

News Letter



ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

«WE MUST STAND TOGETHER»

«All those who seek dignity, democracy, freedom and prosperity are under attack. We must stand together and speak out in truth and freedom (...) Together, we must seek out all those who dream, as we do, of a society in which Muslims Christians and Jews are equal citizens, living side by side, building together a society in which new generations can live and prosper (...) Finally, we pray for all, for those who join their efforts to ours, and for those who are harming us now, or even killing us. We pray that God may allow them to see the goodness He has put in the heart of each one. May God transform every human being from the depth of his or her heart, enabling them to love every human being as God does, He who is the Creator and Lover of all. Our only protection is in our Lord and like Him we offer our lives for those who persecute us as well as for those who, with us, stand in defence of love, truth and dignity.»

Extract from the communiqué published on 2 April 2014 by the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries in the Holy Land and the Committee for Justice and Peace, concerning the persecution of Christians in the Middle East.



IMPRESSUM

GRAND MAGISTERIUM
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THE ORDER IN HARMONY WITH THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

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THE ORDER IN HARMONY WITH THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

“THAT THEY MAY BE ONE” FRANCIS AT THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

While actively preparing the pilgrimage of Pope Francis to Jordan (Amman), to the Palestinian Territories (Bethlehem) and to Israel (Jerusalem), the 30,000 members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, spread throughout the world, are in profound spiritual communion with about 235,000 faithful who form the small Latin rite Catholic community courageously present in this region where the Christian faith is rooted for a little over 2,000 years.

The many Christian Churches in the Holy Land, will soon welcome the Holy Father Francis during his trip placed under the sign of unity, scheduled to take place from 24 to 26 May. Catholics of the Latin, Syrian, Armenian, Greek Melkite, Maronite rites... as well as the Orthodox of Ethiopian, Syrian, Coptic, Greek, Armenian rites... and also Lutherans and Episcopalians, all eagerly look forward to sharing this pilgrimage with the Bishop of Rome. He is scheduled to meet the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I at the Holy Sepulchre in the presence of all the Heads of Christian Churches, notably the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilus III and the Patriarch of the Orthodox Armenian Apostolic Church Nourhan Manougian. According to historians this is the most significant event in this

context since the time of Constantine and the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325.

The Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, has the honour of guiding the Pope during these very ecumenical days, which have been prepared in particular by the fervent prayer of students in Catholic schools of the Patriarchate, open to Christians of various churches and to members of other religions. Father Faysal Hijazen, General Director of the schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Palestine and Israel, had underlined last January, with students, teachers and parents, the importance of this preparatory prayer to bring to fruition the testament of Jesus: "That all may be one" (John 17:21). These words were also inspirational in the choice of the motto of the papal visit in March by the Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land gathered in Tiberias. The motto, "That they may be one", is accompanied by a logo representing the embrace of St. Peter and St. Andrew, the first two disciples of Jesus who respectively became head of the Church of Rome and head of the Church of Constantinople.

Fifty years after the prophetic meeting of Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople in 1964, which was marked



There is an international website dedicated to this pilgrimage:
popefrancisholyland2014.lpj.org
 You will find the prayer suggested for the intentions of this pilgrimage
 on the website: **terrasanctapax.org**



by the lifting of the mutual excommunications dating from the schism of 1054, the movement towards Christian unity shown by the pilgrimage of Francis – in the footsteps of John Paul II (2000) and Benedict XVI (2009) – will be a message of reconciliation between the East and the West more broadly addressed to all mankind. At the regional level there will be, no doubt, political repercussions, since if Christians are more united they can better resist persecution, their enemies having for too long been known to exacerbate their divisions to exercise power over them since the conquest of Jerusalem by Saladin ...

Approximately 4,000 journalists will be covering the event, the global repercussions of which can already be described as historic.

* * *

First day, Saturday 24 May 2014, in Jordan

Francis, having arrived in Amman during the day, meets the officials of the Kingdom,

celebrates Mass at the international stadium, then visits the Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and young disabled people in Bethany, the traditional site of the Baptism of Jesus, on the banks of the Jordan.

Second day, Sunday 25 May, in Bethlehem, and in late afternoon at the Holy Sepulchre

Francis is welcomed at the presidential palace by the Palestinian Authorities in Bethlehem. He then celebrates Mass at Manger Square and meets children from refugee camps before departing for Jerusalem. An ecumenical prayer will take place in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre with the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Heads of all the Christian Churches.

Third day, Monday 26 May, in Jerusalem

Francis goes to the Wall of Lamentations, meets the Israeli President and Prime Minister, and then prays in silence at the foot of the Mount of Olives, before celebrating Mass at the Cenacle. He departs for Rome in early evening.

THE HOLY SEE IN DIALOGUE WITH ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITIES

Two important Commissions regularly working to advance the dialogue in the Holy Land: on the one hand the Holy See - State of Palestine Commission, and on the other, the Holy See - Israel Commission. They met respectively last winter, on 7 February in Ramallah, West Bank, and on 11 February in Jerusalem. Bishop Antoine Camilleri, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, headed the delegation of the Holy See for each meeting. Regarding the Palestinian Authority which governs in the West Bank: following the "basic agreement" signed by John Paul II and Yasser Arafat in 2000, a "global agreement" is being drafted, which deals more specifically with key aspects of

the life and activity of the Catholic Church in Palestine. As regards matters directly concerning Israel, negotiations on a "final agreement" continue in a constructive climate to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Holy Land, a privileged area of interreligious dialogue. On this subject, Pope Francis reaffirmed his commitment to strengthen dialogue with our "elder brothers", the Jews, to a delegation of the American Jewish Committee (AJC), received at the Vatican in February, recalling the "sure point of reference" the Conciliar Declaration "Nostra Aetate", the 50th anniversary of which will be commemorated in 2015.



THE CONSISTORY OF 22 FEBRUARY: TWO MEMBERS OF THE ORDER AMONG THE NEW CARDINALS

During the Consistory of 22 February 2014 in Rome, two members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem were among the first 19 cardinals created by Pope Francis: Mgr Orani João Tempesta, Brazilian Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy corresponding to his Brazilian diocese, Bishop Gualtiero Bassetti Archbishop of Perugia (of which also was the future Leo XIII), vice-president of the Italian Episcopal Conference and Prior of the Umbrian section of the Order. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien sent them a fraternal letter, as well as to other new members of the Sacred College, in which he assured them of his personal spiritual support in prayer. During the celebration of the Mass

of the Consistory the Pope spoke of the persecuted Christians, mindful especially of those in the Middle East, making this appeal to the new Cardinals: "The Church needs your compassion, especially at this time of pain and suffering for so many countries throughout the world. Let us together express our spiritual closeness to the ecclesial communities and to all Christians suffering from discrimination and persecution. We must fight every form of discrimination! The Church needs our prayer for them, that they may be firm in faith and capable of responding to evil with good. And this prayer of ours extends to every man and women suffering injustice on account of their religious convictions".

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

THE MESSAGE OF THE GRAND MASTER IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF EASTER

Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, sent a letter to all the Lieutenants of the Order in forty countries, asking them to ensure on his behalf, that this Lenten period of 2014 be experienced by the Knights and Dames in an exacting manner, in imitation of Christ, and faithful to the guidelines given by the Holy Father in his Lenten Message. God "does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty", the Pope wrote, citing the Apostle Paul: "*though He was rich, yet for your sake he be-*

came poor ...". He continued: "Christ's poverty is the greatest treasure of all: Jesus' wealth is that of his boundless confidence in God the Father". Francis also remarked that this "sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross". Referring to this powerful message from the Pope on the poverty of Christ, which is not essentially of a material nature, the Grand Master invited members to experience this period as a penitential path to testify in their dioceses and parishes to the true nature of the Order, of which they are the humble am-



bassadors. "I am wary of charity that costs nothing and does not hurt..." the Cardinal concluded, citing the new Pope, desiring

above all to encourage members of the Order to fulfil their full mission to respond to the universal call to holiness.

THE COMMISSION OF THE CONSULTA

At the Palazzo della Rovere, the headquarters of the Order in Rome, a meeting was held on 3 and 4 February of the Commission to develop proposals presented at the general meeting, the "Consulta" last September, on the renewal of the Constitution. The first point of urgency was to emphasize, in the first chapter of the new Constitution, the religious mission and spiritual goals of the Order which consists in promoting the sanctification of its members before their commitment of a material nature to the work in the Holy Land. The Commission then addressed the organizational responsibilities of the Grand Magisterium, highlighting the key role of the Governor General to coordinate the central administration and finance functions in direct and permanent liaison with the Grand Master who has final say in all decisions. Finally it was suggested that there should be a new standing commission concerned with spirituality, and whose role would be to make proposals and to provide assistance for the development of the religious life of the Order.

THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

The spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem began with participation at Mass celebrated in the church of Santa Maria in the Via Lata, "the Lenten station" of 8 April. The day providentially coincided with the 75th birthday of the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. The members of the Grand Magisterium, on this occasion, were able to participate with other pilgrims in an ancient tradition which consists of venerating the memory of the martyrs with a Mass celebrated daily in a different church.

The meeting was then held in a large hall of the Pontifical Council for Culture, focusing on the financial management of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as scheduled projects supported by the Order in the

Holy Land for 2014.

In his introduction, the Grand Master stressed the need for an intensification of the spiritual life of the Knights and Dames, encouraging the Grand Priors to assume fully their roles in the Lieutenancies in this respect. "Let us not be overwhelmed with administrative matters, our goal is spiritual" he repeated, referring to his many trips undertaken to highlight this dimension of commitment in the Order, which will be reaffirmed in the new statutes.

After thanking the members of the Grand Magisterium who had completed their terms, and welcoming those who were called to replace them (see the article in this *Newsletter* on Appointments), the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Fouad Twal, described the current tense situation in the Holy Land, rejoicing nevertheless at the au-



dience granted by the Pope, on the previous day, to the King of Jordan, the protector of the Christian minority, in the context of the preparation of the forthcoming Papal visit. The Financial Statement of the Patriarchy showed no deficit in terms of management institutions, parishes, schools and seminars, due to the exceptionally high contributions of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, in particular against the contingency fund for teachers "in the name of respect for workers' rights" the Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, specified. However, the deficit remains very disquieting with regard to the new American University of Madaba (AUM), which opened last May. Solutions will be considered as part of a Commission in which the College may participate, although it has no obligation or liability in this worthy initiative of Patriarch Twal.

As regards the accounts of the Grand Magisterium, it appears that even if the resources have decreased slightly over the year, more than 10 million euros have nonetheless been sent to the Holy Land in 2013. Financial reserves have helped to honour commitments. The discussion continued

around specific projects of the Order in 2014, presented by Thomas McKiernan the new President of the Commission for the Holy Land, returning from a field trip. "Of all the projects we support – schools, parishes, convents – we can be especially proud of the school in Rameh, the daycare centre in Bir Zeit, and the Aqaba church" said the Chairman of the Commission, by way of summary.

In his speech the Chancellor Ivan Rebernick particularly highlighted the importance of communication in the Order, to keep members abreast of projects by means of the Annals, the Newsletter and the website of the Grand Magisterium, of which there will be a review of the headings for easier reading. Finally, announcing the definitive version of the new statutes, Bishop Robert Stern, the rapporteur of the committee, which has already met four times, recalled that "good rules are liberating and invigorating". The final text highlighting collegiality and subsidiarity should be submitted soon for the validation of the Grand Master, and subsequently for the Pope's approval.

PROJECTS OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM: VISIT OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE HOLY LAND

From 17 to 23 March 2014, the Commission for the Holy Land of the Grand Magisterium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre visited the Holy Land to review various projects – current and future – of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Twice a year the members of the Commission visit the area to monitor the progress of projects funded by the Order. They visit the building works in progress or completed, or learn of future projects. Each of the proposed projects is carefully studied and presented to the Grand Magisterium, which, after analysis, decides on which proposal to support according to its priority. This is followed by specific reports and regular visits to monitor the work. This time the delegation was composed of Professor Tomas McKiernan, new President of the Commission for the Holy Land, Dr. Heinrich Dickmann accompanied by his spouse, in the regrettable absence of Professor Bartholomew MacGettrick. The Knights met the Patriarch Fouad Twal and Mgr William Shomali, Patriarchal Vicar to Jerusalem. The officials of the Patriarchate then showed them the evolution of the different projects. The Commission in particular went to Jordan with the



General Treasurer of the Patriarchate, Father Humam Khzouz and visited projects in Na'our to monitor the progress of works on the presbytery and on the convent of the Sisters of the Rosary. The delegation also visited the school of Al-Ashrafieh and the rectory of Fuheis, fully renovated. In Jordan, the Knights also visited the centre of Our Lady of Peace, a centre for disabled people and diocesan activities especially for young people. The journey continued on the Palestinian side: to Taybeh to see the project in progress on the restoration of the rectory, then to Jifna, Ain Arik and Ramallah. Ten sites of the Patriarchate were thus surveyed in a few days. These visits are often decisive and encouraging for this small but lively and fraternal local Church, whose influence is universal. *(Source: Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem)*

THE LATEST NOMINATIONS

On 10 March the Lieutenants, Grand Priors, and members of the Grand Magisterium received an important letter from the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, informing them of the nominations agreed by the Grand Master which would become effective on 8 and 9 April 2014 during the annual spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium. Professeur Bartholomew McGettrick, His Excellence Alberto Consoli Palermo Navarra and Madame Christa von Siemens leave their respective offices at the end of their mandate in the Grand Magisterium. The Governor-General expressed the gratitude of all members of the Order for the dynamism, enthusiasm and sense of commitment with which they have dedicated themselves to the spread of the spiritual and char-

itable ideals of the Institution. Those who are called to succeed them in the Grand Magisterium are His Excellency François t'Kint de Roodenbeke, Honorary Lieutenant of the Lieutenancy of the Order for Belgium; His Excellency Paul Bartley, Honorary Lieutenant of the Lieutenancy of the Order for Queensland Australia; Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, former Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Madrid, and President of the German-Italian Association Villa Vigoni. Finally His Eminence the Grand Master filled the vacant seats on the Commission for the Holy Land as follows: Professor Thomas McKiernan as President, Professor Bartholomew McGettrick as Member, and His Excellency Dr. Heinrich Dickmann, Lieutenant for Germany, as Member.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIA ATTENTION WELCOMED BY THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

During the winter of 2014, and in anticipation of the coming visit of the Holy Father to the Holy Land, the media have paid close attention to the activity of the Grand Magisterium, especially Agence France Presse. For its part, Vatican Radio broadcast a long interview with the Governor General in February 2014, available in English and Italian on the Grand Magisterium website under "News Flash". Another important interview was granted by the Governor General to the RAI, the Italian television service, which broadcast the programme at prime time (TG1), reaching about 4 million viewers. Other programs are in preparation, including by Radio France.



THE ORDER AND THE PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

★ *THE WALL IN QUESTION*

The Israeli Supreme Court delayed the validation of the path of the Separation Wall which would disfigure the agricultural valley of Cremisan near Bethlehem, and would cut in half the properties of the Salesians and dislodge 58 Christian families. The Court was asked to cancel the decisions of confiscation. The President of the Commission for International Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the United States had contacted the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry about this controversial project, asking him to put pressure on the government of Israel. A new hearing is scheduled for 30 July...

★ *AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES*

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem has regularly emphasised the need for emergency assistance to Syrian refugees. He appeals tirelessly also to the generosity of everyone to support those populations affected by a conflict that has already lasted far too long. The situation was particularly alarming last winter because of the cold. According to the UN, more than two million of these refugees live in countries neighbouring Syria. At least three-quarters of these refugees have found asylum in Lebanon and Jordan. Over 50% of them are less than 17 years of age. All are housed in very poor conditions, often without electricity or drinking water.

★ *GAZA TOUCHES THE BISHOPS' HEARTS*

Representatives of the Episcopal Conferences of the various parts of the world spent two days in Gaza in early 2014 "The visit to an association that takes care of disabled deaf and dumb people has been especially moving: the bishops did not expect to find such great desolation" said Abouna Mario Cornioli for example. The delegation celebrated Mass with the priests and sisters in Gaza and visited the Sisters of Mother Teresa to become acquainted with their work with children who have problems and also with alone and abandoned elderly people. Even if this visit does not lead directly to major changes in Gaza, it touched the heart of the bishops and further strengthened the spiritual ties between the world's Catholics and their Arab Christian Palestinian brothers.

★ *FIVE NEW DEACONS FOR OUR "MOTHER CHURCH" IN JERUSALEM*

In the packed church of the Latin parish of Beit Jala, the Diocese of Jerusalem welcomed five new deacons: Bernard Poggi, originating from the United States, Baha Stephan, Ibrahim Naffa and Fares Siryani from Jordan, and Bashar Fawadleh from Palestine. All studied at the Patriarchal Seminary which has now 34 senior seminarians and 45 junior seminarians. Several bishops, many priests and delegations from the United States and Italy were present at the ordination ceremony. They were also sustained by the prayers of the faithful from all over the diocese, from Galilee, Samaria, Jordan and the region of Bethlehem. The five young people still remain at the seminary to complete their training until next June, the month in which they should be called to become priests of the Mother Church of Jerusalem. *(Source: the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem)*



★ **THE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK IN JORDAN**

For the 22nd World Day of the Sick on 11 February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Mgr Maroun Lahham, Latin Patriarchal Vicar for Jordan, concelebrated Mass in the Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in Luweibdeh, with many priests attended by a large gathering of the faithful, the sick, the elderly and their families. The Sacrament of the Sick was widely administered on this occasion. Mrs Bassima Samaan, Director of the television channel Télé Lumière (Noursat) in Jordan thanked the faithful for having come to pray for all who suffer. Every three years the World Day of the Sick is specifically celebrated in a great Marian shrine. This was the case in Altötting in Bavaria in 2013, and will take place in Nazareth, in 2016, by papal decision.

NEWS OF THE ORDER AND ITS LIEUTENANCIES

NEWS OF THE LIEUTENANCY OF PORTUGAL

We accompany in our prayers members of the Lieutenancy of Portugal who have just lost their Grand Prior Emeritus, Cardinal José Policarpo, who died on 12 March during surgery. The press gave wide coverage to the presence of Knights and Dames at the funeral of the former Archbishop of Lisbon. Another event engages the Lieutenancy: the organization of a major conference on 14 May in Lisbon, on the current situation of Christians in the Middle East. Patriarch Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Order, will participate, having chaired the international pilgrimage to the shrine of Fatima, on 12 and 13 May. A few days later a Portuguese delegation of thirty Knights, Dames, and friends, will travel to Amman, Bethlehem and Jerusalem, to accompany the Holy Father during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

BEREAVEMENT IN VANCOUVER

We carry in our prayers the family of our friend H.E. Declan P. Lawlor, Honorary Lieutenant of the Canadian Lieutenancy of Vancouver. He went to the Heavenly Father on 2 February 2014, on the Marian Feast of the Presentation, at the age of 69. Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Dr. Lawlor has left us

the testimony of a faithful lay person courageously engaged in society for the defense of non-negotiable principles, in particular the respect for life from conception to natural death. We are sure of the spiritual fruitfulness of his intercession for the Order, in the communion of saints.

The editors invite each Lieutenancy to send us any information it wishes to convey in our next Newsletter, scheduled for June 2014.

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