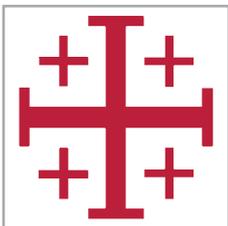




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Special #ConsultaOESSH2018 N° 52



JERUSALEM CROSS

ORDINIS EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

Reflections of the Grand Master

A SPIRITUAL RENEWAL FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Besides being required by the law of the Holy See, the Consulta of our Order of the Holy Sepulchre has been a sound source of rich grace!

The Statutes of the Order, approved by the Vatican Secretary of State, require that at least every five years a "Consulta" be convoked by the Grand Master to review the activities of

every facet of our Order's performance.

This year, the Consulta was held from November 13 - 16 here in Rome. It was the result of intensive and successful preparation on the part of our dedicated staff. All but 5 of our 64 Lieutenants/Delegates were on hand coming as far as from Guam, Australia and South Africa. Good prayer, serious discussions

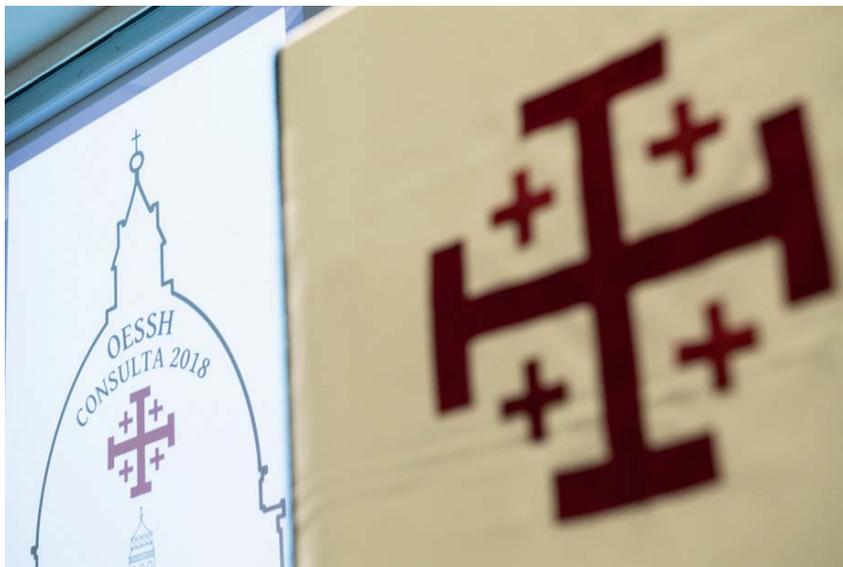


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IMPRESSUM GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM
00120 VATICAN CITY
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strong support for the works of the Order on behalf of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem and other Catholic operations in the Holy Land.

All this will be described in colorful detail in the following pages.

Newsprint will not capture, however, the sense of fraternity and camaraderie and the spiritual renewal with which the Lord graced the hours of our gatherings.

Now that we have entered the New Year, the results of

and warm social gatherings were packed into each day, including a moving Oratorio on the life of Blessed Bartolo Longo. The Grand Finale was a concluding Audience with our Holy Father and his expressions of

the prayerful deliberations of our Consulta will hopefully be experienced by our members far and wide who were represented so ably by their leaderships!

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien



THE POPE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONSULTA: “YOU ARE AT HOME IN THE VATICAN”

Address of the Holy Father pronounced on November 16 in the Sala Clementina of the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican.

Dear brothers and sisters!

I welcome you at the conclusion of the Consulta of Members of the Grand Magisterium and of the Lieutenants of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. I greet and thank Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, Grand Master, and the Pro-Grand Prior, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa; I greet the members of the Grand Magisterium, together with the Lieutenants of the nations and of the places where the Order is present. And with you I greet the whole family of Knights and Dames from all

over the world. My gratitude goes to all of you for the many spiritual and charitable activities you carry out for the benefit of the peoples of the Holy Land.

You have gathered for the Consulta, the general assembly that is celebrated every five years at the See of Peter. Here in the Vatican, you are, in a certain way, at home, as you constitute an ancient pontifical institution placed under the protection of the Holy See. Since the last Consulta of 2013 the Order has grown in the number of its members, in the geographical expansion



Pope Francis receives participants of the Consulta in audience, asking the Grand Master to transmit his warm greetings to all the members of the Order.



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with the creation of new peripheral articulations, in the material assistance that it has offered the Church in the Holy Land and in the number of pilgrimages made by your members. I thank you for supporting programs that are pastorally and culturally beneficial and I encourage you to continue your commitment, alongside the Latin Patriarchate, in facing the refugee crisis which has led the Church to provide a significant humanitarian response throughout the region in the last five years.

It is a good sign that your initiatives in the field of training and health care are open to all, regardless of the communities they belong to or the religion professed. In this way you help to pave the way to the knowledge of Christian values, to the promotion of interreligious dialogue, mutual respect and mutual understanding. In other words, through your commendable commitment, you too contribute to the construction of the path that will lead, we all hope, to the achievement of peace throughout the region.

I know that this week you have focused on the role of local leaders, or Lieutenants, present in over thirty nations and areas of the world where your Order is active. Certainly the continuous growth of the Order depends on your incessant and ever renewed commitment. In this regard, it is important not to forget that the main purpose of your Order lies in the spiritual growth of its members. Therefore, any success of your initiatives can not be separated from appropriate religious formation programs aimed at each Knight and each Dame, so that they consolidate their indispensable relationship with the Lord Jesus, especially in prayer, in the meditation of the Holy Scriptures and in the deepening of Church doctrine. It is above all the task of you leaders to offer an example of intense spiritual life and concrete adherence to the Lord: you will thus be able to render a valid service of authority to those who are subject to you.

As for your mission in the world, do not forget that you are not a philanthropic agency committed to promoting the material and social progress of your beneficiaries. You are called to place the evangelical love of neighbor as the purpose of your work, to witness everywhere the goodness and care with which God loves everyone. The admission into your Order of Bishops, Priests and Deacons is not an honor. It is part of those duties of their pastoral service to assist those among you who have a responsibility role by providing opportunities for community and liturgical prayer at every level, continuous spiritual opportunities and catechesis for ongoing formation and for the growth of all the members of the Order.

It is in front of the whole world – which too often turns its gaze to the other side – the dramatic situation of Christians who are persecuted and killed in ever-increasing numbers. In addition to their martyrdom in their blood there is also their “white martyrdom,” such as that which occurs in democratic countries when freedom of religion is restricted. Alongside your work in favor of people so harshly tried, I urge you to always associate the prayer, to constantly invoke Our Lady, whom you venerate with the title of “Our Lady of Palestine”. She is the caring Mother and the Help of Christians, for whom she obtains strength and comfort from the Lord in sorrow.

May the icon of Our Lady of Persecuted Christians, which I will soon bless and you will all receive to carry her to each of your Lieutenancies, accompany your journey. Let us together invoke Mary’s concern for the Church in the Holy Land and, more generally, in the Middle East, together with her special intercession and for those whose life and freedom are in danger. I accompany your precious and indefatigable work with my Blessing, and I ask you to please pray for me. Thank you.

Francis



THE GRAND MASTER, CARDINAL EDWIN O'BRIEN, GREETS THE HOLY FATHER

Your Holiness:

We are honored by your invitation to this Audience and grateful for this opportunity to hear your words and receive your blessing.

Present here are the leadership of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem representing 64 lieutenancies from 40 countries and territories. Ours is an ancient Pontifical institution presently enjoying a time of strong development in terms of increased members, geographical expansion and financial support. Especially in these days,

for everyone it is a great joy to observe the ongoing growth of a Catholic association.

Every 5 years according to our Statutes we gather as a Consulta to discuss matters of importance to the Order in developing the growth of personal holiness of our more than 30,000 members. We also seek ways of how we can more effectively serve and support the needs of the Church in the Holy Land in serving the pastoral, spiritual and humanitarian needs of our fellow Christians there.



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At the end of the audience granted to the Order's Consulta, the Holy Father, accompanied by Grand Master Cardinal O'Brien, blessed the icon of Our Lady of Persecuted Christians. A reproduction of the icon was then delivered to each Lieutenant so that members intensify their prayer for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East.





The participants in the Consulta listened attentively to the message of the Pope so they in turn can share it with the Knights and Dames of all the continents.

Our support goes especially to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, but also to independent Catholic institutions and to the other sui iuris Churches. Let me underline that all the schools, universities and health-care centers that we support are open to everyone regardless of their religion or the community to which they belong. In addition to prayerful and material support our members are pledged to regular pilgrimages to the Holy Land to show our solidarity with the faithful in their daily trials and challenges.

This week we have profitably considered the pivotal role of our lieutenants in

fostering the goals of our Order. We have also taken note of the growing persecution of Christians in the Holy Land and throughout the Middle East. We know how often you have spoken of this continuing tragedy. We humbly ask you to bless the icon of Our Lady of Persecuted Christians copies of which our members will take to their lieutenancies for prayerful intercession.

We repeat our thanks, Holy Father, and we assure you of our prayers in your ministry and our unflinching loyalty to the Successor of St. Peter.

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien



A LETTER FROM POPE FRANCIS

Following the Consulta, Pope Francis wrote a letter to the Grand Master of the Order, which we publish below in full, thanking him for the gift given to the poorest.

Your Eminence,

I received your letter accompanying the offer made by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. I thank you and all the members for the generous gesture of charity that on the occasion of the World Day for the Poor I immediately destined for the needy and the marginalized.

This commitment of solidarity shows the will to direct your activities by keeping your eyes fixed on the needs of the Gospel. The poor – as St Paul VI loved to say – belong to the Church by “evangelical right” and oblige the fundamental option for them. Blessed, therefore, the hands that open to welcome the poor and to help them: they are hands that bring hope. Blessed are the hands that overcome every barrier of culture, religion and nationality by pouring the oil of consolation on the wounds of humanity.

I warmly bless you and the members of the entire Order, with the hope that the humble and constant commitment of charity will become the light of the journey for all.

Please always remember to pray for me.

Francis



Sister Monika, who directs the Saint Louis Hospital in Jerusalem, witnesses the tenderness of God to the dying, be they Christian, Muslim and Jewish, day and night, a wonderful representation of the words of Pope Francis into the letter addressed to the Grand Master of the Order.

“ Blessed are the hands that overcome every barrier of culture, religion and nationality by pouring the oil of consolation on the wounds of humanity ”



THE WORDS OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Order's *Consulta* gifted us moments of great intensity: a week with all the Lieutenants gathered around the Grand Master. A family atmosphere characterized this historic meeting, which is held every five years. After little more than a year in office as Governor General, it was an opportunity for me to develop the Lieutenants' understanding of the working process of the Grand Magisterium. I used the image of the funnel – through which everything must pass – to illustrate their local coordination mission. The metaphor also applies to me: in fact, I act as an intermediary between the Grand Master and the Lieutenants, trying to facilitate coordination and collaboration within the Order, given that our institution is continuously developing throughout the world. For the future, I hope that we will be able to further strengthen the family spirit noted on the *Consulta*, in fidelity to the

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teaching of Pope Francis who encourages us to put into practice the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, we must foster communication in transparency and cultivate loyalty to the Grand Master. May the New Year be in this sense for us all a path of daily holiness, of mutual communion and that the power of the Holy Spirit be given to us to consolidate the work of the inhabitants of the Holy Land. Best wishes!

Leonardo Visconti di Modrone



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Order of the Holy Sepulchre
Papal Equestrian Orders
Order of Malta
Italian Dynastic Orders and Orders of the Italian Republic

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THE MISSION OF THE ORDER'S LIEUTENANTS AT THE HEART OF THE 2018 CONSULTA

About sixty Lieutenants from around 40 countries attended the five-year assembly of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Rome, gathered around the Grand Master, Cardinal O'Brien.

The Lieutenants of the Order who arrived from six continents participated in the Consulta's five-year assembly (November 13-16, 2018), seeking together to better define their role and exchanging their respective experiences, in the presence of the Grand Master and the leaders of the Grand Magisterium.

Received by Pope Francis, at the end of the gathering, they had the joy of hearing him pronounce important words, reflecting the exceptional bond that unites the Order to the Successor of Peter: "Here in the Vatican, you are, in a certain way, at home, as you constitute an ancient pontifical

institution under the protection of the Holy See." The Holy Father encouraged members of the Consulta to promote interreligious dialogue, as well as mutual understanding and respect in the Holy Land, asking them to set an example for the Knights and Dames of which they are responsible. "It is a task above all of you as leaders to offer the example of intense spiritual life and true following of the Lord: in this way you can render a valid service of authority to those who depend upon you", he stressed, urging them to constantly invoke Our Lady, venerated with the title of *Our Lady of Palestine* (See the complete text of the Papal



address published in the previous pages).

After the welcome address of Cardinal O'Brien and the clarifications on the program provided by the Lieutenant General Borromeo and the Governor General Visconti di Modrone, the Consulta – held in the Crowne Plaza hotel, on the Via Aurelia Antica – began with the intervention of Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and the representatives of the Holy See, Msgr. Paolo Borgia, Assessor of the Secretariat of State and Father Oscar Marzo, Franciscan, of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

Archbishop Pizzaballa recalled with strong words that without the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the Mother Church of Jerusalem could no longer exist. He insisted on the need to continue to support especially Christian families in the Holy



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Land, despite the incessant political crisis, noting that the closeness of Knights and Dames to local communities allows an opening to the world that reignites the hope of a very tested population.

In the same vein, Msgr. Borgia stressed the importance of contact between the 30,000 members of the Order and the

inhabitants of the Holy Land, which contribute to fostering peaceful relations, especially through pilgrimages.

Fr. Marzo – speaking in the name of the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches – stressed the crucial role of Knights and Dames for the Church in the biblical territories, insisting that the Order is “the only secular institution of the Holy See to care for the Christian presence in the Holy Land,” working for a



While the participants in the Consulta gathered for plenary sessions or in working groups (two photos above), the spouses participated in a cultural program to discover Rome in three language groups (in photo, the English-speaking group).





The women who hold positions of responsibility at the helm of the Order's Lieutenancies have enriched the Consulta with their wisdom, helping to foster the family atmosphere that all the participants joyfully noted and wish to continue cultivating.

future of respect and collaboration among inhabitants of different religions, through educational and training initiatives.

Subsequently, the Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo presented the working sessions based on the *Instrumentum Laboris*, which centred on the mission of the Lieutenant, the principal theme of the Consulta, specifying the two aims of the Order: the sanctity of members and concrete solidarity with the Church of the Holy Land.

Regarding this solidarity, a much appreciated video – produced by the Order's Communications Office in partnership with the Communication Office of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem – has allowed Church officials to thank the Lieutenants directly for their constant help offered in the educational and pastoral sectors, showing the joy of children and young people expressed with unforgettable smiles that have impressed the members of the Consulta. "We are a Church that changes

because of the complex context in the Middle East, but not a dying Church," commented Abp. Pizzaballa, mentioning a "new way of being in the future ...", which will not mean the disappearance, but a ecclesial transformation that has become necessary in the aftermath of the political-strategic "earthquake" that is shaking the whole region.

In the course of the following two days, the Lieutenants met in three linguistic discussion groups, to reflect upon the documentation made available to them. The *Instrumentum Laboris* has been carefully analyzed, especially with regards the themes of the figure of the Lieutenant, his appointment and the transmission of directives from his predecessor, the collaboration with the Prior of the Lieutenancy, relations with the Grand Magisterium, with the Sections / Delegations and with members, the recruitment of Knights and Dames, as well as the





The new Vice Governor General for Europe, Jean-Pierre de Glutz (left), together with his predecessor, Giorgio Moroni Stampa, with at the center Donata Krethlow-Benziger, the new Lieutenant for Switzerland, of which all three are citizens.

organization of activities and their eventual succession.

Every morning, the celebration of Mass experienced in community gave a spiritual dimension to the event of the Consulta. A meditative oratory – exclusively staged on the evening of November 13 in the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (built to keep the relics of the Cross of Christ brought by Saint Helen from the Holy Land) – helped the Lieutenants to deepen the Christian meaning of their mission, in light of the journey of conversion of Bartolo Longo, the only lay person of the Order to have been beatified and a model for all the members. The Grand Master of the Order of Malta fraternally took part in the evening, alongside the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and other ecclesiastical personalities, including the Archbishop of Pompeii.

On the eve of the concluding audience with the Pope, the Lieutenants shared their reflections during a general assembly, following the speakers of the three groups: Enric Mas of Europe, Agnes Sheehan of

Australia and Vicky Downey of America. Essentially, it emerged that the Consulta favored the exchange of experiences between Lieutenants, contributing to strengthening the family spirit in the Order and the vitality of this pontifical institution. The ecclesial rootedness of the Order in the diocesan Churches was strongly emphasized, beyond the questions of technical organization, by presenting the Lieutenant as a man or a woman of the Church called to collaborate with the bishops and the clergy, as a “local ambassador” of the Church in the Holy Land. The summary offered by the Lieutenant General Borromeo based on the work of the Consulta,

emphasized the need for an improved definition of the role and responsibilities of the Lieutenant and more attention to their formation and training to offer Lieutenants the means to provide a free voluntary service with humility and efficacy.

Before the conclusion, the assembly welcomed some new leaders (who will take office from January 2019): the Vice Governor for Europe, Jean-Pierre de Glutz, and for North America, Thomas Pogge; their two predecessors – Giorgio Moroni Stampa and Patrick Powers – were greeted with a standing ovation.

During the papal audience, Pope Francis summarized in few but precise words the mission of the Lieutenants of the Order, declaring, “Do not forget that you are not a philanthropic entity committed to promoting the material and social improvement of recipients. You are called to place the evangelical love of your neighbour as the final aim of your works, to witness everywhere the goodness and care with which God loves everyone.”

François Vayne



HOLY SEE REPRESENTATIVES ENCOURAGE THE KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF THE WHOLE WORLD IN THE NAME OF THE POPE

Speaking at the opening session of the Consulta, the five-year assembly of the Order, Msgr. Paolo Borgia, Assessor of the Secretariat of State, thanked the Lieutenants for the charitable and apostolic service rendered to the Church in the Holy Land.

In the name of the Holy See, Msgr. Borgia encouraged the leaders and members of the Order to continue in their mission, recalling that they "have a status of prestige but of service." Moreover, the Assessor insisted on the important transmission "to the new generations of Knights and Dames of the rich human and spiritual patrimony that animated your predecessors and which animates yourselves. By proposing your particular ideals to you so many young people, it is possible to give a valid impulse to the Church's mission, creating effective formation opportunities that can promote an authentic spirit of service and know how to spread the perennial message of Christ with enthusiasm."

The next intervention was that of Fr. Oscar Marzo of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches who expressed the gratitude of Cardinal Sandri, prefect of this dicastery, for the support of the Knights and

Dames to the Christians of the Middle East through the ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for Oriental Churches). Recalling the Holy Father's words on the audience granted to the members of ROACO last June,

Father Marzo underlined how through the help sent it is possible "to guarantee the life of the Churches, pastoral activities and evangelization, social works and welfare. All this shows the face of the Church of Christ



Msgr. Paolo Borgia, Assessor of the Secretariat of State.

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Fr. Oscar Marzo, representative of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.



which announces the Gospel with words and deeds." In particular, Father Marzo spoke of the work carried out to help schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem where young Christians and Muslims study together, paving the way for a future of mutual respect and fruitful collaboration.



A PRESS CONFERENCE TO PRESENT THE CONSULTA BOOSTS AWARENESS OF THE ORDER'S MISSION

On 7 November 2018, a few days before the beginning of the Consulta, the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, was joined by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches – with whom the Order of the Holy Sepulchre cooperates mainly through the offices of ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for Oriental Churches) – and the Governor General of the Order, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, to present the program of the 2018 Consulta to the journalists at the Holy See Press Office. Lieutenant General, Professor Agostino Borromeo, and the Lieutenant for Switzerland, Professor Donata Maria Kretlow-Benziger were also present.

During his speech, widely reported by the press, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, said that, in respect of the different

competences, the communion of objectives between the Congregation presided over by him and the Order was manifest at various levels, from the most institutional to the most operational. "I am thinking above all of the presence of Cardinal O'Brien among the Members of the Dicastery, as well as the fact that OESSH is a member of ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for Oriental Churches), with a presence at the plenary table in June of the Governor General Ambassador Visconti di Modrone as well as his predecessor Prof. Agostino Borromeo, and annually the Order guarantees the financing of various development projects, assistance to the pastoral reality and more generally to the life of the Eastern Churches." Cardinal Sandri also expressed his gratitude to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre "for the extraordinary effort expressed – in collaboration with other



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organisms of the Holy See, starting from the Secretariat of State with the establishment of the Vatican Foundation St. John the Baptist – to contribute to the work of reorganization not only of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, bringing some offices to the level of international standards through the work of some specialized professionals, in addition to the decisive contribution that we hope will continue to reach the full sustainability of the University of Madaba, in Jordan.”

The press conference was an occasion for many journalists of various international publications to discover the many activities that the Order supports in the Holy Land and to discover the dynamism of the 64

peripheral structures of our Pontifical institution present in about 40 states of the world. In the following days news of the Order was present in the press, starting from the official information office of the Holy See, the Osservatore Romano (in Italian) and the VaticanNews website (in Italian, English and French) but also on press agencies and national media (such as the Ansa and Agence France Presse) and Catholic media (EWTN, Catholic News Service, Avvenire, I-media, Aci Stampa, Rome Reports, Vatican Insider ...) as well as on sites linked in particular to the Holy Land (such as the site of the Latin Patriarchate and Terrasanta.net which gives privilege to news related to the Custody of the Holy Land).

“THE ORDER IS ONE OF THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE UNIVERSAL EMBRACE OF THE CHURCH”: ABP. PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA TELLS THE CONSULTA

The Consulta afforded participants the opportunity to benefit from the presence of Abp. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. He shared some reflections regarding the situation in the Holy Land and willingly responded to the many questions that the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates addressed to him.

“I have already met with many of you in the Holy Land. This is a beautiful sign of your constant presence in that land but it is also what allows me to say that here I feel like I am among family, finding faces and stories that I am already familiar with and I am grateful to the Lord for this,” Abp. Pizzaballa began.

Recalling the divine nature of the Church, the Apostolic Administrator affirmed: “No one is indispensable and the Church in the

Holy Land even without the Order of the Holy Sepulchre would survive because it is the Lord who provides for everything. However – he continued clearly – most of the Church’s activities in the Holy Land are possible thanks to your presence and support. For this we thank the Lord and each of you, because if today the Church of the Holy Land, despite all its limitations and problems, is still able to be an energetic and vital expression to the presence of God in this land, it is also thanks to you.”

The activities carried out not only through individual projects but above all in the Patriarchate’s parishes, schools and hospitals, are closely followed with affection and attention by the members of the Order. “We are more often faced with problems and tend to become a little negative compared to our reality. Yet when we feel like saying that



Abp. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, gives priority in his diocese to pastoral actions, especially those for young people whom the Church accompanies and supports with perseverance to help them to start families and stay in the Holy Land.



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sustainable opportunities and projects: "In Southern Jordan, small businesses have been set up where some women make cheese and ricotta. These families were already leaving to go to Amman and instead, in this way, they managed to stay. Initiatives like this need initial support but then it is important that they

we cannot do enough, a Lieutenant arrives with his group asking us to find a new initiative, which forces us in a certain sense to get back into the game and really see all the beauty that is there, beyond the problems. Your eyes, which are so passionate, help us to see our reality from constantly fresh perspective."

The Apostolic Administrator did not hide the fact that churches in the Middle East are facing many challenges: for example, the decline in participation in the sacraments due in part to the low birth rate caused by the problems facing couples who want to form families in realities such as Gaza but also in Jerusalem. As for the problem of unemployment, Abp. Pizzaballa insists it can be countered through the promotion of self-

are able to support themselves independently."

Beyond thanks for the material support offered by the Order, what most touched the hearts of the participants in the Consulta was understanding how much our prayer and interest is not a secondary aspect for our brothers and sisters for the Holy Land: "The Order is one of the expressions of the universal embrace of the Church – declared Archbishop Pizzaballa – and knowing that there are 30,000 Knights and Dames in the world means knowing that there at least 30,000 people who are interested in and pray for the Church in the Holy Land. This fact is a great comfort, it tells us that we are not alone."

Elena Dini



THE *EXSULTET* ORATORY INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

An opera that invites wonder, reflection and conversion of those who wish to allow the light of Christ to transfigure their lives.

In the context of the Consulta, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien – Grand Master – commissioned a cultural work to remember the pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Therefore, Marcello Bronzetti "ilFedeleamato" (Faithful Beloved) was asked to compose a sacred oratory, as he had done on several occasions, for example with the *Mother* oratory for the official celebrations of the canonization of Mother Teresa of Calcutta or with the *Aquerò* oratory, for the 160th anniversary of the apparitions of Lourdes. This is how *ExsulteT* was born, an oratory inspired by the Holy Sepulchre, put into music and words by narrator, soloists, chorus and orchestra.

It was represented for the first time on the evening of November 13, 2018 in the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme in Rome, where the relics of the cross of Jesus are venerated, brought from the Holy Land by Saint Helen – patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – and kept in this same place of worship, with one of the nails of the crucifixion.

The date of November 13 marks the recurrence of the arrival of the image of the Virgin of the Rosary to the Marian city of Pompeii, founded by Bartolo Longo, the only lay member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to have been beatified.

In the presence of the Lieutenants of the





The *Exsultet* oratory was much appreciated for its professional quality and spiritual depth. The work, which featured Saint Helen and Bartolo Longo, brought together the Grand Masters of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Order of Malta, in a shared fraternal enthusiasm.



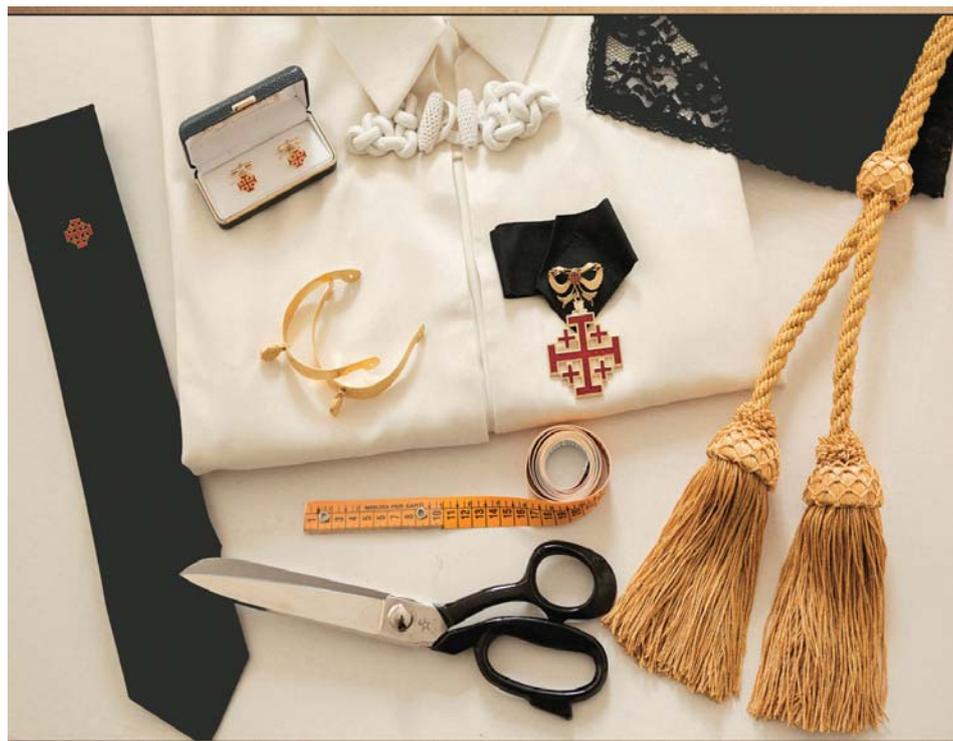
Order, from six continents, and of numerous personalities, including the Grand Master of the Order of Malta and the Archbishop of Pompeii, the fifty voluntary singers of the choir "Fideles et Amati" – directed by Tina Vasaturo – gave voice to the interior pilgrimage of Blessed Bartolo Longo, led by Saint Helen, mother of the Emperor Constantine, through the Gospel story of the Resurrection. During the evening, the *Exsultet* oratory allowed the members of the Order and friends – united in prayer – to ask the Lord for the grace to make their life a Holy Land, following the example of Bartolo Longo.

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On request, this work can be represented

in other places, thus continuing to spread the spiritual message of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and to make better known the vocation of the members themselves to daily sanctity.

For more information, contact **Marcello Bronzetti:**
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THE FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY QUEEN OF PALESTINE: AN OCCASION FOR FRATERNITY

Taking advantage of the presence of the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates of the peripheral articulations of the Order in the various continents, this year the feast in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine was held on November 15 at the Palazzo della Rovere, headquarters of the Grand Magisterium of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, together with the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and Pro Grand Prior of the Order, Abp. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Abp. Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin,

Grand Prior of France, Msgr. Maurizio Malvestiti, ad interim Regent for Northern Italy, Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo welcomed the many friends who came to celebrate the feast of the Patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, chief among them Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin.

Like every year, the reception was an opportunity to exchange experiences and promote greater awareness about the life of the Order. In particular, Rome based friends of the Order were able to experience the



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Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, honored the reception organized in honor of Our Lady of Palestine at the Palazzo della Rovere with his presence.





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Among the guests present at the reception, Msgr. Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States at the Secretariat of State, speaking with the Grand Master and his closest collaborators.

encounter to the heart of the Order's mission: support for the Church in the Holy Land, the Land of Jesus and his mother, the Land where we can retrace the steps of the history of salvation. Let us gladly recall the words that the Holy Father entrusted to us on the following day (November 16) on the occasion of the audience granted us: "To the work of material aid to people who are so harshly tried, I urge you to always associate

internationality of our Pontifical institution, thanks to the presence of the heads of the various Lieutenancies.

The decision to gather together under the mantle of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine always allows us to bring the joy of

prayer, to constantly invoke Our Lady, whom you venerate with the title of 'Our Lady of Palestine'. She is the caring Mother and the Help of Christians, for whom she obtains strength and comfort in sorrow from the Lord."

SHARING AND ENCOUNTER: LIEUTENANTS REACT TO THE CONSULTA

The five-year Consulta assembly has certainly been an opportunity for participants not only to meet the Grand Master and all the members of the Grand Magisterium, but also to get to know each other better and to reflect and share their thoughts first hand on the theme chosen for the meeting: the role of the Lieutenant.

Agnes Sheehan is Lieutenant for Australia Victoria and took office only a few weeks before the Roman appointment. She confides, "As the name suggests, our meeting aims to consult the entire leadership of the Order. Being a new Lieutenant the theme chosen for the Consulta was very interesting for me. I learned a lot from the sessions,

working groups and, in particular, from sharing with other Lieutenants."

Nuno de Bragança van Uden, Lieutenant for Portugal since 2105, underlined the importance of this meeting for the next choices of the Order: "the Consulta allows us to exchange ideas. There can be different problems but also many common issues and together we can look for new shared solutions." Reflecting on the personal relationships that have been established, de Bragança van Uden comments: "the Order has everything to gain from the interactions between Lieutenants, even on a personal level. Perhaps you can discover that what one Lieutenant is doing in a certain Lieutenancy could also be useful in your





The Lieutenant for Mexico, Gustavo José Guadalupe Rincón Hernández, during an interview

for the warm welcome and family atmosphere that pervaded every moment of the four intense days of work.

Looking forward and thinking about returning home, Gustavo José Guadalupe Rincón Hernández of Mexico said with a smile: "I will return to Mexico with new strength to continue the mission entrusted to us.. Sheehan from Australia Victoria echoed these sentiments: "We have the blessing of having 30,000 members and for us Lieutenants it is important to return to them, share what we learned during the Consulta and continue our mission to support people, especially Christians in the Holy Land."

own."

The Northern USA Lieutenant of Honor, Thomas Pogge, recalled the possibility that the 16 North American Lieutenancies have to meet each year. "But here we have had the opportunity to meet and greet the Lieutenants from all over the world and discover that we have the same devotion and that we all try to progress in our spiritual life."

On the first evening of the Consulta, the participants of the meeting were invited by the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien to the debut performance of the sacred Oratory *ExsulteT* (see page XVII), especially created for this occasion. "It was really amazing!" says Andreas Leiner, Lieutenant for Austria, thanking the Grand Magisterium



The new Vice Governor General for America, Professor Thomas Pogge (right) along with his predecessor Patrick Powers, before the audience with Pope Francis.

FIND OUT MORE:

On our website www.oessh.va, you will find a special page dedicated to the 2018 Consulta. In addition to the various articles on the assembly, you will find some videos with the thanks received from the institutions of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem addressed to the members of the Order. During Christmas time we will be sharing these on social media - follow the hashtag #ChristmasOESSHHolyLand - and the website to watch these videos and experience one of the highpoints in the life of the Church in communion with our brothers and sisters of the Holy Land, remembering them in a special way in our prayers.



TOWARDS A “LIEUTENANT’S MANUAL”: THE FRUITS OF THE 2018 CONSULTA

An interview with the Lieutenant General, Professor Agostino Borromeo, who coordinated the 2018 Consulta and who read the final report of the five-year assembly, which will be summarized and published in excerpts in coming issues.

Professor Borromeo, can you give an overview of the recently held Consulta?

My initial observation is that the mechanisms and methodology used for the work of the Consulta have borne abundant fruit and what we have done in these days is of considerable importance. Our work took place in an atmosphere of authentic fraternity. As members of the Order, we feel part of a single extended family all over the

world and treat each other as brothers and sisters. The interchange of experiences has shown us once more the vitality of our Order. The Order is a reality in which members can also disagree but without ever losing the familial character. This aspect of fraternity is certainly important beyond all concrete results that are nevertheless positive.

The participants of the Consulta based their work on an *Instrumentum Laboris* produced by the commission that you directed. What were the main chapters submitted to the attention of Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates?

The *Instrumentum Laboris* aimed at helping the participants in the Consulta



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The Lieutenant General, Agostino Borromeo, the coordinator of Consulta 2018, one of the positions of trust that the Grand Master has given to him.



reflect on the theme of "The role of the Lieutenant in the mission of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem" was sent in advance so that the heads of the peripheral structures of the Order gathered in Rome during our assembly could study it and begin to prepare their observations, corrections and additions to be discussed in the three planned working groups. Among the topics dealt with was the appointment and primary tasks of the Lieutenant; collaboration with the Grand Prior of Lieutenancy; relations with the Grand Magisterium, in addition to those with the Sections, Delegations and members; recruitment of new members; right up to the end of their mandate and the identification of a successor.

During the working sessions the idea of having a "Lieutenant's Manual" was often mentioned. What would it entail?

The need for a "Lieutenant's Manual" was widely expressed, and we will work to this end. However, the document that will emerge from our discussions will not address all of the issues presented. This because in some cases the proposals put forward belong to the regulatory sphere, which is not the competence of such a manual. From a legislative standpoint, reference must be made to the Constitution or existing regulation that establishes norms for particular matters. The manual, on the other hand, wishes to collect those traditions, which, although not definitively codified, nevertheless constitute a practice transmitted orally by Lieutenant to Lieutenant. Where there are traditions that have borne fruit, there is no reason to eliminate them. The Lieutenant's Manual will therefore be a guide created thanks to

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the contribution of the concrete experiences, on the ground, of the Lieutenants; it will not be the seat where new rules are established.

Can you outline some of the themes that emerged during discussions among the Lieutenants?

The centrality of the spiritual dimension in the life of the Lieutenancy clearly emerged. The spiritual guide of the Lieutenancy is exclusively the Prior but, at the same time, it is evident that in order to carry out the initiatives proposed by him, the Lieutenant must implement all the forces that allow the Grand Prior to exercise his spiritual and religious functions. Another of the issues that the Lieutenants emphasized was that of the relations between Lieutenancies and the Grand Magisterium. There are certainly ways to develop communications, which are often complicated by the amount of information that is exchanged.

Another of the aspects that requires further work is the handing over phase to new Lieutenants so that they can begin the operational aspect of their mandate with previous issues in mind. The Lieutenants have also shown interest in the subject of



disciplinary sanctions in order to have a common way of responding to the different situations that can be created within the peripheral structures of the Order. There was also talk of formation courses for new Lieutenants or the possibility of a period of support from the outgoing Lieutenant. Finally, many have shown interest in the question of young members: how to invite them and how to make their entry into the Order easier even from a concrete point of view.

The Grand Master specifically tasked you with the organization of the Consulta. Now that it has concluded, what message would you like to give to participants?

First of all, I would like to assure those involved that all the requests made will be

carefully examined and, as far as possible, integrated into a document. Secondly, I would like to remind everyone that the manual that we will produce will be a document that can be continually updated and improved: all criticisms and observations will therefore be welcome. Finally, on behalf of the commission responsible for drafting the text, I wanted to thank all the participants for their commitment. Visiting the various working groups, I had the opportunity to witness peaceful but passionate confrontations and this is the sign that our discussion touches things we believe in, which we hold dear and to which we commit our time and energy convinced of our call and mission as Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Interview by Elena Dini

PRAYING WITH THE GRAND MASTER

Among the material prepared for the Consulta, each Lieutenant and Magistral Delegate received the new spiritual booklet produced by the Grand Magisterium: this year it is a guide to prayer with the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. Inspired by his words, you will find twelve themes – one per month, in a sort of perpetual calendar – that closely touch the life and experience of the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The booklet can be downloaded on the Grand Magisterium website (www.oessh.va) in the MEDIA section. Accompanied in prayer by the meditations of Cardinal Edwin O'Brien and practical reflections, we prepare ourselves to begin a New Year together in faith. Happy reading and we wish you well on your journey!



ORDO EQUESTRIS
SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

PRAYING with the GRAND MASTER



By the Communications Office of the Grand Magisterium

