

JERUSALEM CROSS

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Message from the Grand Master

“I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY 2021”

After a difficult year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has led to countless deaths, crises in relationships, economic problems that have spared no one, the so-called ‘liquidity’ of time brings us into a new year, 2021, full of expectations and hopes. We have all been led to reflect on the essential things in life and on giving meaning to what truly matters: one’s own identity, relationship with God and with society, the poor, the environment, the diverse – even culturally and religiously speaking – and our future.

And it is not different for us, Dames and Knights of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Our commitment to the Holy Land, despite the general crisis, has not diminished, rather it has been strengthened in line with the responsibility that we take to heart and which does us honour. Although unable to go on pilgrimages, to meet together, participate or organise fruitful initiatives, our formative work did not fail and indeed our generosity was strengthened.

We have a new Statute as an organizational reference point; further development in our spirituality; future plans in the

making for adequate Regulations and Liturgical Rites, as well as the ongoing reflections on the introduction of young people into the Order. Moreover, we are carrying out a careful evaluation on how to offer affective, spiritual and associative adhesion to men and women religious who have special sensitivity for the Holy Sepulchre and the Holy Land, without mentioning the many projects for the support of Christian communities in the Land of Jesus. We are also attentive to situations of urgent humanitarian



“2021 opens with renewed trust in God, knowing that everything is a Blessing,” says the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. (Our photo: Cardinal Fernando Filoni presiding over the annual Petition to the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii, on October 4, at the Marian shrine founded by Blessed Bartolo Longo, Knight of the Order).

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GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

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need so that our sense of charity be inclusive.

Therefore, 2021 opens with renewed trust in God, knowing that everything is a Blessing. So let us welcome, in this vision, and extend to everyone the Blessing of the Most High in the same way in which Moses extended it to the People of God:

"The Lord bless you and keep you!

The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Nm 6: 24-26).

I believe this to be the best greeting that we can give to one another for every day of the new year, and it is in this sense that I wish you all a happy 2021!

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

The Order in Union with the Universal Church

A SPECIAL YEAR DEDICATED TO ST. JOSEPH

"The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts."

The Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (with a father's heart), signed on December 8 by Pope Francis, invokes a special year dedicated to Saint Joseph, until December 8, 2021. The Holy Father thus

remembers the 150th anniversary of proclamation of St. Joseph as Patron of the universal Church by Blessed Pius IX.

"After Mary, the Mother of God, no saint is mentioned more frequently in the papal



magisterium than Joseph, her spouse," notes Pope Francis. He continues "each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble."

By inviting us first of all to contemplate in Joseph a "tender and loving father" who taught Jesus to walk, holding him by the hand and revealing the tenderness of God, the Pope insists on the importance of learning "to welcome our weakness with deep tenderness."

"All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty", he writes, adding that "Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses." "He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture," the Holy Father recalls.

Pope Francis continues by evoking Joseph as "an obedient father," who in all of life's circumstances was able to pronounce his "fiat", just like Mary at the Annunciation and like Jesus in Gethsemane: "During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. That will was to be his daily food (cf. *Jn* 4:34)." The Pope again speaks of Joseph as "an accepting father": "Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history."

"Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the



"O Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father, and guide us on the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen."

disappointments that follow," comments the Holy Father with a wisdom full of humanity. He adds that "the spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that *explains*, but *accepts*." "Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning," the Pope writes paternally.

The carpenter of Nazareth is also a "creatively courageous father" who knows how to transform problems into an opportunity, always relying on Providence. Recalling his being a "working father", Francis considers that "the loss of employment that affects so many of our brothers and sisters, and has increased as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, should serve as a summons to review our priorities."

Finally, Joseph is a "father in the shadows". "Being a father entails introducing children to life and reality. Not holding them back, being overprotective or possessive, but rather making them capable of deciding for themselves, enjoying freedom and exploring new possibilities," notes the successor of Peter, praising the fact that Joseph has always known how to decentralize and "focus [...] instead on the lives of Mary and



Jesus." "In every exercise of our fatherhood, we should always keep in mind that it has nothing to do with possession, but is rather a 'sign' pointing to a greater fatherhood. In a way, we are all like Joseph: a shadow of the heavenly Father, who 'makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust' (Mt 5:45). And a shadow that follows his Son."

In his conclusion, the Pope tells us that "the purpose of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal."

In the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, not only those Knights who are fathers of families but also the pastors – fathers from whom we receive spiritual support – and the Dames, we will all have the opportunity to deepen our reflections on this Apostolic Letter. It will help each and every one to draw closer to St. Joseph, "this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience" today.

F.V.

PRAYERS TO ST. JOSEPH PROPOSED BY THE HOLY FATHER

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
 Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 To you God entrusted his only Son;
 in you Mary placed her trust;
 with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
 show yourself a father
 and guide us in the path of life.
 Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
 and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

* * *

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.



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CARDINALS MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

A public ordinary consistory was held on November 28, on the eve of the first Sunday of Advent, during which the Pope created thirteen new cardinals from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and North America. They include two Knights Grand Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre: these are Cardinal Marcello Semeraro (*left*), the new prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, and Cardinal Wilton Daniel Gregory (*right*), Archbishop of Washington. With immense love for the Church, the Knights and Dames of the whole world spiritually accompany these

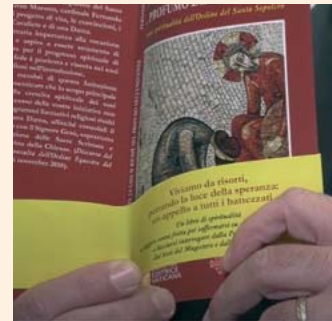


two close collaborators of the Supreme Pontiff, as well as the entire college of cardinals. During the mass of November 29 in St. Peter's Basilica, in the presence of the new cardinals, the Holy Father particularly insisted on the vigilance of prayer and charity. He described charity as "the beating heart of the Christian": "Just as one cannot live without a heartbeat, so one cannot be a Christian without charity... these are the only things that win us the victory, since they are already aiming towards the future, the day of the Lord, when all else will pass away and love alone will remain."

THE FIRST BOOK ON THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. A spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre (88 pages; 8.00 €). The first book on the spirituality of the Order, written by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, is finally available in bookstores in Italian. During 2021, it will also be available in English, French, Spanish, and German.

But why choose this title? The Grand Master himself explains that the title, "is taken from what Mary of Bethany did six days before the death of Jesus. She anointed his feet, and Jesus praised her actions. And at the same time, he left to the Church the duty of continuing this same mission, when he said: You will always have the poor with you, you will have the Church with you, and you will continue to anoint the steps in the life of the Church, of the poor, of all those who will come to join you. There you have it: our spirituality begins here, then comes the mystery of Jesus; his passion, the institution of the Eucharist, death, resurrection, reflecting the most significant aspects." (Vatican News). In the first part, the book addresses the biblical dimension, then, in the second part, the more purely ecclesiological dimension, and recalls the commitments that the Order has made to the Holy Land.



Starting from the Holy Sepulchre, the centre point of our faith, the call addressed to all the baptised – not only to Knights and Dames – who, through this text, can find a path for meditation, is to live in the Risen One, as bearers of the light of hope.



Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

TWO MAJOR EVENTS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF PALESTINE

The feast of Our Lady of Palestine, Patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, is celebrated every year on October 25.

On that occasion, the Grand Master of the Order usually welcomes his guests at Palazzo della Rovere, in Rome. The day for that annual reception is always fixed closed to the feast, as part of the Grand Magisterium's Fall meeting which brings together the Order's authorities.

In 2020, due to the Covid-19 health crisis and the restrictions imposed, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, proposed to live the Order's feast in an even deeper way, allowing everyone to participate through communications means. In that spirit, he celebrated a mass in St Peter's Basilica, for the intentions of Christians and all the inhabitants of the Holy Land, and also for the Knights and Dames. The mass was held on October 21, at 11 am, at the Altar of the

Chair of Saint Peter, and was broadcast live on the Facebook page of the Order's Grand Magisterium and followed by members and friends of the Order from all over the world who expressed their closeness with more than 1300 likes. Also, on the afternoon of October 21, at 6 pm, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, then Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, held a conference on the following theme: *"Holy Land and Middle East. Current events and possible perspectives"*. In compliance with the laws for the containment of the pandemic, the conference took place in the absence of public and was broadcast live in Italian on the Facebook page and in English on the website of the Order's Grand Magisterium with over 15,000 views in total.

The Grand Magisterium's meeting took place the following day, virtually, under the coordination of Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.



Cardinal Fernando Filoni celebrated mass in St. Peter's Basilica on the feast of the Patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.



THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM GATHERED ONLINE FOR ITS FALL MEETING

The Fall meeting of the Grand Magisterium was held the day after the celebration of Mass in honour of Our Lady of Palestine, presided over by the Grand Master of the Order in Saint Peter's Basilica on October 21. Members met virtually, due to the ongoing health crisis, while the Grand Master, the Lieutenant General, the Governor General, the Chancellor, and the then Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem participated live from Palazzo della Rovere in Rome (please find here the Grand Master's and Governor General's messages: <https://tinyurl.com/y3x55vrt>).

The meeting emphasised the willingness of those responsible for the Order to step up



support for the Holy Land by increasing the budget by 3.5% next year, building on the undeniable generosity of the Knights and Dames, splendidly demonstrated in recent months through the extraordinary help given by about 3 million euros to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, in order to respond to the humanitarian needs of its faithful.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE ORDER'S INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS DURING THE PANDEMIC

The final month of this difficult year registered two important institutional events of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre: the meeting of the Latin American Lieutenants on December 10 and that of the European Lieutenants on December 11.

They hadn't taken place for a long time in the hope of being able to do them in person, but the ongoing health emergency forced us to hold the meetings online. This afforded

us the opportunity to extend participation to the members of the Grand Magisterium, which in turn allowed us to broaden the scope of sharing information, something that hasn't been possible in the past.

By analysing the consequences and effects of the Coronavirus, we have tried to capture some positive aspects of these last two meetings, in addition to those held during the year after the outbreak of the pandemic.



Already the Spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium, thanks to the formula of sending written contributions to Rome by the various members, had allowed, in addition to a significant saving in expenditure, to have precise documentation in Italian and English on what was analysed and discussed.

The subsequent meeting of the North American Lieutenants was the first experiment of connecting virtually, very successful, but objectively facilitated by the use of only one language, English.

The meeting of the Grand Magisterium in the autumn had to reconcile the needs of great distances between members residing in Europe, Australia and America, but despite the differences in time zones, and the commendable sacrifice of those who had to intervene in the middle of their own night-time, it allowed a complete and constructive dialogue with a significant saving in travel and accommodation expenses compared to the past.

The two December meetings represented a further step forward from a technical point of view, having to provide for translations into four languages for Latin Americans (Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and English) and in five for Europeans (Italian, German, English, French, Spanish).

In the first of the two meetings, all six Lieutenants (Argentina, Brazil-Rio de Janeiro, Brazil-San Paolo, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela) were able to intervene in a broad and in-depth manner. Given the numerous participants (36), the speeches were limited to seven speakers the following day, who acted as spokespeople for their own group and presented the information on the problems common to their geographic/linguistic group.

All the meetings were introduced by a



During the meetings of the Latin American and European Lieutenants, the Governor General, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, coordinated the debates, encouraging the exchange and sharing of experiences between the Lieutenancies of the Order.

prayer from the Cardinal Grand Master and benefited from his final reflection of great encouragement and assured guidance. His Eminence was also able to present his book on the spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre (which is available in Italian in bookstores and which will soon be available with translations into various languages) and the "Ritual for the Liturgies" which he drafted for the benefit of all Lieutenancies.

In a live link with Jerusalem and Glasgow, we heard updates from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate and the President of the Holy Land Commission.

In this regard, the issues of greatest interest to the Order were addressed in a constructive and proactive atmosphere, such as: the rescheduling of activities as a result of the pandemic; the outcome exceeding expectations of the appeal for a Covid-19 Extraordinary Fund; the definition of commitments deriving from the New Statute and the prospect of an update of the General Regulations; the problem of the aging of the average age of the members and the connected one of the initiatives in favour of the younger generations; the initial formation of candidates and the recovery of those who leave; the deepening of the





At the beginning of December, the Latin American and European Lieutenants held their annual virtual meeting, both chaired by the Grand Master and the Governor General, live from the Palazzo della Rovere in Rome. The pandemic has obviously led to a slowdown in activities everywhere; however, the spiritual life of the members deepened, especially thanks to the reflections of the Grand Master, widely published and shared in five languages through the website and social networks of the Grand Magisterium.

spiritual aspect of our life and definition of uniform liturgies; relations with the clergy; the need to intensify communications; administrative transparency; disciplinary aspects; relations with the other Orders; information on projects in the Holy Land; restoration work of Palazzo della Rovere; the organization of promotional events; the hoped-for resumption of pilgrimages; the results of the 2018 Consulta and the expansion of the Order to new countries.

Certainly, the climate of dialogue is not as warm when communicating through screens, compared to a past that also allowed common moments of prayer and informal meetings on the side-lines, as well as moments of conviviality that favoured fraternity. For this reason, I encouraged discussions also between small groups of Lieutenants, united by linguistic affinity or similar problems, with the support and

coordination of the competent Vice Governors, and reiterated my full availability for dialogue from Rome both by email and by phone.

In conclusion, would appear that if Covid-19 has certainly introduced many critical variables, eliminating ceremonies, meetings and pilgrimages, it has also stimulated communication and determined some cost savings. Finally, the exchange of information between the political-programmatic work of the Grand Magisterium and the field activities of the various Lieutenancies, in the many geographical areas, registered a significant improvement this year. And this element should not be underestimated.

Therefore, let us not be discouraged and continue on our journey, enlightened by a sure faith and generous charity.

Leonardo Visconti d Modrone
Governor General



DEATH OF GIUSEPPE DALLA TORRE, LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF HONOUR OF THE ORDER, DISTINGUISHED JURIST AND ACADEMIC

On December 3, 2020, Professor Count Giuseppe Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, Lieutenant General of Honour and Knight of the Collar of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem died. A man of great intellectual, moral and spiritual stature, he was a Knight of the Order since 1991 and served in the various positions he held with dedication and generosity, first as a member of the Grand Magisterium and then as Lieutenant General (2011-2017).

Not to be forgotten, he was Rector of LUMSA University (1991-2014) and President of the Vatican City State Court (1997-2019).

The Pope, informed of the death of the "dear" professor, expressed his "spiritual closeness" to his wife Nicoletta and daughter Paola, recalling his qualities as a Christian and professional with "a grateful

heart." Holy See Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, added his personal condolences during the funeral presided over in the Vatican Basilica, at the altar of the Chair, in the presence of the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, the Lieutenant General, Professor Agostino Borromeo, and the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.

In his homily at the funeral, which was profoundly moving, Cardinal Pietro Parolin described his "friend Giuseppe" as a "good, humble and wise man" and a "true disciple of Jesus."

The Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Filoni, has expressed the gratitude and closeness to his family in prayer and affection, inviting every Knight and Dame to raise prayers of suffrage for the repose of the soul of Professor Giuseppe Dalla Torre.



The funeral of the Lieutenant General of Honour was presided over by Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of His Holiness Pope Francis.



The Order and the Holy Land

MSGR. PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA, LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM

Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, and the authorities of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as all the Knights and Dames in the world, have been pleased with the appointment of Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa as the new Patriarch of Jerusalem and Grand Prior of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, a title attached to his new function. The news is a good surprise because of the bonds of trust developed between the Order and Msgr. Pizzaballa during his delicate mission as Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate accomplished with success since the summer of 2016.

Therefore, the Holy Father has decided to offer Msgr. Pizzaballa the very important role of Patriarch of the Mother Church which is located in Jerusalem, thereby establishing him as the pastor and leader of the Latin Catholic community present in the

vast territory including Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Cyprus.

Father Pizzaballa had been Custos since 2004, but his service to the Custody, as a Franciscan friar, had already started in 1999.

Before being Custos, the new Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem had worked on the publication of the Roman Missal in Hebrew (in 1995), serving then as Vicar General to the Latin Patriarch for the pastoral care of Hebrew-speaking Catholics in Israel.

Present since 1990 in the Holy Land, Msgr. Pizzaballa, who is only 55-years old, has already spent more than half of his life in the Holy Land where he settled after his solemn profession in the Order of Friars Minor and ordination to the priesthood in Bologna from the hands of Cardinal Giacomo Biffi. Native of Cologno al Serio, in the Province of Bergamo, he is the eighth Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem of Italian origin,

in the list of the ten prelates who have held this function since the restoration of the Patriarchate by Pope Pius IX in 1847. The Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre keep entrusting his ministry to their Patroness, Our Lady Queen of Palestine, whose liturgical Feast providentially coincided with his appointment as Patriarch.

F.V.



Archbishop Pizzaballa in the streets of Jerusalem, during the procession leading to the Holy Sepulchre, where he made his official entrance at the beginning of December.



THE GRAND MASTER CONGRATULATES THE NEW PATRIARCH

A vast territory between Syria and the Sinai desert with an ancient name, Palestine was chosen to welcome divine revelation and Jesus' life; a land which still evokes extraordinary beauty and spiritual attraction, geography and history of salvation. At the same time, it is a melting pot of peoples and religions, tensions and conflicts, for centuries home to fervent Christian populations, monastic communities, renewed ecumenical commitment, and relations with Jews and Muslims.

His Excellency Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Franciscan, becomes today the new Latin Patriarch.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, of which he is now the Grand Prior, extends its warmest wishes.

The Order intends to support him in his



The Holy Father presented the pallium to the new Patriarch of Jerusalem, during a mass celebrated in the chapel of Saint Martha's House.

pastoral service and welcome his suggestions in order to be significantly involved in the vocation of Jesus' Land as an open and welcoming place, loved by all, where people and hopes coexist.

Congratulations.

Fernando Cardinal Filoni



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A LOOKBACK AT 2020 IN THE HOLY LAND

We share some excerpts of the reflections of Sami El-Yousef, CEO of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which retrace the salient moments and the important initiatives of these complex months of 2020 that have allowed the Christian communities of the Holy Land to be supported in difficulties and continue to be a seed of hope in their land.

"In the humanitarian area, the suffering multiplied exponentially, and we had to adjust our efforts to reach the largest possible number of people who were suffering as a result of the pandemic. The main programs of support continued

uninterrupted and increased including our medicines, medical emergencies, educational support, social assistance, refugee and migrants support, job creation in Gaza, and support to marginalized communities in East Jerusalem. In addition, and due to the unprecedented generosity towards the two appeals launched in May, we were able to support thousands of families with basic humanitarian needs and tuition support."

"As for the educational pillar of the LPJ, the teaching and learning process to some 20,000 students attending 44 schools in Jordan, Palestine and Israel continued through the dedication of over 1,795 staff who worked very hard to adapt to online teaching almost overnight without much

preparation, then go back to modified in-class education then adjust again to some blended educational combination."

"The pastoral activities continued at various levels depending on governmental regulations which seemed stricter in Israel than in



Current issues for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem have been dominated by the health crisis arising from the pandemic, and the need to come to the aid of a hard-hit Catholic community.



neighboring Palestine and Jordan where semi-normalcy continued. Activities involving large numbers of people were all curtailed including summer camp activities, big celebrations surrounding major feasts, weddings, and funerals. However, contact was maintained between the priests and the faithful, and many online activities were arranged including the streaming of masses."

"As we got closer to the end of the year, we were happy to learn of the decision of His Holiness to appoint Archbishop Pizzaballa as the 10th Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem since the re-establishment of the Latin Patriarchate in 1847. [...] His

appointment ensures that all the hard work of the past four years will continue uninterrupted without any delay to ensure that the LPJ of the future stands on solid ground from a financial and administrative perspective to tackle the many challenges that remain."

"In closing, allow me to extend our gratitude and appreciation to our generous donors from around the world, and in a very specific way all those who supported us extraordinarily through the two appeals for their generous moral and financial support without which our work would have been impossible."

"NOT ONE CHILD WITHOUT A TOY"

This Christmas will certainly be different from the ones we experienced in the past years. But no less heartfelt or open to solidarity with those most in need, particularly through small gestures. The Lieutenancy for Western Spain launched the solidarity campaign "Not one child without a toy in the Holy Land" open to Knights and Dames but also friends of the Order and all people of good will. It may have been a small initiative with respect to large projects but it is one example of concretely bringing warmth and closeness to the little ones of the land of Jesus in a year that has been marked not only by the pandemic but also by the ensuing economic crisis.



During the Christmas period in particular, the children of the Holy Land were the first to benefit from the support given to the local Church by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.



The Life of the Lieutenancies

WELCOMING THE PALESTINIAN DIASPORA INTO THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Amal Catherine Shomali – Chancellor of the Canada-Montréal Lieutenancy – sent us an account of the recent Investiture of a Knight from Palestine. We publish some passages of this moving text, which invites other Lieutenancies to involve the Palestinian community in the annual feast dedicated to Our Lady of Palestine, Patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Vigil at Arms and Investiture Ceremonies of the Canada-Montreal Lieutenancy were held on November 14 and 15, 2020 at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral and presided by Msgr. Christian Lépine, Grand Prior and Archbishop of Montréal, Québec, Canada. Due to the limitations imposed by the Health authorities, both ceremonies were live streamed through the Cathedral's YouTube channel as well as the Lieutenancy Facebook page.

Three members were welcomed. Among them Knight Gilbert Jaar, an Engineer from

the little town of Bethlehem, he immigrated to Canada in 1982 and studied at McGill University. The Jaar family members were parishioners of the Church of the Nativity, St. Catherine parish, in Bethlehem, Palestine. Like many Christian Palestinians, Gilbert and his siblings decided to leave the hardship of the occupation in search of a better place. They possessed a good solid education and were able to quickly adapt to Quebec society, they perfected their French and English and all three are excelling in their careers. Sir Gilbert is the third member of the Order in Canada of Palestinian origin and from the archdiocese of Jerusalem.

There are many Palestinians in the diaspora, all over the world, who were students in the schools of the LPJ as well as former parishioners of the Churches of the archdiocese of Jerusalem. Because of their solid education acquired in these schools, they are for most very successful but do not seem to have a link with the local Lieutenancies where they reside.

The Lieutenancies all over the world need to find a way to reach out to this community



Investiture of Knights and Dames in the Canada-Montreal Lieutenancy.



and the best way to attract them is through the celebration of the annual feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine. This will enable the Palestinians in the diaspora to feel the support and solidarity of the Lieutenancies to their homeland and cause. This will incite them to remember and realize the role the Knights and Dames have always played in the survival of the Church of the Holy Land as many do not even know of the existence of the Lieutenancies and how much their financial support enables the archdiocese in Jerusalem to sustain itself.

By making this link, by building bonds through local masses, conferences as well as social and cultural gatherings or perhaps by sharing a good Palestinian meal, all these efforts would entice the Palestinians in the

diaspora to want to also support the work of the Order. This will encourage them to be on the giving end instead of the receiving end of the equation like it was in the past when they were in the Holy Land.

We began, in the Montreal Lieutenancy, to involve the Palestinian community in our annual mass to Our Patroness Queen of Palestine where the hymns are all chanted in Arabic and a small Mediterranean snack is shared after mass where many of our members get to exchange with them and appreciate their participation and presence. The Palestinians present start then to understand that our capes and medals are a call to service to the Mission of the Holy Land. We hope that this will open the door to other Lieutenancies to new opportunities.

A VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE IN THIS TIME OF PANDEMIC

On December 3, 2020, the Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain organised a virtual pilgrimage. The Knights and Dames, joining via nearly 80 computer screens, experienced a profound time of communion with the Holy Land, at a time when physical pilgrimages are impossible. After a greeting from the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, Cardinal Lluís Martínez-Sistach, Archbishop Emeritus of Barcelona, Father Joaquim Gras, Ecclesiastical Knight of the Lieutenancy and expert guide to the Holy Land, led a vast virtual tour with the help of a detailed photographic PowerPoint. Throughout the virtual pilgrimage, stories from the life of Jesus were vividly brought to life in each of the places visited. Participants were completely absorbed as they followed the pilgrimage not only because of the evocative commentary but also because this online spiritual experience took place in the privacy of their own homes. Lieutenant Juan Carlos de Balle closed the event by thanking the production team for their help and work. The YouTube video <https://youtu.be/aIDiy5rMwpY> can be seen on the Lieutenancy website and is also available in Spanish on the Grand Magisterium website.



New means of communication make it possible to experience a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in a different way, meaning the flame of communion between the members of the Order and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem can continue to burn.

