

News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER

*Dear Knights and Ladies
of the Holy Sepulchre:*

Together with seventy Knights and Ladies of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, I had the honor of accompanying our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI on his recent Apostolic Visit to Cyprus, the land first evangelized by Sts. Paul and Barnabas.

As you may recall, our Order was able to contribute a substantial amount for the restructuring of the Apostolic Nunciature/Franciscan Friary in Nicosia, which was the Holy Father's residence during his visit to Cyprus, and to a special project in Paphos, the first city visited by our Holy Father on the island.



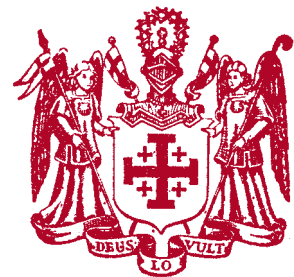
MESSAGE FROM THE
CARDINAL
GRAND MASTER **I**

POPE CALLS ON MIDDLE EAST
CATHOLICS TO ENGAGE
IN MISSION **V**
FOR RECONCILIATION

FROM THE
GRAND MAGISTERIUM **VI**

A REPORT
FROM BETHLEHEM:
"WE REFUSE
TO BE ENEMIES" **VIII**

CARDINAL LANZA
DI MONTEZEMOLO
IS 85 **VIII**



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

MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER

During the flight to Cyprus, the Holy Father asked me if there would be Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre there, because he remembered a large group which was present during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year. When I responded that about seventy of our members from all over the world would be present, he asked, “Will they be in uniform?” I responded that they certainly would be – and they were, and the Sunday Mail of Nicosia reported favorably on their – our – presence!

On the return flight to Rome, the Holy Father thanked me for the presence of the Knights and Ladies and for their continuing generosity to the work of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and to the work of the Holy See in the Middle East.

One statement the Holy Father made during his visit to Cyprus, at the Church of the Holy Cross in Nicosia, in the United Nations-patrolled Green Zone, the buffer zone between the Republic of Cyprus and Turkish-controlled Northern Cyprus, was that the symbol of the cross should not merely be worn as a sign of honor but as a sign of faith and of personal willingness to sacrifice and to suffer.

A Greek Orthodox archbishop asked me the meaning of the symbolism of the Jerusalem Cross worn by our members – and I replied that most interpret those five crosses as symbolic of the five wounds of Christ. He replied that he had heard other interpretations, but that the symbolism of the five wounds of Jesus Christ was an effective reminder that we should all be ready to suffer for our Christian faith.



MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER

As Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, your public identification with faith in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen from the dead, and your willingness to make continuing sacrifices for the benefit of your fellow Christians in the Holy Land give continuing testimony to your love of Jesus and toward your brother and sister Christians in the land made holy by His life, death and resurrection.

In Cyprus, I was proud and grateful for the presence, example and generosity of so many Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, but then I am always proud and grateful to be associated with the men and women of our Order so ready and willing to help bear the cross of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and to help make His message live in the Holy Land and indeed in every nation.

*May God bless you all!
Sincerely in Christ,*



*John Cardinal Foley
Grand Master
Equestrian Order
of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*



MESSAGE FROM THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER

*The Cardinal Grand Master of the Order
thanked the Holy Father for the invitation to accompany
him on his pilgrimage to Cyprus.
On 2 July the Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone
replied as follows on behalf of His Holiness:*

Your Eminence,

The Holy Father has asked me to thank you for the kind letter that you sent to him following his recent Apostolic Visit to Cyprus. He is most grateful also to the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for their presence and for the work that they do throughout the region.

His Holiness will pray for you and for the members of the Order. To all of you he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



Secretary of State



POPE CALLS ON MIDDLE EAST CATHOLICS TO ENGAGE IN MISSION FOR RECONCILIATION

*Enthusiastic believers
welcomed Benedict XVI to the Mass
in the Nicosia sports stadium.*

On the third day of his visit to Cyprus Pope Benedict XVI called on the Catholic minority on the island and in the Middle East to engage in the mission for reconciliation and peace. “Breaking down the barriers between ourselves and our neighbors is the prerequisite for entering the divine life to which we are called,” the Pope said during the Mass on Sunday in the Nicosia sports center.

The faithful must free themselves from egotism, greed and fear and overcome the differences between them and others. We must no longer think of “me” but, rather, of “us” and each one of us must emerge from the “closed world of his or her own individuality”. The Pope referred to the pleas we make in the Lord’s Prayer, which does not use the plural “we” for nothing.

By receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist baptized Christians are united, becoming one “body in Christ”. He gave the example of the Apostles who carried Jesus’ message of reconciliation to the world. It was just as important now as then to offer a message of hope wherever conflict rages. We must share our earthly goods generously with those in need, just as the Apostles did.

In his homily to over 5000 faithful the Pope said immigrants from the Philippines, Sri Lanka and other countries were “an essential part” of Cyprus’s Catholic community whose presence could enrich local society.

On his arrival Benedict XVI was welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd. Some parts of the Eucharist were celebrated in Arabic, Armenian and Tagalog (the Filipino language). Patriarchs and Bishops from the Middle East also took part in the Mass. Afterward, the Pope presented the working document for the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East that will take place in Rome in October.

On Saturday evening Pope Benedict met the distinguished Muslim representative and spiritual leader Sheikh Nazim. The meeting with the Sufi teacher (Sheikh Muhammad Nazim Adil al-Qubrusi al-Haqqani) took place in the garden of the Nunciature in Nicosia and lasted only around five minutes. Vatican spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi confirmed that the Pope and the Sheikh embraced.

Nazim’s spokesman described the brief encounter with the Pope as a “warmhearted, brotherly and friendly gesture”. It would not fail to have an effect on the dialog between



Christianity and Islam. In such a short time political themes were not addressed, the spokesman at that evening's Press conference told Vatican correspondents travelling with the Pope. The Holy Father and the Sheikh assured each other of their mutual respect. The meeting took place in an "extremely friendly atmosphere".

Nazim gave the Pope a walking stick, a plaque with the word "Peace" and a set of Muslim prayer beads. Benedict XVI reciprocated

with commemorative medals of his pontificate. Each asked the other to pray for him. The Sheikh told the Pope that he had met his predecessor John Paul II at an inter-faith gathering.

89-year old Nazim lives in Northern Cyprus. Benedict XVI restricted his visit to the internationally recognized South of the island, which has been divided since 1974.

✠ *From the Grand Magisterium* ✠

H.E. PROF. AGOSTINO BORROMEO, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE ORDER, ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR MORE PROJECTS IN THE HOLY LAND:

At the second ROACO meeting of 2010, His Eminence the Cardinal Grand Master decided to donate the entire amount requested for the projects listed below, for a total equivalent to € 163,757. Whilst awaiting the contributions from the Lieutenancies, and with exception of the finance for project 3, the Grand Magisterium has already made the payment from its reserve funds. This sum is additional to the donation of € 288,000 made by the Order at the first ROACO session, last January. In the meantime, the Lieutenancies have promised to sponsor all the projects dealt with at that session, except for the swimming pool at the Beit Hanina Institute, which needs another € 85,000 in sponsorship (see table).

The total contribution of the Order to

ROACO for the year 2010 therefore amounts to € 451,757.

1. X-ray machine for the Italian Hospital at Kerak – Jordan € 70,000

The Italian Hospital in Kerak was founded in 1935 by the *Associazione Nazionale per il Sostegno dei Missionari Italiani* (National Association for Assistance to Italian Missionaries) and has been run, from the outset, under the supervision of the Combonian Missionary Sisters. The hospital has 38 beds, 3 operating theaters, 2 intensive therapy rooms and 3 dialysis machines (4000 patients, 1000 births and 1700 operations per year). It serves mainly Bedouins and the inhabitants of Ghor (an area near the Dead Sea), as well as the Iraqi



refugees who have arrived in recent years. The radiography equipment is in urgent need of replacement as it is very old.

2. Restoration of the Ephpheta School Meeting Hall – Bethlehem

€ 18,000

The school founded by Pope Paul VI in 1971 and run by the Sisters of Saint Dorothy cares for 142 children with hearing difficulties in the age range 1 to 16. Lessons and group work carried out with family members (usually the mother) form an essential element in their recovery. By providing information and suggesting activities that will assist rehabilitation, the hospital aims to overcome the sense of frustration and shame often displayed by the family and ensure that there is someone with whom the child can communicate effectively.

The present school hall urgently requires restoration, including the electrical and lighting installations, an air conditioning system, a new stage with audio equipment and new seating.

The entire project has already been sponsored by the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy – at the European Lieutenants' meeting in Rome – which agreed to reallocate to this project the € 19,000 previously sent to the Grand Magisterium for ROACO project 1/2010 D.6 (Syrian Orthodox Church meeting room). It is mentioned here solely for the information of the other Lieutenancies.

3. Youth Centre at Nablus – Rafidia Parish – Palestine

\$ 71,000
(€ 55,463)*

Political instability and violence in Nablus, especially during the two Intifadas, caused the Latin Patriarchate to set up a Youth Movement in the Latin Parish of St. Justin in Rafidia as long ago as 1998. In the last few years its activities have become very popular

with young people and the new parish priest, Fr. Johnny Khalil, would like to expand its work to bring in young people from the four other Christian parishes in Nablus.

For the Movement to have its own space, Fr. Khalil has asked if he can renovate the old two-storey building beside the church (which was itself recently restored by the Order) and convert it to a place for youth activities, with a library, meeting room, office, computer/internet and audiovisual facilities and a recreation hall.

When presented by the ROACO, this project was sponsored in its entirety by the Lieutenancy for England & Wales, which was already in contact with the parish of Rafidia in connection with this type of activity. It is mentioned here solely for the information of the other Lieutenancies.

4. Electronic Catalog of the Dominican Biblical School

\$ 26,078
(€ 20,294)*

The *Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française* (French Biblical and Archeological School) is a Dominican postgraduate college for biblical and archeological studies. Its internationally renowned library has over 140,000 volumes and periodicals as well as a comprehensive collection of maps and photographic plates dating back to the 19th century.

The college has begun to create a computer catalog of its entire library but has discovered that it is difficult and very costly to use French volunteer librarians. It therefore intends to employ a local librarian – an Arab Christian from Nazareth trained in France in the use of electronic library systems – to complete and continue updating the work.

*Exchange rate €/€ = 1,285 as at 21/7/2010



A report from Bethlehem:

“WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES”

*Palestinian Christians
fight over the “Tent of Nations” project
(Kathpress)*

Digging a cistern is hot work: Willi and Thomas are standing in a ditch more than two meters deep, shoveling dirt into buckets. The community service workers from Germany use a block and tackle to hoist the buckets to the top where they are collected by two women volunteers. The summer sun beats down on the poor land around Bethlehem. In the background the houses of the Israeli settlement of Neve Daniel are huddled together on a neighboring hill, close to a gigantic water tower.

The two 20-year olds are helping with the “Tent of Nations” project for a year – right at the center of one of the hotspots of the Middle East conflict. The Nassar family’s farm (they are Christians) lies in the Jewish “Gush Etzion” settlement bloc to the west of Bethlehem and is the only hill still in Palestinian hands.

Daoud Nassar manages the work with a mixture of pride and defiance. While his helpers wrest a new cistern from the stony ground a demolition order from the Israeli military hangs over the few other poor farm buildings. A couple of tents and stalls, the framework of a few pens, the new solar roofs of the two little farmhouses – all erected without building permits. “We asked the army’s civil administration for approval”, the 55-year old father of the family says in the fluent German he learnt while he was studying abroad, “but it was refused. No one told us why”.

It is only because the family is taking the case to the highest Israeli courts that the bulldozers have not yet moved in. Now they have to wait until both sides have put their argument and the judges pronounce the last word.

A complicated legal situation

The Palestinian knows his way around the complicated Israeli law: his family has been fighting for recognition of its ownership of the 42 hectare plot since 1991; all the rest of this zone has been declared Israeli State land. His grandfather’s deeds of purchase from 1916 when the Ottomans were in power and the documents from the times of British and Jordanian rule have all been brushed aside by the military authorities. The family has already thrown away about 120,000 Euros on expert opinions, attorneys, etc. – and they are still fighting for direct recognition of ownership from the highest legal authorities. “Without help from abroad”, says Nassar, “we would have had to give up long ago”.

Even the temporary stop placed on the demolition order can be traced back to massive outside pressure – hundreds of letters of protest have been sent, thanks to the Evangelical Church in Germany. Despite all the troubles and setbacks, Nassar believes in the strength of Jesus’ message of non-violence:



“We refuse to be enemies” is the motto of the “Tent of Nations” project that began in the year 2000. With summer camps for children, tree planting programs and numerous other projects the Nassars are not just adding value to their home and their land – they are trying to “turn their frustration into positive energy”.

“Negative experiences usually lead to violence, resignation or emigration”, Nassar

says, “but there is another way”. In the past year over 4000 people from home and abroad have stayed with the Nassars – including Israelis. Daoud particularly remembers one woman from the settlement who was brought by a Jewish peace activist. “She became very thoughtful when she saw how we have to struggle for every drop of water while just over there in her neighborhood there are swimming pools”. Such encounters may “not yet be peace – but they are the prerequisite”.



CARDINAL LANZA DI MONTEZEMOLO: THE PROMINENT VATICAN DIPLOMAT AND FIRST NUNCIO IN ISRAEL IS 85

Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, former diplomat of the Holy See, reached his 85th birthday on 27 August. A native of Turin, he has been one of the outstanding personalities of Vatican international politics. Amongst other things, Montezemolo was amongst those who drew up the Fundamental Agreement between Israel and the Holy See. After this was concluded in 1993, in 1994 he became the first Nuncio in Israel.

Although he retired officially in 2001, that same year Montezemolo became involved with changes in the administration of the Roman basilica of St. Paul’s outside the Walls, and with its pilgrimage bureau. In 2005 Pope Benedict XVI made him Archpriest of the basilica and a Cardinal. From October 2001 until he became a Cardinal Montezemolo was Assessor of our Order and in particular he played an authoritative part in preparations for the 2003 Consulta.

It was Montezemolo’s initiative that gave rise to new archeological explorations of the tomb of St. Paul and to the commemoration of the 2000th birthday of the Apostle to the Gentiles by the Year of St. Paul that began in 2008. At the end of the celebratory year Montezemolo resigned from the post of Archpriest. Nonetheless, the Cardinal is still very much a presence in the Italian Church.

