

News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

Cardinal Ratzinger's keywords from the “PRO ELIGENDO ROMANO PONTIFICE” Mass on 18th April

“... How many doctrinal streams we have experienced in the last few decades, how many ideological currents, how many ways of thinking... Often, tossed as it is from one extreme to the other, the little boat in which many Christians put their beliefs is shaken by such waves ... Holding strong to a clear faith in line with the Creed of the Church is often labelled as fundamentalism...”

“But we use a different kind of measure: the Son of God, the true man. He is the measure of true humanism. An “adult” faith does not follow the currents of fashion and the latest novelties; a faith that is adult and mature is deeply rooted in companionship with Christ... We must develop this adult faith; it is to this faith that we must lead Christ's flock... Truth and charity come together in Christ. To the extent that we grow near to Christ, in our own lives too truth and charity become one. Charity without truth would be blind; truth without charity would be as ‘a tinkling cymbal’ (1 Cor 13,1).”

Cardinal Ratzinger's keywords from the “PRO ELIGENDO ROMANO PONTIFICE” Mass on 18th April	1
Extracts from the first HOMILY BY THE HOLY FATHER	2
The Order congratulates Pope Benedict XVI	3
The Grand Magisterium to the Holy Father	4
Letter from Mgr Leonardo Sandri to the Grand Master	4
Holy Land Projects for 2005	5
Total Humanitarian Aid in 2004	5
New telephone numbers of the Grand Magisterium	5
Medical assistance: How we helped	6
That's how the money reaches the Holy Land	8
Jerusalem: Music for Peace in the Austrian Hospice	8



IMPRESSUM

GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE
EQUESTRIAN ORDER
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE
OF JERUSALEM
00120 Vatican City



“... We have received the faith in order to give it to others – we are priests in order to serve others. We must bring forth lasting fruit... and the fruit that will endure is... what we have sown in human souls – love, knowledge; deeds that can move man’s heart; words that open the spirit to the joy of the Lord. So let us go and pray to the Lord to help us bring forth fruit, fruit that will endure. Only in this way will the earth be changed from a vale of tears to a garden of God.”

“... But at this moment, above all, let us pray to the Lord with concentration that, following the great gift of Pope John Paul II, He will again give us a shepherd after His own heart, a shepherd who will lead us to know Christ, His love and true joy. Amen.”

Extracts from the first
HOMILY BY THE HOLY FATHER
BENEDICT XVI
 at his inauguration in St. Peter’s Square
 on Sunday, 24th April 2005:

How alone we all felt after the passing of John Paul II – the Pope who for over twenty-six years had been our shepherd and guide on our journey through life! He crossed the threshold of the next life, entering into the mystery of God. But he did not take this step alone. Those who believe are never alone – neither in life nor in death. At that moment, we could call upon the Saints from every age – his friends, his brothers and sisters in the faith – knowing that they would form a living procession to accompany him into the next world, into the glory of God. We knew that his arrival was awaited. Now we know that he is among his own and is truly at home. ...
 And now, at this moment, weak

servant of God that I am, I must assume this enormous task, which truly exceeds all human capacity. How can I do this? How will I be able to do it? All of you, my dear friends, have just invoked the entire host of Saints, represented by some of the great names in the history of God’s dealings with mankind. In this way, I too can say with renewed conviction: I am not alone. I do not have to carry alone what in truth I could never carry alone. All the Saints of God are there to protect me, to sustain me and to carry me. And your prayers, my dear friends, your indulgence, your love, your faith and your hope accompany me. Indeed, the communion of Saints consists not only of the great men and women who went before us and whose names

we know. All of us belong to the communion of Saints, we who have been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we who draw life from the gift of Christ’s Body and Blood, ...

Dear friends! At this moment there is no need for me to present a programme of governance. I was able to give an indication of what I see as my task in my Message of Wednesday 20 April, and there will be other opportunities to do so. My real programme of governance is not to do my own will, not to pursue my own ideas, but to listen, together with the whole Church, to the word and the will of the Lord, to be guided by Him, so that He himself will lead the Church at this hour of our history.”



The Order congratulates Pope Benedict XVI

*Immediately after the election
of His Holiness Benedict XVI the Grand Master of the Order,
Carlo Cardinal Furno,
sent the following goodwill address:*

“Having learned with great joy of the election of Your Holiness as Supreme Pontiff, the Grand Magisterium, the Lieutenants and all the members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem join me in reconfirming our loyalty, obedience and devotion to Your Holiness, and our continued spiritual and charitable support of the Christian Communities in the Holy Land.

May the Lord bestow abundant blessings upon your Papacy through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin.

Carlo Cardinal Furno
Grand Master of the EOHSJ”



At its meeting, the Grand Magisterium sent the following

Declaration of loyalty to the Holy Father

The Grand Magisterium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which today met in Rome in the presence of His Beatitude the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr. Michel Sabbah, turns its filial thoughts to the Holy Father Benedict XVI, and wishes, as he enters upon his Pontificate, to assure him of its renewed devotion to the Supreme Pontiff, to the Holy See and to the Catholic Church.

In reconfirming the continued commitment of the Order to the spiritual welfare of all its members throughout the world, the Grand Magisterium renews the sodality's efforts to assist Catholic Works in the Holy Land and prays that God will allow the Land of Jesus to achieve true peace.

The Grand Magisterium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and all its members, Knights, Ladies and Ecclesiastics, unite in requesting a special paternal Blessing from the Holy Father Benedict XVI.

Carlo Cardinal Furno
Grand Master of the Order
Rome, 11 May 2005



Letter from Mgr Leonardo Sandri (Secretariat of State) to the Grand Master

Vatican, 21 May, 2005

Most Reverend Cardinal:

I am happy to inform you that it was with great appreciation that the Holy Father Benedict XVI accepted the noble expressions of best wishes and respect that you, together with His Beatitude Mgr Michel Sabbah and on behalf of the Order's Grand Magisterium, accompanying the same with the assurance of special prayers for his universal mission.

Replying with grateful feelings to your thoughtful gesture, the Holy Father, who is well aware of the merits of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, entrusts all of you to the special protection of Blessed Virgin Mary, so that she may support you in your commitment and make the Order's generous service for the Holy Land bear rich fruit.

Along with these intentions, His Holiness sends his Apostolic Blessing that he gladly imparts to your Eminence and to all other persons associated to your congratulation, as well as to all Knights and Ladies of the Order.

I take this opportunity to confirm my feelings of deep affection and devotedness.

Leonardo Sandri
Substitute



Holy Land Projects for 2005

As is the case each year, the Spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium examined the proposed projects. Five projects were approved, the proposal for the parish hall in Misdar/Jordan, (proportionate cost: \$164,000) has been approved but the start up of the work are postponed waiting the evacuation of the two stores on the ground floor.

The five projects approved are:

Beit Jala:

Construction of a Parish Hall,
adjoining the west side of the
Seminary \$ 215.000

Beit Jala:

**Renovation of classrooms in the
Seminary,** to bring them up to a
standard that meets today's needs
\$ 100.000

Rafat/Israel:

Renovation of the Youth Centre
will be paid for by the
Lieutenancy of Northern Italy
\$50,000.

In addition to this funding enabling renovation of the building, the administration of Puglia region (Italy) will supply the Patriarchate direct with the means to provide furnishings and bathroom fittings for the Centre. These costs were not included in the plans that the Patriarchate put before the Grand Magisterium.

Muquelbleh/West Bank:
Construction of a Parish Centre
Owing to the wall, it is no longer

possible to go to Mass, so a small parish centre must be built (a room for worship, assembly room, sacristy and presbytery
\$ 100.000

Mizdar Parish Hall

The project relates the realisation of a parish hall in a building of four floors. The work could begin when the tenants of the two stores of the ground floor will be evacuated.

\$ 164.000

Total \$ 629,000

Total Humanitarian Aid in 2004

In 2004 the Grand Magisterium was able to put a total of \$550,000 at the disposal of the Secretariat for Solidarity, for the purpose of humanitarian works, medical assistance and aid to parishes of the Latin Patriarchate.



new telephone numbers of the Grand Magisterium

We wish to inform you that as of July 1, 2005, the executive offices of the Grand Magisterium have moved from Borgo Santo Spirito to Sant'Onofrio al Gianicolo, Piazza di Sant'Onofrio 2, 00165 Rome-Italy. The new, temporary telephone numbers are the following: +39-06-6877632 (tel./fax) and +39-06-6877347 (tel). The e-mail address remains unchanged: oessg_gm@yahoo.it.



Medical assistance: How we helped

Humanitarian aid and medical care interventions has been a vital service provided by the Secretariat of Solidarity and by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem financed by

the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre since the beginning of the second Intifada. As we proceed into the year 2005, the cumulative and traumatic consequences of the second Intifada are evident and have resulted in significant escalation in the need for humanitarian assistance, especially for health, medicines and hospital treatment. Due to the devastated economy and the lack of employment, families are barely able to provide for the living essentials of food, shelter and education. Family funds are not available to cover the cost of medicines and medical treatment. In many instances major illnesses such as leukaemia and cancer are involved and treatment requires extensive hospitalization and medication.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is responding to these emergencies by providing in an efficient manner a careful assessment of the needs, and providing relief to the families by covering the medical expenses for the Christian families in difficulties.

The magnitude of medical assistance is staggering and the following are a few, brief illustrations of the nature of assistance being provided.

Khaled J. is a 7 year old boy living in Beit Sahour and is a victim of leukaemia. Treatment is not available in Palestine so Khaled is undergoing chemotherapy treatment at a major medical centre in Jerusalem. The cost of the treatment is enormous. The father, an engineer, must stay with Khaled, so he is unemployed; the mother must remain at home in Bethlehem with the other small children. The family has no means to cover Khaled's medical expenses and the Latin Patriarchate has contributed \$1,500.00 (USD) to help pay for the medical expenses.

Joseph L. is a young boy, 6 years old, and lives in Bethlehem. He has been suffering from leukaemia since he was 4 years of age. Joseph has been receiving chemotherapy treatment for his illness at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem and the costs of the treatment are far beyond the financial means of the family. Despite the fact that Joseph's father works at two jobs he is not able to afford the medical expenses for Joseph and the Latin Patriarchate has contributed \$5000 to help defray the medical expenses.

George H. required a kidney transplant, which was successful. Unfortunately, while recuperating from the operation he was the victim of a virus which affected his kidney and he was confined to

Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem for an extensive period. At the time of his discharge from the hospital he was required to continue taking anti-virus medication for a period of three months. The cost of the anti-virus tablets was \$100.00 each, and for three months treatment the cost is \$9,000.00 (USD). The Latin Patriarchate contributed more than \$5000 for the medical expenses incurred by the family.

Naser N., is a young 8 year old boy and suffers from Mellitus, a Type 1 diabetes. Naser needs treatment for his illness which requires daily insulin injections and monitoring of his blood sugar levels. In addition to the insulin injections Naser takes Humalog insulin with each meal and Lantus insulin at bedtime. The family is barely able to provide for their food and shelter and is not able to pay for Naser's medicine which is vital to him. The Latin Patriarchate contributed \$1,500.00 (USD) to help cover the family's medical expenses.

Tony A's case is complicated not only due to his wife's pregnancy (she was expecting quadruplets) but also due to Israeli laws regarding permits and residency. Tony is from Jerusalem and has a Jerusalem ID card; his wife is from Bethlehem. Owing to her condition she had to give birth to the quadruplets at Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem, which will give the



babies a Jerusalem ID. If the babies had been born out of the area Tony would have lost his Jerusalem ID, which is vital to his livelihood as he operates a shuttle service. The hospital denied the mother access to the hospital unless she paid an amount in excess of \$35,000.00 (USD). She was in hospital for eight weeks before the birth. The Latin Patriarchate contributed \$3,000.00 (USD) to Tony's family.

Sali H. is desperately in need of orthodontic treatment requiring two dental appliances, one each for six months. Each dental appliance costs \$600.00 (USD). Financially the family is in very poor condition and is not able to provide the treatment Sali requires, so they need help. The Patriarchate provided funds of \$600.00 (USD) to help the family to pay for the dental work.

Laila S. from Bir Zeit is only 52 days old. Immediately after her birth Laila was stricken with severe chronic diarrhoea, and was near death. The baby was hospitalized for seven day and was cured. The parents are struggling to make a living and provide for family essentials and need help to defray Laila's hospitalization expenses. The Patriarchate provided \$910.00 for hospital expenses.

Gabi F. is 31 and suffers from severe intra and extra hepatic illness. Blood tests indicate Gabi has raised liver enzyme levels and his medical condition is further complicated by being infected with nocturnal pruritis. Gabi was hospitalized at Rabin Medical Centre

and was treated with ERCP therapy under general anaesthesia and this treatment required Ciproflaxacin medication three days prior and three day subsequent to treatment. Due to his prolonged medical problems and lack of employment he is not able to cover the medical attention he received. The Latin Patriarchate contributed \$2,500.00 (USD) for his medical expenses.

George B., a ten year old boy is suffering from ear and hearing disorders. He was hospitalized for treatment at Hadassah hospital where he underwent CT scan which revealed severe mastoiditis, right and left ear, and required extensive surgery. Medical expenses were extremely high and the Latin Patriarchate contributed \$689.00 (USD) to help the family pay these expenses.

Nijmeh F. is eighty years old and is suffering from acute colitis. She was admitted to a hospital in Jerusalem for treatment which was successful and provided her relief from her suffering. She is old, without an income and she was helped by an amount of \$1,132.00 (USD).

Raed A. is a labourer living in Beit Sahour. He was unable to work due to severe cramping in his legs which required an operation. Due to his physical problem and not being able to work, he was unable to pay for the operation and he was helped with \$1,146.00 (USD) to cover medical expenses.

Nadia A. is suffering from breast cancer. She required an operation, which was successful, to remove the tumour. Her family is without an income and was unable to pay for the operation. The Patriarchate helped the family with \$913.00 (USD).

Sana K. is a middle aged woman from Zababdeh, a village north of Jerusalem. Sana was experiencing excruciating back pains and received a CT scan. The examination revealed a dislocated lumbar disc in her lower back and required surgery. Sana's family has been in a dire economic situation and was not able to meet the expenses for the operation. The Latin Patriarchate helped with \$915.00 (USD).

Fawzi A. is 71 years of age and lives in Zababdeh. He was in an accident which resulted in severe head injuries, fractured ribs and other severe injuries to his body. Due to the critical nature of his condition he was rushed to Hadassah Ein-Karem hospital for emergency treatment. He was helped by \$5,000.00 (USD).

Inas S. is a ten year old girl living in Beit Sahour. The little girl suffers with health problems which are related to an infection of her teeth. She has received treatment over the past several months and now requires orthodontic braces for her teeth to correct the dislocation of her jaw caused by her infection. The medical expenses for her treatment are \$2,500.00 (USD) and the Latin Patriarchate provided \$1,000.00 (USD) to help with these expenses.



Intact, speedily and efficiently:

That's how the money reaches the Holy Land

There are many occasions and opportunities when the Lieutenancies receive funds from their members: on entry into the Order; annual contributions; special collections; offerings for Masses and on promotion to higher rank, to name but a few. The target for these funds is the Holy Land. The Lieutenancies transfer sums several times a year to the Grand Magisterium and can at the same

time indicate what the money is to be used for (to support the schools, to aid specific projects, to pay for Masses, etc).

As soon as the Grand Magisterium receives the transferred funds, it acknowledges receipt and confirms to the sender the specified purpose(s) – if any – for which the amounts are to be used. The Grand Magisterium then takes care of sending the funds collec-

ted to the Holy Land. These sums reach their specified target intact, provided one has been indicated by the Lieutenancies. Contributions for which no target has been indicated are used for the Holy Land in agreement with the Latin Patriarchate to cover the running costs of the Patriarchate and schemes which the Grand Magisterium has discussed with the Latin Patriarchate.

Jerusalem: Music for Peace in the Austrian Hospice

*Young Israelis and Palestinians make music together for the
Catholic Bishops*

What was, for Jerusalem, a very strange event took place in January during the Fifth International Conference of Bishops in the Holy Land. Thanks to the Austrian Hospice, and together with their teachers, Israeli and Palestinian children between the ages of 9 and 19 gave a concert with a repertoire including Beethoven, Chopin, Schumann, Bartok, Debussy and Bach.

In his opening speech, Rector

Markus S. Bugnyar expressed the wish that music would be the means, the common bond and shared interest that would unite people who might be divided on many other levels. It was hoped that the Austrian Hospice would be a place where people could come together and form lasting contacts even if all other bridges seemed to be closed to them.

He hoped the evening would be an encouraging sign for a shared future.

As well as the bishops taking part in the Fifth International Conference, who represented the USA, Great Britain, Canada, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Austria and Switzerland, other guests at the concert included the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Michael Sabbah, his Suffragan Bishop, Kamal Bathish, and the Maronite Archbishop, Paul Nabil Sayah. The Austrian Ambassador, Kurt Hengl, was also present.

