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del
Vaticano

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News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

EOHSJ on Vatican website

Basic details of our Order have been on the Vatican website for some time:

www.vatican.va/roman_curia/institutions_connected/oessh/subindex.html

Now it has been agreed that the Newsletter will also appear in these web pages.


All Members of the Order are requested to visit this website, a step that will at once provide information and keep them up to date with developments in the Order.

THE RIGHT TIME FOR PILGRIMAGES?

*Recent events have suddenly caused a setback
in pilgrimages to the Holy Land.*

*Here is an account of the present situation
from an eyewitness in Jerusalem.*

*It is not only encouraging;
it also stresses the effect on our fellow
Christians in the region.*



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for pilgrimages? II

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in the
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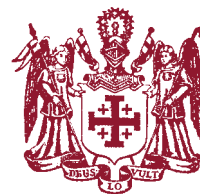
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ANNALES
Vol. IX VIII



IMPRESSUM

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



THE RIGHT TIME FOR PILGRIMAGES?

“Regarding your concerns about the situation in the Holy Land:

the situation is always deteriorating. Of course, during the war in Lebanon a new situation occurred and a lot of Palestinians fled from their houses, either to Jerusalem or to Bethlehem, to avoid all the missiles. But after the war all the families went home, and now life has come back to normal so pilgrims who cancelled – and they were many of them, and we can take hundreds because of the cancellations – are now coming back, but slowly. Another bad situation arose after Hamas became the elected government: Palestinians who work within the movement have not received any salary for 7 months, and strikes are taking place everywhere in Palestine.

Anyhow, because the Christians who live in the Holy Land need the support deriving from the presence of the pilgrims, who represent the interest and aid of the rest of Christianity, the resumption of pilgrimages – which follow the traditional routes and avoid any especially dangerous situation – means that the Members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre have a duty to fulfil this particular commitment.

Unfortunately, Palestinian State schools also are on strike and you can imagine thousands of students in the streets without education and what impact that can produce within the Palestinian Society.

Our schools (thanks to the contributions from the Order and the members) are the only schools that are open and not on strike, which again shows you the role of our schools and the important - I can even say - the indispensable role of the Order in running these schools.”



The Christian future in the Holy Land

At the Austrian Investiture in Linz on 29 September 2006 the Latin Patriarch, H.B. Mgr. Michel Sabbah, gave a very well received talk on "Christians in the Holy Land". After presenting the demographic data and a description of the current situation he outlined the structure of the Church of the Latin Patriarchate and, finally, posed the question: "What is our future?"
Quoted below are a few of the important points he made:

Our Christian life

"The Latin Patriarchate has 63 parishes throughout the entire diocese. The Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land serves 10 of them, the Carmelites one. 90 diocesan priests are working in the 52 remaining parishes and in the various activities of the Patriarchate. The clergy is quite young. We also have a flourishing seminary which produces an average of 2-3 new priests every year.

In every parish, the Latin Patriarchate has a school in which many goals are sought: human and religious education, ecumenical and interfaith contacts with the parents of the students, priestly vocations for the diocesan clergy and for some religious congregations. Schools have a primordial importance in our pastoral work. Therefore, among our financial needs, this field is one of our priorities."

Our future?

"We will live, grow and develop as best we can. Some of us will leave. But those who remain will live and grow. As a Church, we insist on our work in the schools and on an authentic catechetical education, based on faith, and nourished by a deep spiritual life in which Christians find the strength they need to share in all aspects of their society.

The existing school system is adequate in terms of numbers, but it needs to be improved from the catechetical point of view. It needs various technical improvements on the scientific level, although in the three countries in which we are present, it has been proved that the scientific performance of our schools is among the best. What is seriously needed is the renewal of our catechetical education which should stress even more the direct effect of the correlation between personal piety and true love that contributes to building society in all its forms and at all times ...

With this, we continue our work, our reflection, and our prayer in order to be faithful to our call to accompany Christians in the Holy Land, and to accompany every human being in that Land with our Christian love.

We know that the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre are our partners in this vocation and in this obligation to educate the Christians in the Holy Land and to give a new face to the land of the Lord, so that it can truly become an authentic land of reconciliation, peace and justice for the world and for itself."



Obituary – Mme Elisabeth Verreet

On the occasion of her 80th birthday on 22 March 2005, the latest edition of ANNALES congratulated Mme Elisabeth Verreet and thanked her for everything she had done for our Order. The article included an account of her life and her biographical details. Now, so soon afterward, sadly, we have to announce her death: Mme Elisabeth Verreet passed away on 15 July 2006.

On looking back, it must be said that she was a truly extraordinary person. She was graced with the gift of clear sight, incisive understanding and profound faith, and with the ability to say what she thought frankly, but without being hurtful. She was endowed with a natural authority and, at the same time, a sympathetic and truly noble heart. She never needed to insist on her position, yet everyone knew immediately if something was important to her.

Unfortunately, her life ended before the honour intended for her came to pass: the dedication of the new Beit Jala Community Hall in her name. Her son, Prof. Dr. Patrick Verreet, and Christian Verreet took her place at the ceremony conducted by H.B. Patriarch Michel Sabbah on 20 August 2006.

In her spirit, Mme Verreet felt the land where Our Lord was born, lived, suffered and rose again to be her second home. We can be certain that there is a special place for her in heaven.

Obituary – Vice-Governor General James P. Miscoll

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, James P. Miscoll died at the age of 71. He was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem for 20 years. At his death he was Vice-Governor General, appointed on July 3, 2005: he had joined the Grand Magisterium on June 1, 2003. Remarkable in his curriculum vitae is the great number of many executive management assignments for the Bank of America as Head of Continental Europe Division, Frankfurt Germany, Head of Corporate Account Division, New York City, Head of Asia/India/Australia/New Zealand Division, Tokyo and Head of Global Retail Bank Operations, San Francisco. Moreover, he was very active in support of the Catholic Church. He served the Archdiocese of San Francisco as a member of the Archdiocese Finance Council for the past six years, the Graduate Theological Union Berkeley, CA and The Gregorian University Foundation, Rome, Italy.

Vice-Governor General Miscoll was always prepared to work for our Order. He carried specific missions in occasion of the Investitures and Lieutenants' meetings, in the USA, Europe and also in Australia. Wherever possible, he granted his great expertise to the activities of the Order.

His departure represents a heavy loss for the Order, where he has left a void not easy to fill. The memory of his example will always be a reference and an incitement to all of us.



Lieutenants' Meetings in Boston and in Rome.

In line with the Directives issued by H.E. the Cardinal Grand Master, the Governor General, in order to reinforce communication as a primary tool for improving the effectiveness of the activities of the Order, held two meetings: the first, with the North American Lieutenants, took place in Boston, Massachusetts on October 12-14, and a second one, with the European Lieutenants, was held in Rome on October 27-28.

The American meeting was chaired by H.E. George T. Ryan, Vice-Governor General of Honour. Both meetings were under the active leadership of the Governor General and were also attended by Rev. Mgr. Juan José Dorronsoro, Chancellor of the Order. Both meetings were open to participation by the Members of the Grand Magisterium.

His Eminence Carlo Cardinal Furno expressed his regret at being unable to attend the Boston meeting; however, he was able to take part in the one in Rome.

The major topics discussed were nearly the same in both meetings:

1. The status of implementation of the Directives with special attention to Admissions and Promotions (policy and practice).
2. LPJ needs and planning for raising the annual membership contribution to US \$600.

3. LPJ schools' sponsorship and Lieutenancies' relationship with the schools.
4. Financial reporting from Lieutenants and from the Grand Magisterium.
5. Information on the status of the Ceremonial manual, which is ready in English, French and Italian and will be mailed shortly.
6. ANNALES and Newsletter and the linking of the Newsletter – and perhaps the Lieutenancies' websites – with the Order's Vatican site.
7. Possible new initiatives for fund raising, within the spirit and the rules of the Constitution.
8. Work-in-progress on the LPJ projects and forecast completion dates.
9. Lieutenancies' initiatives for the spiritual growth of the members.

The meetings were fruitful and the proposal to hold them regularly, on a yearly basis, met with unanimous consent.

Each Lieutenant will ensure that details of the discussions and specific items of interest are reported to their members at the next meeting of the Lieutenancy.



OUTLINE COMMENTARY ON ACTIVITIES of the HOLY LAND COMMISSION 2006

The activity of the Holy Land Commission in 2006 has in essence been focused on the execution and completion of Projects that were approved by the Grand Magisterium at its Meeting in November 2005.

At its bi-annual Meeting in November 2005, the Grand Magisterium selected and approved 13 Projects, which had been presented by Father Shawki Bateria, the General Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate. These Projects required financing to the extent of US \$1,012,206. The Grand Magisterium invited all Lieutenancies to select and sponsor specific Projects, if they so wished. The principle proposed was that finance provided for the selected Projects would be additional to the normal annual contributions.

In the event, 15 Lieutenancies volunteered to cooperate with this Proposal and in total pledged US \$937,579.

At the present time, November 2006, we are proud to report that of the 13 Projects, 11 have been completed. The only two outstanding are the windows of the Latin Patriarchate and associated repair works, and Kerak Church. In the case of the windows, further resolution is required to decide precisely the specification for the replacement windows. For Kerak Church the delay was incurred due to the very considerable complexity of the work required to stabilise the foundations around the entire perimeter of the Church.

In being able to report this satisfactory state of affairs, it should be noted that a very substantial contributory factor has been the full and effective cooperation of the Latin Patriarchate itself (in particular through Father Shawki Bateria, the General Administrator). One particular Project has been the Social Centre Hall at Beit Jala, which was blessed and dedicated to the memory of Madame Elisabeth Verreet in June of this year by His Beatitude Michael Sabbah. The Hall certainly serves as a fitting Memorial of all the work that Madame Elisabeth Verreet carried out during her lifetime.

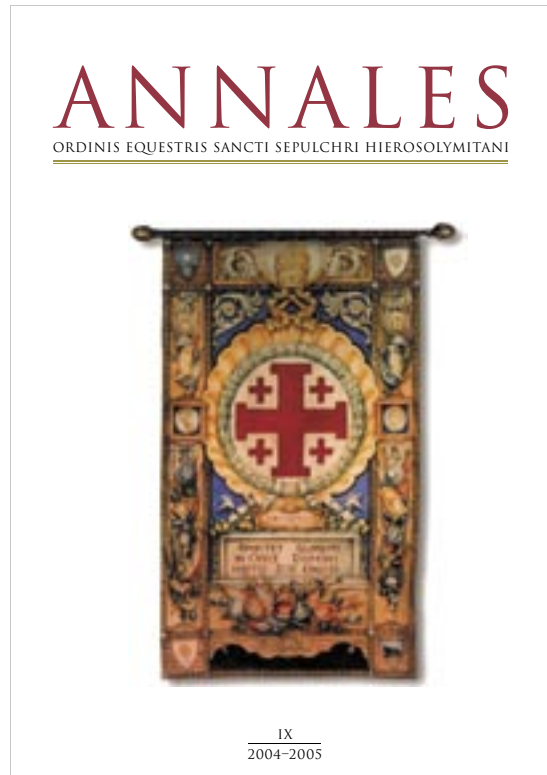
The following is a summary of the Projects with estimated costs, financial commitments covered by the Lieutenancies, progress as at the end of September (in %) and planned completion dates:



OUTLINE COMMENTARY ON ACTIVITIES OF THE HOLY LAND COMMISSION

| Project | Cost | Lieutenancy | Progress at 30/9 | Completion Date |
|--|---------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| BIR ZEIT School Refurbishment | 58,428 | England | 100% | August 06 |
| NABLUS School Refurbishment | 29,821 | USA North Central | 100% | August 06 |
| ZABABDEH School Refurbishment | 42,689 | USA Middle Atlantic | 100% | August 06 |
| BEIT JALA Community and School Centre | 115,579 | Western Spain | 100% | August 06 |
| ABOUD Community and School Centre | 98,000 | Germany | 100% | Oktober 06 |
| JENIN Community and School Centre | 49,000 | Italy Central Italy South Tirrenica Luxembourg Italy South Adriatica Malta | 100% | September 06 |
| KERAK CHURCH Survey | 30,000 | Grand Magisterium | 100% | May 06 |
| KERAK CHURCH Works | 194,225 | Ireland France Canada Montreal Grand Magisterium | 32% | To be assessed |
| SMAKIEH Convent | 8,667 | von Siemens | 100% | Mai 06 |
| ZABABDEH Convent | 9,997 | USA North Central | 100% | Juni 06 |
| NABLUS Church | 30,800 | Germany | 100% | Mai 06 |
| PATRIARCHATE Windows | 45,000 | Germany | -- | To be assessed |
| BETHLEHEM House | 200,000 | Switzerland | 100% | August 06 |
| NABLUS Land | 100,000 | Italy Sicilia | 100% | August 06 |





ANNALES Vol. IX

*The ANNALES for the years 2004 and 2005 will shortly be available.
Both years will appear in a single issue,
which will then be printed in English, German, Italian and French.*

*A considerable portion of the publication is allocated to the activities
financed by the Order in the Holy Land and the reports
of a number of Lieutenancies related to the most significant events
that have been the hallmarks of the two years.*

*Each Lieutenancy has already been sent (or will be sent as soon
as the publication is printed) a sufficient number of copies
in the appropriate language for its Members.*