bethlehem University, Joensuu University and London Metropolitan University, I am now finishing my Masters degree in the field I am most engaged with: tourism.

