

EAR



The Cardinal Grand Master John P. Foley resigns his post

> PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Houses SHOULD HELP TO STEM THE **DECREASE IN THE OF THE ORDER** CHRISTIAN POPULATION

Ordo Equestris Sancti Sepulcri Hierosolymitani 00120 Vatican City

2010

Otto Kaspar *Editor*

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> *Frontispiece:* Jerusalem

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Introduction

Last year we printed the 'Message from the Cardinal Grand Master' on this page and we had planned to do the same this year. However, in February 2011 His Eminence Cardinal John P. Foley plunged the whole Order into deep shock when he announced that he had handed his resignation to the Holy Father on the grounds of ill health. This issue of 'AD' therefore begins with a copy of the Cardinal's letter of resignation and with the reflections he has passed on to the Order. His strong faith and his greatness as a human-being will move all our readers. Since Cardinal John P. Foley became Grand Master of the Order, he has adopted its aims as his very own noble, personal goals and has promoted them in a manner which has been felt at all levels of the Order. It is therefore with justifiable pride that he can look back at the impressive results achieved in his years in office. His portrait, which hangs in one of the salons at the Grand Magisterium, will always impart a special radiance.

Thank you, Cardinal Foley! It has been a blessing and a joy for us all to have you as leader of our Order.





On the evening of 24 February the Members of the Grand Magisterium, together with the Lieutenants, Grand Priors and Magistral Delegates, received news that filled all of them with great concern: our revered Cardinal Grand Master, John P. Foley, had resigned. We reprint below the the Cardinal Grand Master's letter of 22 February:



Your Excellencies:

On Thursday, February 10, 2011, I was granted a private audience with our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to submit my resignation, for reasons of health, as Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

I informed the Holy Father that, due to the advance of an incurable type of leukemia, along with other illnesses, I was unable to fulfill the duties of my office and that I did not wish to be a burden to our wonderful Order.

I told our Holy Father how grateful I was to him for my appointment as Grand Master, because my experience was like an extended spiritual retreat before entering the final phase of my life in preparation for eternal life with our risen Lord.

I told him also what a pleasure it has been to work with our Knights and Ladies around the world and how edified I have been by your love for the Holy Land, by your own spiritual development and by the presence of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When he heard of your great generosity and of the expansion of our Order into new lands, he asked me to express his gratitude to all of you and to send you his Apostolic Blessing.

Before the appointment of a new Grand Master, our Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, will, with our Governor General Agostino Borromeo, carry on the daily work of our Order. I am sure that you will extend to them the magnificent cooperation you have shown to me over the last four years; those years have been all too brief – but precious to me, and I ask that you continue to remember me in prayer as I pray for you every day.

May God continue to bless you, your loved ones and our dear Holy Land with His love and grace!

Sincerely in Christ,

John Cardinal Foley Grand Master Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

REFLECTIONS OF A RETIRING GRAND MASTER



n June 2007, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone informed me that I was being named Pro-Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Since that time, it has been my great privilege to be the admittedly unworthy leader of a truly great and historic organization of lay men and women around the world intent on their own spiritual development and on the support of their brother and sister Christians in the Holy Land, the land of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I had been a member of the Order since the early 1990s, after Cardinal Caprio and Russell Kendall had invited me to join. Cardinal Caprio had also kindly invited me to speak to the Grand Magisterium on the spirituality of the Order.

Thus, while the Order was known to me, I had not been deeply involved in its activities, much less in its administration. I do recall that I asked to be affiliated with the Eastern Lieutenancy of the United States, headquartered in New York, which included my home Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In that way also, my periodic contributions, small as they were, could be deducted from my Federal Income Tax! Unfortunately, because I worked in Rome as president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, I could not attend the meetings of the Lieutenancy.

After I was appointed Grand Master, however, I resolved to work every day in the central offices of the Order and to visit as many Lieutenancies as possible for investitures and for other special occasions.

I was happy to note that the then Governor General, Pier Luigi Parola, was working for ever greater transparency and accountability in the management of the finances of the Order. The fact that he had to commute from his home in Milan, however, was proving very wearing for him and very difficult for his wife. After accepting his resignation, I was extremely fortunate to obtain the consent of Count Agostino Borromeo, professor of Church History at two universities in Rome and President of the Circolo di Roma and a former Chancellor of the Order, to become the new Governor General. Happily, Adolfo Rinaldi agreed to remain in his important work as Vice-Governor of the Order.

In the United States, Cardinal Justin Rigali agreed to assign Father Hans Brouwers of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as my personal assistant and I was happy to be able to appoint him also as Vice-Chancellor and later Chancellor of the Order. The Holy Father honored him with an appointment as Chaplain of His Holiness with the title of Monsignor. I was also most grateful that Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, a priest from Ivrea who had become incardinated in the Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania, before being appointed as Nuncio to Kuwait, kindly accepted being named Assessor of the Order, the prelate who acts on behalf of an impeded or absent Grand Master.

With the new leadership team in place, we were able to work to unify the staff by bringing the administration from offices at Sant'Onofrio on the Janiculum Hill back to our central office, after we guaranteed that the integrity of our records would be respected as a central entity of the Catholic Church and the Holy See. This made it possible for us to gather at noon every day for prayer and it reinforced the unity of our staff.

Shortly before I submitted my resignation to the Secretary of State and to the Holy Father, Governor General Borromeo made it known to me that the Order had achieved three "firsts" in the year 2010:

- 1. the largest amount of donations ever received: 10.3 million Euros (\$13.7 million);
- 2. the largest number of members in history: more than 28,000;
- 3. the largest number of jurisdictions: 58, with new jurisdictions in Brasil, Russia, South Africa, and Italy –
- with promising developments in India, New Zealand and Croatia.

As all our members know, it is our desire to have rental income from the Hotel Columbus to cover all the administrative expenses of the Grand Magisterium. Negotiations are continuing to this end – and it is our prayer that this longstanding preoccupation may soon be finally resolved.

I renew my thanks to Almighty God for the great grace to have been appointed by our Holy Father as the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

I renew my thanks to our officers and staff and to all our members for their splendid cooperation in a spirit of faith and charity.

I renew my thanks to Patriarch Fouad Twal and to the clergy, religious and faithful of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for their wonderful example of fidelity to the Gospel in the midst of great difficulties.

I ask you all to pray for peace with justice in the Holy Land – and I ask you also to pray for me as I begin this final phase of my life. Be assured that I will be praying for all of you!

John Cardinal Foley Grand Master

THREE NEW Magistral delegations created in 2010

nder the leadership of the Cardinal Grand Master John Patrick Foley, 2010 broke three records: the highest yearly sum of donations ever registered (10,300.00 euros); the highest number of members reached so far in the history of the Order (more than 28,000 between knights, dames and clergy); the largest geographical expansion realised in only one year, with the creation of the Magistral Delegations for Brazil São Salvador da Bahia, for the Russian Federation and for Southern Africa (with jurisdiction on South Africa, Lesotho and Zimbawe).

The first one has as Magistral Delegate the Knight Luis Roberto Lorenzato, Count of San Martino and, as Grand Prior, Arch-abbot Dom Emanuel d'Able do Amaral, President of the Benedectine Congregation of Brazil; the second one has as Magistral Delegate the Knight Yaroslav Aleksandrovic Ternovskiy and, as Grand Prior, His Most Rev. Excellency Paolo Pezzi, Archbishop of the Mother of God at Moscow (the name of the Latin Catholic metropolitan site of the Russian capital).

The third Magistral Delegation, the one of Southern Africa, has as Magistral Delegate the Knight Joseph Quinn, already a member of the Lieutenancy for Scotland, and as Grand Prior the Archbishop of Capetown, Monsignor Stephen Brislin, who will receive his investiture in Jerusalem, at the beginning of the next year. The members in charge are already hard at work, structuring the Magistral Delegations, collecting funds and encouraging new memberships. The first members who joined the great family of the Order will be the Russian brothers (knights, dames and clergy), whose applications have already been approved by the relevant Commission of the Grand Magisterium for the examination of Nomina-

tions and Promotions. The solemn ceremony of investiture will take place in Moscow between the 1st and the 3rd of July 2011. This news not only highlights the fact that, under the enlightened guidance of the Cardinal Grand Master, the Order is experiencing a moment of dynamic geographic expansion in the world. This is not a mere fact. It expresses a trend: the institution is becoming more and more widely known and thus finds a readier welcome among the episcopacy and the faithful of those countries where it had never been introduced before. But the geographical expansion of the Order responds to a precise direction placed by the Grand Master on the activities of the Grand Magisterium and this, at the very moment when, in fact, with the expansion of the charity projects and the consequent need to ask the Lieutenancies for greater and greater efforts to help the Christians in the Holy Land, the governance of the Order feels actively committed to increasing its membership, so that the financial burden can be shared more widely. From this point of view, it is possible to anticipate that contacts are already in place to introduce the Order into countries where it is not yet known, such as India (in three archdioceses: Bombay, Bangalore and Goa), Japan, New Zealand, Guam, Venezuela, Croatia and Romania; not forgetting one of the smallest states in the world, the Principality of Andorra (in the centre-east of the Pyrenees, on the border between France and Spain). If, in due course, the seeds we plant are rewarded with the hoped-for harvest, we have reason to believe that the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem will be able to tell Catholics in every country more and more about the needs of the Holy Land and to contribute increasingly in response to the needs of the Church which is flourishing there, as well as those of its faithful.



THE 2010 PROJECTS

"To sustain and aid the charitable, cultural and social works and institutions of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, particularly those of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem ..." – those are some of the Order's aims as set out in Article 2 of the Constitution of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE ORDER IN THE HOLY LAND DURING 2010

At the end of 2009, the Grand Magisterium approved funding projects in the Holy Land for a total of \notin 2,218,000, of which \notin 1,724,000 was given to the Latin Patriarchate and \notin 482,000 was assigned to ROACO projects.

However, the Patriarchate postponed the works for the construction of the new Stella Maris parish church in Aqaba, Jordan and the new high school at Rameh in Upper Galilee – totaling \in 860,000. On the other hand, the balance for the 2009 projects (totaling \in 158,000) was disbursed.

In total, the amount that the Order actually disbursed in 2010 was equivalent to \notin 1,257,000, of which \notin 819,000 was directed toward Latin Patriarchate projects and \notin 438,000 was given to ROACO projects.

Latin Patriarchate projects

A contribution of \notin 469,000 – approximately 57 % of the total cost – included the first installment (the work was completed in January 2011) for the renovation of three schools in Jordan: Naour, Kerak and Al Wahadneh.

The remaining \in 350,000 were divided almost evenly among the other 2010 projects (renovating the Convent of the Rosary Sisters in Reneh, covering the terrace of the Seminary and design expenses for the church of Aqaba) and the balance for 2009 projects.

Latin Patriarchate projects for 2010

Naour school – Jordan

The school was built in 1991 and serves 254 students from pre-elementary to 8th grade. The project consisted of reinforcing and waterproofing the structure, renovating the interior (including bathrooms, windows and electro-mechanical systems) and building an extension of 95 m² in order to permit the crea-

tion of new computer and science laboratories which had previously been located in rooms that were too small for these purposes.

Kerak school – Jordan

The school was founded in 1876, together with the parish, by the Italian missionary Fr. Macagno, and now is attended by 300 children from kindergarten to grade 3. The project consisted of relocating the kindergarten to the ground floor under the Rosary Sisters' convent and building an elevated passage connecting the first floors of the two school buildings; this has allowed the recovery of six additional classrooms. The whole school has been completely renovated (including bathrooms, heating and electrical systems, new door and windows, sealing of the roof); new computer and science laboratories were also installed.

Al Wahadneh school – Jordan

The school was founded in 1938 and now holds 200 students from kindergarten to grade 6. The scope of the project was to transfer the



Beit Jala, St. Xavier school.

kindergarten to a more suitable location near the church and use that space for computer and science laboratories. The classrooms were completely renovated and a central heating system was installed.

Rosary Sisters convent – Israel (first installment)

The project was implemented in order to re-establish a healthy and comfortable environment for the three sisters of the parish who had been living on the first floor in a 3-bedded room with shared bathroom and an additional guest room.

The restructuring of the floor, which involved enlarging the existing balcony on the western side and the addition of a new balcony on the eastern side, has allowed for the construction of three bedrooms – each with private bath – a larger kitchen and dining room, a double bedroom for guests, and a new laundry room. The electro-mechanical systems have all been renovated as well. The roof, joints, and external walls were also waterproofed, and the stonework was pointed.

Seminary terrace in Beit Jala – Palestine

This project completed the restructuring of the floor in the attic of the Minor Seminary building (begun in 2009 with assistance from our Order) to make space for the introductory year students of the Major Seminary. Paving the terrace that connects directly to the elevated passage with the Major Seminary, installing the necessary drains and shading a portion of terrace – furnished with chairs and tables – has provided a comfortable and functional area for the seminarians.

Aqaba Church – Jordan (first installment)

This disbursement refers only to payments for architectural design expenses and the release of permits by the various civil authorities.



Beit Jala, St. Xavier school.



School in Beit Sahour.



School in Beit Sahour.



House in Smakieh.



Smakieh.



Smakieh.



Confirmation in Aqaba.



Aqaba, after the confirmation.



An Orthodox priest joins in the festivities.

Balance of LPJ 2009 projects

Exchange rate loss for the 2008 Tabar Bour project

A contribution of \in 370,000 was sent urgently in April 2008 to the Patriarchate so that it could purchase a plot of land in the area of Tabar Bur, near Amman, where the Christian population is rapidly expanding.

Unfortunately, the project was later cancelled because of uncertainty over property rights and the sum remained deposited in Euros in an LPJ account until it was put to use for the LPJ projects in 2009 (restoration of Madaba, Hashimi school and Kindergarten), incurring the above mentioned loss.

Purchase of a building for the Rosary Sisters in Kerak (first installment)

In addition to the restoration of the Kerak school, the Patriarchate decided to purchase a two-storey building near the convent of the Rosary Sisters to be used for communal parish activities and, in future, for a crèche for the Christian families.

This purchase means that the whole street, lined on one side by the Church and the priest's house and on the other by the school, the Sisters' convent and this building, represents a fully Latin Catholic enclave in the town and is closed to outside traffic. The excess received from the Lieutenancies in 2009 for humanitarian aid to Gaza (€ 44,000) was reallocated to this project.

ROACO projects 2010

The largest sum – 212,000 Euros, i. e. 48 % of the total – went to two large projects for the young people of Palestine: the swimming pool in Beit Hanina and the Youth Center in Nablus. The remainder is comprised of support for institutions dedicated to disadvan-

taged children or to poor people, as well as to an ecumenical initiative for the Syrian Orthodox Church and a contribution to the library of the École biblique française in Jerusalem.

1) Completion of the swimming pool – Beit Hanina Campus – Jerusalem

The campus in Beit Hanina was inaugurated in the year 2000 and, together with the older (1867) campus in the old city of Jerusalem, forms an excellent center of education run by the La Salle Brothers for 1500 young Palestinians (half of whom are Christian).

The completion of the swimming pool will provide a very important meeting place to keep young people away from violence, drugs or other dangers, moral or material.

2) Fire prevention facilities – Daughters of St. Anne Institute – Sephoris (Nazareth)

The Institute of the Daughters of St. Anne has operated in Sephoris since 1923 and presently shelters 83 children, ages 3 to 18, victims of sexual abuse, drugs, alcohol, physical violence or psychological trauma.

The Order's donation has allowed the Sisters to comply with the requirements of the Fire Prevention Department, avoiding the closure of the Institute.

3) Completion of the Community Hall – Syrian Orthodox Church – Bethlehem

The Syrian Orthodox Church numbers 600 families in the Holy Land, half of whom live in Bethlehem, mostly around the Virgin Mary Parish church built in 1922.

The contribution has been used to complete the parish hall adjacent to the church, begun four years ago but left unfinished for lack of funds. 4) X-Ray Machine for the Italian Hospital – Kerak – Jordan

The Italian Hospital in Kerak was founded by the National Association for the Support of Italian Missionaries (ANSMI) in 1935 and operates under the supervision of the Comboni Missionary Sisters. The hospital, with 38 beds, three operating rooms, two intensive care rooms and three dialysis chairs, serves the poorest people, especially the Bedouins and the Gorani of the Dead Sea, plus the refugees from Iraq. The radiography equipment was outdated and needed replacement.

5) Restoration of the meeting hall of Ephpheta school – Bethlehem

The school, founded by Pope Paul VI in 1971 and operated by the Sisters of Saint Dorothy, is attended by 142 hearing-impaired children aged from 1 to 16 years of age. The renovation of the meeting hall was urgently needed to re-establish a suitable area for group work with the families.

6) Youth Center at Nablus – Rafidia Parish – Palestine (first installment)

Political instability and violence in Nablus, especially during the Intifadas, prompted the Latin Patriarchate to establish a Youth Movement at the Latin Parish of St. Justin in Rafidia in 1998. The new parish priest, Father Johnny Khalil, wants to expand its activities and reach out to young people in the other four Christian parishes of Nablus. The project, completed in January 2011, has renovated an old dilapidated building into a new centre equipped with a library, a meeting room, an office, a small computer/internet room, an audiovisual room and a recreation room.

7) Electronic Catalogue at the Dominican Biblical school

The *Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française* is a Dominican postgraduate school teaching biblical history and archeology. Its library has a collection of over 140,000 volumes and periodicals, plus historical maps and photographic negatives dating back to the 19th century. The Order's contribution has enabled the school to hire a librarian from the local area, an Arab Christian from Nazareth who trained in France, to manage the library's electronic system.



Madaba, Feast of St. John the Baptist.

SUMMARY

Care was necessarily taken when planning the activities for 2010: in a year of economic crisis it was natural to expect a fall in contributions from the Orders' members. In reality, however, over the past year we have been able to put 10 % more money at the disposal of the Holy Land.

Do we become more attentive to the needs and wants of our fellow Christians when we ourselves are in a more difficult situation? Or is it that with today's possibilities we can determine more precisely where we should – or must – provide assistance? In either case the result is encouraging!

The increased aid to the Holy Land was made possible by the enthusiastic response of the Lieutenancies to the tireless mission of His Eminence the Cardinal Grand Master John P. Foley, who visited most of them in person on the occasion of their official Ceremonies, reminding them of the spiritual and charitable commitment assumed by each member of the Order towards our Christian brothers and sisters in the Church of Jerusalem.

Once again, support for the schools is at the top of the list, but many other kinds of contribution were made, whether to the Syrian Orthodox Church or for the completion of a swimming pool, or the installation of a computer system in a highly valued library.

The expenditure can be grouped as follows (in \in):

Patriarchal expenses	2,570,000
Schools	2,421,000
Patriarchal projects	819,000
Offerings for Masses	174,000
Medical supplies and humanitarian aid	643,000
For use as decided by the Holy Father	250,000
Bethlehem University	350,000
For other institutions in the Holy Land	1,214,000
Total	8,441,000
	ca. \$ 11,500,000

In addition to financing the above projects, in 2010 another \in 2.7 million (circa \$3.7 million) were added to the reserves. Of this sum, \in 1.99 million are destined for projects of the Latin Patriarchate and \in 700,000 for Bethlehem and Madaba Universities.



Epheta School, Bethlehem.



Priest's house, Misdar.



Church in Anjara, Jordan, which is also a site of Marian pilgrimage.



Church in Ader.



School in Beit Sahour.

MONSIGNOR SHOMALI SPEAKS

In the "Nouvelles de l'Ordre" No. 72 of March 2011, the French Lieutenancy published an interview with Monsignor William Shomali, auxiliary bishop of the Patriarchate, on the importance of a collaboration between The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and the Latin Patriarchate and on how this collaboration is reflected in the individual projects. In the interview, monsignor Shomali also illustrates the Lieutenancy's projects. Other Lieutenancies have their own projects too. The words of the auxiliary bishop William Shomali can thus be applied to the entire Order. Altogether, this interview is a valuable addition to the Order's activities.

Falk van Gaver: The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is partly supported by the donations of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. What are, in your opinion, the main projects under preparation and the priorities one has to focus on?

Mgr Shomali: Since the foundation of the Latin Patriarchate, we have been supported by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and without it there would have been no Latin Patriarchate. The two were born together and they were destined to work together. The Patriarch is the Grand Prior of the Order so the Order is at the service of the Latin Patriarchate and we are grateful for what it has done, for what it does and for what it will do. The main building sites at present are: the church of Aqaba, in Jordan, which is a new parish where there are at least 150 Catholic families, but also tourists. There are also Orthodox, non-Catholic people, and foreign workers. Then there is the school of Rameh, in Upper Galilee, a village where Druses, Christians and Muslims live together peacefully; the school still only caters to the elementary level and the municipality is insisting that it become a school for secondary studies too.

The project has been approved by the Grand Magisterium in Rome. There is also the project for a sisters' house in Reneh, a building site which will be opened in a few weeks. In Jordan we have three presbyteries to restore: Na'our, AI-Wahadneh and Misdar, which is in Amman. Much money and effort is needed to repair the dozens of religious institutions which belong to the Latin Patriarchate: it has to be done and the Order makes an annual commitment to restore some of them each year.





Bishop William Shomali with Pope Benedict XVI.

The Latin Patriarchate helps the poorest people: not only Catholics, but also other Christians who do not have a job nor any kind of financial allowance. The rate of unemployment in the Palestinian Territories is 22 %. And 42 % in Gaza. We have to help them live, eat, pay for medicines, hospitals, schools. The various Lieutenancies are aware of the necessities of the very poorest in the Holy Land.

The Patriarchate has other projects too: the Catholic University of Madaba, which will open in a year; the major project for the Church of the Baptism of Christ, on the river Jordan, with a house for the priests who will manage the sanctuary, the Fathers of the Incarnate Word: an Argentinian community with many men and women religious in the Holy Land. There is also the project for the houses in Jerusalem, at Beit-Safafa: 80 apartments in the Arab area south of the Holy City, near the Bethlehem check-point, to offer decent accommodation to 80 families. This project is much appreciated; Muslims, too, are proud that the Church has been able to carry out such a large-scale initiative, especially as it is very difficult to obtain building permits in Jerusalem!

How can the Order improve its support?

It does the best it can. We perceive the love with which knights and dames come to do their pilgrimage, to get to know the situation better. We appreciate their generosity and their efforts in the parishes, in the dioceses and in the associations to obtain more funds for the Holy Land. We admire the fact that the Order continues to send so much, in spite of the financial crisis in Europe and in the United States. Pilgrimages are essential and I know that the Lieutenancy of France makes sure to organize one every year. Some pilgrims of the Order come for the third, fourth, fifth time: and that means they love the Holy Land and that it is part of their lives. There are many needs: one cannot build churches without helping people; nor help people without educating them; nor educate them without organized pastoral work. Apart from the financial aspect, members of the Order wonder how they can help the Patriarchate by investing more on a personal level...

Some knights have carried out individual projects, with the approval of their Lieutenancies. For example, a French couple from Poitiers, the Ferriers, promoted a major project in Ramallah. The plan is to build four-storey properties for rent so that the revenue will support the schools, an extra 200 to 300,000 dollars each year to support the Patriarchate's projects. Five or six seminarians in Beit-Jala have been "adopted" by French delegations. This is very important, because these bonds, these personal relationships between future priests and the Order are a great help, not only from a material point of view, but also from the point of view of love and friendship. Supporting these future priests has a great value.

I think some things could also be done in the field of volunteering. Many religious houses in the Holy Land have social projects: the "retirement home" at Abou-Dis, in Taybeh... There are hospitals, there are Catholic schools which need French language teachers; the Order, the Délégation catholique pour la coopération (DCC) and other associations organize arrivals and lodging for these volunteers.

They are young people, boys and girls, sometimes seminarians, who are really motivated, who lead an exemplary Christian life and come to give practical help to the local Christians, to help Palestinians and to improve their lives. In this respect, I cannot but praise all those who have come in the past, the volunteer workers and those who helped them to come. The Order has often paid these volunteers' expenses.

We need young people who can do some communication work, write the news on the website, in the Latin Patriarchate's newspaper, edit a newsletter and describe the different projects.

That is why I am launching an appeal for volunteers who have an interest or experience in the field of communications and who can stay for two or three years! And as the information should be multilingual (French, English, Italian...), we will always need volunteers who speak different European languages.

Do you have a personal message to address to the knights and dames of the Lieutenancy of France?

Faith is an essential element for a knight or a dame of the Order. If there is an appeal to make, it is that the pilgrimages continue, in spite of today's financial difficulties; and that the pilgrims visit the various parishes, the seminary, the Latin Patriarchate. One of our most important tasks is to welcome people and to talk about the situation. I know they wish to come, and we wish they would come! So I want to stress this point: the pilgrimages must continue and become more frequent, to achieve better and better mutual understanding. We have the same goal and this goal consolidates our identity and our common efforts.

Monsignor William Shomali

On 31st March 2010, Benedict XVI appointed Father William Shomali as Auxiliary Bishop of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Mgr Shomali, born in Beit Sahour (Palestine) in 1950, served in the parishes of Jordan, then he worked as professor, bursar and rector of the Beit Jala seminary, and finally as General Administrator of the Patriarchate. He obtained a doctorate in Liturgical Studies from the Pontifical University of Saint Anselm (Rome) and continues to teach that subject at the Seminary.

REGISTRUM EQUITUM SANCTISSIMI SEPULCHRI DOMINI NOSTRI JESU CHRISTI (1561-1848)

Pier Luigi Parola Governor General of Honor

Since I became a member of the Order, the search for reliable sources of its history has been my constant curiosity. A curiosity which I have tried to satisfy through various contacts with scholars and experts in the field.

byiously one of the most reliable sources from which to obtain information could only be the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land which, since the fall of Acre until the refoundation of the Order in a modern key by Pope Pius IX, has had the task and the privilege to create Knights of the Order, celebrating their Investiture at the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It took me years of patient and careful contacts, which I began when I was Lieutenant in the North of Italy, to overcome the natural mistrust of someone who wanted to pry into the Custody's Archives without any relevant qualifications or significant motivation.

My first contact was with Father Giovanni Battistelli, the Custos of the Holy Land at the time, a contact presently strengthened through a closer relationship of mutual trust I established with Father Michele Piccirillo, who was in charge of the Franciscan Archaeological Institute of Mount Nebo. Later, when I was already Governor General, this led the new Custos, Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, to agree on the publication – subject to the approval of His Eminence Cardinal Carlo Furno, then Grand Master of the Order – of the two Registrum Equitum, jealously stored in the Custody's historical archives, which list the names of all the Knights of the Order created between 1561 and 1848 by the Custodes of the Holy Land.

For easier reading, the volume has been arranged to show a facsimile of each handwritten Latin page (sometimes barely comprehensible) with the faithful transcription of the text on the facing page.

At the beginning of the 13th century, a new religious order saw the light in Italy. It was approved by Pope Innocent III in 1209: the Order of the Friars Minor, founded by St. Francis of Assisi. In 1220 St. Francis went to Damietta where he met the Sultan of Egypt, al-Malik al-K mil, who granted him a safe conduct to visit Palestine. By then the mission of the Friars Minor (afterwards called Franciscans), who divided their organization into Provinces, had set up an Overseas Province and the Friars had begun their work of helping the poor and the sick and evangelizing the In order to understand why it was the Franciscans who had the task of creating the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem during that period, we need to look back at some of the important historical events of the period.

Eastern territories, settling also in the Holy Land, where the Franciscan Custody was later created. Thanks to their behavior and to their work of assistance to the poor and the sick, claiming nothing in return as "poor among the poor", they managed to assure themselves of the goodwill of even the Muslim populations.

With twists and turns, among persecutions and periods of tolerance, the Franciscans were the only representatives of the Latin Church in the Holy Land who took care of the Custody of the Holy Land after the fall of Acre. By virtue of the rule established by Baldovinus I, which stated that, in the absence of the king of Jerusalem, the task of creating the Knights of the Order was the responsibility of the supreme ecclesiastical authority of the Latin Church (at the time the Latin Patriarchate), this privilege was transferred to the Franciscan Fathers, Guardians of the Holy Land. This privilege was then formally confirmed by the Papal Bulls of Leo X (1516), of Clement VI (1525) and Pius IV (1561).

As mentioned on page 3 by the compiler of the Registrum Equitum, it was Father Paul of Lodi, the Custos of the Holy Land, who, in 1633, gave instructions to copy the information about past Investitures into a single register. Unfortunately, as the compiler of the Registrum Equitum also notes on page 15, all the registers before 1561 were lost because they were burnt by the Turks during the Cyprus war. There was no register either of Investitures between 1590 and 1597, because of the Turkish persecutions suffered by the Franciscans.



The Registrum Equitum.



THE GLORY OF THE RESURRECTION

For the benefit of those who do not yet have the privilege to own or to be able to read a copy of the Registrum Equitum, I will give a brief account of some of the evidence mentioned by Father Piccirillo regarding the Investitures which took place at the Holy Sepulchre before 1561, which testifies to the existence and the continued vitality of the Order and of the Investitures ever since the time of the Crusades.

As early as 1336 (only 47 years after the fall of Acre), Knight William of Boldensel's description of his journey to the Holy Land reports that two Knights of the Holy Sepulchre were created.

In 1340, in the Spanish Priory of Calatayud, a document existed signed by a certain William who called himself a "Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre".

In the 14th century anonymous Chronicle of Valenciennes, it is reported that in 1343 William of Solre was created Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by William II, count of Holland and Hainaut.

In 1414, during his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Father Peter from Casola declared he personally compiled and sealed the certificates appointing the Knights created by the Custos of the Friars Minor of the Holy Sepulchre.

The report of the martyrdom of Saints Nicholas Tavelic, Stephen of Cuneo, Peter of Narbonne and Deodato Aribert from Rodez, which occurred in Jerusalem on the 11 November 1431, written on the same day by Friar Gerard Chauvet, Custos of the Convent of Mount Sion, is countersigned, among others, by Giovanni Barrile of Naples, who was then made a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre.

Finally, in his book on the history of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre based on his own researches, J.P. de Gennes states that between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, and in particular after 1494, as many as 643 Knights were invested at the hands of the Franciscan Custodes of the Holy Land.

As you will see, this volume, which contains the two Registrum Equitum kept in the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, is not simply a plain, dry list of names of people who received Investiture as Knights of the Holy Sepulchre; instead, it provides vivid and thrilling evidence of notable figures and simple pilgrims who, with courage and deep faith, braved the dangers and enormous difficulties which, in days gone by, filled any journey to Muslim territories, to travel in devout pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre of Our Lord, and by their charitable aid helped to support the work of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land and to preserve the Holy Places and the Holy Sepulchre.

Some copies of the Registrum Equitum are still available. Anyone wishing to purchase a copy while stocks last should apply to the Grand Magisterium, via their Lieutenancy.



"We are an Easter people and 'Alleluia' is our cry!" This joyful acclamation, often heard during the Easter season, is really appropriate for all Christians throughout the year since we live in the hope of the Resurrection every day of our lives.

A s members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, it is important that we reflect often on the mystery of the Resurrection. We come to worship the Lord before the empty tomb in Jerusalem, knowing that "he is not here. He has been raised, exactly as he promised" (Mt 28:6). Our Lord has been raised from the dead and we live our lives in the hope of Resurrection.

But, what exactly occurred on the Resurrection and how does that affect each of us? It is essential that we grasp what happened so we can incorporate its impact on us in our prayer and meditation. When our Lord rose on that first Easter Sunday, he was not simply resuscitated from death but was transformed into a new way of life. This is obvious from the various post-Resurrection accounts we read in the Sacred Scripture. He appeared as if from nowhere (cf. Lk 24:36), able to enter into locked rooms (cf Jn 20:19).

Even those who knew Jesus intimately did not recognize him at first because he was so different. As Mary Magdalene stood weeping beside the tomb, the risen Lord appeared to her; she thought he was the gardener (cf. Jn 20:11ff). When two of his disciples were on their way to Emmaus on the day Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to them and walked with them for some distance but they did not recognize him until he broke bread and gave it to them (cf. Lk 24:13ff). There was something so different in his appearance, that the risen Lord was not at first recognizable as Jesus, son of Mary.

The risen Lord was not recognizable because he had been transformed to another state of life. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches so well:

"Christ's Resurrection was not a return to earthly life, as was the case with the raisings from the dead that he had performed before Easter: Jairus' daughter, the young man of Naim, Lazarus. These actions were miraculous events, but the persons miraculously raised returned by Jesus' power to ordinary earthly life. At some particular moment they would die again. Christ's resurrection is essentially different. In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond space and time" (CCC, 646).

Exactly what life in the Kingdom of God entails is beyond our complete understanding and imagining. Jesus hinted at it in his parables when he taught that the kingdom of God "is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land" (Mk 4:26), or like a mustard seed that grew into a mighty bush (cf Mk 4:31ff; Lk 13:18ff) or like yeast that a woman took to knead into As much as we hold our lives here on earth to be precious gifts from God, the promise of "another life beyond space and time" awaits us when we pass through death, from life here on earth to a new life in the Kingdom of God.



dough (cf Lk 13:20). Notice how, in each image that Jesus presents, there is a radical transformation from one state of life (eg., seed or yeast) into another (eg., a plant, a bush or a loaf). Just as an infant, who experiences life in his mother's womb as a quiet, warm, dark, liquid-filled environment, cannot imagine what life will be like once he leaves the womb and enters the world filled with noise, light, air and a whole host of other stimuli for his senses, so we cannot imagine what life will be like as we share in the Lord's Resurrection, but it promises to be marvelous to behold!

Our Lord also uses the images of a "large dinner" (cf Lk 14:16ff), a heavenly feast (cf Lk 13:29) and a wedding banquet (cf Mt 22:2) – these images should attract us all! As the Book of Revelation asserts so well: "Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb" (Rv 19:9). But, in his letter to the Romans, Paul asserts that "the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating or drinking, but of justice, peace, and the joy that is given by the Holy Spirit" (Rm 14:17). Even better than eating fine food or drinking choice wine, the Kingdom of God is where we will finally live in true justice, peace and joy! Yes, our Lord's Resurrection leads us all to praise God for we live in the hope of the Resurrection! Our prayer before the empty tomb is "where he has gone, we hope to follow!" (Preface for the Feast of the Ascension) And, it leads us, knights and ladies of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, to rededicate ourselves to the support of our fellow Christians living so near to the empty tomb, since they provide a continued witness to all the world of the glory of the Resurrection and our hope of sharing in it!

EGERIA'S Pilgrimage

BY ANGELIKA RITTER-GREPL

A 4th century woman driven by religious curiosity and her journey across the globe

er passionate interest in people, God and her faith inspired a young woman in religious orders whose name was Egeria (sometimes known as Aetheria or Etheria) to embark on a lengthy pilgrimage. A pilgrimage that lasted three years, from 381 to 384 A.D. She set off eastwards from Northern Spain, straight across the continent to Constantinople, and then to the lands of the Bible, a round trip of 9,000 km or so (over 5,600 miles). Her goal was Jerusalem and the Holy Land with all the places she found in her guidebook – the Bible, which influenced not just her travel but her life. She stayed for a time in Jerusalem, continued her pilgrimage to Egypt and climbed Mount Sinai. Finally she reached the easternmost point of her journey, the homeland of Abraham: Haran, in Syria. Her own accounts relate that sometimes she traveled alone and sometimes with others and that she used many types of transport; she went on foot of course, but also on the back of pack animals and probably in a horsedrawn cart, alongside the Roman mail.



On her return journey from Constantinople she wrote a report of her journey in the form of letter (called an itinerary) to other young women in religious orders. It was addressed to her "honored sisters". The first part of the report has been lost but the second part was rediscovered in 1884, in the Codex Aretinus in the monastic library at Arezzo.

Egeria the Pilgrim

Egeria's pilgrimage was not just for the benefit of her own soul. Her declared aim was to provide information for her sisters at home about the holy places and the way the faith was practiced there and thus to bear witness to the way in which they should follow Christ.

She herself said she "longed to see the holy cities; to have the Bible right in front of her eyes".

For her readers, she brought to life the company of far-off faithful united by their beliefs by describing what she saw of the "life of the saints, the Masses and customs". For her, pilgrimage and prayer belonged together. Pilgrimage to the places mentioned in the Bible was bound up with meeting the local people and others she encountered along the pilgrimage route.

She sought out brothers and sisters in the local communities, amongst settlers, clerics, in monasteries and convents. She learned from them, sharing in their Masses and their prayers as, for example, she did with Deaconess Marthana at the church of St. Thecla in Pompeiopolis.

Her place in liturgical history

Egeria was a knowledgeable and courageous woman who crossed the borders between West and East. As a theological explorer she left behind a priceless account of the diversity of religious customs: a wealth we can draw on for our own practices. Egeria's report of her travels is very early evidence in the history of the liturgy, one of the oldest and most important descriptions of early Christian liturgies, with information about Mass in Jerusalem, the times of prayer and the dates of liturgical celebrations throughout the year. She writes about processions, about large daily prayer meetings still being held "before the cock crows" at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and mentions the use of incense (the first reference to incense as part of the liturgy).











EGERIA'S ITINERARY THE LITURGY IN JERUSALEM

BY DR. LIVIA NEUREITER

The part still extant of the document written by Egeria, in which she illustrates the liturgy in Jerusalem to her dominae venerabiles sorores (3,8; 20,5) – her honored sisters, whose residence can be located to the Rhone valley – begins with the description of the daily Masses in the holy places.

The daily prayer – The Liturgy of the Hours

Morning vigil, or Matins, took place at the Holy Sepulchre before the cock crowed. Psalms were recited until dawn, and they were alternated with prayers said by priests, deacons and monks.

Egeria describes a timetable similar to the Liturgy of the Hours celebrated at the Holy Sepulchre both at the sixth hour (12 noon – Sext) and at the ninth hour (3 p.m. – None). Sext and None too were characterized by a recitation of the Psalms. Again, the end of the day, which started with the Tenth Hour (4 p.m.), corresponding to our Vespers, was celebrated at the Holy Sepulchre.

Egeria describes the evening prayers as a rite of lights similar to a procession, both sumptuous and awe-inspiring. The intercession prayers were said in a solemn way, citing the names of those whom the prayer was for, and the people present responded by exclaiming: "Kyrie eleison". After the prayers and the blessing of the catechumens and of the faithful before and behind the cross (24,7 ante Crucem – post Crucem), everyone once more approached the hand of the bishop. During all of the six days of the week, the Liturgy of the Hours was celebrated in the Anastasis, at the Holy Sepulchre.

All that has been handed down of the description of the Sunday celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours is the part relating to the dawn Lauds. "As at Easter" (24,8 ac si per pascha), Egeria writes, many people gathered in the Basilica in front of the Anastasis, whose doors remained shut until the first cock crow. After they were opened and the bishop had made his entrance, and after three Psalms, three prayers and three intercessions had been recited, the censer was brought inside the cave, so that the space, already richly lit up, "is filled with odors" (24,10 repleatur odoribus). Finally, the bishop read the narrative of the Passion and the Resurrection.

Egeria also reports that at dawn the faithful gathered in the church that Constantine had built on Golgotha, behind the cross, to celebrate the Sunday service together. Among the other features of Sunday, she mentions the preaching of the priests sermons and the final sermon by the bishop, followed by the dismissal around the Fourth Hour (10 a.m.) or the Fifth Hour (11 a.m.). At the end of her description, Egeria notes that the Psalms always suit the celebration. The things she remarks on in connection with the Liturgy of the Hours celebrated in Jerusalem recur throughout the descriptions of her travels: the texts, the readings and the prayers are harmonized with the celebration of the hour, day and place.

The annual cycle of religious festivities

Egeria's description of the festivities celebrated in Jerusalem throughout the year testifies to the existence of a liturgical calendar characterized by a liturgical sequence similar to a procession – the so-called liturgy of "statio" – and by texts suitable for the day, the hour and the place. Her narrative also impressively reports the proximity and the succession of the Christian celebrations and of the Hebrew traditions: Epiphany, Easter, Pentecost and Church consecration are matched by Hanukkah (feast of the temple consecration), Pesach (Easter), Shavuot (feast of the weeks) and Succoth (the festival of booths).

Epiphany, the feast of the birth and baptism of Jesus, is described by Egeria as a solemnity in which a procession unfolds which reaches Jerusalem at dawn and ends at the Anastasis in a feast of lights. Egeria mentions in particular the magnificent decorations of the Anastasis and also of the church in Bethlehem. The fortieth day after Epiphany, the feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the temple is solemnly celebrated, "as at Easter" (26,1 ac si per pascha).

The preparation for Easter was carried out through an eight-week period of fasting; people did not fast on the eight Sundays and seven Saturdays.

The "great week" (30,1 septimana maior) started on the Saturday before Easter. On that day, besides the other celebrations, there was a Mass at 1 p.m. on the Mount of Olives and, after 5 p.m., the bishop was accompanied to Jerusalem in a solemn procession. Once again, it can clearly be seen that the liturgy was based on an imitation of the Gospel narratives which also served as a way to bring the story of salvation alive.

For Holy Thursday, Egeria particularly emphasizes the fact that in the Anastasis, it is only in the afternoon of this day that the Eucharist is celebrated a second time after the usual celebration. More precisely, this second celebration takes place behind the cross, a fact which stresses the particular importance of the supper. After the first cock crow, the faithful walk down to Gethsemane, at the foot of the Mount of Olives, to commemorate the capture of Jesus. At midday the solemn adoration of the cross on Golgotha begins.

At Sext – the moment of crucifixion – until None – the time of death – people listen to the holy readings and to the corresponding hymns, which move them deeply, even to tears. The reading of the Gospel according to John 19,16–37 is followed by a prayer and by dismissal. The Liturgy of the Hours that follows concludes with the reading of the deposition of Jesus in the tomb.

The fiftieth day after Easter – the solemn feast of Pentecost – is described by Egeria as a celebration of the Ascension and of the descent of the Spirit.

As the fourth feast of the annual cycle, Egeria describes the consecration of the churches of the Martyrium and of the Anastasis on 13th September – this was also considered to be the day on which the "Lord's cross" had been found (48,1 crux Domini).

Preparation for baptism and thorough postbaptismal preparation

Before the period of fasting, all the people who had asked to be baptized were listed. At the beginning of the period of fasting, they went to the bishop with their godfathers and were questioned about their integrity and their way of life. After five weeks of a daily catechesis lasting three hours, those who had asked to be baptized were given the profession of faith, explained article by article.



After seven weeks they gave it back (redditio symboli), pronouncing it publicly before the bishop in the presence of the god-fathers.

After the baptism, Egeria describes Easter Week, mentioning how the question of different languages was solved: the liturgy, celebrated in Greek, was translated into Syrian for the local peoples or into Latin for the faithful coming from the West, by monks and nuns who knew the languages.

Conclusio – Final conclusions

The Holy City was the focus of Egeria's pilgrimage. She left Jerusalem many times, but altogether she spent as much as three years in this city, which is reported as a meeting point for the Church of the empire and thus as the destination of many pilgrims at the end of the IV century. As Jerome reports, among the pilgrims in the Holy Land there were Melania the Elder, Melania the Younger, Paula and Eustochia, Fabiola and Artemia, names that appear in the documents of numerous cultured, wealthy and pious Christians. The pilgrim Egeria, with her epistolary travelogue, holds a special place among the sources which have been handed down to us. Her report of the pilgrimage is not only testimony of the journey from the West to the holy places made by a Christian using the Bible as a "travel guide", but it represents, beyond this, the oldest and most detailed – thus the most important – description of liturgical practice in Jerusalem in the later IV century and it enlightens us on the practices of prayer, of the liturgical year and of the preparations before and after holy baptism.

The Holy Sepulchre, the Rotunda of the Anastasis, but also the whole complex of the Anastasis are, according to Egeria's description, the centre and the starting point of various liturgical celebrations in Jerusalem, in relation both to the Liturgy of the Hours and the festivities throughout the liturgical year, baptism in particular.

Doctor Livia Neureiter,

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Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Golgotha.

THE SPECIAL ASSEMBLY For the middle east of the synod of bishops

MGR. ARCHIMANDRITE ROBERT L. STERN, P.A. (Mgr. Stern also was a synod father)

Sunday morning, 10 October 2010, Saint Peter's Basilica witnessed an extraordinary sight: All the bishops of the Catholic churches of the Middle East gathered around the Successor of Peter to concelebrate the Eucharist.

he multicolored flowing robes, the variety of headdresses and the diversity of accents gave eloquent testimony to the very nature of the Church, unity in diversity. The solemn ceremony opened the Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops, an historic first convocation of the leaders of all the Catholic churches from Turkey to Egypt and as far east as Iran, including as well the region of the Arabian peninsula.

Eastern bishops ministering to Middle East flocks in Western lands were there, as well as representatives of other Eastern Catholic churches, episcopal conferences and dicasteries of the Holy See. Other attendees included superiors general of religious orders, special nominees of the Holy Father, fraternal delegates of other churches and invited experts and observers.

Every day for the next two weeks, all gathered in prayer every morning, celebrated each day according to a different liturgical rite and tradition, before spending all the morning and much of the late afternoon commenting on the draft working documents and offering

heartfelt analyses of the situation of the Middle East churches and faith-filled proposals for their growth and development. It was a rare opportunity in the Vatican to hear the Arabic language widely spoken – in addition to Italian, French or English – as the synod fathers spoke their minds and opened their hearts to describe the challenges faced by their minority Christian faithful in the overwhelmingly Muslim world of the Middle East.

Cardinal John Patrick Foley, beloved Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a special nominee to the synod of the Holy Father, was an important participant. His role of leadership of our Order with its mandate to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land almost corresponded to the mandate of the synodal assembly itself, for in the broadest sense "Holy Land" almost can be identified with "Middle East". The lands touched by the Lord Himself include all of Israel, Palestine and Jordan and parts of Lebanon, Syria and Egypt; the territories of the Bible also include Turkey, Cyprus, Iraq and Iran. "As messengers of Christ's peace, I am convinced that all of us must pray and work for peace in the Middle East – especially for a just and lasting peace between Palestine and Israel and among their neighbors," the good cardinal said in his first synodal intervention. "As the one honored by our Holy Father with the task of serving as Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, I am inspired by the interest and generosity of the almost 27,000 Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre in 56 jurisdictions all over the world.

Many have made pilgrimages to the Holy Land where they have visited not only the places made sacred by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ but also the parishes, schools and hospitals which serve those we call the 'living stones' – the Christian descendants of the original followers of Jesus Christ in that land we call 'holy'.

When Cardinal Foley concluded, "May these common (Jewish, Christian and Muslim) beliefs and practices be acknowledged and followed in the hope of greater mutual understanding and of reconciliation, peace and indeed love in that land which all of us, Jew, Christian and Muslim, are moved to call 'holy," he echoed the great, common theme of the synod, Communion and Witness. The deliberations and resolutions of this historic assembly were first concerned with the situation of Christians in the Middle East, the challenges facing them - ranging from political conflicts, freedom of religion and conscience, the evolution of contemporary Islam, emigration, and immigration of Christians to the Middle East from other parts of the world - and the response of Christians in daily life.

A profound reflection on ecclesial communion - "Now the company of those who believed were on one heart and soul (Acts 4:32) - was the next great concern of the synod fathers. At root it names our common participation in Christ's death and resurrection and in the mystery of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. The Middle East bishops spoke lovingly of building closer ties among the Catholic churches, especially among the diverse Eastern Catholic churches themselves and with the great Western church of Rome. The importance of common bonds of discipleship with the Orthodox and other churches and ecclesial communities was signaled as the next of the broadening circle of relationships in the Spirit that are the essence of church. In spite of the personal experience of discrimination in their homelands of so many of the synod fathers, all spoke of the vital importance of fellowship with other believers in the One God of Abraham, Muslims and Jews.

The concluding reflection of the synod articulated a profoundly evangelical position of faith, hope and charity – a total confidence in the Divine Providence that has nurtured a "little flock" in the midst of so many challenges and difficulties and that has also entrusted it with a demanding vocation and call to give testimony in service to humanity, society and each of the Middle East countries.

Committed to working to prepare a new dawn for their homelands and energized by their spiritually rich and fruitful days together in prayer, reflection and study in union with the Pope, the patient and persevering shepherds of the Eastern lands left Rome to pick up anew their demanding roles of pasturing their hardy flocks in those sometimes rocky and arid lands entrusted to them.

SYNOD FOR THE MIDDLE EAST 10-24 OCTOBER 2010

SOURCE: VATICAN RADIO reported in UNITAS 3/2010, journal of the Order of the Swiss Lieutenancy

t the invitation of Pope Benedict XVI, a special Synod for the Middle East took place at the Vatican. The representatives of the seven Eastern Catholic churches gathered for the occasion: the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Chaldean Catholic church, the Coptic Catholic church, the Maronite Catholic church, the Syrian Catholic church, the Greek-Melkite Catholic church and the Armenian Catholic church. Several observers of the non-Catholic churches in the Middle East also took part in the meetings as well as representatives of Islam and Hebraism.

A total of about 230 delegates attended the Synod. As a representative of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the

Grand Master, His Eminence Cardinal Foley, spoke at the plenary assembly on the 12th October.

The Synod fathers' 44 proposals

At the end of the two weeks' debate, and as a result of it, the Synod Fathers presented 44 proposals to Benedict XVI in order to strengthen the Catholic Church in the Middle East. The Pope will use the text as a basis for the final official document of the Synod for the Middle East which will be published in a few months. Some of the issues dealt with in the proposals are reported below.



Synod.

"Take a good look at this region"

The Synod Fathers recommend making the whole world aware of the dramatic situation in which some Christian communities live in the Middle East, "sometimes to the point of martyrdom". National and international decision-making bodies are requested to put an end to this situation.

Emigration

The document often covers the phenomenon of migration under both its aspects of emigration and immigration. In order to reinforce the presence of Christians in the Middle East, the Synod Fathers urge the faithful not to sell their lands and their houses to outsiders when they emigrate. It is also necessary to devise projects which will allow land-owners to lead a dignified life in their own country. At the same time, the Synod Fathers requested the creation of a commission that will deal with the emigration of Christians and elaborate proposals to put an end to it. In the countries which have received emigrants coming from the Middle East, Churches should know and respect the traditions of Eastern Churches.

Immigration

Point 14 of the proposals is devoted by the Synod Fathers to those who immigrate to the countries of the Middle East. The Fathers ask Catholic institutions, Caritas in particular, but also politicians, to respect the fundamental rights of immigrants, no matter what their nationality or their religion. Point 19 deals with the situation of Catholics in the countries of the Gulf region.

Here again the Synod Fathers suggest creating a commission which would take care of the Christian communities in the countries with a majority Muslim population and which would indicate to the Holy See ways to offer these people better pastoral assistance. It would also be useful – the Synod Fathers remark in a note – if the Roman Curia were to



Patriarch Fouad Twal.

issue its documents in the Arabian language as well. This way Christians of Arabian culture could have easier access to the information coming from Rome.

Ecumenism in Arabic

The Synod Fathers express the wish that in matters concerning ecumenism, the various Churches in the Middle East should intensify their efforts to achieve unity. They declare themselves to be in favor of a unified Arabic translation of the Lord's Prayer and of the Creed. They also state that Churches should finally agree on a common date for Christmas and Easter.

No to anti-Semitism

Three of the 44 proposals were devoted to dialogue with Judaism and Islam. Christians in the Middle East are first of all invited to a "purification of memory", an expression which appears twice in the document. Christians should then mutually forgive past events and find ways for a shared and better future. In spite of all difficulties, they should collaborate to build a "new society", in which "religious pluralism is respected and where fanaticism and extremism will be excluded".

In real terms, the Synod Fathers express the wish for greater cooperation with Jews "in order to delve deeply into human and religious values, freedom, justice, peace and fraternity".

The Synod Fathers' document clearly condemns anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism, remarking that it is necessary to make a distinction between religion and politics.

No to extremism

In the dialogue with Muslims it is fundamental to emphasize dignity of the human person, equality of rights and duties as well as freedom of religion, including freedom of worship and of conscience.

Christians in the Middle East should abandon their prejudices toward Muslims and join with them against fundamentalism and violence in the name of religion.



Priests at the Synod.

Cardinal Kasper: the Synod has roused awareness

Cardinal Walter Kasper devoted himself from the start to the preparation of the Synod which he also attended. During the interview he was asked: was the Synod a success?

"The important fact was especially that of being able to gather all the patriarchs and bishops of the Middle East – who generally do not meet – to give them the possibility to talk about their problems to the Pope and to the other bishops. These Churches need our help and especially our moral support, our aid.

I believe that from this point of view, the Synod has roused a certain awareness in us and in our Church".

In German-speaking countries, there is the widespread opinion that the Church, and especially Rome, devotes more energies to the ecumenism with Eastern Churches than with the Lutherans or the Reformed Church. Is that true?



Cardinal Antonios Naguib, Coptic Patriarch of Alexandria

"It is a perception that I detect very often in Germany, although it is not correct. When the Pope chose my successor, he told me expressly that he wanted someone who spoke German and who knew the Reformed Churches. Here we think more from the point of view of the universal Church, and so completely different aspects are taken into account. It is thus a different perspective from the one we have in Germany. Besides, the Near East and the Middle East are a problem on an international scale, as well as the source of many other conflicts, and this makes them a huge problem for Germans too".



Preparing for the Synod.



The diverse face of the Synod.

The final Message from the Synod Fathers

The final Message is entitled: "Nuntius, the Message to the People of God" and it explains the debates and themes which were discussed in the two weeks of the Synod.

It is addressed to all the faithful, religious and lay people in the countries of the Middle East.

The cradle of Christianity

After thanking Pope Benedict for convening the first great special Synod for the Middle East, in the introduction the Synod Fathers concentrate on the assembly's focus on pastoral concerns.

They recall how the East was the cradle of the first Christian community. Then they

speak of "challenges and expectations", basically four issues which affect the peoples of the Middle East.

Challenges and expectations

According to the document, the first challenge is constituted by the internal unity of the Church. That is why it is important to fortify the unity of each Church, and also that between the various Catholic traditions, and to achieve the unity of all Christians through prayer and acts of charity.

As a second challenge, the political conditions, security and pluralism in the Middle East are mentioned. At the center of everything there is first of all the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has repercussions on the entire region, especially on the inhabitants of the territories occupied in Palestine. Several consequences are mentioned, including – for example – the military barriers or the demolition of houses. The lack of security for Israelis and the situation of the city of Jerusalem were at the centre of reflections, the document also states.

With reference to the limitations of the right of residence of the Palestinians in Jerusalem imposed by the Israeli Jews, the Synod Fathers declare themselves to be "worried" about the "unilateral initiatives" which "risk changing" the demography and status of the Holy City. Only a "just and final peace" can ensure the wellbeing of the entire region and of its inhabitants, the Fathers remind us.

As another central point of reflection, the document focuses on Iraq: the Synod Fathers express their solidarity with all the Iraqi people and with all their Churches, and launch an appeal to give aid to the refugees who are forced to leave their land, until they can return to their countries and live there safely.

Another great "building site" concerns the relationship between Christians and Muslims. The Synod Fathers emphasize that "in our Christian view of things, a fundamental principle" should govern relations. It is the Christian mission and vocation to live together with the Muslims according to the "commandment of love and through the power of the Spirit". As part and parcel of the Middle East society, all believers – Muslims, Jews and Christians – are called on to contribute to the development of their region.

Together for peace in the Middle East

Another paragraph of the Message is devoted to the dialogue with Jews and Muslims. The hope is expressed that dialogue between Christians and Jews can also contribute to the positive solution of the political conflict. The latter should not stir up discord between religions. After all, the dialogue between the representatives of Judaism and Christianity has been going on for many years already, and not only since the Vatican Council II. The common roots of the three Abrahamic religions are also recalled: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. The Synod Fathers encourage people to work together for a "sincere, just and final peace". The dialogue between Muslims and Christians is a "vital necessity" which determines the common future, the document goes on to say, referring to the speech that Pope Benedict XVI made to the Muslims in Cologne in August 2005. In spite of some "false premises" in past and present relationships, we must concern ourselves with how we can offer the world community a positive model of cohabitation and cooperation.

In favor of a common solution

In their final Message the Synod Fathers exhort the international community, especially the United Nations, to look "sincerely" for a solution to guarantee the region a "just and final peace". In order to put an end to occupation of the various Arab territories, the resolutions of the U.N. Security Commission must be applied and the "necessary juridical measures" implemented.

A clear appeal then follows for a common solution and for the creation of an "independent and sovereign" Palestinian state. This would guarantee the people a life "of dignity and stability". In turn, the State of Israel would be able to enjoy peace and security "within internationally acknowledged frontiers", the document goes on to say. And, finally, according to the Synod Fathers, the city of Jerusalem would find a constitution that would provide equal justice to the religious heritage of Jews, Christians and Muslims.

Condemnation of any form of violence

The message unanimously condemns "violence and terrorism of any origin" and "any kind of religious extremism", as well as racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Christianism and Islamophobia. All religions, the document concludes, are invited to promote dialogue between the region's cultures. Three representatives of the OESSH also took part in the special Synod for the Middle East: H.Em. the Cardinal Grand Master John Patrick Foley, H.E. the Governor General Prof. Agostino Borromeo and the President of the Holy Land Commission of the Grand Magisterium, Dr. Christa von Siemens. Among the speakers, both Cardinal Foley and Prof. Borromeo made important contributions. Here is an extract from each:

CONTRIBUTION BY CARD. JOHN PATRICK FOLEY, GRAND MASTER OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

As messengers of Christ's peace, I am convinced that all of us must pray and work for peace in the Middle East – especially for a just and lasting peace between Palestine and Israel and among their neighbors.

I am convinced that the continued tension between the Israelis and the Palestinians has contributed greatly to the turmoil in all of the Middle East and also to the growth of Islamic fundamentalism.

While many, including the Holy See, have suggested a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, the more time passes, the more difficult such a solution becomes, as the building of Israeli settlements and Israelicontrolled infrastructure in East Jerusalem and in other parts of the West Bank make increasingly difficult the development of a viable and integral Palestinian state.

During the Holy Father's historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land last year, I had the opportunity for brief conversations with

political leaders at the highest level in Jordan, Israel and Palestine. All of them spoke of the great contribution to mutual understanding made by Catholic schools in those three areas. Since Catholic schools are open to all and not just to Catholics and to other Christians, many Moslem and even some Jewish children are enrolled.

The effects are apparent and inspiring. Mutual respect is engendered, which we hope will lead to reconciliation and even mutual love.

As the one honored by our Holy Father with the task of serving as Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, I am inspired by the interest and generosity of the almost 27,000 Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre in 56 jurisdictions all over the world.

Many have made pilgrimages to the Holy Land where they have visited not only the places made sacred by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ but also the parishes, schools and hospitals which serve those we call the "living stones" – the Christian descendants of the original followers of Jesus Christ in that land we call "holy".

Since the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre has sent more than \$ 50 million to assist especially the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem but also other Christian communities and institutions to survive and indeed excel in service to the entire community in the Holy Land.

Such generosity, while important, is secondary to the development of an ever deeper spiritual life on the part of our members and of those whom we serve. Years ago, I noted that the so-called five pillars of Islam really had their origins in Judaeo-Christian sources.

Jews, Christians and Moslems all believe in one God; we all practice frequent and, I hope, fervent prayer; we all, in different ways, practice fasting; we believe in and practice almsgiving; and we all seek to take part in pilgrimage - also to Jerusalem, a city sacred to Jews, Christians and Moslems.

May these common beliefs and practices be acknowledged and followed in the hope of greater mutual understanding and of reconciliation, peace and indeed love in that land which all of us, Jew, Christian and Moslem, are moved to call "holy".

CONTRIBUTION BY H.E. PROF. AGOSTINO BORROMEO, GOVERNOR GENERAL

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

This intervention is focused on the theme of emigration (no.43-48 of the Instrumentum Laboris). It is apparent that the phenomenon of emigration in Middle Eastern countries is determined by factors which the Church itself cannot influence - as properly highlighted in no. 44.

In addition to the traditional aid to the Churches, one could nevertheless seek to implement new strategies for the betterment of living conditions for Christians.

I will cite some examples: 1) the construction of social housing; 2) the creation of medical clinics at locations far from hospital centers; 3) the concession of micro-credits, especially for financing activities that create new sources of income or increase those already being received; 4) the elaboration of a system of micro-insurance, with special reference to the health insurance sector; 5) contact with Western companies in order to find out whether they may be interested in transferring some stages of production processes to the Middle East.

Of course, these initiatives should be activated in close collaboration with the local ecclesiastical authorities and under the control of the individual Churches.

Even if the results might be modest, they would still be a practical demonstration of the closeness of Christians all around the world to the problems and sufferings of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.



HOUSING PROJECT In Beit Safafa

The Order has already posted information about this project in the "News Flash" item on its homepage. Another Franciscan project for building homes is reported in the Order's Newsletter No. 21.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre's projects had never before included a plan to build homes. We want to promote training for young people and to provide them with improved basic working conditions.

In the future, another important matter will be to create new jobs. Nonetheless, we do not want to shut our eyes to the fact that the provision of accommodation is essential to our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

The availability of suitable accommodation for a family can help to check Christian emigration.

Beit Safafa, to the southeast of Jerusalem, is a small Arab neighborhood with 5,643 inhabitants. In 2003 Bishop William Shomali – at that time still General Administrator – had the idea of creating secure housing for Christians in Jerusalem in order to encourage them to stay in the Holy Land, because very often the reason why people emigrate is the difficult situation in the area.

The Latin Patriarchate sees care for the poorest of the poor in the Christian parishes as one of its chief missions and for over 160 years it has promoted spiritual support, education, improved living conditions and local development.



Structural work in Beit Safafa.

At the beginning of 2004 the Patriarchate bought a plot of land where 40 families could realize their need for decent accommodation. The Patriarchate also provided the necessary professionals to draw up proper plans and obtain building permission. After four years of determined effort, they finally received approval from the relevant authorities in Jerusalem in August 2008.

As time passed, more and more families applied to join the project.

Three questions put to Mons. William Shomali, Auxiliary Bishop of Jerusalem:

The Beit Safafa project is the largest real estate project intended for Jerusalem's Arab population.

The Latin Patriarchate, which is promoting the project, means it to stem the growing exodus of Christians from the Holy Land. The first homes should be handed over in less than a year.

What is the origin of the housing complex in Beit Safafa

The number of Christians in Jerusalem has decreased significantly. In 1948, there were 25,000 (about a quarter of the population at the time), now there are slightly more than 10,000 (2 % of the present population).

The demographic decrease is serious and the reasons behind it are not clear: the continuous exodus of Christians, the low birth rate and the difficulty of obtaining lands and permits to build houses. Jerusalem has become too expensive for Christians.

In order to slow down – at least partially – the departure of Christians, the Latin Patriarchate decided to launch a project for the construction of 80 houses south of Jerusalem, at Beit Safafa, in order to accommodate Christian families, especially young couples who are more likely to have children. Beit Safafa is in the south of Jerusalem. The Latin Patriarchate had the opportunity to purchase a large plot of land at a reasonable price. The chance was too good to miss.

However, while the Beit Safafa project is intended mainly for the employees of Jerusalem's Christian institutions and associations, to avoid creating ghettos, the families chosen to live there are of all religious backgrounds. To the extent that even two Muslim families have been selected.

The first forty properties, that is half of the total, will be available within eleven months.

What part did the Latin Patriarchate play exactly?

In the context of this project the Latin Patriarchate's role has been that of real estate developer. This way it is much easier both for groups and individuals – there is strength in numbers – to obtain permits to purchase the land and to build on it, in particular in view of the very strict legal requirements.

Note that it took as many as 15 years before the project could be registered at the city land office.

Today, the Patriarchate puts purchasers in touch with the various groups working on the construction (lawyers, engineers, financiers...).

So, for example, the Patriarchate represented the beneficiaries in dealing with the various administrative bodies.

It was also responsible for allocating the first forty houses.

For this purpose, a draw was held among the families whose applications had been selected for the project following a thorough analysis of their family situation and their relative financial needs.

All the families declared themselves to be satisfied with the outcome. And that was not foreseeable beforehand.

Providence protected the draw just as it has protected the project ever since its uncertain and difficult beginnings.

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Who are the sponsors who finance the project?

You must remember that at the beginning it was the purchasers themselves who secured the financing. They paid for the land with their own money. For the building expenses, they asked the Arab Bank for a loan, through the mediation and support of the Patriarchate. Following that, this project – which represents a total cost of US \$ 15 million – received \$ 2 million in aid and subsidies. \$ 600,000 were provided by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, by its Lieutenancies and most of all by personal initiatives. The Italian contribution amounted to \$ 1.1 million. Such a project does not claim to solve all the difficulties faced by Jerusalem's Christian community, nor, least of all, the problem of the constant need for accommodation. It was intended to be a partial solution of this particular problem and, especially, to create a pilot project which could be copied by other religious institutions. As I just said: there is strength in numbers. This project adds to others put in place by the Patriarchate itself and by the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, which recently completed a complex of 71 units, located at Bethphage, in the area north of Jerusalem.

Interview by Christophe Lafontaine



House under construction in Beit Safafa.



FROM THE LIEUTENANCIES

Below are the reports of a series of Lieutenancies about their activities in 2010.

There is a wide array, ranging from the usual Investitures and meetings to a charity marathon run, but the true aim was always to improve our own Christian lifestyle and to support the Christians and the Catholic Church in the Holy Land (viz. Article 2 of the Order's Constitution). We thank the Lieutenancies for the photographs they provided.

ARGENTINA

S ixteen years since the start of its second phase, the Argentinian Lieutenancy has carried out fruitful work, both in supporting and enhancing the spiritual training of its members, and in its duty to contribute to maintaining the activities in the Holy Land.

Monthly meetings have taken place regularly with reflections on spiritual themes, presented by one of the knights and analyzed further by talks by the Grand Prior. A permanent campaign to raise awareness of the Order's aims has also been conducted. two of the most important events being the publication of La Orden de Caballería del Santo Sepulcro by the ex-Lieutenant D. Isidoro Ruiz Moreno; and the lecture on Misión y Obra de la Orden del Santo Sepulcro given by Monsignor Hector Aguer, Don Isidoro Ruiz Moreno and Don Rodolfo Lanús de la Serna, which has also been printed and distributed in order to make it more widely known.



Monsignor Dorronsoro and Cardinal Sandri, Rome, December 2008.

A pilgrimage was organized to the sanctuary of Nuestra Señora de Luján – where the patron saint, the Virgin of Argentina, is venerated – attended not only by Knights and Dames, but also by many of their wives and husbands. As every Good Friday, a



Ceremony of the 1st November 2010: Monsignor Aguer, Eduardo Antonio Santamarina and a Maronite bishop.

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group from our Lieutenancy attended the ceremonies in La Plata Cathedral, where our Grand Prior has his archbishopric, and made a collection in aid of the Holy Land. Also, in accordance with our usual program, yearly masses were held in honor of the Virgin of Palestine, Patroness of the Order, and in memory of deceased Knights.

In proper pursuance of directions from the Grand Magisterium, the Lieutenancy proceeded to translate the "Standards of behavior" and the "Manual of Ceremonial" into Castilian; to ensure that these standards and ceremonies are achieved satisfactorily; and to publish the yearly Guide, in order to give it ample diffusion among our members.

The Guide, which contains full information about the Order, is divided in two sections, one public and one private.

The visit of His Beatitude the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem to our country and his participation in our activities was a great event which brought honor and prestige to the Argentinian Lieutenancy. Before the Investiture ceremony, a private meeting took place on the 30th October between the Patriarch and the Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy, who listened directly to an honest and complete account by His Beatitude of the difficult situation of Christians in the Holy Land and of their needs; the clarity of Monsignor Twal's words provoked a fruitful exchange of opinions. On the same day, with the participation of the Knights' spouses and of representatives of the Order of Malta, the Constantinian Order and the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus, the Lieutenancy gave a reception in honor of His Beatitude. Father Saguier Fonrouge celebrated Holy Mass in the presence of the relatives of deceased members, as well as a large delegation of knights.

Finally, in keeping with the decisions made, we are already working on organizing the

Lieutenancy's first pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which will take place at the beginning of September 2011, under the leadership of the Lieutenant and of the Grand Prior, following on from a visit to Rome to meet the authorities of the Grand Magisterium of the Order and to attend the papal audience in the Vatican.

AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND

he Lieutenancy of Australia-Queensland of course couldn't top its events of 2009 where we had a visit from His Eminence the Grand Master John Cardinal Foley. In 2010 we have again had our usual events such as our annual Jerusalem Day seminar and Annual General Meeting, our first Sunday masses and our investiture of three new members.

However, the highlights of the year were our second pilgrimage to Jordan and the Holy Land. The pilgrimage started in Jordan with visits to Madaba and Mount Nebo from where we could view the Promised Land as Moses did all those millennia ago. We took advantage of being in Jordan to visit Petra, which is truly amazing.

We then traveled into the Holy Land and up the Jordan Valley to Nazareth where we stayed for a few nights, with visits to the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, the Peter Primacy and Mount Tabor. We also crossed over to Mount Carmel and the cave of Isaiah.

Some of the highlights then were our visit to Jericho where we had Mass in the local community church, then, via the Dead Sea, we went on to Taybeh where we stayed with Father Raed and attended Mass on the Sunday with the full parish community. We went to the school at Ramallah where the donations from the Australian Lieutenancies pay the school fees. We also had a

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most inspiring and extremely moving visit to Bethlehem University. We visited the Church of the Nativity and entered the Manger.

Proceeding into Jerusalem, the highlights, obviously, were the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and entering the Tomb. With visits to the Mount of Olives and Mass under one of the old olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, we thought that we were truly blessed. We saw the sites on Mount Zion and the western wall. We visited many other sacred sites which are too numerous to mention here.

We returned home to Australia via Jordan and are already planning the next pilgrimage.

AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES

he most significant event for the NSW Lieutenancy during 2010 has been the extension of the Order into New Zealand; our nearest neighbor a mere 2,000 kms or some 3 ½ hours flight away.

When the Grand Master visited Australia in 2009 there was discussion regarding an appropriate response to approaches from New Zealand to both the NSW Lieutenancy and the Grand Magisterium seeking establishment of the Order in New Zealand.

The outcome of these discussions was that the Grand Master charged the NSW Lieuten-



All and sundry photograph after the investiture.



L to R Fr. Anthony Malone ofm, Rev Dr. Thomas Carroll pp (Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies NSW Lieutenancy) Mgr Kevin Hackett pp, Kt Philip Sherry KHS, Kt James Bickford KCHS, John Secker.

ancy with seeking to foster development of the Order in that country. Contact was soon established with Kt. James Bickford KHS, a member of the Lieutenancy of England and Wales who had recently migrated to New Zealand.

With the encouragement of Bishop Patrick Dunn of Auckland and after many telephone discussions between James and John it seemed that there were enough seeds falling on fertile ground to start the process of establishing in New Zealand.

Accordingly, in April John Secker KC*HS (Lieutenant of Australia – New South Wales) traveled to New Zealand to meet with James, Mr. Philip Sherry and Fr. Anthony Malone ofm.

The outcome of the meeting was a decision by Mr. Sherry and Fr. Malone together with another priest Mgr Kevin Hackett pp to seek membership. With the active support of the Admissions and Promotions team in Rome the necessary paperwork was processed in time for them to travel to Sydney to be invested at our October Investiture.

There are now active discussions happening with a growing number of New Zealand Catholics and it is hoped that the first investiture in New Zealand will occur in 2011.

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💠 FROM THE LIEUTENANCIES

Last year the report from the Lieutenancy of Australia South somehow vanished into the depths of the Internet so we now include both 2009 and 2010 here:

AUSTRALIA SOUTH 2009

t the first meeting of the year, we welcomed the news of the visit to South Australia by His Eminence Cardinal Foley, and the committee proceeded to plan for the visit.

The Order has focused on a renewal of our Spiritual Life, by attending a retreat, a Bible Course and a study group at the Theological College. Our teacher is a priest who has lived in Jerusalem for many years, and is familiar with the needs of the community in the Holy Land. He encouraged the members to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, an experience that is sure to change each of our lives. This is planned for 2010. The arrival of Cardinal John Foley and Monsignor Hans Brouwers was greeted with joy and excitement. They attended a reception at the Town Hall, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, the Honourable Michael Harbison. A formal dinner with the members and their guests was hosted by His Grace, Archbishop Wilson, who presented Cardinal Foley with a hand knitted fine lamb's wool jumper, and Monsignor Brouwers with a special reserve wine from the Barossa Valley.

After investing three Knights and a Dame, they joined us singing a Hymn written especially for their visit to South Australia, by Joshua Valstar, the Cathedral Choir Master. The Order sings this Hymn whenever we gather to celebrate Mass.



His Eminence Cardinal Grand Master John Foley was being presented with the State Dignitaries of South Australia at the Investiture Dinner on 30.9.2009. Sitting at his right is His Most Reverend Excellency Archbishop Philip Wilson and standing behind him is H.E. Monsignor David Cappo the Grand Prior Coadjutor.

AUSTRALIA SOUTH 2010

s many of our Order are elderly, it was decided to invite younger members from cultural divers background. In August, ten new candidates were admitted to the Order from Vietnamese, Italian and Chinese heritage, which reflects some of the mix of our cultures and society. We are a cohesive group, and have lively conversation and many laughs at our gatherings.

Our new members were welcomed to the retreat, bible studies, history of the Order and information night in preparation for their Investiture. We discussed and compared the similarity of the aims of the first Knights of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to those aims in our society today.

A year's planning came to fruition in October, when Lieutenant David Wong led twelve members and spouses on a 14 day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. They visited Jaffa, Caesarea, Haifa, Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem and the Dead Sea. All pilgrims experienced the exhilaration and wonder of walking in the footsteps of our Lord, and were deeply touched by the reverence and holiness they felt at the tomb of Christ, a feeling that remains with them today.

The pilgrims departed Tel Aviv in mid-October for Rome, to take part in the canonization of Australia's first Saint, Mary Mackillop. They were greatly honored to be present at this once in a lifetime experience. They waited for Mary Mackillop's name to be read out, and then the whole Square erupted with a joyous shout. It was a holy yet festive occasion, and one which had been greatly anticipated.

A visit with our Grand Master, Cardinal John Foley, and Monsignor Hans Brouwers concluded the wonderful experience of the pilgrimage of 2010.



A group of 13 including the Knights and Dames and their souses posed for a group photo at Megido during their pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October 2010.

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AUSTRALIA VICTORIA

he Lieutenancy of Victoria in Australia has had an inspirational year during 2010. We continue to be inspired by our recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Suffering for the Holy Land and the Jerusalem Cross

At the annual vigil members discussed the Holy Father's visit to Cyprus accompanied by the Grand Master, Cardinal Foley.

The Holy Father's call for Knights and Dames to suffer for the Holy Land was seen as a call to arms for the members of our Lieutenancy.

Warm words of support for the Order by the Holy Father were welcomed at the vigil.

The suffering and death of Our Saviour as depicted on the Jerusalem cross and our understanding of the cross as representing the five wounds of Christ were discussed.

Reflections on our pilgrimage and our vocation

Fr. Brendan Hayes KHS who accompanied our Victorian knights and dames on their pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2009 reflected on the great spiritual benefit of the pilgrimage to himself and the Lieutenancy members.

After the pilgrimage, the scriptures come alive with reflections of the holy places visited and the great spiritual benefits for the pilgrim knight and dames and their spouses. The Lieutenancy has determined to be involved in future pilgrimages to the Holy Land as the opportunity arises.

Establishing an authentic catholic university

The annual dinner was addressed by Knight Greg Craven Vice-Chancellor of the Australian Catholic University who discussed the work of producing an authentic catholic university.

The Australian Catholic University is located in New South Wales but Professor Craven travelled to Melbourne for his address.

The university offers over 20 undergraduate courses including, arts, teaching, nursing, theology, business and social behaviour based on authentic catholic teaching.

The knights and dames welcomed the initiative for this authentic Catholic witness in our world.



Victorian members on the first official pilgrimage to the Holy Land on the steps of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

CANADA ATLANTIC

ittle did two couples, who were among a group of pilgrims to the Holy Land, realize that their pilgrimage would only be the beginning of another and life-long pilgrimage – that of being members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Michel and Trudy Comeau and Anthony and Sabah Metlej returned home to Nova Scotia and began the process of becoming members of our Order.

Fr. James Mallon, KHS, was guiding the pilgrims as a form of evangelization. As pilgrims, they were awed by the experience of worshipping and praying in the places made sacred by Jesus Christ. As their pilgrimage progressed, the two couples became increasingly aware of the impact of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre throughout the Holy Land.

Fr. Mallon, who is also their parish priest and a member of the Order, was aware of the important work which the Order performs through the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In late September 2010, both couples were invested as Knights and Dames of the Order

in the ancient ritual presided over by H.E. Most Rev. Anthony Mancini, Grand Prior for Canada-Atlantic, and they are already planning another pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The Grand Prior in his homily to the newly invested and to the existing members stated; "As a group of Christians, we exist to promote the faith; as a particular group concerned to keep the Holy Land and the Holy Places significant, then we need to generate some new disciples of Christ. If we don't zero in on the challenge of the new evangelization, the Holy Places will cease to be significant or holy because there will be no one to care! Recruitment is not just about getting new

people to become Ladies and Knights of the Holy Sepulchre; it's about generating a whole new generation of believers and followers of Christ."

Earlier in the year, our Cardinal Grand Master, H.Em. John Foley, raised the Magistral Delegation of Canada-Atlantic to the full dignity of a Lieutenancy. Dr. Frederick MacGillivray, KC*HS, was appointed the first Lieutenant; he was succeeded by H.E. Mr. J. Stewart LeForte, KGCHS in November of 2010.



Michel and Trudy Comeau, Fr. James Mallon, and Sabah and Anthony Metlej.

CANADA TORONTO

2010 was another very active and fruitful year for the Canada-Toronto Lieutenancy. In addition to the memorable Investiture of 29 new members on October 3, 2010, the Lieutenancy sponsored eight other notable events. Loretto College in Toronto was the venue for the Lenten and Advent retreats as well as for a May spiritual development conference. Rev. Vito Marzilliano, KHS, pastor of St. Clare's Parish in Toronto hosted a Parish Visitation where more than sixty members attended a special Sunday Mass followed by a splendid luncheon and presentation on the topic of "The Masks We All Wear".

A summer social, which included an inspiring outdoor Mass and a superb reception and dinner, was held at the home of Sir John Gennaro on the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Knight candidates at Investiture ceremony, St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto.

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Church of Saint Bibiana, promotions, November 2010.

COLOMBIA

n the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th November, this Lieutenancy was visited by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and Grand Prior of the Order, His Beatitude Fouad Twal.

Such an important event allowed His Beatitude to preside and, together with H.Em. Cardinal Pedro Rubiano Sáenz, Archbishop Emeritus of Bogotá, and the Grand Prior Coadjutor, Father Mario Fernando Hormaza Echeverri, to concelebrate the Vigil and promotion ceremonies which took place on Thursday 11th November in the church of Saint Bibiana.

The ceremony of Investiture was celebrated in the chapel of the Saint Apostles and it was also presided over by the Grand Prior Twal and concelebrated by the Grand Prior and the Grand Prior Coadjutor of this Lieutenancy.

His Beatitude held a press conference and gave various television interviews, including one to the most important newspaper of the country, "El Tiempo".

Both the Most Illustrious Archbishop of Bogotá, Monsignor Rubén Salazar, and His

Excellency the Apostolic Nuncio of His Holiness, Monsignor Aldo Cavalli, had meetings with His Beatitude, who also had the opportunity to talk to the Knights and Dames of this Lieutenancy and to visit the "Museo del Oro" of Bogotá and the Salt Cathedral in the salt mine of Zipaquirá.

GERMANY

2010 was a successful year for the German Lieutenancy: the Members set about relieving the needs of Christians in the Holy Land by means of financial contributions in a most amazing way. The total figure donated was higher than in the previous year.

But that was only one part of the measures taken to provide aid. Prayers for peace in the Holy Land were said regularly and frequently in the Komtureien and provinces and a high priority was given to extending our personal contacts with people in the Holy Land, with numerous pilgrimages allowing us to cement relationships with the parishes.

A recently introduced sponsorship system has also proved its worth: with the agreement of H.B. the Latin Patriarch, the six provinces of the German Lieutenancy have established connections with the six largest parishes in the Patriarchate so that when pilgrim groups visit these parishes Masses are held, personal contacts are made and small needs can be made known.

Every step taken to provide aid is made with the knowledge of the Grand Magisterium and in agreement with the Latin Patriarchate.

The Order strengthened its shared aims and spirituality with two Investitures (in Hamburg and Dresden), to which we welcomed many honored guests from neighboring Lieutenancies.



Investiture in Spain.

WESTERN SPAIN

Mong the activities that this Lieutenancy carried out during the year 2010, we will place emphasis on those which somehow were accomplished to achieve the two most important aims of our Order: the religiosity of all its members and the economical aid to the Holy Land.

As regards the first aim we will mention the following:

the monthly celebration of the Holy Mass at the site of our Order; a retreat for the preparation of Lent and of the Holy Week in the San Isidoro Royal Collegiate in the city of León; a Lent Conference, held by Father Don Eduardo Morala, chaplain of the Lieutenancy, at the site of our Order; the celebration of the rites of Holy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as of the Easter Vigil on the night of the Holy Saturday or "de Gloria", in the Royal Basilica of San Francisco el Grande, spiritual site of our Lieutenancy; the participation of Knights and Dames of our Order in the various processions of the Holy Week, all over the national territory; a conjoined pilgrimage with the Lieuteancy of Eastern Spain to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and the offering by our Lieutenant to apostle James, in the occasion of the Compostelean Saint Year; a pilgrimage to Caravaca de la Cruz (Murcia) for the Jubilar Holy Year; a course for the new Knights and Dames (neophytes), as well as the solemn celebration of their investiture; the funerals for the brothers and sisters who died during the year; the conclusion of the year with the Eucharist in honour of the Virgin of Palestine, our patroness.

For what concerns the second goal of the Order -

maintaining a Christian presence in the Holy Land and helping our brothers who live there – besides the sum that is transferred

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every year by the Knights and Dames of the Order, and besides their own personal initiatives, our Lieutenancy took part with a stand in the charity market "Rastrillo Nuevo Futuro"; it organised a gala dinner to contribute to the building of the central maternity department of St. Joseph Hospital in Jerusalem and promoted a Christmas charity concert: everything with the sole aim to support financially the Holy Places and the Holy Land.

Finally, we mention the Conference held by Monsignor Lucio Ruiz, the Head of the Vatican Internet Service, by the title: "The Church in the Digital Era".

FINLAND

n 2010 our Knights, Ladies and Friends had several already traditional activities and events. But the main event of 2010 for the Finnish Lieutenancy was the pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

On the first morning the Most Reverend William Shomali, the Auxiliary Bishop of Jerusalem, received us at the Latin Patriarchate. It was a delightful visit, once again. Afterwards we had Mass in the Cathedral of the Latin Patriarchate. We walked the Via

Dolorosa in the early dawn of the second morning, ending at the place of Golgotha in the Cathedral of the Holy Sepulchre. From Jerusalem we visited the Catholic parish and school of Taybeh, one of schools supported by the Knights. The Catholic community there seems to be doing very well. However, we were told by Fr. Raed Abusahlia, who is the parish priest in Taybeh, how important it is for them to stay connected to the Catholic community outside the West Bank in order not to feel isolated. We also visited the seminary in Beit Jala, also supported by the Knights. After discussions we attended Vespers and enjoyed a supper with the seminarians.

From Jerusalem we travelled south via Ein Ged and Masada to Eilat and further for a brief visit to the Convent of Saint Catherine in the Sinai (Egypt). The ancient city of Petra was included in the program in Jordan because of its importance in cultural history.

After Petra, our next stop in Jordan was the school in Kerak, again one of the schools supported by the Knights. Once more the same message came through: how important it is to have visitors and to stay connected with Catholics all over the world. We spent our final night in Bethlehem where we celebrated Mass on the first day of Advent.

One of the main impressions of our trip is how rich is the history of the Holy Land and the history of the Christendom there. It is also evident how important it is to continue to support the Catholic Church and the Catholics there, both financially and spiritually, and to ensure the presence of both in the Holy Land, now and in the future.



Finnish pilgrims in the Holy Land.

FRANCE

he year 2010 was marked by the admission into the Order of Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon and Primate of France, which took place at Fourvière on the 23rd April.

Spiritual formation

As part of the mission entrusted to the Order, the Lieutenancy of France has offered its members spiritual formation through participation in spiritual activity groups, which have met monthly to reflect on the theme chosen by our Grand Prior, Monsignor Jacques Perrier, Bishop of Tarbes et Lourdes: "The present relevance of Vatican Council II, as we approach its fiftieth anniversary".

Events

After His Eminence Cardinal Vingt-Trois, Archbishop of Paris, had presided at the arms vigil in Notre Dame de Paris, the May investiture ceremonies were celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Luigi Ventura. His Eminence Cardinal Philippe Barbarin, Archbishop of Lyon, granted us the honor of receiving the Lieutenancy on the occasion of the May 2011 investiture.

Cultural activities

In order to awaken French people to the needs and difficulties of Christians in the Holy Land, the Lieutenancy published the book: France and the Holy Land, a thousand years of history, entirely written by the members of the Order, with a chapter by the Governor General.

It came out in March and has been the subject of several retreats. Again in March, the Lieutenancy's magazine, "Les Nouvelles de l'Ordre" was relaunched with entirely revised features and the new French website ordredusaintsepulcre.fr went live in June.

We also organized a conference on the theme: "The Holy Land and the Near East, politics between history and religions", which took



Cardinal Philippe Barbarin with the French Lieutenant General Bernard Fleuriot.

place on 20th March at the Senate, in the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, ambassadors and representatives of the various political components of the Holy Land, and His Excellency Prof. Agostino Borromeo.

The meeting was a great success. Following this first event, intended to create a better understanding of the problems encountered by the inhabitants of this part of the world, but also of their hopes, another conference at the National Assembly was organized in March 2011, this time on the subject of "Geopolitics and Religions in the Near East".

Solidarity

In order to demonstrate our solidarity with the Latin Patriarchate and to increase support for the projects selected by the Grand Magisterium, in March, in Paris, we organized "Days of mutual aid: 48 hours in aid of the Holy Land"; and in all the dioceses, our knights and dames contributed to funds by means of concerts, conferences, collections and other activities.

Thus, in France, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is full of vitality. About forty knights and dames join us every year to make their contribution to a mission of whose essential nature and urgency we are reminded every day by the news.

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IRELAND

e went on Pilgrimage to the Holy Land at the end of April 2010. As usual we visited the sites associated with the life, death and resurrection of lesus. but also visited the living stones, especially where the Lieutenancy has funded projects. During the 2010 visit we went to Haifa and met the Maronite Archbishop Paul El-Sayah whose seminarian we are financially assisting in his studies. Our role in Ireland in seminarian support is quite significant. Lack of space has precluded some seminarians commencing priestly training and the Irish funding is of a "concrete" nature in that we have taken on responsibility for the refurbishment of the Patriarchal seminary in Beit Iala. Those on pilgrimage visited the seminary. A particular item of note was the participation of Kt. Kevin Kilduff who visited all the sites and churches in Israel and Palestine, despite having to use a wheelchair. His exemplary pilgrimage, accompanied and assisted by his two sons, was a source of inspiration to all. From 4 to 6 June four of our colleagues

accompanied the Holy Father and the Grand Master whilst on Pilgrimage in Cyprus. In September and at the invitation of the Lieutenant of Scotland 24 members travelled to Glasgow where, while cloaked, we participated at the outdoor Mass in Bellahouston Park on the first day of the Holy Father's memorable visit to Scotland and England.

On the domestic front, in January we inaugurated a vigil retreat at the national Marian shrine at Knock Co Mayo. Over 50 members and friends attended the two-day event and all gained immeasurably from it.

In July the highlight of the Order's year was the annual vigil and admission of seven knights and one dame to the Order. The Assessor of the Order, His Excellency Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea represented the Grand Master and the Most Reverend Bishop Michael Smith, KC*HS, undertook the ceremony of promotion. The Grand Prior, His Excellency Séan Cardinal Brady, undertook the ceremony of admission, which 250 members and guests attended.



Lieutenant Nicholas McKenna, the Chancellor and Thomas Kilduff with students from Rameh.

NORTHERN ITALY

n 21st November 2010, the feast of Christ the King, in the presence of a delegation of Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy, in Crema cathedral, H.E. Mgr. Oscar Cantoni was invested with the insignia of Knight Commander with Star of the Order, as well as with the Decree of Appointment as Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy. H.E. Mgr. Giovanni Giudici, who resigned from the post, has been our Grand Prior for over 4 years and it is with deep regret that we see him give up the task to which he has devoted all his energies in order to make us grow spiritually and live and give testimony of our Faith. He has been to us a true Father who has taught us lovingly what it means to be a Christian and at the same time to be Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. We are comforted by the fact that H.E. Mgr. Oscar Cantoni has accepted the task with enthusiasm and will be near us in our path of Faith. As his qualities are second to none, they will enable him to carry out his task as Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy.

Here are the messages of greeting that the prelates addressed to the Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy.

My dear friends,

The occasion of the Christmas festivities and of greetings for the new year gives me the opportunity to pay my respects to the members of the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, while taking my leave from them. The Italian Episcopal Conference has charged me with a new mission for the next four years: that of President of the international ecclesiastical movement Pax Christi (Italian section); it is a task that involves frequent visits to groups around Italy and participation in the activities of the movement abroad. These new duties force me to give up the pastoral care of the Order. I now take the opportu-



H.E. Mgr. Giovanni Giudici KC*HS

nity to express to the Lieutenant, to the Counselors and to all the Dames and Knights my personal gratitude for the beautiful and profound experiences which have been mine during these years as Grand Prior for Northern Italy.

I keep in my heart the unforgettable celebrations in Milan and in the other cities of Padua, Vicenza, San Marino; I am pleased and grateful for meetings and discussions I have shared with the Priors in a common effort to delve into the spiritual aspects of the Order.

While I ask everybody to remember me in their prayers as I take up my new task, I assure you that we will continue to share the ideals of the Order and I plead for God's blessing on the Lieutenancy, on all its members and on the activities in support of the Holy Land.

May the Lord give you all a personal loyalty to the Church and the courage to defend truth in charity.

> H.E. Mgr. Giovanni Giudici KC*HS Bishop of Pavia

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H.E. Mgr. Oscar Cantoni KC*HS

My dear friends,

It was with great gratitude and joy that I accepted the invitation to offer my services as Grand Prior of Northern Italy. I send warmest thanks to all of you who were present on the Feast of Christ the King in Crema cathedral when Silverio Vecchio handed me the Decree of Appointment on behalf of Cardinal Foley. I have to confess that I immediately felt a sense of belonging to your great family, which I will be able to get to know intimately, through various times of celebration and sharing. When I introduced you to the faithful who were present at Holy Mass on Sunday 21st November, I emphasized the fact that your purpose is to let the memory of Lord Jesus, in the places where he was born, lived, died and was resurrected, be honored through works which demonstrate and bear witness to the Good News that Christ brought with his incarnation; that the people who live in the Holy Land should recognize each other as true brothers and sisters, and that every person be guaranteed the dignity that is due to him or her as

a child of God. Now that we are approaching Christmas, I hope that each of you can experience the beauty of being children of God and of the new life that Christ Our Lord began by His coming among us. We will be able to live as His children as long as we learn to live as brothers and sisters, with the same openness of heart as the Father, as shown by Jesus in His manifestation as a full human being. I wish you all peace and the blessing of God, who accompanies and sustains our daily life.

> H.E. Mgr. Oscar Cantoni KC*HS Bishop of Crema

SOUTHERN ITALY – TYRRHENIA

he Lieutenancy's activities in 2010 were targeted at the spiritual growth of our members and at collecting funds for the works in the Holy Land. Priority was given to meetings for religious and cultural education, though more current Church matters were also important.

All the Delegations met regularly to celebrate the Eucharist at their local centers, as well as for catechism studies, spiritual retreats and fund-raising activities. The latter included concerts at the cathedral in Cava de' Tirreni, in Benevento and in Potenza, at the Teatro Comunale (Civic Theatre).

Then there were our pilgrimages to Turin, during the exposition of the Holy Shroud, and to San Giovanni Rotondo and Pompeii, on the occasion of the Petition to Our Lady of the Rosary.

One particularly outstanding event was the ceremony to hand over a relic of the Blessed Bartolo Longo to the Hungarian Lieutenancy. Our Lieutenancy is happy to have been able to assist in arranging with the Archbishop of



After the Investiture in Cava abbey (where Torquato Tasso wrote "Jerusalem Delivered") led by the Governor General H.E. Agostino Borromeo and the Lieutenant H.E. Giovanni Napolitano.

Pompeii, H.E. Mgr. Carlo Liberati KC*HS, for the gift of a relic of the Blessed to accompany the bas-relief of him displayed in the Hungarian Lieutenancy's chapel in Budapest. The ceremony took place on 26 May 2010 in the Basilica of the Our Lady of the Rosary, following a mayoral reception at Pompeii town hall. Knight Grand Cross Bartolo Longo, the founder of the sanctuary of Our Lady of the Rosary, is the only lay Blessed who has belonged to our Order.

Another very important occasion was the Investiture ceremony on 25 September 2010 in Holy Trinity Abbey at Cava de' Tirreni. This solemn event formed part of the abbey's millennial celebrations. The 'Badia di Cava' can not only boast a long history filled with saintly figures – being associated with four Popes and eight Blessed Abbots – but can also be proud of having played host to the great poet Torquato Tasso and for having inspired him to compose "Jerusalem Delivered", in which he relates the deeds of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Fifty-five Knights and Dames were invested this year.

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LUXEMBOURG

2010 was a fruitful year for the Lieutenancy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Grand Master appointed a new Lieutenant, M. Guy Schleder, and conferred on His Excellency Doctor Jules Molitor the dignity of honorary Lieutenant, to thank him for his work as the leader of the Lieutenancy of Luxembourg for nine years. The Council was reinstated.

The regular events of the liturgical year started with the Mass of Advent, on the Friday before Christmas, continuing with the Holy Week retreat at the convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Peppange; the Easter Octave Mass (pilgrimage to Notre Dame de Luxembourg, consoler of the afflicted); the Mass for the intentions of the Holy Father in Luxembourg Cathedral; the procession to Mont Saint-Jean, in Dudelange, for the feast of the Apostle; the traditional retreat in the Benedictine abbey of Saint Maurice de Clervaux, in September; and, at the beginning of November, the Mass of Saint Willibrord in Dudelange, celebrated by Abbot Sibenaler, the ecclesiastical master of ceremonies.

On the occasion of the Investiture held by the Belgian Lieutenancy, a delegation from our Lieutenancy had the great pleasure of meeting His Eminence the Cardinal Grand Master, whose kindness and sense of humor won the hearts of the dozen knights who were present.

Finally, some cultural activities were organized: a charity concert, with a program of baroque music in the church of Saint Jean du Grund, and a lecture by our brother, Michel Duponcheele de Bastogne, who shared with us his experiences of walking on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Jerusalem and Rome.

Since November, a we have been celebrating Mass on every first Friday of the month in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

2011 has had a very promising start, with at least six candidates; this will boost our membership to more than thirty.

HUNGARY

he Hermina Chapel in Budapest and its basement has become our spiritual centre and the focus of our life as a community. As well as the monthly chapter meetings, our regular Sunday Masses are shared with local residents. We celebrate Holy Mass in Latin (Novus Ordo) on the second Sunday of the month and once a month we recite Vespers, followed by instruction for the new candidates.

On 14 April we were saddened by the death of our Coadjutor Grand Prior. It was he who had worked for the renewal of the Order's activities following the collapse of the Communist system.

This year we installed a relief of the Blessed Bartolomeo Longo in our chapel. A delegation was presented with a relic of Bartolo Longo in Pompeii, during a celebratory Mass. The relic has been placed in a decorative urn sited beneath the relief.

Professor Tringer's term as Lieutenant expired but the Cardinal Grand Master has renewed his appointment for another four years.

The visit of His Beatitude Fouad Twal to Hungary (19-22 August) was a historic event. He celebrated Holy Mass in our chapel with the ecclesiastical members of our Lieutenancy. His visit filled our members with renewed enthusiasm to aid the Christians in the Holy Land.

Our website can be reached through a link from the website of the Catholic Church (www.oessh.katolikus.hu). At the end of the year our Lieutenancy was formally registered by the courts as a legal entity of the Catholic Church in Hungary.



His Beatitude, after the Mass in the Hungarian Lieutenancy's chapel.

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NETHERLAND

A new initiative

he Netherlands Lieutenancy has always put a lot of effort into fundraising for the benefit of the Holy Land, not only among its own members, but among external donors, big and small, too. So far, the results have been satisfactory. However, the world around us has undergone – and is still undergoing – many changes, forcing us to evaluate our present ways of working in order to ensure the continued success of our fundraising practices.

In view thereof, at the end of 2009 we decided to give fundraising a fresh impetus by creating a new committee. At the time, the majority of its members were still active in professional careers and did not have a complete overview of the current situation in the Holy Land.

In February 2010 a group of 8 people (led by the Lieutenant) paid a short, but very intensive visit to the Holy Land in order to get a good impression of the needs of our fellow Christians there and to familiarize themselves with the local Church institutions that the Lieutenancy has been in contact with. The trip proved to be an accumulation of often emotional encounters with the people in the Holy Land, especially with those priests and religious who devote themselves to the charitable work of the Christian institutions and make these institutions known to others.

All members of the group were deeply touched by this experience which and motivated them to carry out their work on the new committee with much enthusiasm.

During the trip, one of the participants recorded his impressions of our visits to the various institutions in short stories.

Therefore, these stories are right from the bottom of his heart and truly authentic. They are now being used in our internal and external communications to show those who are interested what kind of organizations in the Holy Land are the focus of our charitable activities.

NORWAY

he Magistral Delegation of the OESSH in Norway was established in 2008. We now have thirteen members; a Grand Prior, ten Knights and two Ladies. There are monthly meetings, where the education and formation of the person are the primary objective. We begin with Mass and continue with the adoration of the Sacrament. Then we begin the education, with a lecture given by the Grand Prior, followed by discussion. This program is meant to strengthen members' spirituality and knowledge of the Order's mission, of Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Magisterium of the Church; we also hold retreats for the same purpose.

This year we spent a weekend of spiritual guidance, prayers and social activities at a private lodge owned by one of our knights, about 50km north of Oslo. Mass was celebrated each day in the private chapel at the lodge. Spiritual guidance centered on the Beatitudes, with lectures by our Grand Prior and time for reflection and discussions afterwards. Some hours each day were dedicated to silent prayer and meditation. Several of us used the time for contemplation during walks in the beautiful forest. In the evenings, we talked about how being a Catholic and a member of the Order influence our daily lives. This also strengthened our dedication to the Church and the OESSH.

On the secular front, our administration and activities are organized by a number of working committees. At the moment there are four: Investiture, Pilgrimage, Publications and Conference committees. Together with Knights and Ladies from various parts of the world, 60% of the Norwegian Magistral Delegation

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went to Cyprus to accompany Pope Benedict XVI on his apostolic pilgrimage from 4 to 6 June. Being able to take part in a Papal Pilgrimage was felt as a great privilege by all of us.

AUSTRIA

nce again this past year, we carried out numerous activities and, thanks to the generous contributions from our Knights and Ladies, we were again able to support several Projects in the Holy Land. These included:

- a summer camp for young people in Beit Sahour,
- the patriarchal school in Gaza,
- Beit Emmaus,
- job creation/house renovation,
- medical aid,
- a hostel for deaf and dumb children at the "Effeta Paulo VI" Institute
- a house for severely disabled children at the St. Vincent de Paul "Ain Karim" home
- as well as urgently needed works on the church tower and bells of the Patriarchate in Jerusalem.

Many Projects were supported as a result of the Christmas goods "market" we held throughout Advent under the banner "It's Christmas in Bethlehem too", as well as the sale of olive oil from Taybeh in the Palestinian Autonomous Territories, which has now been confirmed as the site of the biblical Ephraim. Today Taybeh is almost the only totally Christian village in the Holy Land. The entire proceeds without any deduction for expenses were delivered to the Holy Land before Christmas.

In Fall 2010 the Order in Austria set up a humanitarian aid organization called the "Österreichische Gemeinschaft für das Heilige Land" (Austrian Association for the Holy Land). One task of the new organization will be for friends of the Equestrian Order to demonstrate their solidarity with the Christians who live there, so that they do not feel forgotten by the Christian West, but it will also be our mission to support them financially. In this way, we hope that interest in the problems of the Holy Land will spread from the Order to other people in Austria.

The members of the Order, which in Austria is divided into 11 Komtureien, get together on a regular basis and also maintain contacts with neighboring branches of the Order at home and abroad. In 2010 two of these occasions were meetings with the Knights and Ladies in Trento (Italy) and Bavaria (Germany). We were also pleased to welcome a delegation from the Order in Scotland led by their Grand Prior and their Lieutenant at our own headquarters in Salzburg.

As always, the highpoint of the year was the investiture of new Members, this time at the Herzogenburg monastery of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine, whose Provost is our Grand Prior of Honor, Maximilian Fürnsinn. Among the 8 Knights and 4 Ladies invested by our current Grand Prior Archbishop Dr. Alois Kothgasser, was Mirjam Dinkelbach, Abbess of the Marienkron Convent – the first time we have had a Member from a female religious order.



Archbishop Alois Kothgasser at the investiture of Abbess Mirjam Dinkelbach.

PORTUGAL

f all the actions and events experienced in 2010 by the Lieutenancy of Portugal, two of them have to be specially highlighted for their importance and significance

The first occurred in May, between 11 and 14, with the Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI to Portugal. It should be noted that, at that the time, Europe was living in a climate of hostility towards the Holy Father, in a campaign without precedent. But the atmosphere of warmth and faith with which the Holy Father was greeted by hundreds of thousands of Portuguese at all the ceremonies in which he participated over the four days of his visit definitely changed the course of events. The Lieutenancy had the honor and privilege of participating in all the religious celebrations presided over by His Holiness; in all a total of about ninety Knights and Dames were involved.

The second of the special events of 2010 occurred between 2 and 9 October with our pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This was a pilgrimage, blessed by the Holy Father, by a group of eighty-four Portuguese, fifty of whom were Knights and Dames of the Order, headed by the Lieutenant, H.E. Gonçalo Figueiredo de Barros. The pilgrimage was exceptional because, for the first time in more than eight centuries, it included the investiture of new Knights and Dames in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre.

The pilgrimage began on 2 October with the celebration of Holy Mass, at 3 p.m., in the Cathédrale Saints-Michel-et-Gudule in Brussels, during a stopover on the journey from Portugal to Israel. On 4 October, the Arms Vigil took place in the Concathedral of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The next day, the Portuguese Knights and Dames, accompanied by the Belgian Lieutenant,



Procession by the Portuguese Lieutenancy in Jerusalem's Arab quarter.

H.E. François t'Kint de Roodenbeke KGCHS, waked in procession on foot from the Latin Patriarchate to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, through the Arab souk quarter. The 18th investiture of Portuguese Knights and Dames took place at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, where His Beatitude Mgr. Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, presided over the celebrations. After the investiture, a lunch was served at the Knights Palace Hotel, in the presence of His

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Beatitude, guests and the whole entourage. After the lunch, the Latin Patriarch Mgr. Fouad Twal granted an audience to all the pilgrim Knights and Dames, during which His Beatitude gave a touching and significant speech on the importance of investiture at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre itself, noting that just as the old Portuguese navigators had opened new paths to the World, this initiative – again by the Portuguese – could be copied by other Lieutenancies of the Order. The audience was closed with the presentation of pilgrim shells to the Knights and Dames who had made the pilgrimage.

As a souvenir of this pilgrimage, the Portuguese Lieutenancy gave the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem a replica of a portrait in oils of Saint Nuno de Santa Maria (Dom

Nuno Álvares Pereira, a Portuguese medieval knight canonized in 2009), after the original in the private collection of the Dukes of Braganza.

SWITZERLAND

he highlight of our year revolved around the annual Chapter meeting and Investiture celebrations which took place from 28 to 30 May in Lugano, an occasion which brought over 260 people including Members of the Order, their friends and families to Tessin (Ticino).

The events were organized by the Italo-Swiss Section led by its President, Mario de



The new Lieutenant, H.E. Jean-Pierre de Glutz-Ruchti



The Cardinal Grand Master, H.Em. John Patrick Foley, with the newly appointed Lieutenant, H.E. Jean-Pierre de Glutz-Ruchti and Lieutenant of Honor H.E. Giorgio Moroni Stampa.

Bernardis KGCHS. The Friday evening Vigil in St. Anthony's church was celebrated by H.E. Monsignor Pier Giacomo Grampa, Bishop of Lugano and Grand Prior of the Swiss Lieutenancy.

The Chapter Meeting took place on Saturday morning the papal Mass and Investiture of new Members followed in the afternoon at the cathedral of St. Lawrence in Lugano. His Eminence Cardinal John Patrick Foley, Grand Master of the Order, presided. After all the new entrants had been invest-

ed, the former Lieutenant for Switzerland, H.E. Giorgio Moroni Stampa, was created Lieutenant of Honor and the Cardinal Grand Master officially appointed H.E. Jean-Pierre de Glutz-Ruchti as the new Lieutenant.

The numerous events in the various Komtureien of our three Sections are a sign of the lively social and spiritual life of our Lieutenancy. Especially interesting are the many pilgrimages and religious gatherings within Switzerland that serve to deepen our personal spirituality. This important feature of our Order's activities in our homeland constantly inspires our individual Members to material

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acts of charity, especially in the Holy Land. **Spiritual retreats:**

Participants in the three days of meditation and spiritual introspection held each year by the Swiss-German Section in the former Benedictine monastery at Wislikofen included a memorable meeting with the Abbot of Einsiedeln monastery, Martin Werlen OSB.

Congratulations:

We heartily congratulate Switzerland's youngest bishop, our fellow Member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Dr. Felix Gmür, on his appointment as Bishop of Basle and we all send him our most sincere wishes that God will bless him in this new situation. Dr. Gmür was inaugurated as Bishop on 16 January 2011 by H.Em. Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council on Christian Unity and Apostolic Administrator of the Basle diocese.



The Grand Prior H.E. Monsignor Pier Giacomo Grampa.

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TAIWAN AND THE PHILIPPINES

First visit to Taiwan and the Philippines by a Governor General of the Order

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he first-ever visit to Taiwan and the Philippines by a Governor General of the Order was a historic occasion for the Order and its activities in Asia. The Governor General, Prof. Agostino Borromeo, accompanied by the Chancellor, Mgr. Hans A. L. Brouwers, was acting as the specially designated representative of the Grand Master Cardinal John Patrick Foley, who was unavailable owing to ill health. The visit, in November, gave new life to the activities of the two Lieutenancies and, as it was completely without precedent, it was widely reported in the respective national media as well as in the local churches.

The guests stayed on the island of Taiwan from 9 to 15 November, engaged in a series of meetings and visits arranged by the Ambassador to the Holy See, Larry Yuyuan Wang, and by the Lieutenant of the Order. lames H. S. Liao. Some of the most outstanding were: a conference at the Wenzao Ursuline College in Kaohsiung, with lectures by Mgr. Brouwers on the history of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and by Prof. Borromeo on the situation in the Holy Land and the aid projects in support of the works and institutions of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem; a visit to Fu Jen Catholic University in Sinjhuang; a meeting of the Lieutenancy Council with an in-depth presentation of the projects, how funds are collected and where they are used; and, lastly, the investiture of 33 new Members, the first for many years.

The ceremony was held in Taipei Cathedral, in the presence of the octogenarian Cardinal Paul Shan Kuo-hsi S.J., the eminent Bishop Emeritus of Kaohsiung, who had been persecuted and imprisoned in mainland China. The Lieutenancy Grand Prior Mgr. Joseph Ti-Kang, Archbishop Emeritus of Taipei, was the principal celebrant.

The visit to the Philippines, from 16 to 22 November, was also filled with engagements with important public figures, visits to charitable and cultural organizations, and meetings with Members of the Order, all arranged by the Lieutenant, Jesus P. Tambunting. The first major event was the solemn investiture on 17 November of 10 new Members. The Grand Prior, Cardinal Gaudencio B. Rosales, Metropolitan Archbishop of Manila, presided over the ceremony which took place at the Sanctuary of St. Anthony in that city (the Lieutenancy's headquarters). The new entrants included the Bishop of Imus, Mgr. Luis Antonio Tagle, and Mgr. James Leon Guerrero Benavente from the island of Guam. Civic and diplomatic dignitaries were in attendance. Two days later, all the Members of the Lieutenancy gathered for a day of spiritual encounters, learning more about the commitments involved in membership of the Order and those required to increase aid for the Holy Land, something that would be possible with more new members.

The Chancellor, Mgr. Brouwers, opened the proceedings with an introductory Mass and both he and Governor General Borromeo spoke on the Order's motives and objectives.

USA – MIDDLE ATLANTIC

he Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy is a vibrant and active lieutenancy due in large measure to it encompassing the nation's capital, Washington, DC, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA and the Archdiocese of Baltimore, established as a diocese in 1789. Created in 1993, the Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy was fashioned from several States annexed from the Southeastern and Eastern Lieutenancies. Other dioceses comprising the Lieutenancy include the Dioceses of Arlington, Charlotte, Memphis, Nashville, Richmond, Wheeling-Charleston, and Wilmington. At our Investiture in October, His Excellency William F. O'Brien, KC*HS, Archbishop of Baltimore, became Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy in October, replacing His Eminence William Cardinal Keeler, KGCHS., who has been granted the title Grand Prior of Honor. Recently, the Lieutenancy had the distinction of having one of only two Americans elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Benedict XVI, namely, His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, KC*HS.

The Lieutenancy consists of approximately 800 active Knights and Ladies. The Lieutenancy seeks to encourage the spiritual growth of its members with a yearly Lenten retreat, held this year on March 27 at St. Paul's College in Washington, and several annual ecclesiastical ceremonies and opportunities to volunteer service in a number of administrative posts to help the Lieutenant carry out his duties and responsibilities. During 2010, we continued our support of Hashimi School in Amman.

His Excellency, Ronald Precup, KC*HS, commenting on his own recent appointment to lead the Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy as its new Lieutenant, stated: "We humbly accept this title of honor and, as Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, we see this noble obligation to serve as an expres-

sion of our yearning faithfully to serve, following the example of Our Blessed Lord who came not to be served, but to serve. We know that what we do for the least, we do it for Jesus."

USA – NORTH CENTRAL LIEUTENANCY

he North Central Lieutenancy, in response to the call from the Grand Magisterium to implement a formal year-long formation program, unveiled plans for the new training at its annual meeting. Father Thomas Baima, Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies described to the officers and members a four-part plan for the formation of our new members.

The North Central formation program will involve four special sessions during the year leading up to a person's investiture. The first meeting will cover the "Mission and Life of the Equestrian Order. The second meeting topic is "The Holy Land." The third meeting has the theme of "Spiritual Communion with the Christians of the Middle East." The final topic is "The Sanctification of Life." The first set of lectures was delivered as ongoing formation for the members, in the presence of the Grand Master, Cardinal Foley and the Chancellor of the Order, Mgr. Hans Brouwers.

Other significant activities include: sending \$412,978 to the Grand Magisterium, development of a new website which will enable Section Representatives to become more productive, placing emphasis on recruiting through the use of DVD's and pilgrimage journals, plus a 12 minute DVD on the current status of the Holy Land which was given to all attendees at our Investiture; growth in membership with the investiture of 72 new members and, finally, greater

visibility and involvement within the local Church and community by way of honor guards at the installation of four new bishops, Masses for the intentions of the Holy Father in 12 of our dioceses, Vigil for Life services, visitations to sick or hospitalized members, retreats, and tours of Byzantine basilicas and other Eastern Rite churches.

adults and catering to Pilgrims. Opportunities would also be explored for increased sales opportunities in the USA for crafted products from the Holy Land, in Catholic gift stores for example. Additionally, the committee recommends exploration of sponsorships of scholarships to reputable vocational schools in the Palestinian territories, including funding for tools for the trade of the student/graduate, such as plumber, carpenter and electrician.

USA – NORTHERN

he Northern Lieutenancy of EOHSJ in the United States was blessed to have our Grand Master, John Cardinal Foley, in attendance for our Annual Meeting and Investiture. We were pleased the Chancellor of our Order, Rev. Mgr. Hans A.L. Brouwers, was also able to attend.

John Cardinal Foley and Grand Prior Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann invested a record (for our Lieutenancy) 101 Knights and Ladies.

During the meeting the Chairman of the Peace and Justice committee announced additional goals to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land through the formation of a local committee, including a Palestinian American member as well as clergy and lay members. The goal of this committee is to develop ideas to provide employment opportunities for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

A more direct assistance approach to this issue was recommended to include formal sponsorship of a student to Bethlehem University through a scholarship. In addition, it was recommended that ways be explored to sponsor a graduate student at the University for an internship opportunity in the USA in the realm of Business Administration.

Additional ideas to be explored include providing start up money for a Palestinian based gift shop to be run by Christian young Such endeavors will be undertaken in a manner not to diminish the present ongoing support for the present vital and effective work of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and would be accompanied by intensified educational efforts with Knights and Ladies on the Justice and Peace issues in the Jerusalem region.

H.E. Donald Drake announced the Grand Prior of our Order, Patriarch Fouad Twal has accepted an invitation to attend the 2011 Annual Meeting and Investiture.

USA – SOUTH EASTERN

he Southeastern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in the United States is pleased to report continued progress in our region. The Southeastern United States, except for some major cities, has always been predominantly non-Catholic.

However, in recent years, we have seen our Order grow in areas that were formerly regarded as mission territory.

Pilgrimages sponsored by the Lieutenancy as well as those sponsored by individual bishops and pastors within the Lieutenancy's geographic area, continue to grow in number. All are well attended, most consisting of about 50 pilgrims.

Many of our members have obtained their pilgrim shells during the last four years. Most

FROM THE LIEUTENANCIES 🛛 🕂

of the Knights and Ladies who have made pilgrimages to the Holy Land have become much more active members in the Order and more active in works for the Church.

All of our sections usually have at least one or two masses each year in honor of Our Lady of Palestine or other special feast of the Order. The masses are usually celebrated by the Bishop or Archbishop of the diocese. Sometimes, they are concelebrated with the Ordinary of the Diocese and priest-members of the Order. The masses are usually followed by dinner at one of the better restaurants in the city. The members are also available to the Ordinary of the Diocese for whatever ecclesiastical function he may request they attend. The members are diligent in attending these functions and also the funerals of deceased confreres. The Holy Land Mass and Gift Program continues to thrive and grow. The Legacy Guardian Program is now underway in the Southeastern Lieutenancy. It has resulted in the receipt of one Legacy as of this date and more are anticipated.

The 2010 Annual Meeting was held in Jacksonville Florida, in the Diocese of St. Augustine, one of the oldest in the United States. The Annual Meeting and Investiture for the year 2011 is planned for New Orleans, considered by many as the Queen City of the South. This city that has been the site of visitation and works of many of America's Saints, has suffered greatly in recent years from hurricanes and the BP oil spill, the largest environmental catastrophe ever experienced in America.

It was thought that this would be a great location for our Meeting and Investiture for 2011.



Archbishops and Bishops concelebrate the Investiture Mass.

We hope that you find the activities of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem interesting. If you would like to support our work please contact the Grand Magisterium or your nearest Lieutenancy

The Lieutenancies are listed below in alphabetical order of country:



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