

NR. XVI

Città
del
Vaticano

SEPTEMBER 2009

News



Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

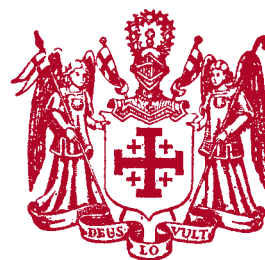
*The Message from
the Cardinal Grand Master*
**H. EM. CARDINAL
JOHN P. FOLEY**

As all of you know, our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI completed a memorable trip to the Holy Land last May, a pilgrimage in which he was accompanied in Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian Territories by dozens of members of our Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from all over the world, led by myself as Grand Master and by our Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, and our Vice Governor General, Adolfo Rinaldi. The historic journey by our Holy Father was an unforgettable experience for all of us and we deeply appreciate Pope Benedict's special attention to all of us and to the role of our Order in the Holy Land.

Frankly, however, he and indeed all of us had hoped for more concrete results – for more concrete steps towards peace – from such a historic pilgrimage.



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



Because it has been said very aptly that there are more things wrought by prayer than we can ever imagine, I would ask that all of us add to our daily prayers the wonderful prayer for peace of St. Francis of Assisi, whose spiritual sons have done so much not only for the Christians but for all the residents of the Holy Land over the past eight centuries:

*“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light, and
Where there is sorrow, joy.
O Divine Master, grant
That I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”*

May the prayer of St. Francis be realized in our lives and in the life of the land which he loved and which his spiritual sons have served so well, the land which all of us as Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher also love and which we truly consider and call “holy”!



*Sincerely in Christ,
John Cardinal Foley
Grand Master of the OESSH*



GRAND MAGISTERIUM

CONFERRAL OF THE INSIGNIA
OF KNIGHT OF THE COLLAR
ON CARDINAL TARCISIO BERTONE AND
GOVERNOR GENERAL
AGOSTINO BORROMEIO

On 15 April 2009, in the historical surroundings of the Grand Magisterium's headquarters, the Cardinal Grand Master bestowed the insignia of Knight of the Collar on Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who is the Secretary of State to His Holiness Benedict XVI. In his introduction, Cardinal Foley pointed out that conferral of the Order's highest decoration on the Secretary of State was certainly, but not only, a well deserved form of recognition of the esteemed holder of the highest office of the Holy See; in addition, the ceremony represented the desire of the whole Order to commemorate, through the person of His Holiness's closest associate, the very special bond that links our Order to the Supreme Pontiff, under whose direct protection we still operate today.

Having received the insignia of his new rank from the hands of the Grand Master, Cardinal Bertone expressed his own sincere gratitude for the honor bestowed upon him and spoke of his pleasure at becoming part of our historic instituti-

on. He praised the commitment shown by the Order "under the astute guidance of the Cardinal Grand Master" in effectively meeting the increasingly urgent needs of the Holy Land, in particular those of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See and by numerous representatives of the civil and religious authorities. The latter included Cardinals Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, Coppa and Farina, as well as the Substitute for General Affairs of the Secretary of State for the Vatican, Archbishop Fernando Filoni.

A week earlier, during the traditional exchange of Easter greetings between the Grand Master, those Members of the Grand Magisterium present in Rome and head office personnel, the Grand Master also conferred the insignia of Knight of the Collar on the Governor General Agostino Borromeo.



GRAND MAGISTERIUM

THREE NEW HONORARY
MEMBERS OF THE
GRAND MAGISTERIUM

When Cardinal Furno resigned his mandate he appointed the former Vice-Governor General George T. Ryan Vice-Governor General of Honor.

Now His Eminence Cardinal Foley has given the former Governor General Pier-Luigi Parola the title of Governor General of Honor.

Similarly, three more former Members of the Grand Magisterium have been granted honorary titles:

Prof. Aldo Arena
Robert H. Benson, KGCHS and
Ambassador Philippe Husson

Prof. Aldo Arena was a Member of the Grand Magisterium for many years. He worked actively as a legal adviser to the Grand Magisterium, especially in regard to the Order's status as a juridical personality under Vatican law. In addition, he was responsible for the Order's highly successful pilgrimage to Rome in the Holy Year 2000.

Robert Benson headed the Lieutenancy for England and Wales, of which he is now *Lieutenant of Honor*; then, during his very

many years in the Grand Magisterium, he also took part in the Preparatory Committees for the 1993 and 1998 Consultas. In addition, he was an extraordinarily active member of the Grand Magisterium's Holy Land Commission, of which he became President following the resignation of Mme. Elisabeth Verreet. He visited all the Order's Projects on a regular basis and distinguished himself by his highly organized planning and supervision of all the work in hand. When he in turn resigned, he was made President of Honor of the Commission.

Besides his work in the Grand Magisterium, Ambassador Philippe Husson was a member of the Preparatory Committee for the last three Consultas and last year he was President of that Committee. The success of the 2008 Consulta – such an important event in the life of the Order and the first meeting of the Consulta under the chairmanship of our new Grand Master Cardinal Foley – is to a great extent the result of Ambassador Husson's intense and untiring efforts.



GRAND MAGISTERIUM

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE NORTH AMERICAN
LIEUTENANTS

The meeting was held in Atlanta on June 12th and 13th where we were honored with the presence of the Cardinal Grand Master, His Eminence John P. Foley, the Governor General, H.E. Agostino Borromeo, Vice Governor General, H.E. Adolfo Rinaldi, and the Vice Chancellor, Msgr. Hans L. Brouwers, all of whom came from Rome for this meeting. Other participants were (4) members of the Grand Magisterium, (8) U.S. Lieutenants out of (9) American Lieutenants, (3) Canadian Lieutenants out of (5) and (1) Lieutenant from Mexico. Also were present Msgr. Archimandrite Robert Stern, Secretary General of Cnewa and Prof Thomas McKiernan of the Holy Land Commission. Our meeting concluded with the closing Mass of the Atlanta Annual Eucharistic Congress which celebration was presided by our Cardinal Grand Master.

It was a general feeling that the meeting as very successful. We were updated on matters of interest to all by the Grand Magisterium and a cordial exchange followed. To quote our Cardinal Grand Master "The work of the Order continues to be essential, both for the spiritual benefit of its members and the survival

of the Christians in the Holy Land. Meetings such as these offer all of us in leadership positions, opportunities to share our experiences and expertise and learn from one another how we can help the Knights and Ladies advance in their spiritual lives and continue and even increase their dedication to the support of the descendants of the first followers of our Savior. After such meetings, we return to our work with greater enthusiasm and new ideas."

I am already looking forward to the next June meeting hopefully in my home town, Montreal.

Jean-Marc Allard
Vice Governor General



GRAND MAGISTERIUM

MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN LIEUTENANTS
IN ROME

In the past, representatives of individual European Lieutenancies used to meet on an unofficial basis, and this was the case especially in preparing for the 1993 Consulta. This led to a much stronger bond between the different branches of our Order. Nowadays the European Lieutenants meet regularly, once a year, in Rome.

This year they got together on 26 and 27 June. Each day began with a Mass at the church of Santo Spirito in Sassia to entrust the forthcoming work into the hands of God.

Fourteen Lieutenants attended the meetings, which were held at the Pontifical Council for Culture in Via della Conciliazione.

Since Europe consists of many countries with many different languages, the contributions were simultaneously interpreted into four of these.

After the greeting by the Grand Master Cardinal Foley and the introduction by Governor General Borromeo, Mgr. Robert L. Stern presented a report on the Holy Land. Vice-Governor General Rinaldi explained the Order's Statement of Account

for 2008 then the Governor General presented an overview of the current year's budget.

As President of the Holy Land Commission, Dr. Christa von Siemens reported on the Projects completed in 2008 and those in line for 2009 (see also the relevant report in Newsletter No. 15).

Before each individual Lieutenant reported on the activities in his area, Dr. Otto Kaspar once more addressed a number of points relating to the overall theme of the Order's communications, first and foremost the question of an annual publication covering the entire Order.

In his closing speech, the Cardinal Grand Master invited any further questions of general interest that had not been dealt with already. From what he said, it emerged that almost exactly the same topics had arisen at the meeting of the North American Lieutenants in Atlanta. Cardinal Foley later supplied the Lieutenants with written answers to two of the points (our attitude to divorced Members of the Order and the award of the pilgrim shell).



Via Dolorosa, Jerusalem: the Austrian Hospice stands at a site of major strategic importance. As well as pilgrim accommodation it provides a venue for cultural activities and inter-faith dialogue.

L'OTHE AUSTRIAN HOSPICE OF THE HOLY FAMILY IN JERUSALEM

Napoleon's Egyptian expedition reawakened Europe's interest in the Near East and the Holy Land. In 1837 Metternich, the Austrian Chancellor, succeeded in getting Austria involved in the Holy Land.

After consultations with the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Archbishop of Vienna Josef Othmar von Rauscher decided to found a pilgrim hospice with its own medical facilities. A suitable plot of land was found at the corner of Damascus Street and the Via Dolorosa. The pilgrim hospice opened on 19 March 1863.

Its heyday was reached prior to 1914. At the suggestion of the then Rector, in 1916 the building became a convalescent home for German and Austro-Hungarian officers and soldiers.

In the years that followed, the hospice's fortunes changed many times: in 1918 it was taken by the British military and turned into an Anglican orphanage for the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund. Only the chapel, sisters' accommodation and the Rector's own room were exempt from requisition.

In September 1920 the hospice was used to house British civilian and military officials. At the end of the decade pilgrimage again became increasingly possible and the question of enlarging the building arose once more. The Viennese Cardinal Innitzer had a second storey was constructed.

On the very day the British declared war on the Third Reich the hospice was taken over by the British authorities. It then served first as an internment camp for all the priests and male members of religious communities resident in Palestine who originated from the German Reich. At the end of June 1940 it became the quarters for 120 British women and 50 of their



children. Later the building was again used as an internment camp and finally as a school for English officers. At the beginning of 1948 the hospice was handed over to the British Department of Health and converted into a military hospital.

When the Red Cross left the city in October 1948 the Jordanian government took over the building for use as a hospital. After difficult negotiations, a lease was finally concluded with the Jordanian government in 1953, renewable on a 3-year term.

The “Six Day War” put the entire Old Town of Jerusalem under Israeli control; the agreements made with the Jordanian government were rendered null and void.

The hospital’s standards of hygiene deteriorated owing to a lack of sanitary and technical equipment. On 27 July 1985 the hospice’s medical facilities were finally closed and the building was returned to the ownership of the Austrian Church.

From 1985-1988 it was the Austrian Knights who were chiefly responsible for its revival. Dr. Julius Schuster, the Lieutenant of Austria, who was the building’s curator at the time and his successor, the architect Kurt Stögerer (master builder of St. Stephen’s cathedral), convinced numerous Knights and Dames to finance a large part of the renovation costs. On 19 March 1988 the hospice once more opened its doors to pilgrims from all over the world.

Today it is Rector Markus Bugnyar from Burgenland, a Member of the Order’s Austrian Lieutenancy, who is in charge of the hospice. Under his leadership, contacts have been established with cultural figures, not only performers from Austria but also Jews from Israel and Muslims from Palestine.

An especially noteworthy event was the recent inter-faith dialogue between Jews, Christians and Muslims on the subject of “Abraham, the common father”. Each of the religions illustrated the way in which Abraham is represented in their Holy Scriptures.

The 30 or so participants represented Jews from different traditions, Palestinian Muslims and Christians from the various denominations – Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox. Despite the fact that some of them had never met before, the debate was prevented from becoming sterile by the presence of a number of professionals whose contributions led to discussions that were at times intense and emotional.



SUPPORT FOR GAZA

In view of the urgent needs resulting from the latest Gaza war, at the beginning of this year our Grand Master Cardinal John P. Foley requested all the Lieutenancies to send special contributions to the Grand Magisterium to assist with repairs and rebuilding. At the same time, all branches of the Order were notified that the Grand Magisterium had already made US \$500,000 available to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for this purpose.

Since then, 22 Lieutenancies have complied

with the Grand Master's appeal and have covered the whole amount which had already been transferred to the Latin Patriarchate.

Though reports about this war no longer flicker across our TV screens and the shock felt by the public has decreased, all the aid so far given to the people, especially the Christians, in this area can only be of extremely limited assistance. The call to remember our Christian brothers and sisters in Gaza in our personal prayers and to beseech the Lord to bring peace remains urgent and unabated.

GM'S HOMEPAGE GETS A NEW LAYOUT

The Vatican Internet Office has given the Order's homepage a new layout following the two-stage introduction of our own designs.

The initial image is closely associated with the style of the Vatican website, thereby maintaining uniformity. In addition, four photographs now give clear views of both the Order's locations in Rome.

You can visit the Italian homepage at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/institutions_connected/oessh/

and the English homepage at:

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/institutions_connected/oessh/index_en.htm

