

News



Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

POPE BENEDICT XVI CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HIS ORDINATION

On 29 June the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, celebrated the diamond jubilee of his entry into the priesthood. According to our Constitution, we, the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, are bound to him by a very special and absolute form of allegiance.

Both Benedict and his brother, Georg, received the sacrament of ordination on 29 June 1951 from the hands of the then Archbishop of Munich and Freising, Michael Cardinal Faulhaber, in Freising's Marian Cathedral.

With 45 ordinands, it was a good year for the priesthood. The 24 year old future Pope celebrated his first Mass on 8 July 1951 in the parish church of St. Oswald in Traunstein.



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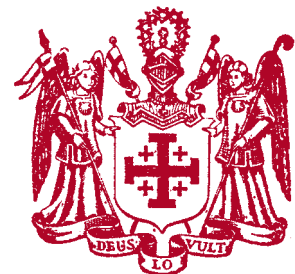
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IMPRESSUM

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



POPE BENEDICT XVI CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE OF HIS ORDINATION

For the 60th anniversary of the Holy Father's ordination the Vatican put on a special exhibition showcasing the works of 60 artists. Entitled "The splendor of truth, the beauty of charity", it was opened by the Pontiff himself in the Vatican audiencechamber on 4 July.

Before he became Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was Deacon of the College of Cardinals and Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He was looked upon as one of the most important Cardinals and was frequently labeled as the recently beatified Pope John Paul II's right hand man in matters of theology and church politics.

More than all his predecessors, this Pope thinks and acts out of his fundamental convictions. He is the erudite man on the papal throne, whose answers to the real challenges and questions of the present day are based on faith. With the publication of his two-volume study of Christ he is trying to direct the eyes of the faithful back toward the central point on which all else depends. The current Pope repeatedly demonstrates his efforts to reunite the Church. In his view, the new evangelization of Europe and of the world as a whole will only be possible if people understand that belief and logic are not opposites, but interdependent.

*In July 2009 the Holy Father issued his first social encyclical *Caritas in veritate*, in which he described practical ideas for a new world order (society needs moral values), concentrating on the core messages of the faith, which are love and hope. This means that the Catholic Church must secure its future place in a world where everything appears to have become relative. Pope Benedict's personal modesty and his message make it plain that the office of Supreme Pontiff is indeed one of service.*



MAY 1ST: POPE RAISES JOHN PAUL II TO THE ALTARS

On May 1st, Pope Benedict XVI raised his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, to the altars with a celebratory Mass in St. Peter's Square. "The Servant of God, John Paul II, Pope, must be beatified immediately", Benedict XVI pronounced in the set formula of solemn proclamation at the start of the Beatification Mass.

Under The square and Via della Conciliazione were alive with waving flags and pictures of John Paul II and it was to thunderous applause from the hundreds of thousands of people there that the image of the new Blessed was unveiled on the façade of St. Peter's Cathedral. The chosen picture of the new Blessed was one taken in 1995. Next a blood relic in a magnificent vial was taken to the papal altar. The Polish Pope had opened up society, culture, political and economic systems to Christ, Benedict XVI said in his homily at the Beatification Mass. With the "strength of a titan" he had encouraged Christians to declare themselves for Christ and the Church against a seemingly irreversible tide. John Paul II had led the Church into the Third Millennium and given it a new direction for the future. He had reclaimed for Christianity that "Service of Hope" which had faltered in the face of Marxism and the ideology of progress, Benedict XVI said. Throughout 23 years of close co-operation with John Paul II in the Vatican, he had himself come to value the new Blessed more and more. Amongst the many demands of his ministry, John Paul II had become increasingly immersed in his union with God. Even when he was suffering he remained ever a "rock", as Christ desired. As his physical strength declined, Benedict XVI said, his profound humility enabled him to continue to lead the Church and to give the world a message which became all the more eloquent. The day of the Beatification Mass was this year the second Sunday of Easter, or Whit Sunday, which the late Pope had designated as Divine Mercy Sunday. John Paul II passed away on April 2nd, 2005, the vigil of this Feast.

The power of his words, his unparalleled moral authority and the second-longest pontificate in the history of the Church have given the late Pope the degree of timelessness that befits historical figures. The tenacity with which the aged head of the Roman Catholic Church resisted the obvious effects of his serious illness moved the whole world. Equally, the determination with which he upheld his religious convictions compelled respect from his opponents. He devoted himself tirelessly to the protection of human rights, for the right to life and for world peace. With over one hundred pastoral journeys to around 130 countries the Holy Father demonstrated his cosmopolitanism and he also played a part in the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe. For almost a whole generation – from 1978 to 2005 – his was face of the Catholic Church. This great and outstanding Pope has left the world many positive attributes. ■ *Dr. Heinz Wieser*



BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY AWARDS HONORARY DOCTORATE TO CARDINAL JOHN FOLEY

On May 1st this year Bethlehem University made the Grand Master Cardinal John Foley a Doctor of Humanities.

The following is an extract from the award document signed by the University's Chancellor, H.E. Archbishop Antonio Franco, Apostolic Delegate for Jerusalem and Palestine, and by the Vice Chancellor Br. Peter Bray:

“Your Eminence, you are a man of deep and abiding faith, a man of the Word, of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. As a priest your life has been centered on breaking open the Word, bringing all you meet closer to our God. As a priest, Bishop and President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication, you have been intimately involved in the communication profession from the time of the second Vatican Council in the early 1960s, proclaiming the Word to wider and wider audiences.

Your life journey has been focused on the proclamation of the Word, our God, who came to live among us and to show us how to live and to love. As Cardinal Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, your life's work of the proclamation of the Word made flesh, God having come to dwell among us here in Bethlehem, deepened. With your inspirational leadership, the Order expanded into new lands and reached record levels of membership and renewed personal spiritual development. It also increased its support of Bethlehem University and of their brother and sister Christians in the Holy Land, the land of the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Cardinal Foley, you have lived a life of faith day in and day out. You have shown concern and support for the well-being of the students entrusted to our care at Bethlehem University in the Holy Land, and your proclamation of the Word made flesh has had worldwide influence. All those, together with the witness of your personal faithful spirituality, call us all to be grateful to the Almighty and loving God for the gift He has given us in you.”



US MEDIA PRIZE FOR CARDINAL FOLEY

*Winner of the Catholic Academy of Communication Arts Professionals'
"Gabriel Award" for his lifetime achievement in the media sector.*

Harrisburg, 26.06.11 (KAP) Cardinal John P. Foley (75), President of the Pontifical Media Council in the Vatican from 1984 to 2007, has been honored in the USA by the distinguished "Gabriel Award" presented to him by the Catholic Academy of Communication Arts Professionals for his lifetime's work in the media. In conferring the award, the President of the Academy, Frank Monrock, spoke highly of Cardinal Foley's dedication to promoting communications in his activities in all aspects of the media over his many decades in the ministry. Before taking up his duties in the Roman Curia, Cardinal Foley was a long-time editor in chief of The Catholic Standard & Times in his home archdiocese of Philadelphia/Pennsylvania.

The presentation was made at a luncheon ahead of the main award ceremony of the annual convention of the Catholic Press Academy and the North American Catholic Press Association (CPA) that took place in Pittsburgh over the weekend because Cardinal Foley, who has been Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem since 2007, has leukemia and could not attend the evening session.

UNIVERSITY OF MADABA

A starting signal to begin the 2011 - 2012 academic year: Students can now register for the American University of Madaba (AUM) online. The university will open its doors in October and accept the first enrolment in its history. The university has set a goal to become the flagship of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem educational institutions. The huge project is largely supported by Pope Benedict XVI, since his pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2009, and encouraged by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan. The foundation stone was blessed by the Holy Father during his visit to the Holy Land. Behind the academic motto "Scientia et Sapienza," students will be trained to become society's "enlightened leaders" of the future. They will learn tolerance, openness and commitment to the common good. This initiative also responds to the request of many families who, happy with the training provided in schools run by religious authorities, are seeking a similar educational support at the university level.

The University received its license in 2005 and, by a resolution adopted by the Superior Council of Education in Jordan, was named the "American University of Madaba" on May 29th. Courses will be taught in English. Contacts and relations with European and American universities are planned to share and exchange experiences, with the University of Madaba benefiting from the experience of other universities. The university must become a magnet for all students in Jordan, the Arab Gulf, the Maghreb and Africa.



The University of Madaba will have seven faculties, as follows:

- The Faculty of Business and Finance (Business Administration; Marketing; Risk Management & Insurance; and Accounting);
- The Faculty of Engineering (Civil & Environmental; Electrical; Mechanical);
- The Faculty of Health Sciences (Pharmacy; Medical Laboratories; Nutrition & Dietetics);
- Faculty of Information Technology (Computer Science);
- Faculty of Science (Biology & Biotechnology; Chemistry; Physics & Material Science);
- Faculty of Languages and Communication (Arabic Language & Literature; English Language & Literature; Translation)
- Faculty of Arts and Design (Graphic Design).
- The campus will receive 8000 students and employ 500 faculty members.

■ *Christophe Lafontaine, Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem*



MEETING OF EUROPEAN LIEUTENANTS IN ROME ON 21 AND 22 JUNE 2011

The annual meeting of European Lieutenants has already become a regular event, almost a tradition. Once again this June, 26 Lieutenants or Magistral Delegates gathered at the Order's headquarters in Rome before carrying out their discussions at the Pontifical Council for Culture. Since Cardinal Foley was unable to attend, the Order's Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, presided and the Governor General, Prof. Agostino Borromeo, chaired the debates. Several Members of the Grand Magisterium also attended.

For the first time the Magistral Delegates of the Order's new sections in Russia and South Africa, Yaroslav Ternovskiy and Joseph F. Quinn, were present at this session. The South African representative had been invited mainly in order to make his acquaintance.



The subjects under discussion ranged through a short report by the Governor General on financial developments in 2010, the report on the Order's activities in the Holy Land presented by Dr. von Siemens as President of the Holy Land Commission, and the Order's communications.

The Lieutenants' reports covered many aspects, from the numerous initiatives within the Order to the improvement of local activities on the part of the Members.

The lively chatter in many languages between the sessions again bore witness to the excellent fraternal spirit that prevailed amongst the participants

Many of those who spoke remembered our sick Cardinal Grand Master and everyone insisted on sending him the meeting's heart-felt good wishes.



OESSH CHANCELLOR MGR. HANS A. L. BROUWERS RETURNS TO THE USA

owing to Cardinal Foley's ill-health and his consequent stay in the United States the Archbishop of Philadelphia, Cardinal Rigali, kindly placed his diocesan priest, Mgr. Brouwers at his disposal. This left Cardinal Rigali short staffed so, just before Palm Sunday, Mgr. Brouwers returned to a parish in Pennsylvania and has now resumed his pastoral duties there.

The loss of Mgr. Brouwers as Chancellor of the Order is deeply felt by all. Whilst in office, he took an active part in many aspects of the Order's leadership. Nonetheless, we know that he felt a pressing need to fulfill his pastoral calling as a parish priest.

We send him our best wishes for happiness and success in his new duties and hope that we shall have many opportunities to meet him again.



FROM THE ORDER'S HOMEPAGE

1. The section of the homepage with the lists of the Grand Magisterium and the Lieutenancies will be kept in its current regular location. For any questions in this regard please look at the Order's website.
2. Anyone who knows that the homepage of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is located within the Vatican website now has an easy answer to the puzzling question of how to find it. In cooperation with the Internet Office of the Vatican , a shortcut – or link as it is called – has now been set up, so all you need to reach the Order directly is the short internet address: <http://info.oessh.va> Once there, you can also choose between two languages: Italian or English.



THE ORDER IN 2010

As we did for 2009, in the Fall we shall publish another yearbook documenting the Order's activities during the previous year. Although our Cardinal Grand Master's resignation did not take place until 2011 this too will be included.

Naturally the volume will once again include an overview of the projects undertaken in 2010 and reports on the whole of the Order's achievements in the Holy Land and the creation of three new Magistral Delegations. There will also be an article about the pilgrim, Egeria, and her journey to the Holy Land in the 4th century as well as an account of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East. Finally, there will be the usual section of short reports from individual Lieutenancies.

