

NO. XIV

Città
del
Vaticano

MARCH 2009

News



Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

Article 24 of the Order's Constitution states: "The Governor General of the Order is named by the Cardinal Grand Master from among the lay Knights". This is followed by a description of the individual responsibilities he is required to pursue as leader of the Order.

As our Cardinal Grand Master wrote in the previous Newsletter, the beginning of this year saw a change in this important office and in this issue we are pleased to publish a farewell message from the outgoing Governor General Pier Luigi Parola as well as a greeting from his successor, Professor Agostino Borromeo.

We take this opportunity to thank H.E. Parola, who has been appointed Governor General Emeritus, for his hard work, his initiatives and the deep commitment with which he carried out his activities.

We welcome the new Governor General, Professor Borromeo, most warmly and send him our very best wishes for success in his future tasks. May the Lord be always with him and may his work for the Order also bring him great personal happiness.

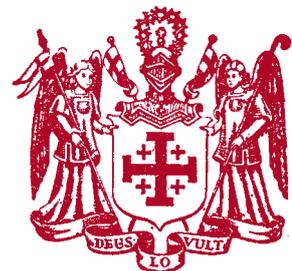
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GRAND MAGISTERIUM
OF THE
EQUESTRIAN ORDER
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE
OF JERUSALEM
00120 VATICAN CITY



*Message from
the Governor General*

H.E. Knight of the Collar Dr. Pier Luigi Parola

*to all the Lieutenants, the Magistral Delegates,
the Grand Priors and the
members of the Grand Magisterium*

As you already know, the task assigned to me by His Eminence Cardinal Carlo Furno both as Vice Governor General at first and Governor General of the Order after, was the settlement of the Order's financial situation and the reorganization of its operative structure. This task required to me a rather considerable effort and engagement overloaded by the almost weekly transfers from Milan to Rome which obliged me during these years to neglect my personal and family needs.

Since the program of consolidation financial situation of the Grand Magisterium has been completed as well as the renewing of its operational organization, and having also fulfilled the last engagement assigned to me by the Cardinal Grand Master His Eminence John P. Foley in organizing and managing the 2008 Consulta, it is now the time for me to return the mandate assigned to me as Governor General.

I would like to express on this occasion my most sincere gratitude to you and to all those who have shared with me during these years with loyalty and devotion the task of renovating the Order's organization, so as to consolidate a professional layout to the whole organization and to create, thanks to a more transparent exchange of information with the Lieutenancies, a clearer understanding of the activities carried out by the Grand Magisterium paying a special care to the management of contributions received by the Lieutenancies and the ones sent to the Holy Land.



I also wish to express my special thanks to all the Members of the Grand Magisterium and to the Lieutenants for their considerable help in achieving these results thanks to their availability and cooperation.

A special appreciation is destined to those Lieutenants who have implemented the Directives issued by the Grand Master and stimulated the Lieutenancies' Members to increase their engagement and generosity so to satisfy the rising needs of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Thanks to them, in the last years the Order was able not only to cover the operational costs of schools, the seminary, the institutional expenses and the projects of the Patriarchate, but it could also provide other Catholic institutions of the Holy Land with financial support as indicated by the Order's Constitution.

I am sure that the Order can still count on you so to continue the mission entrusted us by the Holy Father being our Order the only Equestrian Order of Vatican City which does not confer awards just for generic merits but which requires instead to all those who belong to it, and to those who will be part of it, to offer to the Order, besides a charitable effort in favor of the Holy Land, its own talents and competences so to serve the Order and not to use the membership as a recognition of a "status" or to receive directly or indirectly benefits or visibility.

I am confident that thanks to your careful guidance, all the Members of the Order can continue further giving evidence in the society of an exemplary moral conduct based on real Christian values and to those ethical knightly principles such as faith, protection of the weak, charity towards poor people and engagement in favor of justice and peace which are nowadays even more important and relevant in order to assure a future to the coming generations.

I also wish to express to Professor Agostino Borromeo, KGCHS, who will succeed me in the charge of Governor General, my best wishes for a fruitful work.

Hoping that the long-awaited peace will again come true in the earthly Home of Our Lord I send you, your family and all the Members of your Lieutenancy my most sincere and fervent wishes of future full of blessing.

Pier Luigi Parola



*Message from
the new Governor General,*
AGOSTINO BORROMEIO

As I take up my new office as Governor General I send my cordial greetings to one and all.

First and foremost, I wish to express my gratitude to our Grand Master, Cardinal John P. Foley, for the honor he has done me in appointing me to this prestigious position. I consider it a privilege to be able to serve under his wise and forward-looking leadership, though I do not underestimate the significance of the office with which I have been entrusted, nor the responsibilities that this comprises. I hope, with God's help, to prove myself able to carry out my tasks.

On behalf of the Order as a whole, I would like to express special recognition to my predecessor, Knight of the Collar Pier Luigi Parola, for the commitment and vigor with which he fulfilled his duties on behalf of our institution, and in particular for the standards of clarity and transparency he has brought to the financial management of the Order.

For my part, I shall endeavor to continue his valuable work, inspired by the spirit of dedication and sense of duty which have been the constant guiding lights of our predecessors in this office.

Moreover, I am convinced that with its age-old traditions and its considerable number of members, the Order shows a development potential which we can take to new heights: growth in our spiritual life, as individuals and in common, growth in our presence throughout the world, growth – above all – in our charitable work and the aid we bring to our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and, in particular, in the support we have always provided to the Latin Patriarchate.



The ways and means in which we can realize this potential development will be the object of in-depth examination in the coming months. Nevertheless, it is clear that no significant results will be achieved without the active involvement of all elements of the Order, nor without their assistance, comments, suggestions and – why not? – their constructive criticism. I am speaking of a joint effort to which I hope the Members of the Grand Magisterium, Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates, Lieutenancy and Delegation Priors, Knights and Ladies of the Order will all wish to contribute, via the appropriate internal and external means of communication.

I therefore ask all of you for your help and cooperation and I thank every one of you here and now for all that you wish or are able to do. I am sure that, with the aid of the Blessed Virgin, Mary Queen of Palestine, our teamwork cannot fail to produce excellent results.

I take this opportunity to thank the entire Order once again and to send everyone my warmest regards. I shall be grateful to all who are kind enough to remember me in their prayers, asking the Lord to help me to fulfill the tasks that lie ahead of me.

Agostino Borromeo

AGOSTINO BORROMEIO was born at Oreno (Milan – Italy) on 24 January 1944. As a young man he was active in the Catholic Scout Movement. His education led him to study political science at “La Sapienza” University, Rome, whilst, at the same time, pursuing his interests in music: piano, organ and organ composition. He now teaches “Modern and Contemporary History of the Church and other Christian Confessions” at the University of Rome “La Sapienza” and gives annual courses on the “History of Christianity and of the Churches” at the Libera Università Maria Santissima Assunta (LUMSA)”, also in Rome.

He is the author of over 180 publications on the religious history of Southern Europe, musicology and musical criticism. Memberships include numerous international academic and cultural institutions like, for example: Academic Correspondent of the Real Academia de la Historia (Royal Academy of History - Madrid) since 1988, Academic Correspondent of the Academia Portuguesa

da História (Portuguese Academy of History – Lisbon) since 1992, member of the Italian Musicology Association since 2000, member of the Comitato Pontificio di Scienze Storiche (Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences - Vatican City) since 2001.

He is also President of the Italian Institute of Iberian Studies (since 1992), President (since 1993) of the Circolo di Roma, an international Catholic association founded in 1949, and President (since 2006) of the “Don Giuseppe de Luca” Association, an institution carrying out research in the field of religious history.

Knight Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, he served as a Member of the Grand Magisterium from 1995 to 2002, then as Chancellor from 2002 to 2004.

He has been married to Beatrice for 20 years and they have 3 children. Together with his family he likes playing tennis, go skiing and taking pictures.



News from the Patriarchate:

A MILLION EUROS PUT TO GOOD USE

In the interview with HB the Patriarch Fouad Twal published in the last Newsletter (p.10) he referred to the Patriarchate's "institutional expenses". Behind this rather technical, even somewhat abstract, expression lies the whole of the organization that serves to maintain the clergy, the parishes and the schools. The donations from our Order make a considerable contribution to financing this type of expenditure.

How extensive is this organization and what does it involve? Patriarch Twal's report at the last Consulta and the *Directory of the Catholic Church In The Holy Land* provide us with an insight that immediately reveals the importance of the Order's contribution.

81 priests work for the Patriarchate, including three seminarians who will be ordained next June. One of these is currently pursuing further education in Rome and seven are employed in the seminary at Beit Jala.

If we discount the six priests in Cyprus, which is also part of the Patriarch's administrative area, we are left with 71 priests caring for the welfare of the Roman-Catholic Christians in the Holy Land.

In the three regions of Israel, Palestine and Jordan the Patriarchate is responsible for 41 schools. In the academic year 2007/2008 these schools were attended by 18,826 students. Of those, 64% were Christians. Educating and bringing up Christians and Muslims side by side is an encouraging sign for successful and peaceful coexistence in the future and is therefore in the interests of the Patriarchate.

Of course, many people work in these schools, either as teaching or ancillary staff – which is a boost for local employment. In the last school year the employees totaled 1,465, including 1,233 Christians, i.e. 84%.

The amount of expenditure on the schools recovered by the Patriarchate varies greatly from one region to another. In Palestine and Jordan the Patriarchate is left with a large deficit per student (covered further by additional payments from the Order). In Israel, the Government is subsidizing the patriarchal schools.

In the Patriarchate itself the priests are assisted by another 14 employees, from reception to laundry, kitchen and accounting staff.

For all these people, structures and day-to-day operations, the Patriarchate has, of course, to find the corresponding means. Last year, 2008, the Grand Magisterium covered part of these "institutional expenses" from the contributions received from the Lieutenancies, sending the sum of 999,840.50 Euros to the Patriarchate. This figure excludes the separate funding provided for the schools. ➤



*A summary of the statistics
is given below*

<i>Number of priests</i>	81
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<i>Number of parishes</i>	
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a) in Palestine	18
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b) in Jordan	33
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c) in Israel	14
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d) for Hebrew Catholics	6
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<i>Number of schools</i>	
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a) in Palestine	14
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b) in Jordan	22
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c) in Israel	5
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<i>Number of students and proportion of Christians</i>			
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	total	Christians	%
a) in Palestine	5.696	2.671	47 %
b) in Jordan	10.836	7.693	71 %
c) in Israel	2.294	1.730	75 %
total	18.826	12.094	64 %

<i>Number of people employed in the schools</i>			
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	total	Christians	%
a) in Palestine	431	267	62 %
b) in Jordan	868	804	93 %
c) in Israel	166	162	98 %
total	1.465	1.233	84 %

<i>Number of ancillary staff</i>	
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in the Patriarchate	14
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BEARERS OF FAITH IN THE RISEN LORD

*Most Rev. Peter J. Elliott, KC*HSJ*

*in a retreat for our members
at the Carmelite Monastery in Melbourne
in August 2008.*

Homily at the Mass of Our Lady

Last Wednesday we offered Mass in this beautiful chapel for the soul of Mother Teresa of the Eucharist, the beloved Prioress of this community of the Kew Carmel. Her mortal remains were laid to rest in a noble tomb in the tranquil monastery garden that she knew and loved. As was evident on that occasion, the Catholic rites of funerals and Christian burial include a range of themes: prayer for the dead, comfort for the living, hope of eternal life, the mercy of God etc. But the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is always central. It is our hope. As Pope Benedict XVI reminds us in his recent encyclical on hope, *Spe Salvi*, this event shows us what our future can be.

Through this Easter event, Jesus of Nazareth is recognised as the true “Christ”, *cristos*, the anointed One, the Messiah King of Israel. But now he is a universal King, a promised Saviour for all humanity.

Through the Resurrection, Jesus Christ is hailed with another new title, “The Lord”, *ho kyrios*. This means that he is the Lord of Life, the conqueror of death. The word also carries the powerful meaning of divinity, for in the Old Testament this title was only given to God himself, “the Lord” of Israel. Yet here we see a historical figure who is named as the regal Christ and honoured as the divine Lord. This is Jesus of Nazareth, born into a family at a particular time and place, our brother in the flesh, a man of our human stock. It is through the glory of his risen human nature that we see the light and power of his divine nature. Yet this Jesus does not cease to be who he is in our time and space. This is why, in her creeds, the Church proclaims that he is truly human and truly divine.



This is where Christianity is unique among all religions. We do not simply follow the teachings of some wise man, nor do we repeat symbolic legends. Our faith is not just a set of ethics, a moral code. As Pope Benedict says again and again, Christianity is a personal encounter with a living Person, Jesus Christ. In that encounter with Jesus, we are called to open ourselves personally to him, we invite him into our lives. We let him convert us, and that is no more evident than in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Yet in the personal relationship with a personal God, the initiative is not ours. It is always his. He seeks out each one of us, passionately loving us, sinful yet noble creatures made in the image and likeness of God, persons with meaning and purpose in their lives, beings created with a destiny beyond that of the angels.

Jesus Christ opens his pierced Heart to us. He shows us the wounds of his love in his hands and feet. These are all symbolised by the five crosses on the arms of our Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Those five holy wounds only make sense in light of his Resurrection. No longer are they scars on a corpse sealed in a cool tomb. Now they are the badges of his victory and ours.

We can look at his wounds. Yes, there we see the victory but we also see the cost of that victory – the cross.

Let me tell you of a young man who went up to World Youth Day in Sydney. He told his friends that he was just going for the trip to the glitzy city, “to have a good time”, and, of course, he managed to smuggle some alcohol into his pilgrim’s back pack. He avoided most of the catechesis and worship leading up to the big day, but somehow he did make it to the Stations of the Cross on the Friday. It was then that something happened. At the end of the Stations, as he looked at Jesus crucified, represented by another young man, the Holy Spirit touched his heart - and broke it. With tears in his eyes, he exclaimed, “Now I get it! Now I get it! He did this for me....for me...he did this for me...”

Do we look at the Lord and say in our hearts, “You did this for me...”? Faced by this amazing divine and human generosity, gratitude should flood our hearts, and we should commit ourselves to him. But in the midst of our busy lives, we should also find hope. He offers us freedom from sin and guilt, the offer of Redemption, as Pope Benedict emphasises in *Spe Salvi*.

What generosity! Jesus Christ died for us. He has been buried. But then he left his tomb empty so he could fill the world with his vibrant living presence. Now he can be accessible to all of us and each of us through the Resurrection. Where? Above all in the liturgy and sacraments, in the community of his People, in our acts of faith, hope and love.

It is the risen Christ who is really present and at work in each of the sacraments. But he is present especially in the summit and fountainhead of all the sacraments, that is, when we offer and receive Him in the Holy Eucharist.



The death and resurrection of the Lord, the Easter Mystery, is contained in the Mystery of his Eucharist. As the Second Vatican Council affirms. From this mountain summit, from this fountainhead of grace flows our Christian life, our mission of charity. As he gave himself, so his Church gives and gives; her mission of charity is carried out day and night all around the planet. Pope Benedict emphasised this in his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est, God is Love*. He repeated this message in his exhortation on the Eucharist, *Sacramentum Caritatis – The Sacrament of Love*.

It is in the light of Resurrection hope that we, in this Order, commit ourselves to a work of generosity to the poor and needy, especially to our brothers and sisters in the trying situations of the Holy Land. We do not merely guard a holy place. We bear the insignia of his Holy Wounds, the Jerusalem Cross, as a sign of our will to serve and give. We carry with us the true meaning of the Holy Sepulchre, not a cold place of death but the narrow door into the ever widening light and warmth of endless life. As we bring this hope into our daily lives, so may we bring it to others. Our membership of this Order is thus both an invitation to intensify our Catholic faith, to know Jesus Christ more personally, and to find new ways of service, concern, care and commitment to others.

At the end of his magnificent encyclical on hope, our beloved Holy Father offers us a gift. The final paragraph, 49, is a compact meditation on Mary as the Mother of Hope. He takes us through the events in the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles where we find Mary praying and in action. ...

Mary was at the Holy Sepulchre when they buried him. Yet as that was not the end for her Son, so in the fullness of time, at the end of her earthly life, he would call her to follow him completely into the reality of resurrection. That is what the Assumption is all about. In Mary assumed into heavenly glory, the little one of Nazareth is now resplendent in the divine light. In her we see our eternal destiny, the destiny of the Church. She who mourned her Son and saw him buried in the sepulchre, now rejoices for ever. We see what the Church will be on that “day of days”. We wait in hope for our final liberation - into the Light.

But now, my brother and sister, as you make your promises at this Vigil at Arms, as you prepare for your solemn investiture at Holy Mass in the cathedral tomorrow, I invite you to place yourselves beneath the mantle of Mary. With her look to the Lord Jesus who breaks open his Sepulchre to fill the world with his presence, who breaks down all the barriers to flood our human hearts with his love.

