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# News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

## MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER

DEAR KNIGHTS AND LADIES:  
AS MEMBERS OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM, WE OWE SPECIAL THANKS TO PATRIARCH MICHEL SABBAAH, WHO RECENTLY RETIRED AS THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM, AND A VERY SPECIAL WELCOME TO PATRIARCH FOUAD TWAL WHO HAS SUCCEEDED TO THE PATRIARCHATE.



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



**MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER**

*It was my honor to represent the Order at three ceremonies marking the conclusion of Patriarch Sabbah's service and at the beginning of the official ministry of Patriarch Twal.*

*Both are remarkable men – one a Palestinian and the other a Jordanian – who understand their people and their needs and who serve with remarkable generosity and dedication. Both have worked closely with our Order for the spiritual enrichment of our members and in the service of the Christians of the Holy Land.*

*May I suggest that some Lieutenancies and members might wish to make special donations in gratitude for the ministry of Patriarch Emeritus Sabbah and as a special encouragement to Patriarch Twal. We have witnessed a historic moment in the life of the Church in the Holy Land and we have a special obligation as Knights and Ladies to express our gratitude for what has been done by Patriarch Emeritus Sabbah and our encouragement for the continuing ministry of Patriarch Twal. May God bless them both!*

*Sincerely in Christ,*

*John Cardinal Foley*

*Grand Master*

*Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem*



The Holy Father's letter of appreciation to the Latin Patriarch H.B. Michel Sabbah on his retirement

*EOHSJ translation*

TO MY VENERABLE BROTHER  
H.B. MICHEL SABBAAH  
LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

*As Your Beatitude prepares to step down as leader of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, I wish to express my recognition and gratitude for the pastoral service you have rendered so generously, especially over the last twenty years.*

*Beatitude, your ministry has been rooted in a local context you know well, a context in which you yourself have lived since childhood. You began your studies at the Brothers' School (in Nazareth), before going on to the Patriarchal Seminary at Beit Jala. You completed your intellectual training at the Sorbonne University in Paris, where you attained a doctorate in Arabic philology.*

*Ever since you were ordained a priest, on 29 June 1955, you have devoted yourself to the pastoral care of the people of the Holy Land, bringing them comfort and hope by preaching the Good News, administering the sacraments, undertaking teaching and social welfare.*



*In view of your commitment and background, on 11 December 1987 my revered predecessor Pope John Paul II entrusted the administration of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem to you and, on 6 January 1988, ordained you as a bishop in the pontifical basilica of St. Peter.*

*As Pastor of the Latin Church of Jerusalem, you have always been noted for the love you show the land of Our Saviour and all who live there, regardless of their religion or race, and for speaking out on behalf of those who are weakest or in greatest need. You have been a zealous Father to the priests and the religious, presenting them with your example as a Good Shepherd inspired by the figure of Jesus Himself. In addition, you have shown persistent and effective support for the development of the Catholic schools and for Bethlehem University, of which you are a past President.*

*Beatitude, you now leave this heritage in the hands of H.E. the Most Rev. Mgr. Fouad Twal. With the wealth of experience he has acquired, first in the diplomatic service of the Holy See, then as Bishop of Tunis and, finally, as Coadjutor of that same patriarchal see, he is well-equipped to continue serving the Community of the Latin Patriarchate with every care and consideration.*

*At this important juncture, I assure Your Beatitude and H.E. the Most Rev. Mgr. Twal of my prayers and my fraternal good wishes, and I bestow my apostolic Blessing on the entire Latin Church of Jerusalem.*

Vatican, 11 June 2008

Pope Benedict XVI



# BIOGRAPHY OF THE NEW LATIN PATRIARCH FOUAD TWAL

H.B. Fouad Twal was born on 23 October 1940 in Madaba, Jordan. Following his studies at Beit Jala he was ordained a priest on 29 June 1966.

From August 1966 to August 1972 he held a number of parishes (Ramallah, Irbid and Mahatta).

In September 1972 he commenced the study of Church law at the Lateran University, Rome; in 1974 he entered the Pontifical Diplomatic Academy and was awarded his doctorate in canon law in 1976.

He entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See in 1977, working in a variety of diplomatic missions (Honduras, USA, Egypt, Germany and Peru) until, on 30 May 1992, he was appointed Bishop of Tunis. In 1994 the Holy Father elevated him to the office of Archbishop of that diocese.

In 2003 he was appointed President of the Regional Episcopal Conference of North Africa.

In 2005 Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Coadjutor Archbishop of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

On 14 March 2006 he was elected President of Bethlehem University and on 29 January 2007 he became a member of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue.

On 21 June 2008 he followed in the footsteps of H.B. Michel Sabbah as Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.



**FIRST PONTIFICAL MASS  
AT THE HOLY SEPULCHRE  
BY H.B. FOUAD TWAL,  
LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM,  
23 JUNE 2008**

Your Eminence Cardinal John Patrick Foley, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulcher,  
Your Excellency Archbishop Antonio Franco, Nuncio and Apostolic Delegate,  
Your Excellencies Auxiliary Bishops Selim Sayegh and Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo,  
Very Reverend Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM, Custos of the Holy Land,  
Reverend Fathers and Religious Men and Women,  
Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Dear Friends,

*“My heart is steadfast” (Ps 57 (56), 8).*

*We are here this morning in front of the Tomb which the two disciples visited before us on the morning of the Resurrection. We find that the cathedral of the Holy Sepulcher is full of pilgrims, incense and prayer, but we find the Tomb empty, empty of the body of the resurrected Christ who triumphed over death, injustice, and evil. As the angel said to the women, “He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. (...) Go and tell his disciples: He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee” (Mt 28:5-7).*

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It is in this ongoing renewal that we find our strength.

And we are strong. Our strength comes directly from Him, just as he promised us:

*“You will receive a power from above” (Acts 1:8).*

Our strength comes from His presence among us in the Eucharist.

Our strength comes from His life-giving Cross and from his Resurrection.

Our strength comes from His promise:

*“Do not be afraid. I am with you always. I am the one who sent you” (Mt 28:20).*

*“Do not be afraid, I will not leave you orphans” (Jn 14: 18).*

*“Do not be afraid, take courage, I have overcome the world” (Jn 16:33).*

.....



We are poor and we acknowledge this fact. Also, we need all the help, counsel, and prayer we can get, and we recognize the need to have others share in the responsibilities entrusted to us. Lord, give us the wisdom you gave King Solomon so that no important decision will be taken before having listened to our confreres and in view of the common good. Lord, you are our support, and in you we are rich.

We are rich thanks to the presence of our confreres the auxiliary bishops, of the members of the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land, of the Council of Catholic Patriarchs of the East, and of the religious leaders of all the other Christian denominations.

We will be rich if we put on the humility and gentleness of the divine Child in the Crib, if we avoid trying to be popular in order to flatter ourselves, and if we avoid the pride of the scribes and the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

We will be rich if we imitate the silence of Jesus in the Crib, his generosity of spirit as he faced those who accused and insulted him, and his all-important forgiveness on the cross. Lord, by the intercession of your Mother, Patroness of Palestine, give us the grace:

.....

*Grant that we may not forget to live throughout our lives what you recommended: "Love one another" (Jn 15:9) and "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Mt 5:9).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in this city of Peace, we pray that *"the peace of God will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus"* (Phil 4:7).

+ Fouad Twal Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem  
*Holy Sepulcher, Monday, June 23, 2008*



## NOTE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2008 CONSULTA

In Spring 2007, when Cardinal Furno announced that the next Consulta would be held at the end of 2008 he also set up a Preparatory Committee within the Grand Magisterium. The seven members of this Committee<sup>1</sup> represent the international nature of the Order. With its Chairman Ambassador Philippe Husson, who had already been actively involved in preparations for the 2003 Consulta, the Committee was given the task of planning the Consulta and of establishing the proposed directives concerning the Order's activities for the next five years that will be submitted for discussion at the meeting.

The Preparatory Committee was confirmed in its role by Cardinal Foley and has met on several occasions: first in Geneva on 20 July 2007, then in Rome on 21 and 22 October of the same year and, again in Rome, on 18 and 21 January and 21 April 2008. As the various members of the Committee live in Europe, the USA and Australia, between meetings they have maintained contact and exchanged their views by telephone, fax or e-mail.

On 26 June 2008 the Preparatory Committee addressed a document containing its proposals (in French and English) to the Grand Magisterium. This document was submitted to the Governor General for examination, then presented to His Eminence the Cardinal Grand Master for his final approval. The document, entitled "Directives for Discussion", has been sent to all the Lieutenants so that they can familiarise themselves with it prior to the Consulta.

The Preparatory Committee based its suggestions on the current position of Christians in the Holy Land, which has deteriorated in recent years, and the need for the Order to do its utmost to deal with the situation.

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<sup>1</sup> H.E. Count Peter Wolff Metternich zur Gracht, Lieutenant General of the EOHSJ  
H.E. Baron Hubert Simonart, Vice-Governor General  
H.E. Adolfo Rinaldi, Vice-Governor General  
H.E. George Ryan, Vice-Governor General of Honour  
Mr. John Ralph, Member of the Grand Magisterium  
Prof. Count Giuseppe dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, Member of the Grand Magisterium  
Mgr. Hans Brügger, member of the Swiss Lieutenancy  
M Philippe Husson, former Member of the Grand Magisterium





To this end, the Committee believes that the Order's efforts over the next few years should give priority to:

- enriching the spirituality that is specific to the Order, that underlies the motivation of its members and gives the Order the cohesion that is the basis for increasing its spirit of charity and generosity toward the Holy Land.
- optimising the aid available to the Christians in the Holy Land in a way that can best cope with the changes in their circumstances and needs.
- and finally, to strengthening the Order's resources, which are the only means of increasing its activities in the future.

On the first point, it is the duty of the Knights and Ladies to ensure that they strengthen their faith and enrich their spiritual life. This is an undertaking required of them by our Constitution on a par with their commitment to support the Christians in the Holy Land. This obligation, which has been emphasized on numerous occasions, in particular at recent Consultas, must be carried out and it is the responsibility of the Lieutenants, assisted by the Priors, to encourage the members in this area by all possible means: organising ceremonies, study groups, pilgrimages, etc...

As regards the distribution of aid to the Catholic institutions and communities in the Holy Land, the Order's limited resources and the increasing needs that have to be faced mean that keen judgement is more than ever necessary.

Under the terms of its Constitution the Order is obliged to assist, first of all, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. That is what we do and must continue to do, and – faced with the deteriorating situation of the Christian communities of all denominations – in certain cases the Order, directly or in association with other Christian institutions, has lent its support to non-Latin Catholic and other Christian communities.

Naturally, however, the desired increase in the Order's charitable activities depends on the growth of its own resources. In this respect, the Preparatory Committee observed that the Order's human and material resources had increased of late. Nevertheless, this favourable development remains to be confirmed and continued in order to meet increased requirements. In this light, there is a need for decision on the administrative, regulatory or financial actions and initiatives the Lieutenancies must put into practice in order to meet the new needs in the Holy Land.

Those, briefly, are a few of the subjects upon which the Preparatory Committee felt itself called to reflect and which will be presented for discussion by the Lieutenants at the next Consulta in December.

