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News



Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

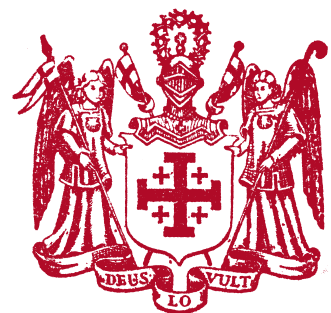
THE ORDER'S NEW PRO-GRAND MASTER



*the Most Reverend
Edwin Frederick O'Brien*



We welcome our new Pro-Grand Master with all our hearts, we will accompany him with our prayers and we mean to support his leadership of the Order to the very best of our ability.

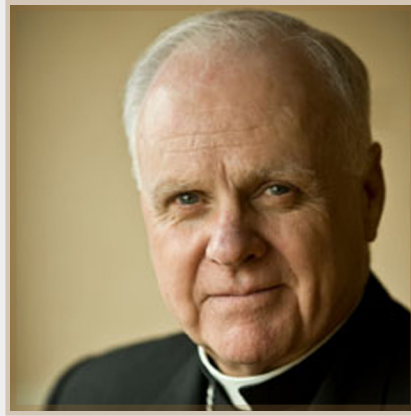


IMPRESSUM
GRAND MAGISTERIUM
OF THE
EQUESTRIAN ORDER
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE
OF JERUSALEM
00120 VATICAN CITY



THE ORDER'S NEW PRO-GRAND MASTER

On 29 August the Order's Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, and the Governor General, Prof. Agostino Borromeo, informed all the Lieutenancies that the Holy Father had appointed a successor to the former Cardinal Grand Master, John P. Foley, who had recently resigned:



We have the honor and pleasure to inform you that today His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed the Most Reverend Edwin Frederick O'Brien to the charge of Pro-Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

On behalf of all we wish to express to the new Pro-Grand Master our warmest congratulations: we are confident that thanks to his experience, wisdom and prudence, he will lead our organization to reach even higher goals. In the meantime and starting from now, we place ourselves and the whole Order at the entire disposal of the Most Reverend Edwin Frederick O'Brien for the implementation of his directives.

During this moment of common joy, we are sure we can express to the Grand Master Emeritus, His Eminence Cardinal John Patrick Foley, your sentiments of heartfelt gratitude for the generous commitment and dedication in the exemplary fulfillment of his high duties.

Until a permanent successor is named, Archbishop O'Brien also remains as Apostolic Administrator for his Archdiocese in Baltimore.

As Grand Prior of the USA Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien already had a connection with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. His résumé reflects both his wealth of experience and the energy with which he is ready to approach new tasks.

Edwin F. O'Brien, the fifteenth Archbishop of Baltimore, can lay claim to a career in the Church that has spanned four decades and several continents, including his ten years as Archbishop for the United States Armed Forces. On October 1, 2007 he was installed as leader of Baltimore's half-million Catholics. He succeeded Cardinal William Keeler, who had held the post for 18 years.

The Archbishop was born on April 8, 1939 in the Bronx, New York City. Having obtained his B.A. and two Masters' degrees at St. Joseph's Seminary he was ordained into the priesthood on May 29, 1965. He was then appointed civilian chaplain of the United States Military Academy at West Point. Five years later, in 1970, at the height of the Vietnam war, he joined the army as a captain, airborne flight training that required him to parachute out of airplanes. From 1971 to 1972 he served in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade and 1st Cavalry Brigade.

In 1973 Cardinal Terence Cooke sent Father O'Brien to study in Rome, at the Pontifical North American College in Rome where, in 1976, he earned a Doctorate in Theology from the Angelicum University. His dissertation was entitled "*The Origin and Development of Moral Principles in the Theology of Paul Ramsey*". He returned to New York where he spent most of his career from 1976 to 1997. Upon his return to the United States, he served as both the Vice-Chancellor of the Archdiocese of New York and associate pastor at St. Patrick's Cathedral from 1976 to 1981; during that time, he coordinated the visit of Pope John Paul II to New York.

From 1981 to 1983 he was archdiocesan Director of Communications and from 1983 to 1985 he acted as private secretary to Cardinal Cooke and his successor, Cardinal John Joseph O'Connor.

In 1986 he was raised to the rank of Honorary Prelate of His Holiness. He served as rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers from 1985 to 1989, and of the Pontifical North American College in Rome from 1990 to 1994. Returning once more to New York, he spent another term as rector of St. Joseph's from 1994 to 1997.

On February 6, 1996 Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of New York and Titular Bishop of Thizica and he received his Episcopal consecration on the following March 25 in St. Patrick's Cathedral from Cardinal O'Connor, with Bishops Patrick Sheridan and John Nolan serving as Co-Consecrators.



He selected as his Episcopal motto: *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (“I will give you shepherds”, Jeremiah 3:15).

Any account of the mile posts that mark his lifetime must mention not only his numerous special initiatives but also his personality:

During his decade-long tenure, he divided his time between visiting American troops and working with the North American College. He was greatly involved in the case of Eugene Hamilton, a 25-year-old seminarian who was diagnosed with terminal cancer during the course of his studies. The new Rector O’Brien successfully petitioned the Vatican for Hamilton’s early ordination, and ordained him a priest only hours before he died.

In 1993, he initiated the cause of canonization for Emil Kapaun, a chaplain killed during the Korean War.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed our new ProGrand Master the fifteenth Archbishop of Baltimore, Maryland, on July 12, 2007. He recollects that on receiving the call from the Apostolic Nunciature, he accepted the appointment immediately and later remarked, “I guess that’s one thing I take from the military. When you’re given an order, you accept.” He also felt “deep sadness” over leaving the Military Archdiocese, but pledged to give himself “to the task of making Jesus Christ known by preaching his word and serving his people” in his new post.

Commenting on Baltimore’s new Archbishop, The Baltimore Sun said, “He has leapt from military airplanes, served in jungles during the Vietnam War and traveled extensively to current battle zones in Afghanistan and Iraq. From his working-class roots... to the upper echelons of Catholic power carrying a Christian message of peace and love to some of the world’s worst war-torn terrain”.

His duties as Pro-Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem may not require him to parachute into the jungle but there is no doubt his readiness for action and his leadership qualities will distinguish him not only in helping the Christians in the Holy Land but in all aspects of our Order’s mission.

We welcome our new Pro-Grand Master with all our hearts, we will accompany him with our prayers and we mean to support his leadership of the Order to the very best of our ability.

