

APPEAL BY  
THE GRAND MASTER

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del Vaticano  
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DECLARATION BY THE  
GRAND MAGISTERIUM

# News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

*This, the first issue of the Newsletter of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, launches a periodical designed to carry information of current interest.*

*The publication falls within the development plan for Communications approved by the Grand Magisterium and forms an integral part of other activities which are already under way (the annual magazine *Annales Ordinis Equestris Sancti Sepulchri Hierosolymitani* and the website [www.oessg-gm.net](http://www.oessg-gm.net)).*

*Unlike the Order's magazine, which is printed, the Newsletter will be distributed solely by e-mail.*

*In this way, the Presidency of the Order hopes to meet the demand for general information on the life of the Order to be publicised in a way that is more immediate and makes more impact.*

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*The Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Carlo Furno,  
has renewed the appeal he made to the Lieutenants last year –  
Call to all the Knights and Ladies  
to make a generous effort to meet the urgent needs of the peoples  
of the Holy Land in this moment of crisis.*

## APPEAL BY THE GRAND MASTER FOR HUMANITARIAN AID FOR THE HOLY LAND

6 June 2002



*Your Excellency and  
Dear Confrères*

You will remember that, at the beginning of last year, the Grand Magisterium, being aware of the extremely serious and continually deteriorating situation in the Middle East, expressed the feelings of all our members by launching an appeal to collect and distribute funds for Social and Humanitarian Aid, intended to meet the most urgent needs of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Your notable generosity has enabled this initiative (announced to you in my appeal of 28 February 2001) to go ahead;

implemented by a specially created local body subject to the authority of our own Holy Land Commission, it has proved timely and useful and we are therefore encouraged to continue the operation.

I hardly need to remind you that, despite our most fervent hopes and prayers, the situation in the Middle East has not improved in the meantime. On the contrary, the most recent news leads us to fear that the quest for peace still has a long and painful road to travel.

I therefore turn once more to each and every one of you to be generous in your support for this initiative, for which the need is more clearly felt than

ever before. I will be especially grateful to you if the donations for this purpose do not reduce the level of those collected for our other works, in particular the Schools, but are made in addition to your regular contributions.

The needs of the Holy Land are great, but I know very well that every one of you will fulfil the commitment you made when you joined the Order to the best of your ability.

Thanking you in anticipation, please accept the expression of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely in Christ

*Carlo Cardinal Furno*



*The Grand Master has renewed the mandate  
of the Schools Commission –  
The first meeting of the new Commission took place in Rome  
in February 2002.*

## SCHOOLS COMMISSION

The Cardinal Grand Master voiced his appreciation of the work undertaken by the Commission for the Schools in the Holy Land and, with a decree dated 15 February 2002, renewed its mandate for another three years. The members of the Commission are: Professor Bartholomew J. McGettrick, Chancellor of the Scottish Lieutenancy and former Dean of the Faculty of Education of the University of Glasgow; Professor Agostino Borromeo of the “La Sapienza” University of Rome and Member of the Grand Magisterium; Professor Edwin Gräupl, Lieutenant for Austria; Knight Grand Cross Thomas E. McKiernan of the USA North Central Lieutenancy; Professor Jacqueline Sfeir, Dean of Education at Bethlehem University; Monsignor William Shomali, Procurator General of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

At its meeting in Rome on 21-22 February 2002, the Commission discussed the ways in which it saw education, and concluded to establish the five principles where it believes Catholic

Education can be of significance to students now and in the years ahead.

The Commission arranged its next meeting for early July 2002 in Rome.

### THESE PRINCIPLES ARE:

- 1 | Christian education available to all Christian families in The Holy Land.
- 2 | Christian education should be based on the Gospel values, and the teaching of Religious Education inspired by the Gospel.
- 3 | Christian education should be of a high quality. *This quality should be reflected at all levels in the educational provision – student learning; teacher effectiveness; buildings and support; links with parents and the wider communities; etc.*
- 4 | Christian education should be affordable.
- 5 | Christian education should be accountable.



*Full agenda reflects serious current problems.  
Fundamental importance of humanitarian aid at this time –  
Communications take on an important role  
in the Order.*

## MEETING OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM ON 16 & 17 APRIL

The Spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium took place on 16th and 17th April 2002. As a new member, Count Enrico Pietromarchi took part for the first time. He was warmly welcomed by the Governor General, H.E. Count Carducci Artenisio. At the beginning of the meeting, Mgr. William Shomali presented His Beatitude Patriarch Sabbah's written account, which reported on the difficult situation of the Christians in the Holy Land. The Grand Magisterium formulated a resolution expressing its deep concern and awareness. The full text will be sent to all our members (it now follows this article). The President of the Holy Land Commission, Lady of the Collar Elisabeth Verreet, presented the projects and their financing. Both were unanimously approved. These are the projects in

Um Zweitineh, Madaba, Naour, Rafat and Taybeh.

The report by the Schools Commission again showed the extent of the problems in the Holy Land at that time. In this connection, the different social conditions in the three areas Israel, Palestine, Jordan also have to be taken into consideration. The goal must be that all Christian families have access to Christian education. H.Em. Cardinal Furno has extended and confirmed the mandate of the Schools Commission for another three years (see article earlier in this Newsletter).

H.E. Vice Governor Parola presented the Accounts for the year 2001. Funds had to be frozen for that year in order to have sufficient reserves for Humanitarian Aid. At this point H.Em. Cardinal Furno again called for more

financial resources and support for the people in the Holy Land (reprinted at the beginning of this Newsletter).

On the item "Communication and Image of the Order" it was agreed that all Lieutenancies would receive a sufficient number of copies of the publication *Annales*. The Lieutenancy Councils should distribute this publication to individual members and families respectively.

From now on the *Annales* will be free of charge. In addition, it was agreed that a newsletter should be published regularly in the future. You are now reading the first edition.

The Assessor of our Order, H.E. Mgr. Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo reported on the progress of the preparatory work for the Consulta which will take place from 14th to 17th October 2003.



## DECLARATION BY THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

17 April 2002



*The Grand Magisterium  
of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem  
met on 16 and 17 April 2002 at its Headquarters  
in Via della Conciliazione, Rome.*

*The Grand Magisterium was*

- deeply shocked and grieved by the events in the Holy Land,
- listened to the report by the Grand Prior of the Order, His Beatitude Monsignor Michel Sabbah, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, who explained all the aspects of the extremely grave situation that has now been going on in the Holy Land for many weeks,
- shared in the expressions used by the Grand Master, His Eminence Cardinal Carlo Furno, to describe the feelings of profound sadness and deep concern of all the Members of the Order for the Land in which the Saviour lived, died and was resurrected,
- expressed its awareness of the traditional bonds that unite the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to that area, and of the mandate which the Supreme Pontiffs have

entrusted to the Order to assist and sustain the peoples in that region, without distinction as regards nationality or religion,

- stressed the great importance of the schools in paving the way to reconciliation and mutual understanding between the different peoples living in the Holy Land. In this respect the atmosphere of mutual respect, as taught and experienced in the schools supported by the Order in the Holy Land, was duly noted.

*The Grand Magisterium:*

**Expresses** the strongest possible solidarity with those suffering peoples whom the vicissitudes of history have destined to live together in the same Land and who seek only peace with justice and the orderly progress of mutual understanding and co-operation;

**Appeals** to all public figures, whether political, social, religious or lay, and to all the leaders of countries directly or indirectly involved in working for the solution of the conflict, so that, in the words of the Holy Father, “those who have the power and the responsibility take the necessary steps, even at a price, to set the opposing parties on the road towards an agreement that will provide justice and dignity for all”;

**Invites** the Lieutenants to promote initiatives aimed at providing humanitarian aid, encouraging dialogue, understanding and partnership between all the peoples of the Holy Land in order to pave the way gradually to an alternative life of coexistence in which all forms of violence and terror are banished.



*Third meeting of North American Lieutenants  
in Chicago – Attended by the Grand Master and the  
Governor General*

## MEETING OF LIEUTENANTS IN CHICAGO

The Third Annual Meeting of North American Lieutenants of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem was held in Chicago on 2 and 3 May 2002.

His Eminence the Grand Master presided at the meeting. Those present included the His Excellency the Governor General, the Vice-Governor General H.E. George Ryan, Member of the Grand Magisterium Count Enrico Pietromarchi and, in his capacity as an expert, Mgr. Robert Stern of the CNEWA. The meeting, which opened with greetings from the Grand Master and a report by the Governor General, presented participants with a full exchange of opinions on the main items on the Agenda:

- *the emergency situation in the Holy Land*
- *the spiritual life of the Order*
- *organisation of the Lieutenancies*
- *problems relating to the transfer of funds collected*
- *expectations for the Consulta – Rome, October 2003*

Vice-Governor General Ryan spoke in particular of the financial contribution made by the North American Lieutenancies in 2002, which showed an increase of US \$775,000 over the previous year. He also raised the problem of resources retained by some Lieutenancies without

adequate justification, a point to which the Governor General had also made special reference. Many contributors to the discussions mentioned the problems that will arise in connection with the reconstruction necessary following the extremely serious social and material damage created by the current conflict, to which, unhappily, there seems to be no visible solution. The meeting also dealt with our hopes of co-operating with other agencies that operate in the Holy Land and was pleased to note that consultations were taking place to set up an American Foundation for the Holy Land.

The next meeting of North American Lieutenants will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, in the second week of May 2003.



*Easier transfer of contributions  
to the Patriarchate thanks to help from many Lieutenancies*

## AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT

An internal concern, but one with far-reaching repercussions, is the pattern of payments from the Lieutenancies to the Grand Magisterium. It had almost become a tradition that membership fees were collected over the course of the year and then the payments arrived in Rome mainly during the last quarter. But the Patriarchate needs regular

monthly payments to cover such items as, for example, teachers' salaries. So the Grand Magisterium must transfer the funds in good time. However this can only be done if the resources are available and that is why the Grand Magisterium has frequently expressed the wish that the relevant contributions be sent at regular intervals.

H.E. Parola reported recently that the funds transferred in the first three months of this year exceeded last year's figure by 83%. This is indeed a great help to the Patriarchate. Thank you for this sign of your co-operation. It is hoped that in the future the transfer of funds will continue to be evenly spaced over the whole year.

*1430 participants from about 20 countries attend  
the pilgrimage of the Order*

## THE ORDER'S FIRST PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

From 8th to 12th June, Knights and Ladies from Australia to North America and from Poland to Italy assembled in Lourdes for several days of prayer and community spirit. The Order chose this important centre of the Virgin Mary's grace in order to pray to our Lady and to ask for her intercession, as Queen of Palestine, on behalf of the people in the Holy Land, especially at this time.

During the international services and processions the mantillas of the Ladies and cloaks of the Knights dominated the scene in that holy place. More than once we were invited to return to Lourdes. Our Cardinal Grand Master Carlo Cardinal Furno received a special sign of the great appreciation of our visit when honorary citizenship of Lourdes was conferred upon him.

Anyone acquainted with this place of pilgrimage is familiar with its particular influence. For all those who were in Lourdes for the first time it was a meaningful experience. Particularly touching is the respectful and loving service provided to the sick. The long line of wheelchairs always has the right of way. A fact which brings home to us the special message of this place.



*The Schools Commission met again in Rome  
on 2 & 3 July – Commitment to continually improve  
the quality of education.*

## SECOND MEETING OF THE SCHOOLS COMMISSION

The Schools Commission recognised that it had three areas of responsibility entrusted to it by the Cardinal Grand Master relating to the Christian Schools of the Holy Land.

These responsibilities relate to:

- the moral and ethical responsibility for ensuring the education of Christian children in the Holy Land. The current position in the Holy Land makes it increasingly difficult for the parents to pay fees to educate their children. The Equestrian Order is anxious to provide what resources it can to defray costs. The Grand Magisterium is not prepared to submit to the forces

of difficulty, knowing that, in time, there will be more opportunities for a free and positive approach to education.

- the professional responsibility to ensure that education is of a high quality – both to enable the student to undertake employment for the common good on leaving school, as well as for his/her own personal fulfilment. Students will require the skills and ideas which will support them in their developing lives.

- and the financial responsibility to ensure that the resources made available to schools

are used efficiently, effectively and in the best interests of the children and of the Order.

This is an area of particular difficulty, and the Schools Commission is keen to work with those who are able to access greater resources.

The Commission therefore discussed and approved a strategic plan aimed at improving the quality of education (by various means, in particular staff development projects for the teachers in the schools of the Patriarchate) and looked at ways of raising the necessary funds. The next meeting was set for October 2002, in Jerusalem.

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