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2014



“May no one abuse the name of God through violence”

(Francis in Jerusalem 26 May 2014)

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Photos of the pilgrimage of the Pope to the Holy Land: silent prayer at the western wall of
the Temple of Jerusalem and in front of the dividing Wall between Bethlehem and Jerusalem,
also a moment of friendship shared with Rabbi Skorka and the Imam Abboud, friends from
Argentina with whom Francis wanted to share his spiritual journey.

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“We are all Middle Eastern Christians”

Dear readers,

Our communications team, and the valiant people in charge of translations, have worked hard to make sure this 2014 edition of the publication of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is delivered to you promptly.

Thus we can relive, through these pages, the great events of the life of the Church in the Holy Land, especially the historic pilgrimage of Pope Francis in which our Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O’Brien participated with the Governor General Agostino Borromeo and an international delegation of Knights and Dames of the Order. Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Custos of the Holy Land, in particular agreed to share his thoughts with the *Annales* concerning this journey and its consequences full of hope for the future.

With this issue we can also recall the tragedies that shook the Holy Land during the year, and see how our Order was mobilized worldwide to help families of victims and refugees. Should we not want to cry out “we are all Jerusalemites!”, that is to say, inhabitants of Jerusalem, as we are affected so much by what is happening there where God made man die and rise again to save our humanity?

And more broadly: “We are all Middle Eastern Christians” Our discreet action in the service of peace in the Holy Land continues long term, especially in education, which is the “most powerful weapon” in the words of Mgr Fouad Twal, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. Indeed schools teach young people to live together and respect each other’s culture. This work of interreligious dialogue, grounded in the faith of the Church, is developing quietly. We contribute our share in a material fashion, of course, but also by prayer. The Grand Master, who visited the Lieutenancies on all continents with great tenacity, continues to urge us to deepen our spiritual life, with the invaluable help of our Priors. In an interview for the *Annales* he emphasizes that the fertility of our actions, and the credibility of the Order which continues to expand, depend on the quality of our testimony as baptized believers in Christ.

New members join us, including a number of young couples. The life of the Order is intense, well rooted in the local churches, and the *Annales* lets us see this by giving voice to the Lieutenancies.

Strengthened by the year of grace just ended, in 2015 we shall continue to work in the vineyard of the Lord throughout the biblical lands, seeking to be living signs of the Trinitarian love in the place where we live, as Pope Francis incessantly invites to do.

Ivan Rebernik

*Chancellor of the Equestrian Order
of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*



As shown by his eloquent gestures in the Holy Land, Pope Francis calls us to initiate a dialogue of friendship between believers within the three Abrahamic religions, so that a culture of peace may develop, especially in the Middle East.

Because of the importance of the visit of Pope Francis to the Holy Land, this 2014 edition of the *Annales* is more substantial than usual, and is therefore an historical document to keep.

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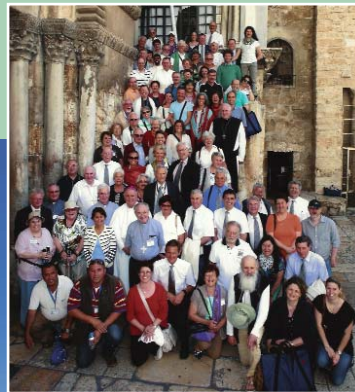
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THE LIFE OF THE LIEUTENANCIES

Nearly 30,000 active members throughout the world
(pages 61-101)



The Journey of the Pope to the Holy Land

FRANCIS IN THE HOLY LAND: A PILGRIMAGE OF UNITY AND PEACE

A delegation of the Grand Magisterium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, led by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, Archbishop Antonio Franco, Assessor, and Professor Agostino Borromeo, Governor General, participated in the pilgrimage of the Holy Father to the Holy Land. Several Knights and Dames came especially from the United States and Europe. From 24 to 26 May 2014 they accompanied Pope Francis and his closest collaborators to Jordan, the Palestinian Territories, and Israel, especially during major liturgical celebrations and the deeply moving evening prayer for Christian Unity which took place at the Holy Sepulchre in the presence of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I and many Orthodox and Eastern Catholic Patriarchs.

Upon his return to Rome the Pope wished to give thanks to the Virgin Mary at the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, and during his general audience on Wednesday 28 May in Saint Peter's Square, giving thanks to God, he highlighted the essential elements of his visit:

"I prayed together with His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew at the place of the Holy Sepulchre and we expressed our desire to continue with tenacity on the journey to full communion. Another purpose of this pilgrimage was to encourage in that region the path to peace, especially in Syria. In Jordan I thanked the Authorities and the people for their efforts in welcoming the many refugees. I invited the President of Israel and the President of Palestine, to come to the Vatican to pray together with me for peace. This pilgrimage to the Holy Land was also the occasion to confirm in faith the Christian communities, who suffer so much, and to express the gratitude of the entire Church for their presence and courageous testimony in that region".

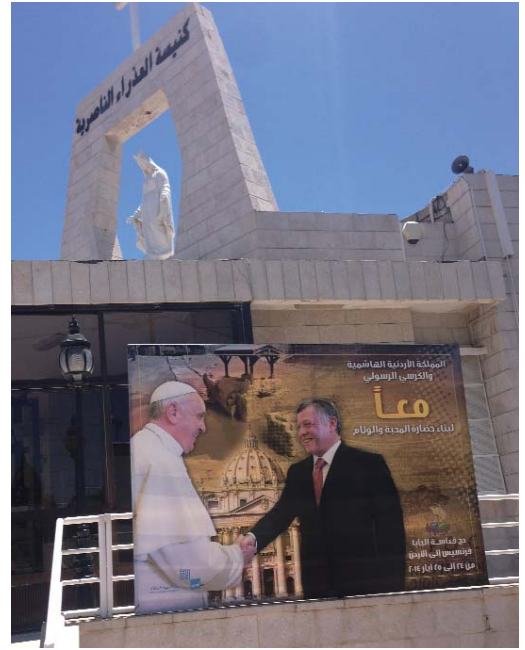
For memory and historical record, the *Annales* of the Grand Magisterium of the Order, in this annual edition, presents a synthesis of this event:

"To prepare the path of peace and unity"

"You have become the conscience of the world" declared the King of Jordan, Abdullah II, a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad, welcoming Francis on Saturday 24 May to the Royal Palace in Amman. Faithful to the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, who managed to enter into dialogue with the sultan of Egypt during the Crusades, the Pope responded to the Hashemite sovereign, hailing him as the "peacemaker" who allows Arab Christians,

full Jordanian citizens, to live in their territory, in full "coexistence" with their Muslim brothers. He thanked Jordan "for encouraging various important initiatives of interreligious dialogue, and for having promoted, within the UN, a Week of harmony among religions".

During the Mass at Amman Stadium, Francis, in the presence of all the Eastern Catholic Patriarchs, was presented with a pastoral staff of olive wood, symbol of both the simplicity to which he calls the entire Church, and of the peace he came



After his reception at the royal Palace in Jordan, Francis presided at a Mass in the Amman stadium. The Pope made a point of meeting refugees before continuing his journey to the holy sites of Jerusalem and Bethlehem.



to proclaim for three days in the Holy Land. In a very oriental atmosphere, the chant of the muezzin resounded after his outdoor homily. “Today, with a burning heart I invoke the Holy Spirit, asking him to prepare the way of peace and unity,” summed up the Holy Father during his homily centred on Christ’s baptism in the Jordan. “You are the John the Baptist of our time” exclaimed the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, of Jordanian origin, at the end of the celebration, referring to his prophetic testimony.

“In this place was born the Prince of peace...”

Immediately after the end of Mass he went to the banks of the Jordan to meet with refugees from the Middle East – Palestinian, Iraqi and Syrian – victims of regional destabilization orchestrated since the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. “I ask myself: who is selling arms to these people to make war? Behold the root of evil! This should make us think about who is responsible for this situation!” exclaimed Francis about the fratricidal conflict that has been tearing Syria apart for the past three years. Then, turning to the international community: “I urge the international community not to leave Jor-

dan, which is so welcoming and so courageous, alone in the task of meeting the humanitarian emergency caused by the arrival of so great a number of refugees, but to continue and even increase its support and assistance.”

On the morning of Sunday, 25 May, for the first time a Pope entered directly into Palestinian territory, without first passing through Israel, flying by helicopter from Jordan to Bethlehem. There he



During the Mass at Bethlehem in Palestine, the Pope invited the Israeli and Palestinian presidents to come and pray in his house, in the Vatican ... Cardinal O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and Governor General Agostino Borromeo, among others, participated in this historic pilgrimage.





was greeted by a cheering Arabic crowd, where Christians and Muslims mingled happily. “The time has come for everyone to find the courage to be generous and creative in the service of the common good, the courage to forge a peace which rests on the acknowledgment by all of the right of two States to exist and to live in peace and security within internationally recognized borders”, said Francis before the Palestinian Authorities – in the first row of which was President Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen – before concluding his



The Pope prayed quietly at the Grotto in Bethlehem, close to the place where he celebrated the Eucharist in the presence of thousands of the faithful in Manger Square.



speech with a warm “Salam”.

For Sunday Mass in Manger Square, the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre stood at the foot of the altar, wearing their capes, publicly demonstrating in front of the world media the spiritual communion of all Members of the Order mobilized in prayer for weeks beforehand, for the success of the pilgrimage.

The Pope spoke of the “sign” which the Infant of Bethlehem represented for the shepherds, inviting everyone to find in themselves “a new kind of lifestyle where our relationships are no longer marked by conflict, oppression and consumerism, but fraternity, forgiveness and reconciliation, solidarity and love”. He rekindled hope in this region during this Mass, attended by President Abbas, when he invited the Presidents of Israel and Pales-

Between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, a separation wall was erected, officially to protect Israel from terrorism. The Pope wanted to pray a few moments in this symbolic place, invoking the gift of peace for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples who have the right to live freely in two states with internationally recognized borders.

tine to join him in the Vatican to pray for peace.

“The spirit of Assisi”, in reference to the great prayer meeting of Religions for Peace on 27 October 1986, continues more than ever to blow, assuming a particular geopolitical dimension related to the urgent context which now characterizes the Middle East. Israeli President Shimon Peres readily made known that he would accept the invitation, which was announced during the recitation of the Regina Coeli, “in the place where the Prince of Peace was born”, among Palestinian Christians from throughout the Holy Land, including Gaza and Galilee. The Palestinian president, who had ascended to the altar to shake hands with Francis at the time of the kiss of peace, also willingly agreed to this exceptional event of a spiritual nature.

The good will of the Holy Father, however, must be patient, as when the muezzin of Bethlehem shouted out his call to prayer in the loudspeakers at the same time as the papal blessing, raising whistles of disapproval from the crowd, soon wisely replaced by enthusiastic “Viva il Papa”

Before going to Jerusalem in the evening Francis went to a refugee camp where he heard the



accounts of the suffering endured by those who have lost their land during 66 years of occupation, and urged these people, especially children, to go beyond the wrong endured “Don’t ever allow the past to determine your lives. Always look to the future ... violence cannot be overcome by violence. Violence is overcome by peace!

**“So that they may all be one...
that the world may believe”**

On this Spring Sunday afternoon, Francis spontaneously asked for his car to be stopped for a few moments to pray before the Separation Wall, or “security barrier” as defined by the Israeli Authorities. The photo of this unexpected incident which will be remembered as significant, quickly generated comments from the social networks, while the Pope continued on his way, travelling in a “normal” car, refusing the armoured Popemobile, accompanied on this trip by a Rabbi and a Muslim professor, two of his Argentinian friends. The holy city was deserted for “security reasons” at the time of the arrival of the Holy Father, who came specially to meet the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople at the Holy Sepulchre. Unease related to identity issues was at its height and the tension was extreme. Faced with this situation, Francis, during the welcoming ceremony in Israel, stated to the officials of the “Jewish State” so designated by the UN in 1947: “I express my hope and prayer that this blessed land may be one which has no place for those who, by exploiting and absolutising the value of their own religious tradition, prove intolerant and violent towards those of others”. Later in the day, guided by the Franciscans, under police escort, the Vatican delegation and the few guests entered the Holy Sepulchre with intense emotion to attend the historic meeting at which the Patriarch of Constantinople and the Bishop of Rome, expressed their prophetic wish for unity, in accordance with that which Paul VI and Athenagoras had initiated fifty years previously in Jerusalem, ending a thousand years of separation. At the forefront, Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, joined in the ecumenical prayer together with many other cardinals, bishops and patriarchs. The entourage of the Pope included Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secre-



tary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Cardinal Kurt Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, and Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. According to the status quo established under the Ottomans, they were welcomed by Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Franciscan Custos for Catholics, by His Beatitude Theophilos III for Greek Orthodox, and by His Beatitude Nourhan Manougian for Armenian Orthodox. The two leaders of the Eastern and Western Churches embraced, each displaying a truly Marian solicitude towards one another, a clear sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in an atmosphere of total self-aban-



A long awaited moment: the prayer vigil for unity at the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, attended by representatives of all Christian denominations. The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew and the Pope, together venerated the holy place and each spoke in turn in a climate of universal brotherhood. The Grand Master of the Order was in a place of honour alongside the highest ranking religious authorities.

donment where only love reigns.

Bartholomew aided the Pope, who suffers from osteoarthritis, as they entered together the Sepulchre where Christ was laid after his crucifixion, and from whence he resurrected. They laid their foreheads on the tombstone, under the gaze of an icon of the Virgin Mary who seemed to envelop them in a cloak of divine tenderness, before each lit a candle, the symbol of the sweet eternal light which triumphs over darkness.

“Each one of us, everyone baptized in Christ,

has spiritually risen from this tomb, for in baptism all of us truly became members of the body of the One who is the Firstborn of all creation; we were buried together with him, so as to be raised up with him and to walk in newness of life”, said Francis in his address, desirous that Christians should be “men and women of resurrection, and not of death”, and that they may experience the sufferings of their Church and of the whole world in the light of Easter morning. For representatives of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre present in this place

that night, the reference the Pope made to the “open wounds” of Christ also evoked the membership insignia embroidered on the capes of the Knights and Dames as a program of daily life: “His open wounds are like the cleft through which the torrent of his mercy is poured out upon the world. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the basis of our hope, which is this: *Christòs anesti!* Let us not deprive the world of the joyful message of the resurrection!”.

The Pope also clearly reiterated the hope “aimed at finding a means of exercising the specific ministry of the Bishop of Rome which, in fidelity to his mission, can be open to a new situation and can be, in the present context, a service of love and of communion acknowledged by all”. He concluded by recalling the Testament of Jesus delivered on Holy Thursday “that they may all be one... that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21).

“May we learn to understand the sufferings of others”

The following day, Monday 26 May, on the Esplanade of the Mosques in Jerusalem, in the presence of the Muslim Authorities, Francis made a heartfelt plea to all people and to all communities who look to Abraham: “May we respect and love one another as brothers and sisters! May we learn to understand the sufferings of others! May no one abuse the name of God through violence! May we work together for justice and peace!”. Like his two predecessors, the Holy Father went to pray at the Wailing Wall to honour the Jewish people terribly persecuted throughout history, then he was taken to Mount Herzl – according to the new protocol imposed for the past three years – at the tomb of



On the Temple Mount as at the Wailing Wall, Francis honoured the believers of Islam and those of Judaism, wishing that, for the three monotheistic religions, Jerusalem could one day truly become a “City of Peace” as its name etymologically suggests.

the founder of Zionism, before paying tribute to the victims of Nazi genocide, at Yad Vashem. Greeting survivors, he listened to them with loving care, kissing their hands as a sign of compassion and deep respect. “Never again, Lord, never again!” he declared with passion in a moving prayer. “Here we are, Lord, shamed by what man, created in your own image and likeness, was capable of doing”, he added. After planting an olive

THE FRUITS OF THIS JOURNEY, ACCORDING TO MGR FOUAD TWAL

During the session of the Grand Magisterium of the Order held in Rome on 22 and 23 October 2014, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr Fouad Twal, reflected on the pilgrimage of the Holy Father to the Holy Land:

The Patriarch spoke with resolve: “The Pope tried to heal the still open wounds and reaffirm the priority to find fair resolutions to the current political crisis, even though the visit had the character of a religious pilgrimage”. Mgr Twal, on the basis of these considerations, explained the choice of Pope Francis to fly from Amman directly to Bethlehem: “He was the first



tree with the President of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres, 1994 Nobel Prize winner for Peace, Francis renewed his plea “that all parties avoid initiatives and actions which contradict their stated determination to reach a true agreement and that they tirelessly work for peace, with decisiveness and tenacity”, finishing his address with a deeply fraternal “shalom”. The same day, however, the government of Benjamin Netanyahu authorized

head of state to visit the Palestinian state without passing through Tel Aviv. This choice was a gesture of attention to the oppressed people who are denied their national and social rights. The Pope wanted to send discrete signals that well define his ethical commitments, reaffirming what is right and what is wrong”.

The Patriarch continued by emphasizing certain gestures made by the Holy Father, such as the visit to the 500 children of Syrian refugees in Jordan, the meal shared with five families in Bethlehem, and

the construction of fifty new homes in a settlement between East Jerusalem and Bethlehem, wishing probably to indicate the irreversibility of his policy of expansion into Palestinian territory.

The Papal pilgrimage to the Holy Places was followed by a meeting with priests, religious and seminarians in the Church of Gethsemane near the Mount of Olives, where the Holy Father, radiant and visibly tired but very happy, designated the safest way to avoid “the duplicity, the deceitfulness of the one who betrayed Jesus”: despite our failings and our errors, “let us imitate the Virgin Mary and Saint John, and stand by all those crosses where Jesus continues to be crucified. This is how the Lord calls us to follow him, this is the path, there is no other!”.

A special Mass presided over by Francis at the Upper Room, the first Church of the Apostles, claimed by the Jewish extremists as the cenotaph of King David, brought together the Ordinaries of the Holy Land and the Papal entourage. “From here the Church goes forth, impelled by the life-giving breath of the Spirit. The Church, gathered in prayer with the Mother of Jesus, lives in constant expectation of a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Send forth your Spirit, Lord, and renew the face of the earth”, the Pope prayed, carried by a supernatural force at the end of this truly spiritual marathon.

The whole Order may be renewed now by seeking a way to put into practice the example given by the successor of Peter, from Bethlehem to Jerusalem, so that the night of this world may turn into day, in the light of the Nativity and the Resurrection, in the service of unity and peace. ■

**François Vayne,
on his return from Jerusalem**

the brief moment of contemplation that Pope Francis wished to take before the wall that separates Bethlehem from Jerusalem.

In conclusion, Mgr Twal said that the Pope’s pilgrimage marked the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting between Pope Paul VI – who was beatified in Rome on 19 October – and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras; “The purpose of the trip was to revive the spirit of unity among Christians of different denominations, as well as interfaith dialogue, and to invigorate the local Christian community”.

WITH ONE VOICE

The prayer meeting attended by Israeli and Palestinian Presidents, with the Pope and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, at the Vatican on 8 June, was “the true conclusion of the journey of Francis to the Holy Land”, according to the Director of the Press Office of the Holy See on Vatican Radio.



The Christian, Jewish and Muslim prayers, which ascended in Rome in the Vatican gardens on 8 June 2014, give rise to hope, and encouraged everyone not to abandon the fight for peace, to be far-sighted, well beyond the current political disappointments and apparent impasses related to fanaticism of all kinds ...



WORK, UNDETERRED, FOR DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION

*Exclusive interview with the Custos of the Holy Land,
Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa*



Pope Francis wished to visit the Holy Land as his predecessors had done; following in a tradition in which each Pontiff has made a significant contribution. What, in your opinion, are the gestures that distinguished this pilgrimage of the Holy Father from those of Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI?

The Pope's visit to the Holy Land (24-26 May

2014) took on a special character as soon as it was announced; it was defined as a "pilgrimage of prayer" on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the meeting between Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras in Jerusalem. The dimension of prayer is fully demonstrated by the actions and words of Pope Francis, who did not make any political speeches, but who came to bring his personal support and especially his prayer, with the exhortation

HOLY SEPULCHRE

الكنيسة المقدسة
القيصرية
Holy Sepulchre



Informational sign with text in Arabic and English, including a list of icons and symbols.

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that he addressed to everyone, to make a unanimous invocation for peace. It was this conviction, so rooted in the Pope's heart, which led him to organise the prayer meeting in Rome, right after his pilgrimage.

After touching on the wound of division between the Churches of Jerusalem, by praying with Patriarch Bartholomew in the Holy Sepulchre, which reminds us of the death and resurrection of Christ, it was necessary, it was vital, to address the another painful wound: the division between the two peoples, Israeli and Palestinian. The inspiration for the prayer meeting "in the Pope's house" was born in Jerusalem, with the explicit invitation that the Pope addressed to both Presidents. The Pope expressed himself further at the Angelus on 13 July: "I extend to you all a heartfelt appeal to pray unceasingly for peace in the Holy Land, given the tragic events of recent days. I still have in my memory the vivid recollection of the meeting on 8 June with Patriarch Bartholomew, President Peres and President Abbas, with whom we invoked the gift of peace and heard the call to break the spiral of hatred and violence. One might think that this meeting has passed in vain. Well, no! Prayer helps us to avoid allowing ourselves to be overcome by evil and not to be resigned to violence and hatred so they do not take precedence over dialogue and reconciliation".

After the return of the Holy Father to Rome and the moment of interreligious prayer in the Vatican Gardens, a lot of people would have hoped to see the fruits of peace resulting from these events almost immediately. On the contrary, the war broke out in Gaza shortly afterwards – another open wound. Over and above the current events, what seeds were planted, and are currently germinating beyond the attention of the media?

We must not have a consumer approach to prayer: it introduces and fosters an attitude, a condition in a relationship. Prayer does not produce, it generates. It does not replace the work of man, but illuminates it. It does not exempt the way, but shows it. It is in this sense that the meeting in Rome

“ Prayer does not produce, it generates. It does not replace the work of man, but illuminates it ”

was and is a powerful sign, strong and binding. It is a seed that must germinate, grow, and strengthen our faith, to make it fruitful in works of justice.

It is the seeds abundantly spread through prayer that nourish hope, and that relieve the fatigue of so many Israelis and Palestinians, religious and laity, who are committed daily to building a society of peace. Thus the forgiveness and reconciliation gestures regenerated strength, and the news about conscientious objection and that of non-violent demonstrations found its place in the media. The educational commitment of schools run by the Church and the religious orders – real schools of community and mutual respect – provides a more cordial welcome, and the example shown by their total openness often leads to awed amazement. Even other works of assistance – nurseries, nursing homes, clinics and hospitals – open to everyone, according to their clear identity and their availability to real human needs, without distinction, speak of a universal brotherhood which is alive in people's hearts.

Every day we witness the strength of courage of those who let germinate in their hearts the indelible sign of a prayer that, in the presence of violence, has become the seed of concrete actions and words of compassion, reconciliation and fraternal respect.

The Consistory on the Middle East held in Rome on 20 October stressed the role of Jerusalem as the capital of the three religions. What is the role that the Christian community is called to take in this interfaith effort?

The convening of the Consistory on the Middle East is the sign of the Pope's paternal concern for the events that are ongoing in the region. In this context the fundamental importance of Jerusalem as the "capital of the faith" for the three great monotheistic religions was underlined, a fundamental reason for the urgency to redefine the future of the Middle East. Next, the themes tackled

were those of the exodus of Christians, the role of the Church and of the international community. "We cannot resign ourselves to imagine the Middle East without Christians, who, for two thousand years bear witness to the name of Christ"; that



Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Custos of the Holy Land, closely participated in the organization of the Pope's pilgrimage, gracing the event with his discrete and attentive presence, in the evangelical spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi of which his religious Community is the spiritual successor.

is why we need to emerge from culpable indifference and start looking to the Middle East as a place of coexistence, and not only as a place of perpetual conflict. Here, there are Christian areas inhabited by monks and nuns, with the faithful of several Catholic and Orthodox denominations, our brothers who for twenty centuries have learned to live together and share a simple Christian life, poor, not easy, but always marked by tolerance, through reconciliation and brotherhood.

We must learn to look at this reality; we must want to save it.

“We ask the international community to be faithful to the principles of human rights, religious freedom, freedom of conscience. We are in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon: we Christians, we are not immigrants, we have lived here for thousands of years and we have the right therefore to be treated as human beings and citizens of these countries”. The Consistory further emphasized this fact, referring

to the exodus of Christians from the Middle East, ever more massive and dramatic.

It is thanks to the aid that supports the works of assistance, and of culture and education that Christians can play an essential role as artisans of peace, reconciliation, and development.

Interreligious dialogue, the primary task of the Church in the Middle East, is the most effective antidote to fundamentalism. There are many things that need to change (among others, not least, the problem of the relationship between religion and politics, which here seems to be inseparable!), but for the moment our priority is to support our brothers in faith, knowing that it is not to protect a particular religious community, or a particular ethnic group, but the people who are part of the one human family and whose human rights are systematically violated. ■

**Report by François Vayne
and Elena Dini**

JORDAN

The Holy Land



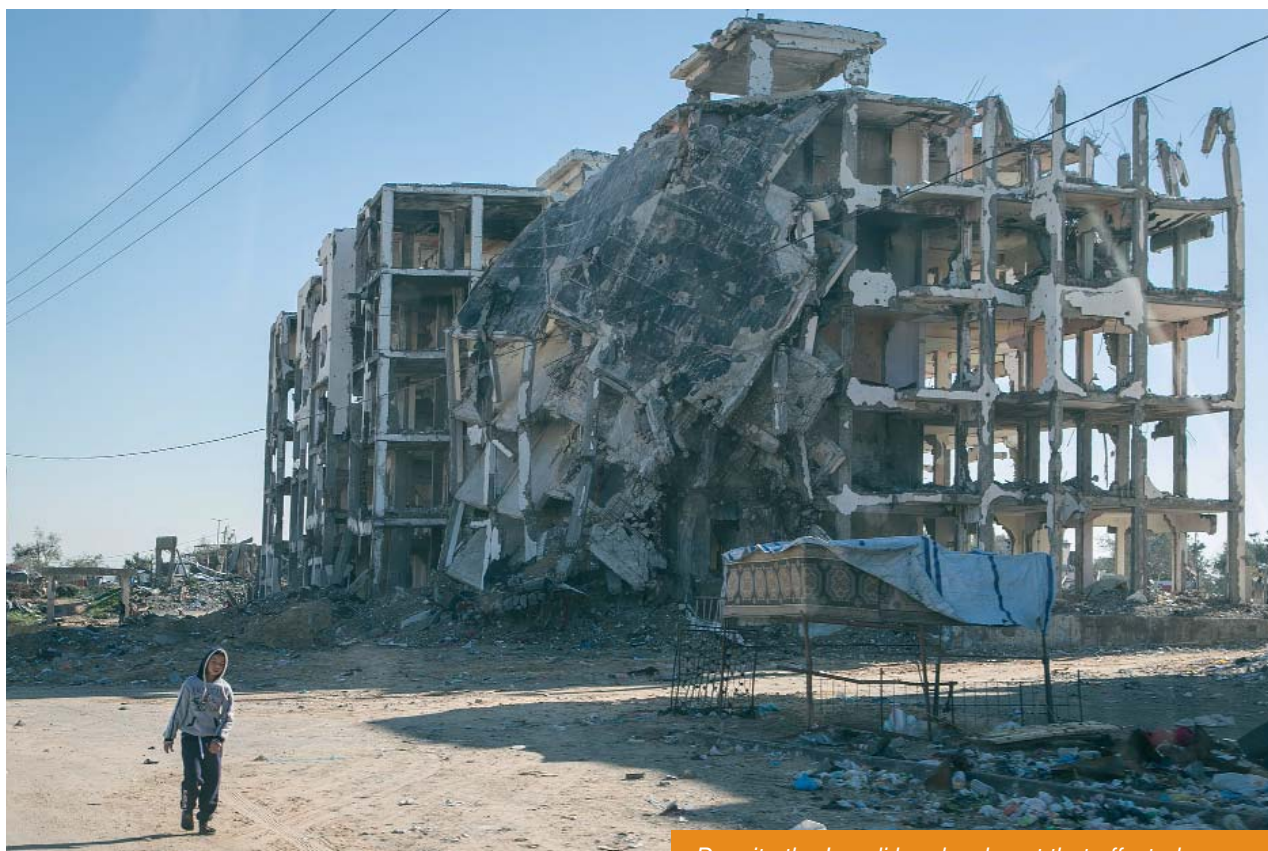
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IN SEARCH OF PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

Overview of the past year

We cannot hide the fact that 2014 was a year of great misery for the people who live in the Holy Land. At the same time, we cannot overlook all the new commitments made by so many in favour of such a beloved land and for the “living stones” who inhabit it.



ANDREA KROGMANN

On 30 June, the bodies of three students of a rabbinical school, abducted two weeks before in the southern West Bank, were found near the small town of Halhul. Violence continued in Jerusalem with the kidnapping of a young Palestinian who was burnt alive. A few days later, a seemingly endless attack of rockets was launched repeatedly from the Gaza Strip against Israel. On 8 July, the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu launched the Operation “Protective Edge”. This

Despite the Israeli bombardment that affected thousands of innocent people from 8 July, life continues in Gaza amid the rubble, and people seem to “hope against hope” (Epistle to the Romans 4: 13-25) in this land which no doubt still has a lot to contribute to the world.

war caused more than 2,000 victims, mostly Palestinians. During the summit of Caritas on the state of emergency in the Middle East, held in Rome from 15 to 17 September, Father Raed Abushalia – Director of Caritas Jerusalem – provided some

figures during his talk in relation to the war: “In the Gaza Strip, 1.8 million people have undergone 51 days of war that destroyed infrastructure, damaged 30,000 houses, destroyed the homes of 15,000 families then forced to live in schools”.¹ Among the 1.8 million people living in Gaza, just over 1,300 are Christians, of which 9.3% (a little more than a hundred) are Catholics of the Latin rite, according to a study published in May 2014 by the Pontifical Mission for Palestine.

At the end of August, the Pope received in audience Father Jorge Hernandez, an Argentinian priest of the Incarnate Word Institute and Parish Priest of the Holy Family parish in Gaza. One hundred faithful participate in the life of this small community and Pope Francis was particularly attentive to them during the days of war, as Father Hernández explained: the Pope made several telephone calls, and sent messages of encouragement to them. During the audience, Pope Francis urged them to be “the salt of the earth”. The Holy Father reminded the priest that “the Gospel requires sacrifices that Jesus Christ asks of each one of us, wherever we live. You are asked to be a witness of Jesus Christ on the land that saw him suffer, that saw him die, but also saw him resurrected. Therefore, have courage, keep going!”²

Gaza, after the war

At the time of the cease-fire in late August, after several negotiations and calls on Israel to cease launching rockets, Gaza was comparable to a city in ruins. Bishop Shomali, Auxiliary Bishop of Jerusalem for the Latin Patriarchate, visited Gaza on 1 September with a small delegation. “We visited the district of Sajaya where 80% of homes and buildings are nothing more than rubble”. In the interview given to the Fides news agency, Mgr William Shomali said they “saw similar situations to those in cities destroyed during the Second World War”. The delegation was only able to stay a very short time with the local communities: the Israelis closed the Erez checkpoint at 3pm. Mgr Shomali was anxious to tell of the emotional state of the people after the bombings. “People are relieved by the cease-fire that seems to be holding (...). The prospect of new talks as part of the reconstruction process helps restore hope. But – the



The Parish Priest of Gaza faced the deluge of fire with his small Catholic community, before being received and encouraged by the Pope during the summer of 2014.



Palestinian Bishop continues – young people here have already experienced three military campaigns against Gaza and each time the destruction was worse than the previous. It will take years to return to the way it was before”.³

On 11 August 2014, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, through the intervention of its Governor General Agostino Borromeo, invited all Lieutenancies to partake in the wish of Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, Grand Master of the Order, by

sending extra funds to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Pontifical Mission for Palestine to deal with the emergencies of the population of Gaza. The needs are still enormous: the families are severely affected and the schools and hospitals have sustained much damage.

On 26 September, Father Imad Twal, General Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate thanked all those who supported the repair work of the Holy Family School in Gaza. The school, like many others, had sheltered 1,200 Palestinians during the days of war and the classrooms had suffered the consequences. The toilets were unusable and the water tanks destroyed. The works enabled students to resume their schooling in record time.

Many people continue to be very attentive to the situation in Gaza. In early November 2014, a delegation of the Presidency of the Italian Episcopal Conference, led by its President, Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, visited the areas affected by the war. The delegation visited Gaza and Sderot where it went to see the bunkers dug in the gardens that sheltered the children during the alerts. On his return, Cardinal Bagnasco talked about the most moving moments of his visit, es-

pecially the visit to the house of the Sisters of Mother Teresa in the premises of the presbytery of the parish of Gaza.

“In the house, thirty babies entrusted to the religious Sisters by their parents who are unable to raise them, are accommodated permanently or for a short period. Many are sick, affected by severe pathologies, but are cared for by the nuns with truly admirable maternal devotion. The Sisters hope to expand the structure to accommodate at least 50 children and cope with the many requests. Children are born into a highly disaggregated environment, their parents are unable to raise them and they therefore take them to a safe place”.⁴



ANDREA KROGMANN



ANDRES BERGAMINI

Among the senior officials of the Catholic Church who came to visit the wounded residents of Gaza: Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, President of the Italian Episcopal Conference, and Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster. Both were shocked to discover the extent of the human damage caused during Operation “Protective Edge” conducted by the Israeli army.

Violence spreads

The words quoted in a press release by 18 bishops of the United States travelling to Israel and Palestine on a prayer pilgrimage for peace organised by the US Episcopal Commission in September, seem sadly prophetic. In a report afterwards, they wrote concerning Jerusalem: “we were told several times that the city could erupt in violence, as it has on far too many occasions”.

The potential risk the bishops mentioned was indeed imminent, given recent events. Disorder on Israeli territory attracted the attention of the international community at the end of October. The first victim of violence was Rabbi Yehuda Glick who has long called for “freedom and civil rights” by allowing access of the Jews to the Esplanade of the Mosques (the Haram al-Sharif) or the Temple Mount, Glick’s preferred definition. His attempted murder was immediately linked to his activities and his ideas, but soon after, the alleged perpetrator of the attack was recognized and killed by Israeli police. The situation caused general disturbance and the Prime Minister Netanyahu announced the closing of the Esplanade of the Mosques for the next day; an order which was then partly revoked.

The problem of the Holy Places in this disputed land is particularly serious. The Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem have not underestimated the situation and have issued a statement to express their concern and invoke the respect of the historic *Status Quo* of these places. The statement condemns “any proposal to amend the statutes of the Holy Places. The Holy Places – they argue with foresight – require constant and vigilant protection so that the three monotheistic religions may have access according to the *Statu Quo* [...]. Any threat to its continuity and integrity could lead very quickly to unpredictable consequences which would be very unpopular in the current political climate, at a very critical time”.

“ We must go to the very roots, remove the causes of despair that generate violence, and stop the endless spiral of revenge ”

THE STATU QUO

In 1852, the Ottoman Sultan, who ruled over the territory of the Holy Land, officially defined the “*Status Quo nunc*” (the condition existing at the time of the agreement) regarding the ownership of the Holy Places, especially for the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This document was never written officially but is nonetheless well acknowledged by everybody. It defines the areas inside the Shrines, the timetables, the duration of the celebrations and the details of the course of the celebrations, without interfering with the liturgical features relevant to each community.

After these events, attacks on civilians have continued in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and have increased the tension on both sides. The last sad and bloody attack was the work of two young members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in an ultra-Orthodox synagogue where four Rabbis and a policeman were killed on 18 November. Patriarch Fouad Twal was quick to send this message: “I extend my condolences to the families of the victims of the attack on the synagogue in Jerusalem and of all the violence that sheds blood in the Holy Land. In our churches, convents and monasteries we will ask the Lord more than ever to help us and help the Heads of State to take the right steps, so that there may be peace and security for all, all, all”.

Taking stock of the situation: a land in search of a sustainable solution

Talking about the current situation in the Holy Land, Patriarch Twal continues: “We must go to the very roots, remove the causes of despair that generate violence, and stop the endless spiral of revenge. Otherwise we will always be in fear, without freedom and dignity. These are our thoughts as we wait for the coming Christmas”. The priest of Beit Jala, Father Ibrahim Shomali expressed similar thoughts in an interview with Vatican Radio. Concerning the attack on the synagogue, he reflected: “What happened is sad. This attack is very serious, because people who pray should not be affected”.



The dramatic situation faced by refugees fleeing the war on the vast array of biblical territories encourages us even more to be witnesses to our faith in concrete acts of solidarity, signs of an invincible hope, founded in the Resurrection of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

And again: “Violence begets violence. In war nobody ever wins”. In conclusion, according to Father Shomali “we must solve this problem to be able to build bridges, and bridges are sure hearts”.

Also on the Israeli side, there are people who look to search for a non-provisional, but permanent, resolution of the conflict. During the war in Gaza, the Israeli writer and playwright Abraham Yehoshua wrote: “After the destruction and deaths in Gaza and Israel, the Jewish State must not be satisfied with partial or provisional agreements, as was the case at the end of previous clashes, but must take the initiative to rebuild Gaza – the bitter and angry son-in-law – with the help of Egypt and other States, dismantle the missile bases, destroy the tunnels, and at the same time, put an end to the isolation and restore ties with its people through a

“safe corridor” linking the Strip to the West Bank, as stipulated in the Oslo agreements”.⁵

The situation we are witnessing in the land which gave birth to Jesus, prompts us to continue to work together for peace without ever forgetting the call to holiness and the love we have received. Pope Francis thus summarised, briefly but clearly, his final appeal during the audience of 19 November: “Building peace is difficult, but living without peace is torment!”.

■
Elena Dini

¹ Source: *Avvenire*, 16/9/14.

² Source: *Avvenire*, 29/8/2014.

³ Extract from FIDES, 2/9/2014.

⁴ Source: *Avvenire*, 4/11/2014.

⁵ Abraham Yehoshua, The origins of the Gaza conflict, *La Stampa*, 6/8/2014.

ONLY THROUGH FAITH CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE SYNOD ON THE FAMILY

*The Synodal process will continue in 2015,
supported by our prayers*

“It was not easy to find the right balance between Mercy and discipline for the many ways of living together,” Patriarch Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Order, remarked after attending the Synod on the family in Rome. He added: “Besides the challenges Europe is facing, we have our own specific problems: mixed marriages, Muslim mentality and attitude, the emigration of our families, conversion to Islam or to the Orthodox Church to facilitate the celebration of a second marriage ... The walls erected by Israel have also divided families and parishes, in addition to the very bad economic situation that prevents young Christian couples in villages to get married since they are unable to rent or buy a home”. Beyond this important perspective specific to the Holy Land, let us return more broadly to this event of universal magnitude designed to open up the future. This extraordinary general assembly of Bishops with the Pope is of particular interest to the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as most of them are married lay people with children and grandchildren.

“May the wind of Pentecost blow on the work of the Synod, the Church and on the whole of humanity,” the Pope asked during the prayer vigil organised for families on Saturday 4 October in Saint Peter’s Square. “The Spirit gives us that wisdom which surpasses knowledge, and enables us to work generously with authentic freedom and humble creativity,” he added on the following day during the opening Mass of the Assembly of the Synod on the Feast of Saint Faustina, the apostle of Divine Mercy. This Sunday Mass was celebrated in the presence of the relics of Louis and Zélie Martin, the parents of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who were beatified in 2008. “Faith, in the Martin family, is a lived faith, not a set of standards to be met” commented Cardinal Lorenzo Baldisseri, the new Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops as he was receiving the relics of the blessed couple from the hands of Bishop Jacques Habert, Bishop of Sées in Normandy. These relics came from Alençon, the town where Louis and Zélie lived as a family; they were

exposed for the veneration of the Fathers and the faithful in the chapel of the Synod located in Santa Maria Maggiore. Thus placed under the heavenly protection of the Martin family, and also the blessed spouses Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, the Synod allowed all points of view to be expressed during the fortnight in a decidedly missionary perspective, in order to help families to live their Christian vocation in a context of widespread secularisation.

To advance in stages towards the best possible solution

“Women affirm their dignity, in particular through work, and a relationship of parity with men is difficult to implement, resulting in conflicts everywhere in the global village that is our world”, remarked realistically Dieudonné and Emerthe Gatsinga, a Rwandan couple who participated in the Synod, saying that “the Gospel lived in mutual love enables one to better listen to the other, and

facilitates forgiveness and dialogue”. In fact, the issue of the Christian family has already seen an important evolution since the Ordinary Synod dedicated to it in 1980, including in terms of legal culture. The Church seeks to take this into account without putting into question the doctrine on the indissolubility of marriage. Cardinal Walter Kasper, whom the Pope had asked to make pastoral proposals destined in particular to facilitate a better reception of divorced-remarried, rightly pointed out that it would be in the interest of the Synod not to focus on this specific issue, but more broadly on the challenges that the family is invited to accept to correspond more closely to God’s plan. The main concern of the Special Meeting convened in Rome by Francis was of a pastoral nature, with regard to reasserting the importance of the family in society, and healing the wounds of those whose Christian ideal were broken in a painful confrontation with current realities. The word often used to approach solutions is that of “graduality”, suggesting walking in stages towards the best possible solution and relying on pastors to encourage their flock by supporting them closely, without fearing the “odour of the sheep”. Among the images used by the Synod Fathers, that of the torch that illuminates the walk is particularly interesting and preferable to that of a distant lighthouse. Without denying the fundamental doctrine on marriage, the real situation of people was brought to light, without any moral condemnation, in an effort to find a solution so that they may be able to enjoy full membership of the Church with regard to their individual situation. Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio, a famous canon lawyer, gave the example of a man whose wife quit the matrimonial home: he is left on his own with the children, and lives with another woman willing to support him: how can one not consider with compassion such situations which are more and more frequent? He also said that the Committee newly created by the Pope in order to facilitate the recognition of invalidity of some marriages, could propose that the diocesan bishop pronounces on cases within his diocese. A no-fee process is also envisaged, as well as the use of a single judge instead of three, and the removal of the appeal procedure.

The concept of “Parresia” dominated the assembly, a directive given by the Pope to the Synod

Prayer was at the heart of the Synod, fervent prayer for all parents and children who have experienced, or are experiencing, periods of turbulence related to the crisis of marriage and the family.





Fathers concerning debates: a way of speaking courageously and with clarity, in truth, without shutting oneself off from each other, in a mutual desire of attentive listening and humble respect.

The urgency for new pastoral guidelines

From the beginning of the Synod Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, who was very close to John Paul II and Benedict XVI, had embedded in the conciliar texts the need to

search for new pastoral approaches for families in “irregular” situations canonically speaking, with particular attention to the first chapter of the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* on the Church. It is written at number eight of this chapter that “many elements of sanctification and truth” are found outside of the visible sphere of the Church. “These elements, as gifts belonging to the Church of Christ, are forces impelling toward catholic unity”. This text, having founded the dialogue between the Church and the world fifty years

ago, may be the basis for a family ministry taking to heart the various situations of human love authentically inhabited by the presence of God, such as civil marriages.

In this dynamic of renewal, the members of the Synod, bishops and lay people worked together to find answers to the sufferings many families are facing, in particular by proposing a new language and new pastoral approaches to support them.

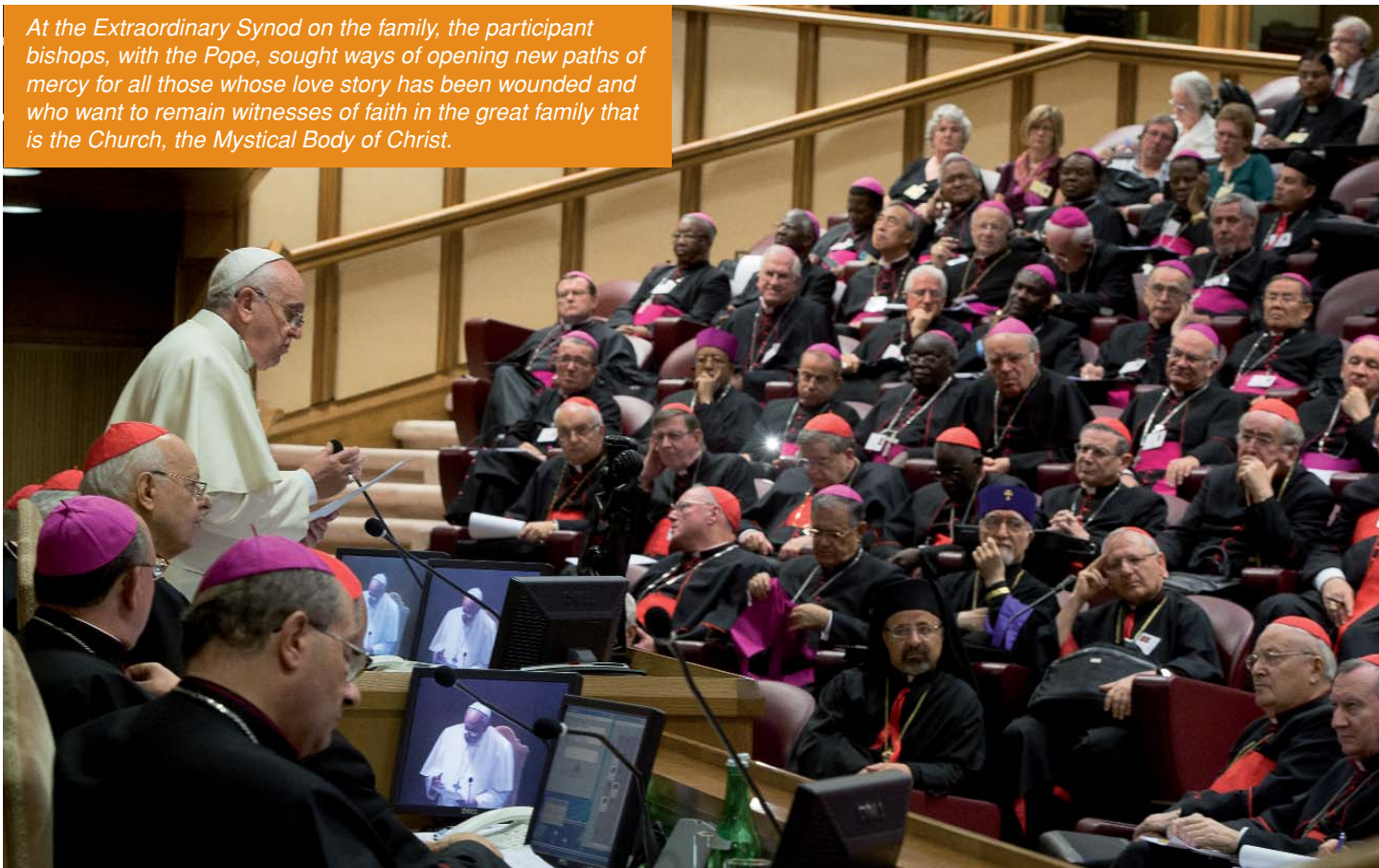
On 13 October 2014, the anniversary of one of the important apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, a special date dear to the heart of Pope Francis, Cardinal Peter Erdo, General Rapporteur of the Synod, presented a first document, the result of ongoing work, stating that “the truth is embodied in human frailty, not to condemn it, but to heal it”, and that therefore there is an “urgency in finding new pastoral approaches which are grounded in the concrete reality of family frailties”. Criticisms having been expressed in relation to the media coverage of the first report of the Synod, an official statement specified the various steps of the process:

“Following the reactions and debates that followed the publication of the *Relatio post disceptationem*, which was given undue importance, the Secretariat reminds people that this is a working document summarizing the various interventions and debate of the first Synodal week. This text is now submitted for the attention of the *Circuli Minores*, in accordance with Synod regulations”.

That the divine light may be able to enter every house...

The various language groups, or “*Circuli Minores*” which amended the first highly commented document, then presented their reports, in which you could read for instance: “We have asked that the practice of ‘spiritual communion’, traditionally recommended to those who, for various reasons, cannot receive communion ‘sacramentally’, be studied and evaluated in its theological foundations, and if it is accredited by the review, be promoted and more widely encouraged among the

At the Extraordinary Synod on the family, the participant bishops, with the Pope, sought ways of opening new paths of mercy for all those whose love story has been wounded and who want to remain witnesses of faith in the great family that is the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ.



faithful”. However, it was very clear that the majority of the groups did not oppose access to the sacraments for the divorced and remarried under certain conditions. “The main idea of this Synod is that the Church is a family which keeps its door open to everyone, and we must look for ways to make everyone feel welcome despite their problems”, Bishop Victor Manuel Fernandez, Rector of the Catholic University of Buenos Aires, a friend of Pope Francis, told us. “The ideal of the Gospel is a fullness which we are trying to reach. In specific situations, everyone does what he can at a precise moment of his life. We wish that, by capillarity, divine light may be able to enter every house”.

The Synod – from the Greek “journeying together” – was concluded after fifteen days of very lively debate. The issues of the access to the sacraments for divorced and remarried persons and the reception of homosexual persons remain wide open in the “Relatio Synodi” even though these two controversial issues did not get the two-thirds majority. The final summary sent to the Bishops will be debated in all the dioceses until the next Ordinary Synod in autumn 2015 (See the box below). A final text will then be voted, presenting a consensus developed gradually, after months of open and fruitful reflection. Francis will then make decisions in the light of this long process of Episcopal collegiality, guided by the Holy Spirit and in fidelity to Vatican II.

The fate of the Gospel in the contemporary world

The irreversible ecclesial perspective is certainly to look at people first and not the legality of their situation or their sexual orientation, as Cardinal Christoph Schönborn explained to the press. The message of the Synodal Assembly is clear about this, highlighting a passage of the Apocalypse where we see Christ walking in the streets of Laodicea, in Asia Minor, knocking on the doors of houses to sit and eat with people (Rv. 3:20). The Eucharist is not the sacrament of the perfect, but food for the believers on the way, and the Pope has again stressed this point in his closing speech of the Synod on 18 October, speaking of a Church “who doesn’t see humanity from a glass castle to judge or categorise people”. “The Church is not afraid to eat and drink with prostitutes and publicans,” he

THE SYNOD CONTINUES IN 2015, AFTER THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN PHILADELPHIA

A questionnaire was sent to dioceses around the world, based on the “Relatio Synodi” of 18 October, and the responses are expected by 15 April 2015. The synthesis will form the *Instrumentum laboris* of the ordinary Synodal assembly which will meet in Rome from 4 to 25 October 2015, on the theme: “the vocation and mission of the family in the modern world”. Just before, the VIII World Meeting of Families will be held in Philadelphia in the United States, in which members of the Order and their families can participate in great numbers by registering at: www.worldmeeting2015.org

insisted before the Synod Fathers, quoting chapter 15 of the Gospel according to Saint Luke. He equated rigid traditionalists and progressive “dogooders” with each other, seeking to bring the Church back to an attitude merely consistent with the actions of Christ, the perfect illustration of his Word.

“A Christian who lives the Gospel is ‘God’s newness’ in the Church and in the world”, the Pope said during the Mass of Sunday 19 October for the beatification of Pope Paul VI, referring to the “unexpected ways” by which God, who loves surprises, leads us. Based on the words with which Paul VI – “the great helmsman of the Council” – established the Synod, he showed that the Church carefully observed “the signs of the times” (Mt 16:3), striving to adapt the guidelines and methods to the growing needs of our time and the evolution of society. It is the fate of the Gospel in the contemporary world that concerns Francis, wishing that the announcement of the Good News recovers the liveliness and dynamism of its origins. “I ask you to support this Synodal journey with prayer, until the end of the next Synod”, insisted the Pope during the general audience of 10 December 2014. An appeal certainly heard by all the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in the world. ■

Emmanuel Nayev

Two great annual meetings of the Grand Magisterium

BEFORE THE POPE'S VISIT:
A VERY TENSE SITUATION
IN THE HOLY LAND

Spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium

The spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem began with participation at Mass celebrated in the church of Santa Maria in the Via Lata, “the Lenten Station” of 8 April. The day providentially coincided with the 75th birthday of the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O’Brien. The members of the Grand Magisterium, on this occasion, were able to participate with other pilgrims in an ancient tradition which consists of venerating the memory of the martyrs with a Mass celebrated daily in a different church.

The meeting was then held in a large hall of the Pontifical Council for Culture, focusing on the financial management of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as scheduled projects supported by the Order in the Holy Land for 2014.

In his introduction, the Grand Master stressed the need for an intensification of the spiritual life of the Knights and Dames, encouraging the Grand Priors to assume fully their roles in the Lieutenancies in this respect. “Let us not be overwhelmed with administrative matters, our goal is spiritual” he repeated, referring to his many trips undertaken to highlight this dimension of commitment in the Order, which will be reaffirmed in the new statutes.

After thanking the members of the Grand Magisterium who had completed their terms, and welcoming those who were called to replace them, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr Fouad Twal, described the current tense situation in the Holy Land, rejoicing nevertheless at the audience granted by the Pope, on the previous day, to the King of

Jordan, the protector of the Christian minority, in the context of the preparation of the forthcoming Papal visit.

The Financial Statement of the Patriarchate showed no deficit in terms of management institutions, parishes, schools and seminars, due to the exceptionally high contributions of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, in particular against the contingency fund for teachers “in the name of respect for workers’ rights” the Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, specified. However, the deficit remains very disquieting with regard to the new American University of Madaba (AUM), which opened last May. Solutions will be considered as part of a Commission in which the Order may participate, although it has no obligation or liability in this worthy initiative of Patriarch Twal.



ANDRES BERGAMINI

Reorganisation of communications within the Order

As regards the accounts of the Grand Magisterium, it appears that even though the resources have decreased slightly over the year, more than 10 million Euros have nonetheless been sent to the Holy Land in 2013. Financial reserves have helped to honour commitments.

The discussion continued around specific projects of the Order in 2014, presented by Thomas McKiernan the new President of the Commission for the Holy Land, returning from a field trip. “Of all the projects we support – schools, parishes, convents – we can be especially proud of the school in Rameh, the day-care centre in Bir Zeit, and the Aqaba church” said the Chairman of the Commission, by way of summary.

In his intervention the Chancellor Ivan

Education is a priority for building peace, as children, Christians and Muslims, who grow up together, learn mutual respect and are open to each other's culture. With this aim in particular the Order of the Holy Sepulchre makes a special effort to support a large network of schools in the Holy Land.

Rebernick particularly highlighted the importance of communication in the Order, to keep members abreast of projects by means of the *Annales*, the *Newsletter* and the website of the Grand Magisterium, of which there will be a review of the headings for easier reading.

Finally, announcing the definitive version of the new statutes, Mgr Robert Stern, the rapporteur of the committee, which had already met four times, recalled that “good rules are liberating and invigorating”. The final text highlighting collegiality and subsidiarity should be submitted soon for the validation of the Grand Master, and subsequently for the Pope's approval. ■

THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IS DEVELOPING AND PLANS TO PRESENT AN IMAGE OF GREATER SIMPLICITY

Autumn Session of the Grand Magisterium

Members of the Grand Magisterium of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre met in the presence of the Grand Master on 21 and 22 October, celebrating also on this occasion the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine at the Palazzo della Rovere, the seat of the Institution. The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Grand Prior of the Order, attended the meeting during which he spoke in particular on the tragic situation of the Middle East.

In his opening speech, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, spoke particularly of the enthusiasm for the Holy Land displayed by the Knights and Dames he visits regularly throughout the world on the occasion of various investiture ceremonies, from Norway to Canada... At the beginning of October, in Honolulu, within the context of the annual meeting of the Western and North Western Lieutenancies of the United States, he organized a special meeting with two Cardinals and seven Bishops, Priors of the Order in this region of the world, to hear from them and discuss various issues more directly. A letter was sent to all the Lieutenancies to encourage the organization of such meetings between the Priors and the Grand Master, thereby giving more emphasis to the place of Church leaders in their role as spiritual directors. In this context, the Cardinal asked the Grand Magisterium to consider the image of the Order in particular in relation to the title "Excellency" attributed to the Lieutenants, which seems inappropriately conflicting with that of the bishops. Speaking next, the Governor General Agostino Borromeo said that no Grand Master before Cardinal O'Brien had visited Lieutenancies as much as he had for the past two years. He added that the Order had been developing recently in Latvia and the Czech Republic, and probably also in Malaysia in the near future. The charity collection for the Holy Land was better this year than in 2013: in particular the special collection for Gaza enabled the Order to send an amount exceeding half a million Euros to the Patriarchate and the Pontifical

Mission of Palestine. Having presented the agenda of the session, the Governor General handed over to the Latin Patriarch.

The Church could not survive in the Holy Land without the partnership of the Order

Mgr Fouad Twal commented firstly on the Pope's journey to Bethlehem and Jerusalem, which aroused great hope, and secondly noted the dramatic situation in Gaza after the war last summer, calling for the end to the blockade of this territory devoid of future prospects from a human point of view, and declaring that only the recognition of two States on the basis of the pre-1967 borders will bring peace to the Holy Land. The Patriarch also spoke of the Consistory of 20 October on the Middle East wished for by the Pope, in which he took part with other Catholic Patriarchs concerned, noting, for example, the measures taken by the King of Jordan to accommodate persecuted Christians from Syria and Iraq. He also reiterated, before the Grand Magisterium, his call for the purchase of houses and buildings in Bethlehem where the Muslim presence intensifies, and similarly in Jerusalem as regards the Jewish presence, to allow long-term housing of Christian families in these two cities of prime importance to the Church.

The session continued with the intervention of the General Administrator of the Patriarchate, Father Imad Twal, who clearly stated that without the generous partnership of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – an average of 600,000 Euros per

month sent to the Patriarchate, excluding special projects – the Catholic Church could not survive in the Holy Land. His report on the financial management of the Patriarchate displayed a commitment to transparency and clarity as shown by the involvement of an auditor, still showing a deficit related to pension funds for teachers, which is to be deplored but tends to progressively decrease.

The financial accounts of the Grand Magisterium, presented by engineer Pier Carlo Visconti, highlighted the extent of the aid sent by the Order to the Holy Land, which already stands at nearly 8 million Euros and is expected to increase significantly by the end of the year.

The schools of the Patriarchate – in Israel, Palestine and Jordan – received one third of the overall amount, explained Father Imad Twal.

Give priority to people and communicate better

The meeting continued with the presentation of the report of the President of the Commission of the Grand Magisterium to the Holy Land: Professor Thomas McKiernan reviewed the projects for 2014, indicating the importance of legacies in favour of the Order, and introduced proposals for 2015, calling for more specific funding for one year, taking into account the psychological and humanitarian needs of the people, with particular regard to the suffering in Gaza, giving “priority to people on the rubble”, according to an expression of Dr. Heinrich Dickmann. The Governor General emphasized that attention to people is attested in particular through monthly remittances to the Patriarchate. These also, in effect, are used to cover the expenses of the education system to the extent that education helps to improve the level of cultural and vocational training, and also exalts the dignity of the human person. Vice Governor Patrick Powers considered that the Order should communicate more about what is covered by

the regular contributions in these areas, in addition to what is already done in the better known and publicized annual projects.

Communication within the Order was also on the agenda, with several proposals from the department in charge of these affairs in the Grand Magisterium, to effect better overall coordination: to this end, those in charge of communication in each Lieutenancy will be contacted in an effort to improve the flow of information and thereby highlight their various activities in the different Media supports – the Annales, the Newsletter and internet site – and share their experiences in the field.

Dr. Paul Bartley spoke at the end of the session about the plan for a regional meeting of the five Lieutenancies of Australia, the Lieutenancies of the Philippines, Taiwan, and the Magistral Delegation of Southern Africa, which will be held in October 2015 in the presence of local Priors. Expressing his appreciation, Cardinal Edwin O’Brien announced that he was looking forward to his visit to the Australian bishops with responsibility within the Order, as he had already done in the United States.

Before the end of the session, Chancellor Ivan Rebernik gave precise figures on the actual number of Knights, Dames and Clerics engaged in the 62 Lieutenancies or Magistral Delegations in 37 countries in total (28,291), noting that the number of new entries in 2014 (1,184) corresponded to more than double the number of deceased members.

After the concluding reflections of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, in connection with the Synod on the pastoral challenges of the family and the challenge it represents for the Knights and Dames – who could, for example, come to renew their marriage vows in Cana – the Grand Master opened new perspectives by wishing that contributions may be adjusted to suit young couples, renewing his commitment that the Order should present an image of greater simplicity in line with the evangelical dynamics of the pontificate of Francis. ■



At the invitation of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, the president of the Italian bishops went to the Holy Land during the Autumn of 2014, visiting Catholic institutions

THE FEASTS OF THE ORDER

The Catholic Church has always given great importance to Feasts. Unlike other religious traditions, the Catholic calendar has proposed, as early on as the Middle Ages, a solemnity, a feast or the commemoration of a saint for every day of the year. The joy of reliving the Solemnity of an event such as Christmas or Easter, or to pray with the help of those who experienced the call to holiness before us, is truly an important support for the People of God on earth.

Various charismata are at work at the heart of the Church, as the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, reminds us: “The Church, which the Spirit guides in way of all truth (cf. Jn 16:13) and which He unified in communion and in works of ministry, He both equips and directs with hierarchical and charismatic gifts and adorns with His fruits (cf. Ep 4: 11-12; 1 Co 12:4; Ga 5:22)” (*Lumen Gentium* 4a). It is therefore quite normal that various realities be linked to specific Feasts and to the commemoration of certain saints.

It is with special joy that the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre celebrates the following Feasts:

- The Feast of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine (25 October).
- The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14 September).
- The memorial of Saint Pius X (21 August).
- The memorial of Saint Helena (18 August).

THE FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, QUEEN OF PALESTINE

It is with great joy that the Feast of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, is celebrated in all the Lieutenancies of the Equestrian Order around 25 October – the exact date of the Feast according to the liturgical calendar.

It was Patriarch Luigi Barlassina (1920-1947), on the occasion of his solemn entry into the Cathedral Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on 15 July 1920, and the consecration of the diocese to Mary, who invoked the title of “Queen of Palestine” for the first time.

The special relationship of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre dates back to the pontificate of John Paul II. In 1983, 50 years after the institution of the Feast, Saint John Paul II – addressing the Knights and



The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine is the Patron of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Her Feast falls on 25 October. This Liturgical Feast day could become an opportunity for actions of solidarity in favour of the Holy Land in all Lieutenancies of the Order, thereby giving a universal reverberation to this essential celebration.

The Grand Master of the Order, accompanied by some members of his team, welcomed his guests at the Palazzo della Rovere, a short distance from St Peter's Square in Rome, on the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, in October 2014.



Dames of the Lieutenancies of Northern and Central Italy – urged them to be witnesses of Christ in everyday life and to continue the work of the Order in the Holy Land under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Ten years later, in 1993, the then Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Giuseppe Caprio, asked Saint John Paul II to declare of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, Patroness of the Order. The Holy Father replied on 21 January 1994 by a decree granting the request.

This prayer to Our Lady, Queen of the Holy Land, was written in 2012 by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Mgr Fouad Twal.

*Our heavenly Mother,
Daughter and Queen of the Holy Land,
we turn to you to obtain your powerful intercession.
May graces fall like abundant rain on your people,
heal all the hardened hearts
and bring justice and peace to the Holy Land.
May Jerusalem shine like a beacon of unity
between Christians who are privileged to live close
to the Holy sites,
sanctified by the life, the passion,
the death and resurrection of Jesus.*

*May this Holy City be a haven of friendship
and understanding
between Jews, Christians and Muslims.
May intolerance and suspicion vanish,
may love eradicate fear.
Our Heavenly Mother,
look with pity on all those who live on the land
which is yours,
afflicted by the differences and the conflicts
for many generations.
May all those who do not believe in the one God
be touched by your grace
and reach the fullness of faith, hope and love.
Through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen.*

*Our Lady, Daughter and Queen of the Holy Land,
pray for us.*

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

On 14 September, The Catholic and the Orthodox Churches celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. “We are celebrating the Feast of the Cross which drove away darkness

and brought in the light. As we keep this Feast, we are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above". (From the "Discourses" of Saint Andrew of Crete, Bishop – Discourse 10 on the Exaltation of the Holy Cross).

The Bishop of Jerusalem, Macarius, was ordered by the Emperor Constantine and his mother Saint Helena to build two basilicas in Jerusalem, one on Golgotha and the other on the Holy Sepulchre. The mother of the Emperor had ordered excavations on Golgotha and it was there they found the cross that was identified to be the true cross of Christ. On 14 September therefore, it is not the commemoration of the dedication of the two basilicas, which took place in the year 335, which we celebrate, but rather the triumph of the Cross, sign and instrument of salvation.

THE MEMORIAL OF SAINT PIUS X

Saint Pius X is at present the only canonised saint who belonged to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The date for his memorial falls on 21 August. It was he who decided in 1907 to entrust the role of Grand Master to the Pontiff, in order to consolidate the presence of the Order in the Holy Land. This Pope was well known for his sense of justice and humility, a man of few words who allowed events to talk for themselves. Today he is celebrated with great affection by the Knights and Dames all over the world.



The influence of St. Helena on her son, Emperor Constantine, was decisive for the future of Christianity. She is a model for all parents, called to pass on the faith to their children, especially in these times of more or less insidious persecution in secularized societies.

THE MEMORIAL OF SAINT HELENA

Of plebeian origin, the mother of the Emperor Constantine, Saint Helena, played a fundamental role in the life of her son and his conversion to Christianity. Saint Helena was a woman of deep faith and of action as regards charity. In addition, it is she who fervently wished for the construction of basilicas in the Holy Places. Her influence was also fundamental in the decision of Constantine, in 313, to grant religious freedom to all citizens of the Roman Empire, including therefore Christians who had been persecuted until then. The liturgical memorial of Saint Helena is celebrated on 18 August. ■

The two annual continental meetings of the Order

MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN LIEUTENANTS AT THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

For scheduling reasons, the annual meeting of the European Lieutenants was held before the meeting of the American Lieutenants on 21 and 22 May 2014. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, opened the meeting at the Palazzo della Rovere, by emphasizing the need for members of the Order to become more and more attentive to the will of God by giving priority to the spiritual life. In this regard, he expressed his wish to gather the Grand Priors on all continents in order to further strengthen the ties between the Order and the Bishops.



Governor General Agostino Borromeo then presented the development projects of the Order in various European countries such as Latvia, Croatia and the Czech Republic, and in Latin America, Brazil and Chile, for example, emphasizing the increasing interest for an ecclesial institution that is dedicated to the service of the Catholic presence in the Holy Land.

In this regard the Consultor Pier Carlo Visconti, in charge of the accounts of the Grand Magisterium, reported on the financial situation, explaining that despite a relative decline in revenues in 2013 (back to the situation of 2010, with about 10 million Euros, following a period of two years which was more affluent), the Order continued to send the agreed monthly amount to the Latin

Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Thanks to sound management, the reserves were used to honour payments due to cover, notably, the running costs of the 44 schools, and the deficit of various institutions of the Patriarchate (parishes, seminary...). Professor Pierre Blanchard, member of the Grand Magisterium, completed the presentation of the Accounts for 2013, which show a positive result, by pointing out, among the expenses, the one million Euros for the future library of the “the American University” in Madaba, a project which, alas, has not seen the light of day because of the serious deficit situation of this institution in Jordan so desired by Patriarch Twal. “Unfortunately this university is not developing, and the situation is rather drastic” the Governor



The European Lieutenants gathered at the Grand Magisterium in Rome.

General admitted, pointing out that the Order's commitment extended only to the library.

Mentioning other projects financed last year, Professor Borromeo highlighted "the special case of a diocese that receives six million Euros per annum thanks to an Institution of the Holy See, no doubt a unique situation within the universal Church".

Besides the deficits which need to be constantly reduced, such as the end of service settlements for staff in schools, a new need is emerging: to give pastoral assistance to Catholics in Jewish territory. It concerns the second generation of immigrants who have been educated in Israel. The Order helped to finance a building for pastoral services for them.

Extraordinary contributions were also discussed, such as that of a first instalment of 100,000 Euros in relation to the Pope's visit to the Holy Land, as well as the participation in the running costs of the University of Bethlehem wished for by Paul VI in coordination with the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

The works planned in 2014 were also on the agenda, with the intervention of Professor Thomas McKiernan, who chairs the Commission on projects. He paid tribute to the work of his predecessor, Dr. Christa Von Siemens, by recalling what was done in 2013 in Ajloun, Fuheis, Amman, Naour, and Taybeh, before talking about the items on his

own agenda: a priestly residence in Irbed, the renovation of a school in Ashrafieh, a rehabilitation in Jenin, repairs in the Parish of Zarka, and the renovation of a school in Mafraq.

The issue of the revision of the Constitution of the Order, fruit of the Consulta, was then raised. Mgr Antonio Franco, Assessor of the Order, reported that the work of the Commission was coming to an end, with particular attention to everything relating to the sanctification of the members and their insertion in the local Churches.

An important moment in the meeting was the presentation of the Vice Governor Patrick Powers related to the creation in the USA of a company empowered to receive bequests in favour of the Order. "The passion for the Order can be expressed by an end of life donation, activated after death, in the great tradition of chivalry updated in a modern way," the Vice Governor explained, adding that Masses are then celebrated regularly for these donor members whose names are also honoured during the pilgrimages in Jerusalem. During the discussion which followed, many proposals were put forward to assist the Order in finding funds, such as the creation of a World Day for Peace in the Holy Land, to be hosted by the Knights and Dames. The revamped communication service of the Order will contribute to this movement for universal action. ■

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NORTH AMERICAN LIEUTENANTS

The annual Conference of the North American Lieutenants took place in New York City from 5 to 8 June 2014. The 15 North American Lieutenants were present (Canada, the United States and Puerto Rico), representing about half of all the Order's members worldwide. Most of the Lieutenants were accompanied by their spouses. The three North American Members of the Grand Magisterium also attended the meeting: Joseph Spinnato of New York, Thomas McKiernan of Cincinnati (who is also Chairman of the Holy Land Commission), and John Piunno of Washington D.C.

Special guests included Mgr. Robert Stern, former Secretary General of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), a Consultant to the Order and member of the Commission for the Revision of the Constitution. Another special guest was Mgr John Kozar, current Secretary General of CNEWA. Every year since the very first Conference, the Lieutenants have enjoyed the participation of the leaders of the CNEWA. The organisers were especially honoured by the presence of the Cardinal Grand Master, Edwin O'Brien, who presided over the meeting, the Governor General, Professor Agostino Borromeo and Giorgio Moroni-Stampa, the Vice Governor General of Europe. The meeting was conducted by Patrick Powers, Vice Governor General of North America, and was hosted by Raymond Teatum, Lieutenant of the Eastern USA Lieutenancy.

The meeting began with an inaugural dinner at the Catholic Centre of the Archdiocese of New York on Thursday evening. The Grand Master gave the opening address. On Friday morning, after holy Mass and breakfast, the meeting began with Session I on the Business of the Order. After opening comments by the Grand Master and an address by the Governor General, the finances of the Order were presented along with a Holy Land Commission report and a summary of the annual reports of the Lieutenancies. Session II of the meeting was devoted to various organizational issues affecting the Lieutenancies.

After lunch, afternoon Sessions III and IV were open forums for Lieutenants to discuss any issue that was on their mind. They shared some of their



During their annual meeting, Lieutenants from North America, who account for about half of the members of the Order throughout the world, exchanged views on current issues concerning support to the Catholics of the Holy Land.

successes, discussed some of their problems, and asked questions of the leadership and each other pertaining to governance, operations, activities and programs in their lieutenancies. These afternoon sessions were very productive and informative.

On Friday evening, the attendees and spouses gathered at Le Perigold for dinner. The Governor General, was the guest speaker.

Saturday morning began once again with holy Mass and breakfast. The sessions on Saturday morning were on the proposed revisions of the Constitution and General Regulations. The discus-



Cardinal O'Brien presided over the meeting of the Lieutenants from North America held in New York. He concelebrated Mass with Mgr Stern, Consultor of the Order and member of the Commission for Revision of the Constitution.

sion was led by the Governor General and Mgr Stern. A session on reviewing the geographic organization of North American Lieutenancies and what the process might look like was offered by Vice Governor General Powers. The Governor General and Vice Governor General Moroni-Stampa gave a presentation on the worldwide Order and, in particular, shared with the North American Lieutenants some of the differences in the way lieutenancies in Europe and the rest of the world express their participation in the mission of the Order. The final session of the morning was a very interesting presentation on the true history of our Order by the Governor General, who is an internationally recognized expert on the subject.

The 2014 North American Lieutenants Meeting ended with the awarding of honours to retiring

Lieutenants by the Grand Master, and concluding remarks by the Grand Master and the Governor General. At the closing lunch, Mgr Stern gave a brief presentation, in part related to the history of the hotel in which the meeting was held. The hotel was a renovated mansion that was once the archdiocesan centre in New York before it was sold and became a hotel. It is right behind St. Patrick's Cathedral. On Saturday evening a dinner was held in the hotel with the Grand Master offering closing remarks and observations.

On Sunday morning, those who had not yet left for their homes gathered together for Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The celebrant was Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York.

In 2015, the North American Lieutenants Meeting will be held in Quebec City and will be hosted by Jean-Claude Michaud. ■

Pilgrimage with your mother church to Holy Land



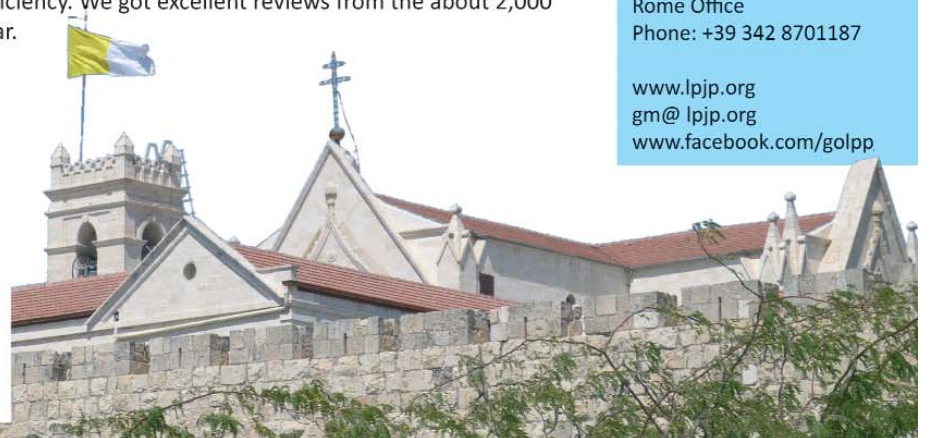
The "Latin Patriarchate Pilgrimage" (LPP) was born within the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 2012. The Pilgrimage is not only a journey to visit holy places, but a real blessing, a time of prayer, a union with Christ, and a meeting with other Christians. Overall, it is a way of strengthening one's faith.

Our pilgrimage opens your eyes and hearts to listen and to feel the people, who inhabit this land discovering their contribution to peace. We write our pilgrimage programs to meet with them, to visit the parishes, the charities that distinguish our Church.

Our work helps to give a fair income and safe job for Christians of all confessions. we stand on professional employees and a strong-willed quality policy. This applies to us as well as to our committed local guest houses, hotels, bus companies, etc. There are clear rules and sorted processes especially in the many interfaces of cooperation. Every agreement, every move must fit in order to ensure reliability and efficiency. We got excellent reviews from the about 2,000 pilgrims which we took care of last year.



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REUNION OF AID AGENCIES FOR THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES: “TO CULTIVATE PEACE”

The 87th session of ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches) took place in Rome from 23 to 26 June, under the presidency of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches. Governor General Agostino Borromeo represented the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

The sessions focused mainly on the news from Iraq, Syria, the Holy Land, as well as the Ukraine, areas marked by serious conflicts, affecting particularly Catholics of the Eastern Rite. Romania was also on the agenda, a country where the Church was martyred for a long time and which has blossomed again, giving hope for further revivals among the Eastern Churches now facing fanaticism and violence. The plight of millions of refugees fleeing the conflict in Syria, half of them children, was highlighted in the report of Caritas in the Middle East (Mena), given by the Apostolic Nuncio to Syria, Mgr Mario Zenari. In Lebanon and Jordan, for instance the public services in charge of their reception are unable to cope, but the assistance of ROACO enables Caritas to deal

with the emergencies. Concerning the Holy Land, the Apostolic Nuncio to Israel, Mgr Giuseppe Lazzarotto, urged participants not to give in to pessimism, referring to the three olive trees planted by the Pope during his pilgrimage, and recalling that “no one plants a tree with the thought of reaping its fruits right away ...”. “God puts our love to the test to verify it, therefore we must continue to look after the tree”. he said. Among the projects supported by ROACO – through some of the twenty institutions that constitute it – the Order of the Holy Sepulchre has committed or has confirmed its commitment to five renovation projects of parish buildings, churches and schools in Beit Sahour, Acre, Zarka and Jaffa.

Schools in particular enable families to look for-



ward to a better future in the Holy Land. For his part, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Custos of the Holy Land, praised the generosity of the dioceses around the world which facilitates the perseverance of social and educational works, especially through the worldwide church collections on Good Friday. During this session of ROACO, Brother Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of the University of Bethlehem, advocated the development of this institution, founded at the request of Paul VI 40 years ago. The Pope when receiving members of ROACO, a month after his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, strongly encouraged them to support the formation of new generations and of teachers to “cultivate peace”.



*Faced with the tragic situation of refugees in all the biblical territories, the Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches – of which the Order is a member – multiplies constructive initiatives. “Peace is secure and enduring only because it is cultivated by many hands. Those who would cultivate the plant of peace must never forget that God alone gives the growth”. Pope Francis
(The photos of this article are supplied by Aid to the Church in Need)*

THE CONGREGATION FOR THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES

The Congregation for the Oriental Churches has its origins in an intuition of Blessed Pius IX in 1862, who founded it under the name of *Congregatio Propaganda Fide pro negotiis ritus orientalis*. In 1967, its name was changed to *Congregatio pro Ecclesiis Orientalibus* and the function of Prefect passed from the Pope to the Secretary at that time. The mandate of the Congregation is to liaise with the Eastern Catholic Churches to promote their growth and keep their tradition alive.



AN ORDER IN WHICH THERE IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

Interview with Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order

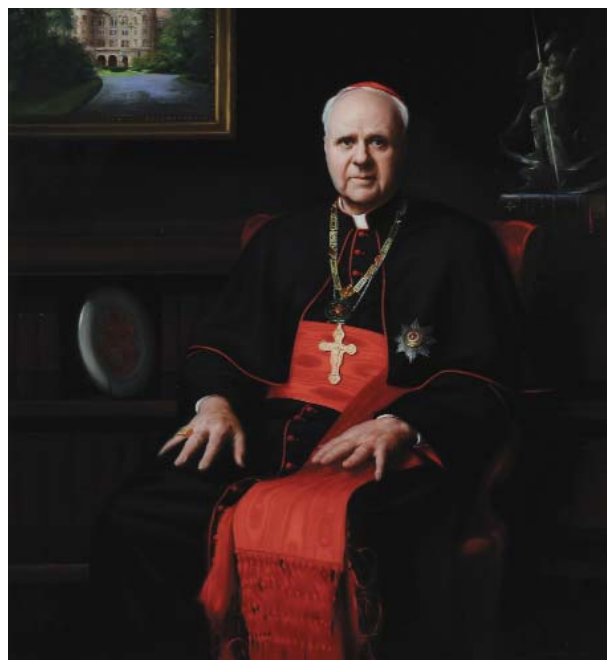
Cardinal Edwin O'Brien was appointed Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in 2011 after having served for five years as Archbishop of Baltimore. In this interview he replies to some questions related to important topics in the life of the Order such as the fundamental presence of families and the role of Priors.

According to the Governor General you are the Grand Master who travels most extensively to visit Lieutenancies around the world. Why did you make this choice, and what have you observed in our Lieutenancies? Can you give us some examples?

Our Grand Magisterium is greatly blessed by the way in which our Governor General and his excellent associates assume their day to day administrative responsibilities. This allows me to do what I like the most: to visit the various Lieutenancies throughout our 37 countries, gaining great inspiration from the example and sacrifices on the part of our members.

What a lesson of zealous faith did I find, for example, in recent investiture visits to Russia and Latvia where I realized both the spiritual strength the few but persevering members in those countries offer to our worldwide Order and the strength that our Order's membership offers by encouraging the small Catholic presence in those countries.

The Catholic Church has recently spent time and energy discussing the theme of family. The Order, thanks to its transnational presence and to its lay members, has the opportunity to see and experience the beauty of the family in different contexts. What is the specific call to sanctity for a family of the Order? As for young couples, how could their new membership be



Cardinal Edwin O'Brien is the 15th Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre since the restoration of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem by Pope Pius IX in 1847.

supported in a concrete fashion?

Since Pope Leo XIII women are welcomed as Dames in the Order. Today there are also female Lieutenants. How do you see their presence as fulfilling a “prophetic” presence in the Order?

All recent documents of the Church's Magiste-

Cardinal O'Brien in Amman, with the Oriental Patriarchs on the day of the arrival of Pope Francis in Jordan, in the Spring of 2014.



rium emphasize the role of the family as a “domestic church”, a “community of faith, hope and charity (assuming) singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the New Testament” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, article 2204).

Clearly then the family should be a priority in any member’s commitments. Responsibility and membership in the Order should be an aid in carrying out a healthy family life. Indeed, a barometer of Lieutenancy’s health is to offer spouses and children opportunity for spiritual growth along with the personal spiritual growth of the individual member.

A healthy family life must be a criterion for membership and promotion in the Order.

I have visited almost half of our 62 Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations and express, when-

ever I have the opportunity, in favor of female members in the Order and among our leadership. I am pleased to see more lieutenancies seeking out women who are strong and active in their parishes and/or dioceses. I know many spouses are effective promoters in attracting their marriage partner to the Order.

I also stress the need to make room for new and younger members entering the Order. Several Lieutenancies invite prospective members to join them in their Pilgrimages to the Holy Land when the importance of our work makes an impressive if not indelible mark on them. In addition, given the familial and professional burdens faced by potential younger members, may I plead for a flexible fee structure which could be normalized in later years when individuals would realize greater financial

THE GRAND MASTER VISITS THE LIEUTENANCIES

In the first part of 2014 the Grand Master visited the Lieutenancies of Norway, Puerto Rico, western Spain, USA Southeastern, Central Italy and Italy-Sicily. Immediately after the summer break, he visited the Lieutenancy of Central Apennine Italy, France and USA North Central. In October, the Cardinal met members of the Order in Honolulu on the occasion of the annual conference of the USA Western and Northwestern Lieutenancies. He continued his journey to Vancouver and then Portugal. After the meeting of the Grand Magisterium in Rome and the Feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine, he visited the Magistral Delegation of the Russian Federation.

Towards the end of the year, he once again went to the United States, this time visiting the USA Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy after which it was the joy of the first Investitures in Latvia and his visit to Argentina.

stability.

On a different level, some lieutenancies are looking into initiating a level of “squires” as associated members. These would be young adult men and women who evidence an interest in the goals of the Order and would take on supportive roles in their respective Lieutenancies.

As for the role Priors play in the Order, what are the key aspects of their service to which they should give priority? How can Priors spiritually support the members of the Order?

Over the years Priors are appointed, too often, without a full explanation of their role in the Order. “To offer spiritual guidance” to their Lieutenant is a very general directive and most of our Priors do very well in putting substance into it.

While Governance of each Lieutenancy is the full responsibility of the Lieutenant, the Prior should be available for spiritual advice as sought by the Lieutenant. That advice could be at a personal level or, most often, would deal with the spiritual growth of the Order’s members. Furthermore he is called to be available for days of recollection, re-

treats, group instruction and discussion as well as to approve the choice of speakers invited to address spiritual or theological topics. The Prior should also collaborate with the Lieutenant in programming pilgrimages, especially to the Holy Land and Rome. As for memberships, he is to be consulted in leadership appointments within the Lieutenancy, especially the choice of sectional Priors, and he should recommend new members and approve candidates for membership. Finally he is free to consult with the Grand Master and Governor General as necessary.

As we know, there are also a good number of priests who are members of the Order, and some deacons as well. They offer us great potential in promoting our members’ spiritual growth but I don’t think we are realizing that potential adequately. The exact status of clergy is somewhat unclear, and I think that rather than consider them as “Knights” we should see them and employ them as clergy under the direction of Lieutenancy Priors and Sectional Priors.

Several times during official speeches, you have invited the members of the Order to reconsider the choice of titles that are used to address Lieutenants. Why do you think it is important to consider this issue?

Membership in our Order is not a Papal Honor but rather a call to greater personal holiness and service to the Church in the Holy Land. Special titles do not always convey this fact. Our Holy Father’s personal example and his call for a greater simplicity within all sectors of the Church, certainly have some relevance to this question.

Is there any particular final message you want to address to the members of the Order?

Yes. I would love in our “internal” but essential discussion of membership in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, that we may keep ever present, in our prayers and sacrifices, the beleaguered – indeed persecuted! – fellow Christians in the Holy Land. Might we consider the assistance we offer them, through the Patriarch and his pastors, a privilege and an ultimate hope to enter the Heavenly Jerusalem. ■

Report by the Communication Service of the GM of the EOHSJ

NOMINATIONS

During the first annual meeting of the Grand Magisterium in April, the nominations agreed by the Grand Master within the Grand Magisterium became effective. Professor Bartholomew McGettrick, His Excellency Alberto Consoli Palermo Navarra and Christa von Siemens terminated their mandates in the Grand Magisterium. The Governor General expressed the gratitude of all the members of the Order for the dynamism, enthusiasm and sense of commitment with which they have dedicated themselves to the spread of the spiritual and charitable ideals of the Order. Those who were called to succeed them in the Grand Magisterium are His Excellency François t’Kint di Roodenbeke, Honorary Lieutenant of the Lieutenancy of the Order for Belgium; His Excellency Paul Bartley, Honorary Lieutenant of the Lieutenancy of the Order for Queensland Australia, and Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, former Ambassador of the Italian Republic to Madrid and President of the German-Italian Association Villa Vigoni.

A new Lieutenant was appointed in four Lieutenancies: His Excellency Charles Kelly in Ireland, His Excellency John William Gardner in Western

Australia, His Excellency Max Douglas Brown in North Central USA and His Excellency William Robert Kininmonth in Victoria Australia. In six other Lieutenancies, the present Lieutenant was appointed for a second mandate: His Excellency Efisio Luigi Aste for Italy Sardinia, His Excellency Saverio Petrillo for Central Italy, His Excellency Giovanni Ricasoli Firidolfi for Central Apennine Italy, His Excellency Guy Schleder for Luxembourg, His Excellency Jean-Pierre de Glutz-Ruchti for Switzerland and His Excellency Giuseppe Cosimo Maiolo for Canada-Montreal.

We would also like to report the appointment as Honorary Lieutenant of His Excellency Nicholas McKenna (Ireland), of His Excellency Robert Peters (Australia Western), of His Excellency Joseph E. Spinnato (USA Eastern), of His Excellency Donald D. Drake (USA Northern) and of His Excellency Charles H. Foos (USA North Central).

Finally, His Excellency the Grand Master filled the vacant seats on the Commission for the Holy Land as follows: Professor Thomas McKiernan, as President, Professor Bartholomew McGettrick and His Excellency Dr. Heinrich Dickmann, Lieutenant for Germany, as Members. ■

IN MEMORIAM

CHRISTINE KASPAR

Dr. Otto Kaspar, former Austrian member of the Grand Magisterium of the Order, sadly lost his wife Christine, who died on 4 December 2014. On behalf of the Presidency of the Grand Magisterium, the Governor General Agostino Borromeo presented his condolences to him and his family, assuring him of his prayers, in which members of the Order are invited to join. Dr. Kaspar worked hard, especially for international publications of the Order, and for that we are deeply grateful.



LOUIS D’HARCOURT

Descended from a family who served France for a thousand years, Lieutenant General Louis d’Harcourt went to the heavenly city on 21 August 2014, at the age of 92. Deeply humble, despite numerous decorations gained in battle, true to the spirit of Frankish chivalry he preferred simply to be called Louis or “General” rather than “Count” or “Your Excellency”. His profound Christian testimony marked the history of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in France, especially during his term as Lieutenant from 1984. For example he instituted an annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land for young people. The Grand Magisterium, paying tribute to this exceptional man who remains a model for the members of the Order, assures his family of its deep spiritual communion.



“LET US FIGHT INJUSTICE AND WE SHALL HAVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST!”

Interview with the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

In the speech of Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, at the beginning of the Consistory, the importance of finding a political solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was described as a decisive contribution to peace in the region. What is your specific assessment of the situation?

I was deeply pleased to see that the Holy Father was so interested in our region, meeting all the Apostolic Nuncios of the region to provide him with first-hand information, just before the Synod. He then announced a Consistory which was held at the end of the Synod, and this is the first time that the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem participated in such a meeting normally reserved for Cardinals. Everyone was able to speak about the alarming situation that is setting the Middle East on fire. All Patriarchs present were like the representatives of the Church at Calvary. In the name of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, I testified to the distress of the refugees whom we welcome by their thousands. We have long known what it means to be away from one's home, what it means to be under occupation, in a situation of oppression and confrontation with injustice. We have endured this for years. We understand the pain of those people who come to us. I must also say that we are grateful to all those who are helping us by their prayers and compassion. More specifically, I suggested to the Holy Father and his team of the Secretariat of State that they should mention systematically our critical situation to all the Heads of State received at the Vatican and to the ambassadors accredited to the Holy

See. I also asked that each diocese in the world should buy a house in Bethlehem or Jerusalem, to safeguard the Christian presence in these cities. Houses range from \$ 200,000 to \$ 1,500,000. There is a Muslim fund to help Muslims to buy houses, there are Israeli Americans who are willing to pay three times the price to buy a house and we, as Christians, we watch helplessly. I note with much sorrow that so many houses in Bethlehem that belonged to Latin Catholic Christian families were sold to Muslims.... During the holy night of Christmas in Bethlehem on 24 December, I now see many families standing at the door of their houses, not to greet the Patriarch but to watch with curiosity or indifference. It is no longer the same as before. I hope that the bishops and cardinals will take this situation to heart, as already does, for instance, the President of the Italian Episcopal Conference. Other desires move my heart as a pastor: we must stop the violence, but that does not depend on us. The Holy Father is doing everything possible and I hope that, thanks especially to him, the international community will become aware of what is happening to us, and will favour a political solution to our plight. We are humbled by the cries for help from our people, to which we have no answer.

Western mainstream media have not shown much hindsight in relation to the information that has come to them at the end of the summer about ISIS, just after the deadly conflict in Gaza ... This situation promotes Islamophobia,

and for whose benefit? What do you think?

We invite pilgrims to come to the Holy Land and visit us at the Patriarchate to ask any questions they wish, we shall talk freely to clarify the situation, and we shall say what we think. This contact of Western pilgrims with the local Catholic religious authority is essential. To answer your question, I must tell you that what increases our pain is to see that the world's attention is no longer focused on the Holy Land, but has been in fact diverted to Syria and Iraq, although our situation is not improving. This is a political victory for those who want to divert world attention from what is happening in Jerusalem and Palestine ... Of course ISIS is a barbaric force against humanity, both against true Muslims and against Christians. Jordan and Saudi Arabia also fight against these criminal groups in which there are unfortunately many young Europeans. It is oppression and poverty which draw desperate and frustrated people to the ranks of ISIS. Let us fight injustice, first in Palestine, and there will be peace in the Middle East! American bombs will not solve the problem, that is for sure. We must build a future based on justice. We mostly need long-term servants of culture, education with respect for the other, such as the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, whose dedication and generosity I admire: what would become of us without them in the Holy Land?

During the Consistory of October 2014, the presence of new groups of Hebrew-speaking Christians in the Holy Land, originating mainly from Asia, was mentioned. Can you tell us about them? Do they represent a ray of hope for the local community which consequently increases in number?

The Hebrew-speaking Christian community is beautiful and original, with Mass in

Hebrew, but we cannot allow it to isolate itself. It is a small community, and is made up of immigrants from abroad and whose children are in Israeli schools. These Hebrew-speaking migrants are also our parishioners. We do everything we can for them. The problem with these immigrants, mostly Asians, principally concerns the women, the mothers who come to Israel leaving behind their husbands and children in Asia. Among the Arabs, it is the men who leave behind the women and children to go and find work. Of course it is our responsibility to provide religious services to all these women.

You have ordained nine priests in 2014. Would you launch an appeal for vocations to the priesthood from candidates originating from other countries to serve in the Holy Land?

No, they would need to learn Arabic and Hebrew. So far we have received missionaries from other countries, but now we feel it is our duty to send missionaries. This year, for example, we have sent missionaries to the Gulf and to America, as well as two of our priests to Italy to study. It is necessary for the Church in Jerusalem to assume, more and more, its universal dimension. I must add that a hundred congregations work in the Holy Land, some thirty are composed of men – and some have parishes – and over sixty are composed of women, of which there are fifteen contemplative communities. These women who pray for peace day and night are our strength. Politicians promise a lot and do little. Politics failed to find solutions. We believe in the power and the strength of prayer and entrust the Holy Land, the friends of the Holy Land and the friends who love the Holy Land, to the prayer of those communities. As Jesus said, faith can move mountains. ■

**Interview by the
Communication Service
of the GM of the EOHSJ**



Mgr Fouad Twal, of Jordanian origin, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and also Grand Prior of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

THE NEW HOLY LAND COMMISSION

Its mission, members, and recent projects supported by the Order

Each year the Latin Patriarchate proposes special projects that are intended to improve the spiritual and physical life of the Christians in the Holy Land. These projects are funded by the donations of the members of the Order and are monitored by the Holy Land Commission which is responsible for examining, assessing and recommending all proposals for the funding of projects by the Order and for monitoring and reporting on the execution of approved and funded projects. In business administration and management terms, it assumes “due diligence” and a “fiduciary duty” on behalf of the members and their donations.

The Holy Land Commission consists of three members; at least one must be a member of the Grand Magisterium of the Order. The Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Cardinal Grand Master who conducts the affairs of the Order through the Grand Magisterium, an advisory body that performs its functions in his name and authority.

The current Holy Land Commission consists of Professor Bart McGettrick of Scotland, Dr. Heinrich Dickmann of Germany and Mr. Thomas McKiernan of the United States. I, Mr. McKiernan, am currently serving as the President of the Commission.

Professor McGettrick is a former member of the Grand Magisterium; Professor of Education at Hope University in the United Kingdom and former Dean of the College of Education at Glasgow University.

Dr. Dickmann is currently the Lieutenant of Germany and recently served as Chairman of the Executive Board of VHV.a.G Hanoverian Insurance Association.

As far as I am concerned, I am a former Secondary School Administrator and member of the Board of Directors of a Savings Bank in the USA. I am also a member of the Grand Magisterium of

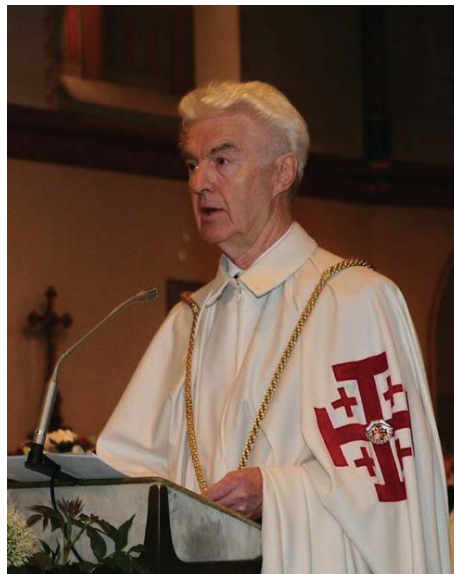
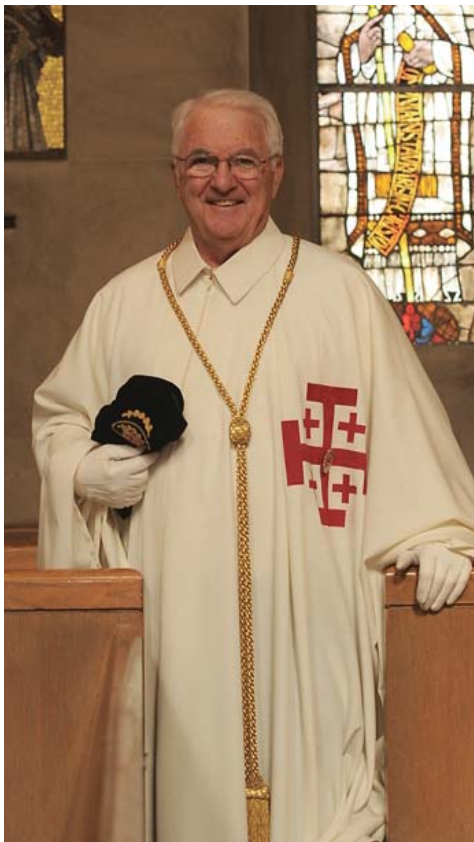
the Order.

All three members bring extensive experience in business, education and management to their responsibilities within the Holy Land Commission.

The Commission meets twice annually with the Governor General of the Order and the General Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate to receive the proposed projects for the following year. After reviewing the amount of money available for projects and hearing of the priorities of the Patriarchate, a certain number of projects are approved for the next funding period. The Commission makes two site visits a year to the Holy Land to monitor these approved and funded projects and presents a report on these projects, and other observations, at the bi-annual meeting of the Grand Magisterium in Rome.

- The projects for the funding year of 2014 are:**
- **ASHRAFEH (Jordan): Repairs to the concrete supporting pillars of the school.**
 - **IRBID (Jordan): a major updating of the priests house, the salon, the electrical system and the installation of a solar panel system.**
 - **MAFRAQ (Jordan): Adding of an additional floor to the school.**
 - **TAYBEH (Palestine): repairs to the priest's house, the salon of the parish and a new kitchen at the Beit-Afram house for elderly women.**
 - **NAOUR (Jordan): Safety updates to the kindergarten playground.**
 - **ZARKA NORTH (Jordan): Repairing water damage to the walls of the parish office.**

The site visit of the Holy Land Commission in September 2014 highlighted some of the circumstances which are currently pressing on the communities of the Middle East in general, and the Christian Communities of the Holy Land in particular. These included the devastation caused by the



The three members of the Holy Land Commission in their Knight's cloaks: Thomas McKiernan of the USA, President of the Commission (top left), Heinrich Dickmann of Germany (top right), and Barth McGettrick of Scotland (below).



bombardment of Gaza and the actions of the ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) and the considerable danger this poses to the people of the Middle East especially for the Christian communities.

The members of the Commission are concerned that the financial resources allocated for projects have been heavily weighted towards buildings and physical resources. The Commission is proposing

to the Grand Magisterium that it, the Commission, also pay attention to the wider needs of the Christian community and broaden the concept of “project” to include activities which directly support the pastoral, educational and humanitarian needs, in addition to the physical needs, of the Christian communities.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre has limited resources and wishes to maximize the impact of these. The Commission will work with the Latin Patriarchate, and

other agencies, to make sure there is no duplication of efforts. For the funding year of 2015 the Commission has proposed four areas of activity. These are: education; pastoral care; community regeneration; and humanitarian aid.

In brief, the Holy Land Commission, exercises “due diligence” and “fiduciary duty” to the Order, the Lieutenants and the membership for the projects funded by their donations.

In one of my presentations at an Investiture in the USA, I was asked for an explanation of the role of the Holy Land Commission. In addition to due diligence and fiduciary duty mentioned earlier, I replied, using a comment by one of my confreres: “... with respect to our members donations for projects in the Holy Land, we, the Commission, are their conscience on the ground”.

Thomas E. McKiernan, KCSG, KGCHS
Member of the Grand Magisterium
President of the Holy Land Commission

THE 2014 PROJECTS OF THE ORDER

The projects of the Order in the Holy Land make it possible to improve the structures destined to serve the integration, education and the growth of the Faith. Here, on the right, we can see students of a school of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and below, the President of the Holy Land Commission – Thomas McKiernan – after Sunday Mass in the Church of the Twelve Apostles (Zarka North), accompanied by a religious Sister from a Jordanian parish.



The rehabilitation work permits those who work or who use the site to appreciate the difference! Below we can compare the old kitchen of the Beit Afram house in Taybeh with the recently installed one.

At the top of the right-hand page: the new reception area and the solar panel installation in Irbid, and below, children in the courtyard of a kindergarten in Naour which was made secure through the support of Order.







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38

37



THE ORDER PROVIDES DAILY SUPPORT TO CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE HOLY LAND

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem answers the call to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

When talking about support, we refer to a wide range of activities: those which meet emergencies such as the reconstruction following the war in Gaza; or those which deal with specific projects of limited duration, such as the projects reviewed annually by the Holy Land Commission; and finally those which support, on a daily basis, the structures that care and provide services to the local community.

This year we want to share with you testimonies of those who receive the aid sent by the Lieutenancies to the Holy Land. They show us, in concrete terms, how the financial assistance sent is used in favour of the local population.

Samer Sawalha is a young 26 year old Jordanian who received the call to the priesthood when he was 14 and is currently preparing for the sacrament of Holy Orders at the Latin Patriarchate Seminary in Beit Jala.

He tells us: "I finished

my studies in the seminary and then, in 2006, I started my studies in philosophy and theology at the Senior Seminary. Last year, the seminary sent me to a parish in Jordan for pastoral experience,

working with the local priest. I worked with youth groups and taught children in first year secondary and early primary school. This experience enriched me and helped me in my preparation for the priesthood.

Also being in the parish enabled me to work with the faithful of all ages and social conditions. This year, I returned to the seminary to complete my studies and prepare for ordination to the diaconate scheduled for December and then to the Priesthood next June.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity towards our seminary".

Marwan Hassan was also born in Jordan and will be ordained to the Priesthood in June 2015. He is currently a Deacon. At present he is completing his studies and working on the training of young seminarians as part of his course and his annual



On top: Samer Sawalha, 26 year old Jordanian seminarian.

On the bottom: Marwan Hassan, who will be ordained to the priesthood in a few months time.





Father Imad Twal, Administrator General of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and former Director of Our Lady of Peace Centre, in charge of helping refugees in Jordan.

commitment.

He tells us: “An important part in my past experience was the pastoral year I spent in the parish of Saint Paul in Jubeiha (Amman). During that year, I worked with young people and at the same time I was privileged to be able to learn a lot from the priest. All this enabled me to participate in all the activities proper to a parish of the Latin Patriarchate.

I ask you to pray for our Seminary, for seminarians and their vocation. Pray also for me at this time of preparation for the priesthood, that I may remain faithful to the vocation that God has entrusted to me”.

Part of the funds that enable young people to study and follow their religious vocation comes from donations sent by the Order, through the wise stewardship of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Another reality: Schools are also supported by the Order through funds sent to the Holy Land. Suhail Daibes, Principal of the school of the Latin Patriarchate in Beit Jala, explains how the funds are used:

“Your help and donations enable us to pursue our goal of an *Education for everyone*. Our parish schools are open to everyone, but many of our students are poor and their parents are unable to pay for education. We never send away a student who

cannot pay. The financial support we receive allows us to pay for the education of these young people. In this way, we can pursue the mission of educating our children, reassure parents as far as the fees are concerned and support teachers and employees, of which 80% are Christians, well aware that the salaries they receive is their main, if is not their only living resources. It is important so that young people may grow in dignity and be proud of studying in our schools”.

Apart from these structures which deal with the educational and spiritual needs of the local population, there are also the shelters, which, in this particularly sad period in the history of the Middle East, are very busy with refugees arriving mainly from Iraq. An example is that of *Our Lady of Peace Centre* in Jordan. Father Imad Twal, currently Administrator General of the Latin Patriarchate and formerly Director of the Centre, underlines the support that the Order brings to the Jordanian section of Caritas in order “to provide dignity to refugees, who find here an answer to their urgent needs. We live together as one family, as one church”.

We thank the Communication Service of the Patriarchate for helping us collect the testimonies used for this article.

Witnesses in the Holy Land

TO SUPPORT THE HOLY LAND ON
THE GROUND: THE CHOICE OF CAROLA
AND HENRIQUE ABREU

*The story of a Knight and Dame of the Order,
volunteers in the Holy Land*



“**W**hen we joined the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem we took an oath of devotion and allegiance to the Catholic Church and the Holy Land. We first arrived in the Holy Land as pilgrims, an important first step for every Knight. We realized then the extent of our responsibility towards Christians present here. We discovered their needs, i.e. school education, to have a home, a family, a job, and a life of freedom. It was at this time that we took the decision to engage in this mission to help, support, and serve, the communities present in the Holy Land”.

This is how Carola and Henrique Abreu explain their choice of volunteer work over a long period

in the Holy Land, thus giving meaning to their membership of the Order as a Knight and Dame. Indeed, the call to support the Holy Land meant leaving their home country, Brazil, to serve the local Church there, especially their poorest brothers.

“After the visit of the Holy Father to Brazil last year and his frequent gestures of humility, simplicity and attention to the poor, we received a strong spiritual call to come to the Holy Land as a family, to serve the Church and the local Christians. We had a comfortable situation in Brazil. As a family we reflected on the possibility of dedicating a few years as volunteers in a more modest setting. We sold the car and the house and we left with on-



Carola and Henrique Abreu, Brazilians, have sold everything to be of service to their brothers in the Holy Land in the name of their commitment as Knight and Dame of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Here they are with sick children, in the company of Patriarch Twal, and also greeting Pope Francis during his historic pilgrimage in May 2014.



ly four suitcases for Jerusalem”.

Carola and Henrique settled in Jerusalem in February 2014 after having travelled in the the Holy Land for the previous 5 years, and having discovered what they describe as “the great and heroic work of our priests, who face many difficulties and challenges”. They made available their time, energy and professional expertise. These first months of their mission focused on three main areas: collabo-

“ Being involved in a mission together as a family brings unity, strength, and faith, to our lives ”

ration in the multimedia sector of the Patriarchate, engaging in several projects in the parish of Taybeh, and during their free time, visiting parishes, hospitals and Homes for children with disabilities.

The couple likes to talk in detail about the Taybeh projects. During the summer, an “ecumenical camp” was organized: 264 children and 70 leaders attended, despite the state of war in Gaza. “Everyone was very pleased with these four weeks, both from a cultural, religious, sporting and recreational perspective” they commented. The Abreus are also engaged in other projects such as the refurbishment of an old Palestinian house in which was installed a small museum (the House of Parables), which aims to help visitors understand the context in which the parables of Jesus were told and to better understand their deeper meaning. They are also involved in the rehabilitation of the Youth Center of the Parish.*

The call to experience this mission as a family has been a joy for the couple, married for thirteen years. “Our relationship is even stronger than before, because we are working together daily with a common goal: to serve our brothers and sisters of the Holy Land as best we can. Being involved in a mission together as a family brings unity, strength, and faith, to our lives and helps us to appreciate the simple things, to focus on the suffering of others, and to understand that there is nothing more beautiful in life than to help others and enable them to be happy”.

The beauty and richness of married couples within the Church and the Order, responding to their vocation, fill us with great hope. After the Synod of Bishops on the Family and for the next General Synod in 2015, these examples of choice of family life, in fidelity to the Gospel, prayer

and mission, are a valuable echo of the work of the Synod. ■

* Source: Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Witnesses in the Holy Land

A FAMILY OF KNIGHTS ON PILGRIMAGE

Accompanied by their children and grandchildren, Bernadette and François t’Kint de Roodenbeke celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the Holy Land: a testimony which can inspire other Knights and Dames throughout the world.



During a Christmas lunch with our children and grandchildren, we proposed to make a trip to the Holy Land to celebrate our golden wedding anniversary together: 50 years of marriage must be first of all celebrated with the family. As their response was unanimously enthusiastic, we fixed a date straight away. We contacted Brother Christian Eeckhout whom we know well, a Dominican Brother who lives in Jerusalem and is a member of the Belgian Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. He is attached to the Biblical School, and has a perfect knowledge of the Holy Land both from an historical and an archaeological point of view. We asked him if he could arrange a one-week programme for us and be our guide, which he readily accepted.

We wrote a travel book for each of the grandchildren, with some notes and photos of the country and sites we were going to visit to enable them to prepare for the journey and put themselves in the right frame of mind for the adventure. On the great departure day, we met at Brussels airport for

an early morning flight via Zurich to Tel Aviv. We were greeted by Brother Christian who was waiting for us with the driver and the mini coach that would carry us throughout our stay. We formed a party of 16 people, our three households and 8 grandchildren, the 9th, the eldest, Charles, 21, being an “Erasmus” student at the University of Shanghai, to our regret was not able to share this experience with us, but thanks to “Skype”, we were able to keep in contact throughout our journey.

In Bethlehem we were warmly welcomed at the guesthouse of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. It is situated close to the Crèche which is financed by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and where the religious Sisters look after a hundred orphans. It is also close to the hospital (maternity and neonatal centre) which is financed by the Order of Malta. The next day we went to Ain Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist, and from there we took the road through the beautiful hills of Judea, very wild and rugged, to reach the “Shepherds Fields” where we were



Grandparents, children, and grandchildren, pilgrims together, received by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

blessed to be able to visit a grotto similar to the one in which the Virgin would have given birth, not in the “common room” says the Gospel, but in a more secluded room. The explanations of the Brother retraced the way of life at the time. Back then to Bethlehem to visit the Basilica of the Nativity, built in 325 by Emperor Constantine, and fortified by the Crusaders, one of the oldest Christian churches. Each visit to a place gave Brother Christian the opportunity to read, or have one of us read a chosen passage of the Scriptures.

Two days later, we set off early and took the long road to the North. At first sinuous and spectacular, it passes through the hills of the Judean Desert, of a dazzling white in the sun. We went up to the intensely cultivated Golan Heights by a steep road and reached a panoramic view overlooking the Sea of Galilee or of Tiberias and all the surrounding villages. What a view! Going down to Capernaum, we attended Mass in the chapel built over the remains of the house of Saint Peter where Christ often stayed. The end of the excursion took us to the Mount of Beatitudes, which beautifully overlooks the lake.

On the next day, we went down to the shores of the lake at Tabgha. The site where the Brother celebrated the Eucharist for us has remained unchanged for 2000 years! A sublime moment surrounded by nature, as it always was, with its fishing boats and the fishermen on the calm waters of the morning. We then reached Nazareth and visited the Basilica of the Annunciation, built over the al-

leged home of the Virgin Mary. A road with a steep gradient brought us, in the afternoon, to the Dead Sea, 396 meters below sea level.

We spent the last two days of our pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On the penultimate day, we tried to access the Esplanade of the Temple. An endless queue stretched overlooking the Wailing Wall. Luckily, we were the last people to pass, before closing time, through the control which gives access to the Esplanade and to contemplate the “Dome of the Rock”, a building of Islamic architecture topped by a golden dome. We then headed to the Garden of Olives, planted with ancient trees.

As François had been Lieutenant of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for Belgium, he wanted to go to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, in order to greet the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Order, and his Auxiliary Bishop Mgr William Shomali, both longstanding acquaintances. We were received as true friends. The Patriarch wished to thank François for his services rendered to the Holy Land and to the Latin Patriarchate by awarding him the insignia of the Golden Palm of Jerusalem. The children were impressed by this very simple ceremony, and displayed deep gratitude vis-à-vis their father. Each of us was given a rosary in olive wood.


We could not leave Jerusalem without visiting the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, where we gave thanks, asking the Lord that we may increasingly become witnesses of His resurrection. On the last day, it was with a head and heart filled with all the images and the rich experiences we shared with joy, spirituality, and as a family, that we made our way back to Tel Aviv.

The happy initiative of presenting ourselves to the airport controls as a single family, made us escape practically all the difficulties. A wonderful intergenerational connivance was the dominant feature of this marvellous experience. The grandchildren told us how this journey had enabled them to better understand the Gospels, the life of Christ and admitted that they would return if the opportunity arose.

Let us meet again for the diamond wedding anniversary!

Bernadette and François t’Kint de Roodenbeke

THE LIFE OF THE LIEUTENANCIES



*O Lord, by Your five wounds
that we carry on our insignias we pray to You.
Give us the strength to love all whom
your Father has created
and, even more so, our enemies.
Free our souls and hearts
from sin, from partiality,
from egoism and from cowardice,
so that we may be worthy of Your sacrifice.
Let Your Spirit come upon us all,
Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre,
so that He may render us convinced and sincere
ambassadors of peace and love among
our brothers and sisters, and especially among all
those who think they do not believe in You.
Give us Faith to face all the problems
of everyday life and to deserve, one day, to appear,
humbly and without fear, before You.
Amen.*

A GREAT CEREMONY IN BUENOS AIRES PRESIDED OVER BY THE GRAND MASTER

Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore (United States) and Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher, presided at the ceremony of investiture of new Argentinian Knights and Dames on Monday 17 November, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Pilar.

The next morning, the Cardinal was received by the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Mario Aurelio Poli, in the metropolitan curia. He attended with his secretary, Father Ernest Cibelli, from North America, accompanied by the Argentine Lieutenant of the Order, Eduardo Santamarina and members Lanús Rodolfo de la Serna, Carlos Regúnaga, Fernando Menéndez Behety Medrano, and Juan Manuel. After the ceremony, Cardinal Poli showed the Cathedral to the illustrious visitor. During the visit to the Cathedral they paid tribute to General San Martín in his mausoleum and they had a moment of contemplation before the tabernacle in the chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. During the ceremony in the Basilica del Pilar, packed to the door with the faithful, the following Knights were invested: Rómulo Bustillo, Juan Carlos G. Dupuis, José Enrique García Enciso, Federico Highton, Enrique Laxague, and Hilario Muruzábal Herrera. These Knights whilst kneeling, received the sword and spurs in the old tradition that dates

back to the year 1100, donning the long white capes.

While presenting all these attributes to each person, the Cardinal entreated them to receive “the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ that it may protect them” and added that “the kingdom of God does not conquer with the sword but with faith and charity”. All dressed in black with a mantilla on the head, the following were received as Dames, making a profession of faith and promise of Christian life: Eliana Larrain, Claro Santamarina, Teresa Manochi de Grimaux, and María Magdalena D’Abbadie de Laxague. They also received black capes, with the insignia of the Holy Land in red.

The following were promoted to the rank of Knight Commander during the ceremony: Horacio Beccar Varela, Raúl Crespo Montes, Guillermo V. Lascano Quintana, Lucio C. Somoza, and Susana Llorente de Sainz Ballesteros.

Finally, Lieutenant Eduardo Santamarina said the prayer of the Order that promises to defend the Catholic faith and to live in charity towards the other, especially the poor and sick. They asked Our Lady Queen of Palestine to “pray for us”.

The Grand Prior of the Order for Argentina, Mgr Héctor Aguer, Archbishop of La Plata, partici-



Visit of Cardinal O'Brien to the Primate of Argentina, Cardinal Mario J. Poli. On the photo, the Knights Carlos Regúnaga, Juan M. Medrano, Rodolfo Lanús de la Serna, and Father Cibelli, Secretary to the Grand Master, and also the Lieutenant of Argentina Eduardo A. Santamarina.

pated in the ceremony. At the end of the ceremony everyone adjourned to the salon and patio of the basilica, where new members were welcomed by those present, and conversed happily until almost 11pm!

Being a Knight or Dame of the Holy Sepulchre entails making a commitment to defend Christ and his Church, with the intention of bearing witness to

Christian life and to protecting the Christian heritage in the Holy Land, and also helping the activities of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

(Article inspired by a report of *Agencia Informativa Católica de Argentina*: <http://www.aica.org/15191-el-card-obrien-presidio-en-pilar-una-ceremonia-de-los.html>)

AUSTRALIA - NEW SOUTH WALES

THE ORDER REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH ITS ACTIVITIES IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Through the year the Lieutenancy has increasingly reached out in witness to the wider Catholic community and indeed the public at large through a series of events and activities beyond its own gatherings and investitures.

Palm Sunday 2014 saw members of the Lieutenancy travel to Canberra to greet Archbishop Prowse, the recently installed Archbishop of Canberra, and join with him, the Order of Malta and the cathedral congregation in the Palm Sunday Mass and celebration of our Lord's Passion.

June saw the Lieutenancy again participate in the Walk with Christ which is the annual Eucharistic Procession that takes place in Sydney on the Feast of Corpus Christi. Robed members of the Lieutenancy escorted the Blessed Sacrament as it was carried in procession through the heart of the city to St. Mary's Cathedral. The procession attracts thousands of the participants and is arguably the largest and most public expression of Christianity occurring each year in Sydney.

Sadly in August the founding prior of the Lieutenancy – Cardinal Edward Clancy at the age of 90 died; the Order was asked to provide an Honour Guard during his lying in state in St. Mary's Cathedral – a great privilege which was well supported by the Lieutenancy.



Members of the Lieutenancy during a Eucharistic Procession in the streets of Sydney.

A generous response to the appeal of the Grand Master for Gaza

Following the Grand Master's appeal for financial support for Gaza the Lieutenancy reached out to the wider Catholic community of New South

Wales for that financial support and raised in excess of \$10,000 from it. While the level of support was appreciated, the lack of awareness amongst the wider Catholic community (Bishops, Priest and laity) of the Order and its work for the Holy Land offers a challenge for the future.

During the year members of the Lieutenancy regularly met in both Sydney and Auckland (New Zealand) for combined spiritual and social gatherings. While the spiritual element was often led by ecclesial members of the Lieutenancy, we were privileged, on a number of occasions, to be under the spiritual leadership of other distinguished Catholic clerics – Very Reverend Mgr Peter Comensoli, the then Apostolic Administrator of the Sydney Archdiocese, and Fr. Frank Moloney, the

distinguished Salesian theologian.

Early in 2014 our Grand Prior, Cardinal George Pell, the then Archbishop of Sydney transferred to Rome to take up the responsibilities of Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy, as 2014 was drawing to a close the Holy Father appointed Anthony Fisher, OP as Archbishop of Sydney and the Order was pleased to be invited along with the Order of Malta and other Papal Orders to participate as guards of honour in his installation Mass.

2014 saw no change in the total membership of the Lieutenancy as sadly deaths and new members were in exact balance. As we move towards 2015 we have several aspirants considering joining the Order which, God willing, will lead to an increase in membership.

AUSTRALIA - WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MALAYSIAN MEMBERS WELCOMED INTO THE LIEUTENANCY

In May the undersigned was invested as Lieutenant of Australia-Western. He has been a member of the Order for 22 years. For much of that time he has worked in Africa and Europe and continues to pursue a number of interests there, in semi-retirement. He is ably assisted by his wife of 44 years, Janet Gardner, Dame Commander.

It has become something of a tradition for the

Lieutenancy of Australia-Western to conduct a Day of Reflection at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in Perth. Some 40 Members and friends attended. This year the theme was Mary as expressed in the Old and New Testaments. The opportunity to share with Seminarians and Staff is inspirational; Rector Rev Fr Michael Moore assures us that there is a similar reward for the Seminarians.

This year members of the Lieutenancy of Australia-Western supported The Perth parish of Hamilton Hill at its Holy Cross Church in its inaugural celebration of the feast of The Triumph of the Cross. Hamilton Hill is close to the Port of Fremantle and hosts a Portuguese community, traditionally associated with fishing. They represent a small faithful Catholic cultural group in the Archdiocese of Perth.

Towards an annual pilgrimage to Holy Cross Church

The parish had recently been gifted with a relic said to be of the True Cross. The parish priest



A one-day retreat for the Lieutenancy, at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary: a source of inspiration.

Father Nicholas Nweke, Knight, planned a celebration on the feast day which included a procession through the suburb. Following a sung Mass celebrated by Fr Peter Whitely, Vicar General, the Knights and Dames with the Relic of The Cross led the procession, followed by other parish groups and Father Peter with the Blessed Sacrament beneath a canopy. This very public witness of the Faith was enhanced by the presence of the 30 Knights and Dames who processed in full regalia. After solemn entry back into the church and Benediction, a wonderful buffet, provided by the parishioners was partaken by all. It is intended to make this Celebration an annual pilgrimage for the Order in Western Australia.

On November 8 some 17 candidates were invested into the Lieutenancy. This year we returned to St Mary's Cathedral, Perth for the first time since its major renovation and expansion. Mass was concelebrated by the Archbishop Emeritus Barry Hickey. Thirteen of these New Members are citi-

zens of Malaysia and include Monsignor Michael Cheah, Vicar General of the diocese of Penang. The Bishop of Penang has given his blessing to an arrangement where applicants from his diocese desirous of joining the Order can – for the time being – be admitted into the Lieutenancy of Australia-Western. We look forward to developing strong bonds with our Malaysian Knights and Dames over coming Months.

The hard work and dedication of Lieutenant of Honour, Robert Peters Knight Commander with Star, together with his wife Molly Peters, Dame Commander with Star, and those Members of the Lieutenancy visiting and domiciled in Malaysia and Singapore who helped to bring about this significant advancement of the Order, is acknowledged.

Three Knights and three Dames were honoured with promotions during the Investiture ceremonies.

John William (Jack) Gardner
Knight Commander with Star

BELGIQUE (BELGIUM)

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE AT THE HEART OF THE COMMITMENT WITHIN THE ORDER

The year 2014 has been very fruitful in activities for the Belgian Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, including conferences, diocesan activities, retreats and a great pilgrimage.

Strong and profound teachings

Groups of up to sixty people attended several conferences with varied and rich content. Different topics were discussed, in particular:

- "Sharing the Gospel today", by Monsignor Lemmens, Auxiliary Bishop of the Vicariate of the Flemish Brabant Archdiocese of Mechelen-Brussels.

- "Can Contemporary Art be a way to God?" by Brother Alain Arnould, Dominican, chaplain to the Artistic Community.

- "A new spring in the Church with Pope

Francis", by Baroness Hilde Kieboom, President of Sant'Egidio for the Benelux countries.

- "The Copts in the Holy Land; History and spiritual significance of their centuries-old presence", by Christian Cannuyer, Professor at the Catholic University of Lille.

- "Reflections on the question of God", by Ignatius Verhack, emeritus Professor at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

With our dioceses in the light of Vatican II

In their diocesan activities during Lent, members of the Order have given precedence to the texts of Vatican II. For example, in the dioceses of Namur and Walloon Brabant, four evenings were devoted to the study of the texts of Vatican II, led by Father Goossens, a member of the Order.

Monsignor Delville, Bishop of Liège and



*Prayer vigil
at
Koekelberg
on 31
August
2014*

member of the Order, arranged a conference in May for our brothers from Liege on the theme “Spirituality of the Conciliar Constitution”. The Vicariate of the Archdiocese of Mechelen-Brussels organized two evenings on this topic also. In the diocese of Ghent, in the Hotel Erasmus, our brothers met in April on the theme of the major constitutions of Vatican II. In Diest, in the Vicariate of Flemish Brabant it was Professor Gielis who chaired the debates in June. Each diocese wished to stimulate reflection on this theme. In September, a conference given by Cardinal Danneels, “News of Vatican II, fifty years after” closed this cycle of study of Vatican II.

More broadly, the dioceses of Namur and Walloon Brabant had the opportunity to hear the testimony of pilgrim cyclists who had linked Brussels with Jerusalem. A Mass presided over by Mgr Van Looy, Bishop of Ghent, was followed by a convivial meal for our brothers and sisters in the Bishop’s Palace. The section of the diocesan city of Antwerp organized an evening dedicated to the visit of the wonderful exhibition: “Rome, Mecca and Jerusalem”. Finally, a lecture by Professor Pierre Trouillez was given for the Flemish Brabant section on “Jesus, the only one? Christianity and Interreligious Dialogue”.

Spiritual Highlights

A recollection given by Canon Rijcken, a member of the Order, brought us together in May on the theme: “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ”. The annual retreat at the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of the “Mont des Cats” was given by Mgr Aloys Jousten, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Liège. The theme was: “Believe in Jesus Christ, source of joy and hope”. The November retreat, the theme of which was: “Advent of Mary, Advent of the Church”, was led by Father Marie-Jacques de Belsunce, Brother of the Community of Saint John, and Prior of St. Mary Magdalene Convent in Brussels.

The life of the Order in the rhythm of the liturgy of the Church

As every year, a Mass for the deceased members of the Order preceded the General Assembly of the Belgian Lieutenancy which took place on 15 March. Holy Week was followed with great devotion in our Capitular Church of Notre Dame du Sablon. A retreat in preparation for investiture took place in mid-June. On 27 June the vigil took place before the investitures the next day. They were held in our

Capitular Church of Notre Dame du Sablon. Eight new Knights were invested at a beautiful ceremony, including one priest. A large delegation of the Lieutenancy of Belgium was present, in late August, at a prayer vigil at the Basilica of Koekelberg in solidarity with our brothers in the Holy Land on “Eastern Christians united with Christians of the West: The same faith, the same prayer, the same solidarity for life and peace in the East”.

A concert followed by a lunch took place in October in Upigny, during which Father Imad Twal, deputy head of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, explained the situation of our Christian brothers and sisters in Syria. The gala was organized by the Belgian Foundation for the Holy Land. It not only brought together members of the Order but also other people aware of the problems in Syria.

The following week a novena for Peace was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine.

On the King’s Feast, 15 November, a fine delegation of the Order assisted at the traditional *Te Deum*, sung in the Cathedral of *Saints Michel and Gudule*.

Finally, and more sadly, on Friday 12 December, a delegation represented the Order at the funeral of her Majesty Queen Fabiola, a Dame of the Collar since 1960.

The year 2014 was extremely rich in various activities of all kinds. All were focused on one common theme: concern for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and the deepening of our faith.

Communication is a priority

In 2014, the Lieutenancy of Belgium wanted to develop a strong communication structure. Specifically, three organs allow us to follow the life of the Order:

The Website: www.ordredusaintsepulcre.be. This means of communication informs us daily of events in the Holy Land and also of the life of the Order. It is this which is the most direct link to the Holy Land. Its volume of users has grown significantly in 2014.

The “Memento” is distributed monthly to all members and is intended to inform about the various events of the Order. The first page is always dedicated to spiritual reflection. This publication is embellished with photos and is an easy and enjoyable read. We also send this publication to certain non-members recommended by our Chancellor, as well as Lieutenancies abroad and our contacts in the Holy Land.

The “Deus lo vult”: this quarterly journal is intended to feed our spiritual reflection with fundamental articles. It should also help us to reflect on events in the Holy Land. It is in this publication that we have news of the different works that the Order and the Lieutenancy of Belgium support.

These different communication media enable us to keep in touch with each other, and also to be, in a way, closer to our brothers and sisters of the Holy Land.

CANADA - ATLANTIC

NEW MEMBERS, WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

The small lieutenancy of Atlantic Canada has had a very good year with several opportunities for the members to come together for worship and fellowship to pray for peace.

On March 16, Trudy Comeau, Dame Commander presented pilgrim shells to Dame Kerry Daley, and Dame Angela Gerard, at Mass presided over by Fr James Mallon, Knight Commander at Saint Benedict Church, Halifax.

The Canada Atlantic Lieutenancy was then

pleased to welcome Father Michael Grace, Knight and Sir Will Sweet, Knight who were invested into the Order at Saint Mary’s Cathedral Basilica, Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 14. Archbishop Anthony Mancini, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy officiated and Sir Thomas McKiernan, Knight Grand Cross, President of the Holy Land Commission represented the Grand Magisterium.

Sir Thomas gave a great presentation at the banquet with photos and updates on the wonderful



projects being funded by the Order in the Holy Land.

Another important occasion to meet was on 26 October: members celebrated Mass together at Saint Agnes Church with Fr. Paul Morris, Knight on the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine, followed by lunch and a meeting. At the beginning of the Advent season, members met for a beautiful Eventide prayer service on 25 November. At the conclusion of this, Fr Paul Morris, Knight led the members and guests in an Advent Reflection.

CANADA - MONTREAL

THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER ARE FULLY INVOLVED IN DIOCESAN LIFE

The liturgical year began with a fundraising event thanks to the sale by auction of several art works of the Romanian-born Quebec artist Ryan Ilinca. A significant amount was raised to support the Church in the Holy Land.

In early Spring, at an investiture ceremony held in the Cathedral Marie Reine du monde in Montreal, four new Knights and Dames were admitted to the Order. The ceremony was presided over by Mgr Louis Dicaire, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy. Mgr Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal, was also present at the event. The ceremony of Investiture was preceded by a solemn prayer Vigil on the previous evening in the beautiful chapel of the Grand Seminary of Montreal.

In late Spring and throughout the summer months and early Autumn, the Lieutenancy of Montreal participated in public events of the Church of Montreal. Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy took part in the celebration of Corpus Christi, and had the honor of accompanying the Archbishop Christian Lépine, Mgr Thomas Dowd, Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal, members of the clergy and many faithful in a procession to the city centre of Montreal. Members of the Lieutenancy were also present at the Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, which was held in the peaceful Sanctuary of Rigaud, outside Montreal, to celebrate the Feast

day of the Blessed apostles and founders the Church of Rome.

In late August, the Lieutenancy was also well represented at the annual meeting of the Friends of the University of the Holy Cross. The event raised funds to support two seminarians of the Diocese of Montreal for their studies at the University of the Holy Cross, a Pontifical University in Rome, which Father Laurent Touze came specially to talk to us about.

A constant mobilisation

In late September, members of the Lieutenancy took part in the pilgrimage of the Italian-speaking community of Montreal to Saint Joseph's Oratory, where the remains of its founder, Saint André Besette, canonized in 2010, are venerated. The event brought together a large number of members from various Italian parishes to this privileged place of pilgrimage in Montreal.

In addition to being involved in all aspects of the Church of Montreal, the Lieutenancy constantly emphasizes the importance of learning about life in the Holy Land. A large number of Knights and Dames have had the privilege of attending a presentation on the subject by Father Frederick Mann, at the house of the Franciscan Fathers in Montreal.



A fund-raising Christmas concert by the famous Italo-Canadian singer, Giorgia Fumanti, in aid of the extension of a school in Bethlehem, directed by the De La Salle Brothers.

The liturgical year ended on a very high note: on 29 November, the Lieutenancy of Montreal organized a Christmas concert with the famous Italian-Canadian singer Giorgia Fumanti in aid of the expansion of a school in Bethlehem under the direction of the De la Salle Brothers. With over

seven hundred guests in the Cathedral Marie Reine du monde in Montreal, the concert was a great success. A new liturgical year was beginning the next day and with it a lot of hope in a constant mobilization to continue helping our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

CANADA - QUEBEC

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE FOUNDING SAINTS OF THE CHURCH IN THE “NEW FRANCE”

Each year, with the exception of the summer break in July and August, the Dames and Knights of the Lieutenancy of Canada-Québec meet on a monthly basis to celebrate the Eucharist, socialize around a good meal, and attend a confer-

ence related to diocesan or church events. In addition to the Annual General Meeting usually held in February, the March meeting is usually devoted to a one-day retreat, also called the Lenten Recollection, during which members are invited to



On 8 December 2013, the Archbishop of Quebec, Mgr Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, inaugurated the Holy Door to mark the opening of the celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the Parish of Notre-Dame de Québec (see also the logo). It is the 7th Holy Door in the Christian world and the first in North America. It was sealed on 28 December 2014 (Photo: Daniel Abel).

Canonization of the founding members of the Church in Quebec and 350th anniversary of the Parish of Notre-Dame de Québec

Highlights of 2014 were the Vigil and Investiture ceremonies held on 20 and 21 September as part of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Parish of Notre-Dame de Québec, the first Catholic parish in North America, and the



canonization of the two founders of the Church in Quebec: Mgr François de Laval, first Bishop of New France, and Mother Mary of the Incarnation, founder of the Ursulines.

First of all, on Saturday 20 September, the Dames and Knights present gathered in the chapel of the Ursulines where they prayed for a few moments at the tomb of Saint Mary of the Incarnation. Then, in silence, they made their way towards the Holy Door of the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec. After crossing the threshold and praying in front of the relics of the Saints and Blesseds of Quebec, the pilgrims then went to the tomb of Saint François de Laval. The day ended with a prayer vigil in the choir of the cathedral. The Liturgy of the Word was presided over by Archbishop Maurice Couture, Archbishop Emeritus of Quebec.

On the next day, Sunday 21 September, the ceremony of Investitures took place in the Cathedral-Basilica of Notre-Dame de Québec, presided over by Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, Primate of Canada and Grand Prior. During the ceremony following the homily, five new members were knighted, two Dames and three Knights (a layman and two priests). The event ended with the Investiture banquet during which the Dames, Knights, those newly knighted and special guests had the opportunity of socializing together and of reminding themselves, especially at the time of the formal speeches, of the beautiful mission they believe in so deeply.

debate on a proposed theme. This year, the recollection was on “The joy of the Gospel”, the apostolic exhortation of the Pope on the announcement of the Gospel in today’s world.

During Lent, the members are also invited to celebrate Palm Sunday in a different parish every year. After the homily, the Priest of the visited parish invites our Lieutenant or his representative to give a presentation of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and its mission. This is a great opportunity to introduce the Order to the parishioners. In 2014 we visited the parish of Saint-Benoit-Abbé in Sainte-Foy. Then, as tradition dictates, members were invited on Good Friday to the Basilica-Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Québec to attend the Office of the Passion of the Lord, celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, Knight Grand Cross and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of Canada-Quebec.

Forming a community of missionary disciples

Other monthly activities during the year include the meeting on 26 May of the members of the Delegation of Trois-Rivières and the visit to the Franciscan Fathers during which the participants prayed at the tomb of Blessed Frederic Janssoone OFM, a Belgian who arrived in Quebec in 1888, ardent missionary of the Holy Land and co-founder of the Shrine of Notre Dame du Cap, where he worked until his death in 1916. Father Frederic was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1988. On 19 June, at a dinner for the benefit of the delegation of Chicoutimi, Mgr Bertrand Blanchet, Archbishop Emeritus of Rimouski, gave a conference on euthanasia and assisted suicide.

In Quebec City, a fundraising luncheon was held on 4 June in the *Montmartre Centre*, under the patronage of our Grand Prior and Knight Grand Cross Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix. After briefly recalling the history of the Order, he

was keen to stress that the growth of the spiritual life of the members remains the primary objective of our mission. During the meeting of 15 October, our Lieutenant, Jean-Claude Michaud, presented the minutes of the meeting held from 5 to 8 June in New York. At the meeting of 12 November, the guest speaker was Canon Jean Tailleux, Chancellor of the Diocese of Quebec and new Master of Ceremonies for the Lieutenancy. He shared his vision of the spiritual development of the members within the Lieutenancy of Canada-Quebec. This vision is based essentially on the renewal of our personal and communal encounter with Christ, to form a community of missionary disciples.

Finally, to crown such a busy year, on 28 November some fifty members celebrated Christmas at the Officers' Mess of the Citadel of Quebec, after participating in a Mass celebrated in the historic chapel of the Citadel, the *Chapel Sainte-Jeanne d'Arc*.

CANADA - TORONTO

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GRACE AT MARYLAKE

The Toronto Lieutenancy commenced 2014 with a Parish Visitation on St. Joseph's Day, the Patron Saint of Canada, hosted by Sir Nick Critelli, KHS at Transfiguration of Our Lord Church. Forty-seven Knights and Dames participated in the regular parish Mass, after which we enjoyed a splendid lunch in the parish hall and a talk entitled "The New Evangelization: Today's Parish Reality", by Sir Joseph Sinasac,

KCHS, the Editor of Novalis, a leading Catholic publisher in North America.



As has become our tradition in recent years, we celebrated the Easter Vigil as a community at the Augustinian Monastery – Our Lady of Grace Shrine in its bucolic serenity at Marylake, a rural setting north of Toronto.

In August we enjoyed Mass celebrated by Father Allan D. Hood, KCCHS, our Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies, followed by an outdoor luncheon hosted by Sir Nick Migliore, KCHS at the Royal Canadian Yacht Club, located in a verdant island park in Lake Ontario facing the skyscrapers of downtown Toronto. It was a terrific venue for the sixty-five Knights, Ladies and prospective members to reflect on the spiritual guidance received from Father Hood.

On September 20th, twenty-three candidates joined the Order at our Investiture at Marylake Shrine presided over by our Grand Prior, Thomas

Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. The Investiture Mass was followed by the Lieutenancy's Annual General Meeting and a dinner featuring a superb talk by Sir John Piunno, KGCHS from the Grand Magisterium on the plight of the Christians in the Holy Land. Father Hood presided over the Vigil the evening before at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, followed by a small house party involving some ninety-five Knights, Ladies and candidates at the home of the Lieutenant Sir Hugh MacKinnon, KC*HS and Lady Laura MacKinnon, LC*HS.

Finally, on Saint Andrew's Day the Lieutenancy held its Annual Advent Retreat at the Retreat House at Marylake Shrine with Mass followed by a reception and an excellent talk by Father Hood, which helped prepare the Knights and Ladies for Advent.

CANADA - VANCOUVER

NEW MEMBERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The annual ceremony of investiture is the highlight of the life of the Order.

On 9 October, in the early evening, a solemn ceremony of Investiture of the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, presided over by the Grand Master of the Order, took place in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Rosary in Vancouver, British Columbia. Eight new members were invested, including two priests, two Knights and four Dames.

The liturgical ceremony was celebrated by the Grand Master along with the Grand Prior of the Vancouver Lieutenancy, Mgr J. Michael Miller. In attendance were numerous dignitaries, including the founding chaplain of the Vancouver Lieutenancy, Mgr. Pedro Lopez-Gallo, celebrating 50 years a member of the Order.

The day before the ceremony, the annual general meeting was held. His Eminence the Grand Master as well as Professor Thomas McKiernan, distinguished member of the Grand

Magisterium, delivered interesting addresses to members of the Vancouver Lieutenancy. Professor McKiernan gave a fascinating presentation and report on past and present building plans, renovations, improvements and finances in relation to the works of the charity under the Latin Patriarchate, and also all efforts aimed at the survival and growth of the local Christian communities.



A new member's journey: "An act of Providence which began in the Holy Land and ended in Rome"

One of the new members invested on 9 October was John Paul Sonnen. He was delighted and honored to be invested a member and he explained his journey into the Order in a unique way, "You might say it was an act of Providence which began in the Holy Land and ended in Rome". John Paul was living in Rome for eight years as a graduate student, tour operator and history docent in Rome and the Vatican. It was while on a journey to the Holy Land for Christmas 2006 that he first came into contact with the Order at Midnight Mass in Bethlehem.

"Before that, my only experience with the Order had been at La Veranda in Rome [a restaurant located in the Magisterial Palazzo della Rovere]", he said with a smile. "But it was at Midnight Mass at the Church of Saint Catherine in Bethlehem that I first saw members of the Order in prayer. I had no idea who they were, but I was very impressed". John Paul's pilgrimage to the Holy Land was with *Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi* and included the presence of a chaplain as well as visits to the Holy Sepulchre and even a first-hand experience with a special visit to a Christian school in Palestine. John Paul recalls, "Meeting the nuns and seeing the school children was a very powerful experience. We heard their stories and saw the value of their presence. I was very impressed with the work of the Order in helping to preserve this fragile community".

It was during his time in Rome that John Paul came into contact with Professor Tom McKiernan, President of the Holy Land Commission, who is frequently in Rome on business. They met for lunch at the Borgo Pio and a friendship was born with shared interests in the Church in the Holy Land. When

John Paul moved to Vancouver in 2012, he became good friends with Dame Constance Roche, long-time member of the Vancouver Lieutenancy. "Being a member is indeed an honor, but it also comes with a sacred trust and great responsibility. This role in the Church must be fulfilled with enthusiasm".

Of John Paul's memories of his Christmas journey to the Holy Land, he adds the memory of a walk he took three miles east of Bethlehem, in the village of Beit Sahour (the Shepherds Field). This is where the Angel appeared to the shepherds announcing the birth of Jesus: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:10-11). There John Paul made a visit to the Greek Orthodox Church built over a cave as well as the Latin Church built for the Franciscans in 1950. He was inspired by the words from Scripture written on the terracotta plaque attached to the cave: *Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis*. The Vancouver Lieutenancy supports a school in the same area, in the parish of Our Lady of Fatima in Beit Sahour.



The recently-knighted Jean-Paul Sonnen greeting Pope Francis.



ESPAÑA OCCIDENTAL (SPAIN WESTERN)

THE ORDER IS RENEWED AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

To accomplish the spiritual nourishment of members of the Order we participated in several activities. To start with, we should mention the celebration, every month, of the Holy Mass in the Chancery and also in the various delegations and sections. As we have been doing for some time, we held our retreat in Leon, in the house of Spirituality of the *Real e insigne Colegiata de San Isidoro*, in preparation for Lent and Holy Week. The retreat was held from 21 to 23 February with a large participation of Knights and Dames. In March our Lenten Conferences took place, followed by Holy Mass. These lectures were given by Father Pablo Suarez. We attended the Offices of the Easter Triduum in the *Real Basílica de San Francisco el Grande*. The celebrations were deeply prayerful. In the other sections and delegations, the Order was well represented at the different Offices, and the members also participated in various processions during Holy Week.

A joint Chapter for the two Spanish Lieutenancies

Also noteworthy is the joint Chapter of two Spanish Lieutenancies in Calatayud. All Knights are Honorary Canons of the *Collegiata del Santo Sepulcro de Calatayud*, Mother House of the Order in Spain which hosts the two Chapters. That is why on 17 May a joint Chapter of the two Spanish Lieutenancies was held in this *Collegiata*. This is a very important event because the Knights of the Order, honorary Canons of the *Collegiata*, take possession of their stalls and receive their obedience. This is a beautiful document for the canonical appointment of 65 Knights.

After all these celebrations, the pilgrimage to the Holy Land took place from 27 April to 4 May, led by the Lieutenant, with great participation by members of the Order. On 12 and 13 May 2014 the Lieutenant of Spain West, with Council members and several Knights and Dames, accompanied

their Portuguese brothers during the International Pilgrimage to Fatima, presided over by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Fouad Twal.

A retreat for aspirant Knights and Dames was held in June at the House of Mary Help of Christians in Majadahonda (Madrid). This event is very important for aspirants, as it precedes their entry into the Order. On 17 and 18 October 2014 the vigil of Arms and Prayer and the Investiture of new Knights and Dames of the Order took place in Madrid. On Friday 17 October the Vigil of Arms and Prayer took place in the Church of the *Concepción Real de Calatrava*, presided over by Cardinal Amigo Vallejo, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy with the participation of over 100 Knights and Dames. The next day, Saturday 18 October, the solemn ceremony of investiture took place in the *Real Basílica de San Francisco el Grande* in Madrid, with 203 Knights and Dames present. The ceremony was presided over by the Cardinal Grand Prior, welcoming an additional 17 Knights and 6 Dames into the Order. Also present were the Honorary Governor of the Order, Pier Luigi Parola, Knight of the Collar, the Lieutenant of Spain Western and representatives of France, Belgium and Austria. A solemn memorial Service was held in the *Real Basílica de San Francisco el Grande* on 6 November for the repose of the souls of Knights

and Dames of the Lieutenancy who died during the year 2014.

Solid and faithful generosity for the Holy land

As for the second objective of our Order, to support our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, we must emphasize that we have accomplished our goals thanks to the contributions of the Knights and Dames, their fund-raising activities, and new revenue and donations received. In this context, we should mention the important charity dinner that took place with great success on 7 June, with the participation of 390 people. The raffle was a great financial success, thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of the participants and the quality of the gifts donated. This dinner was attended by personalities from the arts, sciences, entrepreneurs, Madrid's high society, and also by people from different regions and provinces.

The Lieutenancy was represented with great success in the various charity sales, organised by the *Nuevo Futuro* Organization, which took place in various cities, especially in Madrid, with a large stand organized by a group of Dames of the Order, assisted by their families, the wives and daughters of the Knights, and other sympathisers of the work of the Order in the Holy Land.

FRANCE

A MISSION COMFORTED IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

In 2014, the Lieutenancy continued its activities in a period of great difficulty for our persecuted brothers in the Holy Land, Egypt and Iraq.

On 6 September, the ceremonies of Investiture of the 'promotion Saint Louis' (named after the King of France born 800 years ago), comprising of 28 applicants, will remain an exceptional moment of spirituality for all participants. They were welcomed by Mgr Michel Dubost in the majestic setting of the Cathedral of the Resurrection in Evry, the most modern cathedral in France (1991). The Grand Master also honoured us with his presence.

Also present were: the Assessor, the Governor General, the Chancellor and other members of the Grand Magisterium, as well as representatives of the Apostolic Nuncio and our brothers in the Orders of Malta and Saint John (Bailiwick of Brandenburg), and exceptionally the Grand Chancellor of the Légion d'Honneur, the highest French decoration of merit. Another highlight of these ceremonies was the prayer Vigil celebrated in the Chapter Church of Saint-Leu-Saint-Gilles in Paris led by Mgr Antonio Franco, Assessor of the Order and former Apostolic Nuncio to the Holy Land.



Visiting the members of the Order in France in 2014, The Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre presided over the investitures at the Cathedral of Evry in the Paris region.

The Annual national retreat was organized in Saint-Laurent-sur-Sevre in Vendee, from 14 to 16 March on the very topical theme “Knights and Dames, let us face conflicts in a Christian way and become artisans of peace”. This retreat was given by Abbé Pierre-Edouard de Bruchard, who has since been admitted to the Order of the Légion d’Honneur. We salute the excellent organization of our colleagues from the new local Delegation of Vendee who welcomed and accommodated sixty Dames and Knights in this city of Saint Louis de Montfort.

We would like to mention the publication of two editions of the *Newsletter of the Lieutenancy*, the creation of an online site which already includes over 450 pages and many subscribers from other Lieutenancies of the Order, and also the organization by the Lieutenancy of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 19 to 28 October under the spiritual direction of Father Antoine-Louis de Laigue, Prior of the Province of Paris.

The Funds collected on the Day of Solidarity with the Holy Land, held on 30 November in our Chapter church of Saint-Leu-Saint-Gilles, have been added to the funds sent to the Grand Magisterium on a regular basis. The Lieutenancy

has sent nearly 200,000 Euros (out of which 11,000 Euros came from the appeal for donations for Gaza launched on 11 August) from some 400 subscribing members. An Association of Members of the Lieutenancy was created in 2013; it is the only one recognized by the Grand Magisterium, and its funds constitute the only French contribution to the resources of the Grand Magisterium and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. It was supplemented by the creation of an Endowment Fund at the end of August 2014, officially linked to the Association of Members of the Lieutenancy. This Fund will enable us to receive other income such as donations and legacies free of tax.

Lieutenant Pierre Murret-Labarthe and his Council, as well as the national leaders of the Lieutenancy, benefited throughout the year from unwavering encouragement from Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, Grand Master, and from the members of the Grand Magisterium, in difficult institutional circumstances. Thus the Lieutenancy continues its mission, strengthened in its convictions, its values, its attachment and obedience to the commitments made by each and every Dame and Knight when they enter the Order, its deep respect for the Grand Master and the Holy Father he represents.

A DEVELOPING MAGISTRAL DELEGATION WHOSE MEMBERS HAVE A HEARTFELT DESIRE TO BECOME SAINTS

The Magistral Delegation of Guam was created in 2012. Guam is part of the United States and is a small Island in the Western Pacific close to Manila. Our Island community has a loving and humble heart for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Committed to our Order's mission, Guam's Magistral Delegation celebrated its inaugural investiture in September 2012, investing over 20 Knights and Dames in the Order. In 2014, our Delegation made a significant commitment to the Order by further rooting our Delegation by new members committed to the mission of the Order.

Beginning in late 2013, the Inaugural members responded to the call for candidates. The Council, though the leadership of Deacon Steven Martinez, Knight, (Ecclesiastic Master of Ceremonies), John Rivera, Knight (Chancellor) and Joseph Gumataotao, Knight (Lay Master of Ceremonies) engaged in a substantive formation process designed to lead our hearts to the Holy Land. The Knights, Deacon Martinez and John Rivera, led discussions on the teachings of the Holy Father, and oversaw programming related to Catholic Social Teaching, the structure of the Order and teachings in prayer and piety.



The Magistral Delegation of Guam celebrated its investitures with great joy on 14 September, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Twelve candidates emerged from our process invigorated to serve the Order and its mission. The Investiture date itself was specially chosen: 14 September, the Feast of the Exaltation of the True Cross. The Delegation's Grand Prior, His Excellency Anthony Sablan Apuron, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Agaña, presided over the installation of new members. We gathered at the Dulce Nombre de María Cathedral-Basilica in Hagatna, Guam for this historic occasion. The Reverend Father Eric Forbes delivered a beautiful homily, orienting the congregation to the work of the Order in the Middle East. Magistral Delegate Rodney Jacob read the words of Governor General Borromeo stating "In this moment, the issue of peace is still far from a solution and the uncertainty of the future causes uneasiness among the people

and the Christian minorities in the Holy Land". In this context, we transmitted the words of the Grand Master Cardinal O'Brien on this occasion, recognizing the zealous work of the Delegation in implementing the Order's challenging steps of orientation, "assuring that this honor is far more than an honor: a solemn and well-informed commitment on the part of each new member toward both a deeper personal holiness, and a serious effort to contribute to the permanence and growth of the Faith in our increasingly besieged Land of the Lord".

Our Delegation and its new members were intently mindful of the urgency of the situation in the Holy Land and dedicated their prayers and service in communion with the mission of the Order and the Church in the Holy Land.

IRELAND

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE WITH THE NEW LIEUTENANT

His Excellency Charles Kelly is the fifth Lieutenant since the Lieutenancy was formed in 1986. He assumed office as the new Lieutenant on

24 January, at the Lieutenancy pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Knock, supervised, on behalf of the Cardinal Grand Master, by Professor Bartholomew McGetterick of the Grand Magisterium, and undertaken by Archbishop Michael Neary in the presence of Archbishop Charles Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to Ireland.

The Order participated in the national celebrations for the feast day of the martyred Primate, St Oliver Plunkett on 6 July in Drogheda, Co. Louth. Cardinal Sean Brady presided while the Abbott of Downside Abbey, Somerset, preached the Homily. Eleven visiting members of the Order from Germany attended with their Irish confreres.

The Northern Region Mass took place in St Peter's Cathedral in Belfast over the May holiday weekend. Bishop Anthony Farquhar



Baron Cyril Woods of Slane received by the Lieutenant Charles Kelly the Cross of Merit with gold star, in the presence of Mgr Charles Brown, Papal Nuncio in Ireland.

preached the Homily to fifty-six members and guests of the Order. Lunch was hosted, afterwards, at Belfast Castle.

Seven new members were invested to the Lieutenancy in July, and there were seventeen promotions at the Vigil on the eve of the Investiture in the Great Chapel, Maynooth.

From 6 to 15 September, the Lieutenant led 30 members and guests on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Lieutenancy members were the first pilgrims to visit the Holy Land following the recent troubles in September.

Finally, two rare awards were granted by the Order in 2014. At the Terra Sancta Dinner hosted in October by the Lieutenancy at Dunboyne Castle, Baron Cyril Woods of Slane received the highest honour the Order may bestow, the Grand Cross of Merit with gold star, for his endeavours for the Order.

The Cross of Merit was awarded to Eric Dumas at July's Investiture in the Pontifical College, Maynooth, for his generous voluntary work on behalf of the Lieutenancy of Ireland, in particular our much used website.

ITALIA CENTRALE (CENTRAL ITALY)

A TESTIMONY OF EVANGELICAL COHERENCE IS EXPECTED FROM THE KNIGHTS AND DAMES

During the year 2014, the Lieutenancy of Central Italy asked its local Delegations to follow three main guidelines on: the spiritual formation (entrusted to the Priors), the life of the community (entrusted to the Delegations) and interpersonal relationships (entrusted to the behaviour of each one).

Concerning the first guideline, several pilgrimages were organized either to the Holy Land (with particular attention to new entrants) or to various Marian shrines. Each delegation organized retreats for important dates of the liturgical calendar, and these recorded a large and active participation. The pious practice of the celebration of the first Friday of the month took place, according to tradition, in the Roman Basilica of St. Praxedes. The Knights and Dames greatly appreciated the homilies of the Grand Prior, Mgr Franco Croci: the Lieutenancy will publish his homilies in the "Spirituality Workbook" which will be available to all those who wish to use them for further meditation.

We can say that in all these occasions, even to outside observers, concrete manifestations of unity, strength and, above all, credibility were given, at a time when testimony has become of even more value in giving coherence to our faith to the outside world.

As far as the second guideline is concerned, var-

ious conferences were organized, often in historically and artistically prestigious locations around specific and current issues, and also cultural tours conducted by expert guides and specialists. The fraternal meals that followed often showed us that it was possible to enjoy true friendship together in all simplicity.

Among the most important initiatives promoted by the Lieutenancy for Central Italy were the pilgrimages to the Holy Land from the Region of Rome organised by the Delegation of Civitavecchia-Tarquinia, the Delegation of Viterbo, the Delegation of Albano, and delegation of Frosinone; the pilgrimage to Lourdes organised by the Tivoli-Guidonia Delegation, and the pilgrimage of the Lieutenancy on the occasion of the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine which took place in the Roman Abbey of the Three Fountains, near the grotto of the Virgin of Revelation. There were also the ceremonies of the prayer Vigil and Investiture of the Lazio Region and the ceremony of the Region of Abruzzo-Molise in the town of Chieti, on the occasion of the nomination of the new President. The Order was also represented by the participation of the Region of Rome in the celebration of Corpus Christi in Saint John Lateran and the procession to Saint Mary Major, and also during the floral tribute



to the Immaculate Conception on the Piazza di Spagna in Rome.

The patient work of conversion of the heart

The year ended on 5 and 6 December with the very meaningful prayer Vigil and Investiture ceremony organized by the Region of Rome, with over fifty postulants, in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major and the Basilica of Saint John Lateran.

Concerning the third guideline, we asked ourselves the question: what about the life of the Knight, when he has folded the cape which represents such strong ideals, and when he has to confront, on a daily basis, very different realities which are difficult and sometimes even hostile?

The first two guidelines are for the purpose of preparing the Knight for this confrontation, by helping him not to lose his identity so that he may maintain the same credibility as when he wears the cape. On this point, the Priors, Presidents and

Delegates were unanimous so that members may understand the importance of the formation, at all levels, required by the Grand Master. Jesus did tell his disciples that they will be recognized as such on the basis of their testimony of unity, consistency and love.

Too often we forget that only the testimony of our mutual and sincere love, strengthened by the Spirit and by deeds, can make clear to people of our time the meaning of our commitment, and the offering of Christ who died and arose so that they may all have eternal life.

Of course, all this implies a patient work of conversion of the heart, a commitment that is mostly based on listening to the Word of God and the humble acceptance of His law of love as true sons and daughters.

This community involvement has also opened the doors to truer friendships, more extensive relationships and to the desire to becoming a “community”.

A CONSTANTLY GROWING LIEUTENANCY, WHICH MULTIPLIES IMAGINATIVE INITIATIVES

After being nominated for a second four-year mandate, Lieutenant Rocco Saltino appointed the new Board in charge of supervising the writing of the Regulations of the Lieutenancy. The Board is also in charge of the website of the Lieutenancy (<http://www.oessg-lgtima.it/>). The Lieutenancy includes 7 regions and 21 Delegations, with a total of 1,040 members: 738 Knights, 190 Dames and 112 Members of the Clergy. Its spiritual guide is the Grand Prior Mgr Francesco Cacucci, Metropolitan Archbishop of Bari-Bitonto. Lieutenant Saltino scheduled visits this year to all the regions and local delegations to meet with various members and advisors, and ask about the life and problems of the Order within the various local regions, and to bring his personal support and that of the whole Lieutenancy.

The increase in the number of members in the Order necessitated three ceremonies of Investiture: the first was organized by the Region of Taranto on 6 September. It was led by Mgr Filippo Santoro, Prior and Metropolitan Archbishop of Taranto and

was marked by the investiture of eight Knights and Dames and the elevation of four members to a superior rank. The second ceremony was organized by the region of Andria on 9 November, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of its founding, in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption: The ceremony was presided over by Mgr Raffaele Calabro, Prior and Bishop of Andria who conducted the investiture of nine new Knights and Dames and the elevation of nine other members.

The third ceremony was held on 20 December in the Cathedral of Lucera to mark the 15th anniversary of the Delegation of Lucera-Troia: ten new Knights and Dames were invested and seven other members were promoted.

Activities of the Lieutenancy, the Regions and Delegations

The exchange of good wishes for Easter and Christmas, took place in the Bishop's House of the Cathedral of Bari between the Lieutenant and

The increase in the number of members of the Order in the Lieutenancy necessitated three ceremonies of Investiture.



the Mgr Francesco Cacucci, Grand Prior. The Lieutenant was accompanied by his Advisers, Presidents, Delegates and Knights. At Christmas, the Grand Prior Mgr Cacucci gave a catechesis on Nicodemus according to the Gospel of Saint John.

Regions and Delegations organised pilgrimages and retreats: the Delegation of Castellaneta, to the Monastery of Camaldoli from 24 to 27 April and the Delegation of Acquaviva-Santeramo, to the Sanctuary of Santa Maria di Leuca for Easter.

The Region of Andria publishes a directory which presents the Order with its goals, and lists its various activities regarding religious formation and fundraising events. We should also mention the publication *Sallentina Tellus*, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year, and which is published by the Salento region, with original historical material and the layout of a true cultural magazine.

Fundraising event “Pro Terrasanta”

Several initiatives were organised by the Regions and the Delegations of the Lieutenancy in special

fundraising events for the Order in favour of the Holy Land, Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, Gaza and Cyprus: among other events, concerts were organised on 8 November by the Taranto-Ionian region, on 14 June by the Delegation of Castellaneta and on 13 December by the Delegation of Lecce.

Special appreciation goes to the “Golf Tournament Cup of the Holy Sepulcher for the Holy Land”, organized by the Delegation of Castellaneta and hosted in the beautiful setting of Riva dei Tessali. This 19th competition, which took place on 14 July, was under the high patronage of the Grand Magisterium and the Lieutenancies of Italy-Southern Adriatic and Italy-Central Apennines, and was highly appreciated by the Grand Prior of the Order, His Beatitude Mgr Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. The Golf Tournament Pro Terra Santa was also appreciated at international level, following the intervention of the Governor General Agostino Borromeo at the meeting of the 29 European Lieutenants in Rome: he highlighted the prestige gained over the years, and the tremendous result in favour of the Holy Land.

ITALIA SETTENTRIONALE (NORTHERN ITALY)

TRAINING SESSIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

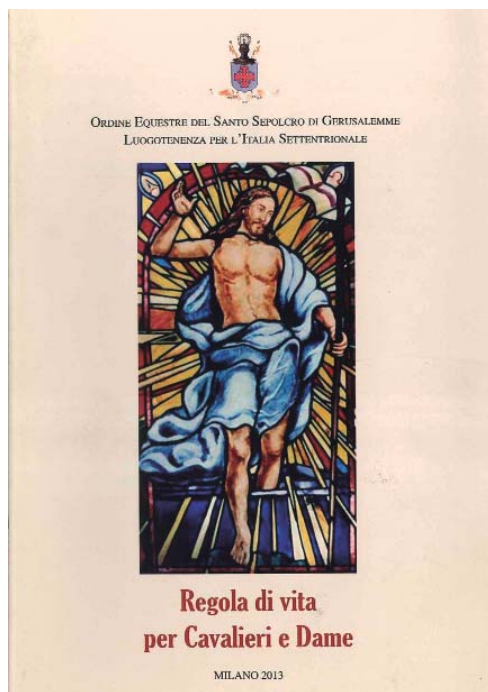
Every year we organize training sessions to explain the history and structure of the Order: these courses are mandatory for all applicants and are organized by the Lieutenancy in Milan and Padua. Delegations also organize training sessions of a more spiritual nature. In 2014 these took place in Milan on 22 February and 20 September and, in Padua, on 8 March and 15 November. Delegations also organize monthly meetings for the recitation of the Holy Rosary and meditations.

Mgr Oscar Cantoni, Bishop of Crema, Grand Officer and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, wrote a pamphlet with the collaboration of the Priors, entitled “Rules of Life for Knights and Dames”, which was sent to all the members and given to the new Knights and Dames on the day of Investiture.

The Lieutenancy had the joy of going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 24 June to 1 July 2014, under the direction of Father Gianni Naletto and the Knight Giovanni Mauro Beccherle, Delegate of the Delegation of Verona.

On 8 July 2014, at the headquarters of the Prefecture of Milan, Lieutenant Silverio Vecchio, Knight Grand Cross, conferred the insignia of the rank of Knight Grand Cross on Dr. Paolo Francesco Tronca, Prefect of Milan.

On 26 October, the Feast of the Patroness of the Order, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, was celebrated in the Cathedral of Vercelli and Mgr Marco Arnolfo, Archbishop of Vercelli, who presided over the religious ceremony, was promoted to the rank of Grand Officer. The



participation of the Knights, Dames and postulants was very high.

For the occasion, the Lieutenant had prepared a short speech giving all the faithful present the opportunity of becoming acquainted with the history of the Order and of its commitments.

In 2014, the ceremonies of Investiture of the new Knights and Dames took place on 21 June and 8 November in Milan in the church of Santa Maria della Pace. Both ceremonies were presided over by Mgr Oscar Cantoni, Bishop of Crema, Grand Officer and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy.

*Left: the booklet on the "Rule of Life" for Knights and Dames.
Below: the celebration ceremony of Investitures in Milan.*



THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM PRESIDED AT THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE LACHRYMATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY IN SYRACUSE

This year the Order participated in the celebrations in honour of Saint Agatha, patron saint of Catania: the official programme included a formation meeting in the Chapter Church of Saint Julien and the participation in the celebration presided over by Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco and concelebrated by many Archbishops and Bishops of Churches in Sicily. The moment of the offering of wax was very touching: this wax is used for the lamp that burns before the sacred altar. A Knight of the Order and a confrere of the Order of Malta presented it together.

Among the most significant events, we still retain very fond and vivid memories of the ceremony of Investiture of the new Knights and Dames. It was held in May in Palermo in the presence of Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order and Cardinal Paolo Romeo, Grand Prior and Archbishop of Palermo. The prayer Vigil was particularly evocative as it took place in the Palatine Chapel of the Norman Palace, former residence of the rulers of Sicily. It was followed by a large participation of the faithful in the celebration in the Cathedral of Palermo.

“The goal that we must achieve”, urged the Grand Master “is to offer our hope and joy to our Christian brothers and sisters of the Holy Land through our spiritual and material solidarity, in order to successfully alleviate the difficulties and the state of oppression they suffer daily. Membership in the Order also asks of us an active participation in the life of our dioceses and collaboration with our priests in the spiritual and temporal works of charity. Our members must commit fully to be the leaven of the Resurrection in every Christian community, with the clear testimony of the fact that the love and life of Christ are deeply present in the lives of each one of us. Today I congratulate our newest members who will receive the Investiture, and I thank all the members of the Lieutenancy of Sicily, especially Cardinal Paolo

Romeo and Professor Giovanni Russo, Knight Grand Cross”.

On Sunday 15 June, in the Cathedral of Caltagirone, during a Mass presided over by Mgr Calogero Peri, Bishop of Caltagirone, the establishment of the Delegation of Caltagirone was formalised which, with the Delegation of Piazza Armerina, is part of the Region of Catania. The Lieutenant for Italy-Sicily, Professor Giovanni Russo, Knight Grand Cross, Professor Giancarlo Scardillo, Grand Officer and President of the Region of Catania, and Dr. Mario Palmisciano, Commander and Delegate of the Delegation of Caltagirone, attended the liturgy.

Mgr Peri told us: “We welcome with joy the birth of the Delegation of Caltagirone of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a presence and commitment to a service that brings us back to the Holy Sepulchre and therefore to the source of our hope: Jerusalem where it all began. May the Delegation become a sign, a reminder and a return to the centrality of the paschal mystery of our life, a mystery where the Tomb of the Lord is like an icon in negative form: indeed the grave is empty of the body of Christ, but filled with his glorious body, the missionary hope, the evangelizing proclamation”. The Delegation of Caltagirone has 10 members and its Prior is Mgr Calogero Peri.

An unceasing prayer for the Holy Land

At the invitation of our Grand Master, in all the regions of the Lieutenancy during the month of July we prayed unceasingly for the Holy Land which experienced very difficult times. We organised several prayer meetings for peace in the Holy Land, and held events to raise funds for the works of the Order in helping local Christian populations. We are spiritually united to the Holy Father, promoting community as well as personal prayer vigils.

On Saturday 30 August, the Lieutenancy of

The Grand Master and members of the Lieutenancy after the celebration in Palermo, during which Cardinal O'Brien stressed the importance of the involvement of Knights of the Order in the life of the diocese.



Italy-Sicily received a visit from the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Mgr Fouad Twal. The Prelate arrived in Catania and was welcomed by Lieutenant Giovanni Russo. He met many Knights and Dames from all over the island. He talked in detail about the dramatic situation in the Holy Land and in Syria, the immense suffering that these tormented people sustain daily. He explained that our aid through prayer and financial support is absolutely necessary.

The Lieutenancy, the Region of Catania, of Palermo and the Delegation of Trapani gave the Patriarch an offering, which was followed later by those of other regions and Delegations in solidarity with the Knights and Dames of the whole of Sicily.

On Sunday 31 August, His Beatitude presided over a Mass in Syracuse at the Shrine of Our Lady of Tears, on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Lachrymation of the Virgin Mary. The celebration was concelebrated by Cardinal Paolo Romeo, Archbishop of Syracuse, Mgr Salvatore Pappalardo, Archbishop Emeritus of Syracuse, Mgr Giuseppe Costanzo and by the Bishop of the diocese of Mazara del Vallo, Mgr Domenico Mogavero, in the presence of a large delegation of Knights and Dames of Sicily, led by Lieutenant Giovanni Russo and the President of the local region, Nicola Garozzo, with a very large participation of the faithful.

In September, following the invitation of the

Governor General, the Lieutenancy of Italy-Sicily responded immediately to the Appeal for Gaza. The Lieutenant invited everyone to donate to “quickly relieve the enormous sufferings of our brothers in Gaza, regardless of their faith”. On this occasion also, the Knights and Dames were quick to show their total generosity and solidarity in favour of the Holy Land and its inhabitants.

On 13 September, the Knights and Dames went on pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin of Miracles in Mussumeli (Delegation of Caltanissetta): a prayerful intercession to God the Father to ask for peace and justice for our beloved Holy Land. It will always remain as a time of both great simplicity and great spiritual depth in the mind and hearts of the Knights and Dames.

Finally, on 26 October in the Cathedral of Caltagirone was celebrated the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, Patroness of the Order. The ceremony was presided over by the Prior Mgr Calogero Peri, in the presence of many Knights and Dames from all over Sicily. The Lieutenant expressed his joy, friendship and encouragement to the new Delegation of Caltagirone.

Throughout the year, the meetings for religious and cultural formation were inspired by the messages, thoughts, teachings and exhortations of the Holy Father, especially from his last Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and the *Instrumentum Laboris* of the Synod on the family.



LUXEMBOURG, GRAND DUCHÉ DE (LUXEMBOURG)

UNDER THE GAZE AND PROTECTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, QUEEN OF PALESTINE

In 2014 the Lieutenancy of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has been in existence for twenty years and now has 35 members. The spiritual meetings were particularly numerous this year, permitting the Dames and Knights to meet regularly and pray together for Christians in the Holy Land, whose situation was particularly difficult, even dramatic, during this year

Members of the Lieutenancy attended every first Friday of the month at the celebration of the Eucharist presided over by the Grand Prior, assisted by either the Master of Ceremonies or the Chaplain; After Mass there was always an opportunity partake of a meal together, which allowed members to discuss issues of religious news and to learn about upcoming events.

As in previous years, Dames and Knights gathered for a day at the Benedictine Monastery of Peppange to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. After listening to a conference given by a Jesuit priest on "*conversion to Christ*", Mass was celebrated, followed by a lunch, and a discussion on the

theme of the conference, and then the Blessing of the Palms took place.

To consistently support our brothers in the Holy Land

At the invitation of the Archbishop of Luxembourg, members of the Lieutenancy attended the Liturgies of Holy Thursday and Good Friday in Luxembourg Cathedral. The Octave, a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Luxembourg, Comforter of the Afflicted and patron of the city and the country, is an opportunity for the Lieutenancy to publicly express its attachment to Mary, Queen of Palestine, and to pray to her for Christians in the Holy Land. A Mass celebrated by the Grand Prior and participation in the closing procession are the highlights for the members of the Order. The Master of Ceremonies of our Lieutenancy was appointed preacher of the Octave 2014 by the Archbishop of Luxembourg. His sermons were published in book form and sold to benefit

the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in support of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Four new Knights were invested during a joint Investiture ceremony with the Lieutenancy of Belgium. For the Lieutenancy of the Grand Duchy the Investiture was preceded by a Vigil Service held in the intimate setting of the “Kräizkapell” (Chapel of the Holy Cross) in Grevenmacher.

This is the first time that the Lieutenancy celebrated the feast of the Glorious Cross and the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine,

in the Monastery of Peppange.

The year ended with a special Mass for the season of Advent celebrated in the church of Saint Laurent Decanal Grevenmacher, of which our Master of Ceremonies is the Parish Priest.

Responding to the call of the Grand Master and the Patriarch of Jerusalem for material support for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, especially the people of Gaza, an appeal for funds was sent to members of the Lieutenancy, and by advertisement in a Luxembourg daily newspaper.

MAGYARORSZAG - HUNGARIA (HUNGARY)

A BRIDGE OF PRAYER WITH THE HOLY LAND

2014 was a great year for our lieutenancy. Beyond the traditional activities (monthly meetings, Feasts of the Order...) we have extended the one day Lenten retreats to a three-day week-end programme for the first time this year. The three days were spent in the ancient Benedictine Abbey of Tihany, on the splendid peninsula of the Lake Balaton. Prior Richard Korzenszky was the spiritual leader of the retreat.

We had an edifying investiture ceremony in

September in the city of Vác, where Bishop Miklos Beer invested 11 Knights and Dames. The investiture day ended with the jubilee celebration of the Chapel of the Vác Section of our Lieutenancy, lead by Ákos Szalay Knight Commander with Star. Austrian brothers and sisters also took part in the investiture ceremony.

After planning for more than one year, we participated in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land (including some holy places in Jordan) in October, lead by



Dr. Zoltan Somodi (secretary) and Reverend Zsolt Szerencses (Coadjutor Prior). The pilgrimage was dedicated to the memory of the late Coadjutor Prior of our Lieutenancy Eörs Csordas, re-founder of the life of our Order after the political changes in 1989, and a great lover of the Holy Land. His memorial plaque was placed in the Austrian Hospice building, and in a Franciscan school in Acco. A liturgical cup, with his name engraved, was presented to the Franciscan Chapel in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. We also met with His Beatitude and the Holy Land Custos, the Franciscan Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

The Knights and Dames remaining at home participated in a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine of Szentkút (Holy Well) at the same time. The Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, was celebrated at the same hour as our pilgrim brothers and sisters in Deir Rafat, thereby building a prayer bridge between Hungary and the Holy Land.

Our Advent retreat was led by our Coadjutor Prior Zsolt Szerencses in his parish church Soroksár.

Prof. Laszlo Tringer
Knight Commander with Star
Lieutenant

NEDERLAND (NETHERLANDS)

A LIEUTENANCY “PROUD AND ENCOURAGING” CELEBRATES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The motto we have adopted for the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Dutch Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, in 2014, is “Proud and Encouraging”.

Proud: we can be proud of what we have achieved within our lieutenancy over the past 60 years.

Encouraging: through national and regional activities in our own country we encourage each other, and through our involvement in the projects in the Holy Land we encourage the Christians living there.

We are fortunate to have a thriving and enthusiastic lieutenancy. Our brotherhood, our close ties, embracing both old and young, is of key importance. We must cherish this chain of generations and continue to strive to treat each link in the chain with respect and care - they are what connect us through the generations.

To many people the Order is a spiritual and fraternal home. One might liken it to a precious diamond. We want to cherish this diamond and pass it on to future generations. Over the past 60 years, more than 500 Knights and Dames have used their talents in various ways to help make the Dutch lieutenancy what it is today. The committees and

the regions, too, have made every effort to achieve the aims of the Order, in alliance with all members throughout the world, all pursuing the same ideals.

In particular, we have strived to live our faith in our interaction with each other and our families, in our places in society and in our professional lives. Especially these days, when so many drop out or are looking for a spiritual home, the Order can play a special role and be a place where people can recharge their spirit. As an Equestrian Order, as Knights and Dames, we are connected with the Dutch church community and we want to contribute to that community where we can.

Witnesses to our pilgrimage to the heavenly Jerusalem

Our diamond jubilee gives us good reason to be proud. We wear the cross and cape of our Order with suitable pride – but also in all modesty – as a sign of our calling to support each other and the Christians in the Holy Land under all circumstances. Conversely, our inner joy and pride in our faith are a fertile soil nourishing our commitment to the Order. This enables us to encourage and offer new opportunities to all those we meet on our path through life, on our pilgrimage to

the heavenly Jerusalem.

Members of our Order bear witness to their membership:

“I feel privileged on account of what I have received: the talents and opportunities I have been given. I clearly recognise what the gospel parable of the talents is about. Grateful, rather than proud, is the word I would use to describe how I feel. It is not about “look at me” but about what I’ve done with the gifts I’ve received. Tradition does not hamper me because I have a positive mindset. I look at what is good rather than at what is wrong. Count your blessings!

What encourages and inspires me are the many special people in our Order and the warmth of faith you experience. I have been a member of the Order for many years now, have worked with many people and have been influenced by them. I find the home meetings organised in our region very interesting, also because people sometimes voice ideas and views that are very different from my own. This makes me think, helps me to deepen my faith, and for that I am very grateful. I live my faith in who I am and in my positive attitude. One thing I sometimes find missing in the Church is the idea that God loves all people. Pope Francis, however, does convey that message. To me, Christ is the greatest inspiration. He shows me how to live my life”.

“As one of the members who joined fairly recently, I cannot of course reflect on a long period, but I have noticed that a whole new generation of knights and dames has joined the Order, both in number and in age. They form a new generation of members who, fully active in working life and family life, contribute to what connects us: brotherhood



Sami El-Yousef, Director of the “Pontifical Mission Jerusalem” with the Lieutenant and the Chancellor at the 60th anniversary ceremonies.

in a rapidly changing society. For, in today’s society nothing can be taken for granted any more. And the pace of change is faster than ever before. For better or worse, this is a fact of life. And in this rapidly changing society even faith can no longer be taken for granted, as it used to be sixty years ago. Is that regrettable? We see that people in the world around us take a much more conscious approach to their faith. It has become a deliberate, well-considered choice. These days we deliberately choose to commit to the Church and to Christian brotherhood”.

We must not hide this diamond that our lieutenancy represents. Our duty of brotherhood, caritas and spirituality is as relevant today as it is timeless.

Michael Brenninkmeijer
Lieutenant for the Netherlands

ÖSTERREICH (AUSTRIA)

A WELCOME GROWTH IN THE ELEVEN AUSTRIAN LOCAL DELEGATIONS

In 2014, the great pilgrimage to the Holy Land was an extraordinary highlight for the Lieutenancy of Austria. At the initiative and under the direction of the Grand Prior Archbishop Alois

Kothgasser, Emeritus Archbishop of Salzburg, more than 90 people (members of the Order, relatives and friends) took part in this pilgrimage. Spiritual support was provided, in addition to Mgr



Kothgasser, by the brothers of our Order, Mgr Paul Iby, Bishop Emeritus of Eisenstadt, Abbot Raimund Schreier, Father Christian Feurstein, the Provost Ernst Pucher, Father Rudolf Schütz and the Master of Ceremonies Mgr Ewald Kiener. The purpose of the pilgrimage was to lead us to the origins of the Christian faith, the roots of the Order

of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and the Mother Church of Jerusalem. During the pilgrimage, according to the mission of the Order, which is to support Christians in the Holy Land, the director of the Regional Council for the Holy Land, Peter Stögerer, was able to distribute considerable funds.

In order to attract people's attention to the charitable commitment of the Equestrian Order in the Holy Land, at Christmas and Easter the Order sells products made in the Holy Land (wood sculptures, olive oil etc.).

The annual Investiture ceremony, which took place this year in Styria, and in which there were 320 participants, was another highlight of the Order in Austria.

The director of 'Caritas' in Jerusalem, Abuna Raed Abusahlia, thanked the chapter assembly of this day of celebration for the dynamic support the Equestrian Order brings to the Latin Patriarchate, he also transmitted greetings from the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Guests and members of the Order of nine European lieutenancies attended the Investi-

ture, with, at their head, the Lieutenant of Slovenia, Professor Marjana Kos, and Lieutenant of Eastern Spain, Enric Mas López.

The Order in Austria is experiencing a pleasing growth, which contributes significantly to the intense life of the Order. Dames and Knights meet regularly in the eleven existing Local Delegations. Furthermore, what is also important is the contact between the Local delegations, and with Local delegations from neighbouring countries. Thus, in 2014 we held a pilgrimage on foot from Bregenz to Einsiedeln in Switzerland. Members of the Local Delegations of Bregenz and Innsbruck, with friends, made the pilgrimage of 100km on foot during the weekend of Corpus Christi. In Rapperswil, the pilgrims also attended the "Meeting of Saint Peter and Saint Paul" of the Local Delegations of Saint Gallen, of the regions of Chur and Zurich.

POLSKA (POLAND)

MIECHÓW, THE "POLISH JERUSALEM", IS BEING REBORN

When describing the current activities of the Polish Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, we need to go back to 2013, when the commemoration of the 850th anniversary of bringing the Canons Regular, Custodians of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem to Poland was inaugurated in Miechów, near Kraków. It was for this purpose that the Polish Canon Guardians ("Bożogrobcy"), under the Lieutenancy of J.E. Karol Bolesław Szlenkier, Knight Commander with Star, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In the same year, His Eminence Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, Metropolitan Archbishop of Warsaw, was appointed to the office of Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of the Order in Poland. His Eminence Cardinal Nycz replaced Cardinal Józef Glemp, Primate Emeritus of Poland.

The investiture of new mem-

bers of the Order took place in Kielce Cathedral on 7 June 2014. A special mass was held to celebrate the Investiture Ceremony. His Eminence Cardinal Kazimierz Ryczon Knight Commander, Bishop Ordinary of Kielce, officiated. The Ceremony was preceded by a Rite of Vigil Prayer on 6 June, led by His Eminence Mgr Piotr Skucha, Auxiliary Bishop of Sosnowiec, in Saint Wojciech's Parish Church in Kielce.

The Great Prayer of the Canon Guardians, ceremonially proclaimed on the way to celebrating 2000 years since the Resurrection, was incorporated into the Order during the Eucharist officiated by Mgr Zygmunt Zimowski in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Miechów on 15 June 2014. In order to prepare for this anniversary, which is so special to the Church, Bishops and priests have held masses in the Miechów Sanctuary (which belongs to the Order of



Logo of the 3rd "Jerusalem Days" in Miechów.

the Holy Sepulchre) every month since that time, and will continue to do so until 2033. The Eucharist will be supplemented by visiting the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and praying for peace in the Holy Land.

The visit of the Patriarch of Jerusalem at Miechów

The 3rd Miechów Jerusalem Days were held on 6-7 September 2014. His Beatitude Mgr Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and Grand Prior of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, came to Poland for the occasion. Knights and Dames from the Polish Lieutenancy, along with delegations from the Lieutenancies of Austria, England and Wales, participated in the ceremonies. Polish Canon Guardians maintain the tradition begun by Prince Jaxa, the crusader who brought the Order to Poland 850 years ago. Miechów, the “Polish Jerusalem”, is being reborn as one of Europe’s foremost pilgrimage centres.

Special mention should be made of the substantial amount of work that has been done on the most important religious sites in the Holy Land

since 2009 under the patronage of the Polish Lieutenancy of the Order. The first such gift for the Earthly Motherland of Christ was the modernisation of the lighting in the Church of Saint Catherine of Alexandria in Bethlehem, which adjoins the Church of the Nativity. The donor was Stanisław Osmenda Knight Commander, a company owner from Miechów. New floodlights were installed in Saint Joseph’s Church in Nazareth and San Salvador Church in Jerusalem in early 2013. The accompanying restoration work was carried out by a company owned by Knight Aleksander Piotrowski, who also renovated the Seventh Station of the Cross as a gift from his family. Floodlights and a sound system have been installed in the Church of All Nations, along with the Garden of Olives, in preparation for the pilgrimage of Pope Francis to the Holy Land. One of the greatest challenges the Polish specialists faced was the work on the lighting in the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. This was completed on 18 October 2014.

Jacek Rutkowski

Commander

Secretary to the Lieutenancy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Poland

PORTUGAL

A HISTORIC YEAR

For the Portuguese Lieutenancy, the year 2014 was rich in major events. On 13 and 14 March, was held the funeral of His Eminence the Emeritus Patriarch of Lisbon, D. José Policarpo, Emeritus Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of Portugal. Because of his close links with our Order, the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre were invited to his funeral and had the privilege of forming a guard of honor, escorting his coffin during the whole procession from the Cathedral to San Vicente de Fora where his body was buried. This event was widely publicized by the media.

In May, Portugal was honored to receive the visit of His Beatitude the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr. Fouad Twal, to preside over the ceremonies of the Sanctuary of Fatima (12 and 13) and to participate in a symposium organized by the

Lieutenancy of Portugal and the Portuguese Catholic University on the situation of Christians in the Holy Land and the Middle East. During his visit, the Portuguese Government awarded His Beatitude the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit for the important humanitarian services he has rendered.

Also in May, a group of twenty-six pilgrims, made up of Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy of Portugal, as well as by friends of the Order, accompanied Pope Francis during his Apostolic Visit to the Holy Land. Similarly to what happened during the pilgrimage of Pope Benedict XVI, the Portuguese Delegation of the Order was the largest.

On 18 and 19 October, took place the visit to Portugal of His Eminence Cardinal Edwin



Procession of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre at the international Marian Shrine of Fatima, during the ceremonies presided over by His Beatitude the Latin Patriarch Mgr Fouad Twal on 13 May 2014.

O'Brien, the second visit of a Grand Master of the Order in our country, to preside, in Coimbra, the Ceremonies of Investiture of 19 new members of the Order, on the occasion of the foundation of the Delegation of Centre Portugal of the Lieutenancy.

Finally, in November, facing the terrible situation experienced in the Holy Land and the Middle East, and firmly believing that prayer is the way to unity and peace, the Lieutenancy of Portugal

on the recommendation of the Grand Master, with the commitment and participation of the Grand Prior, His Eminence the Patriarch of Lisbon and the religious leaders of the various Jewish, Orthodox and Islamic Communities, followed the example of the meeting organized by Pope Francis in June and organized a Prayer meeting for Peace in the Middle East at the Hieronymites Monastery on 19 November in Lisbon.

On 31 December, after these events, the functions as Lieutenant of Portugal of His Excellency Gonçalo Figueiredo de Barros, Knight Commander with Star, came to an end.

PUERTO RICO

A SPIRITUAL “JOURNEY” WHICH COULD WELL INSPIRE THE WHOLE ORDER

“**W**hy is it that we meet only two to three times a year? Why does it seem that we are separated even when we share a same faith, a same attitude of charity, the same Christian val-

ues...?”. Faced with these questions, Santiago Ramos, Lieutenant of Puerto Rico, asked the Holy Spirit for guidance and conceived the idea of establishing, formally, in his Lieutenancy a program for



From left to right: Santiago Ramos, Lieutenant of Puerto Rico, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, and the Vice Governor Patrick Powers during the visit of the Grand Master to Puerto Rico.

Spiritual Enrichment in the life of each Knight and Dame of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. We had to look for a structured agenda of devotional group events that would rekindle the Catholic faith in a series of encounters throughout the year, in which members could come together (at no cost), in an event with spiritual and religious content that would awaken the collective mind and stimulate the members to present themselves in prayer before the Lord as a group.

Thus was born the “Journeys to the Devotions ...”. The ellipsis means there will be a series of Novenas related to some Special Devotions. We began with a Novena dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which has been held on the first Friday of every month, for nine months. It is based on the Promises of Jesus Christ to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. In synthesis, the Novena promises, among other benefits, that it “will concede

to all persons who receive Holy Communion, for nine consecutive first Fridays of the month, the grace of the final penance; they will not die in disgrace, not without receiving the sacraments. My Divine Heart will be their safe haven in this last moment”.

Novenas to grow in faith together

Novenas are an excellent way to receive many benefits: first of all they allow members of the Lieutenancy to meet voluntarily, at least nine more times a year. There are no extraordinary expenses since all that is required is promotion of the novena in order to encourage participation and assistance. Furthermore, members feel attracted to attend and to invite their families and possible candidates to join the Order. Finally, what is important is that our brethren are encouraged by the Twelve Promises of this very special Novena.

This Novena lasted nine months. The Lieutenancy now continues the series with other Novenas, such as the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Mary, the Novena of the Divine Providence, the Novena of the Holy Spirit, the Novena to the Guardian Angels and the Novena for the Souls in Purgatory. It is a structured program. Not all Novenas last nine months. There are novenas of nine weeks, nine days or nine instances of prayer throughout one day. The objective is to encourage Knights and Dames to, voluntarily, and in a very personal way within a group setting, turn their attention to a particular Novena that they find attractive, and which enriches their spiritual life in a special way.

But there is more: Novenas are not private activities exclusive to members of the Order. The Catholic community in general is also invited to participate.

In Puerto Rico, we chose the most important cities of the island: San Juan, Ponce, and Mayaguez. On the Novena days, in these three cities, almost simultaneously, we celebrate the Novena and Mass of the day. In this way we foster the spirit of union and collective participation between the faithful of the three cities.

We recommend, without reserve, to all the Lieutenancies of the world to develop their own program of “Journeys to the Devotions ...”.

AN INTENSE YEAR MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIEUTENANCY

2014 opened for the Scottish Lieutenancy with a retreat at the beautiful convent of the Schoenstatt Sisters. The convent and chapel nestle at the foot of the Campsie Hills just to the north of Glasgow. This situation is ideal for reflection and prayer. The weekend retreat had as Spiritual Director Rev Michael McMahon, a clerical Knight of the Lieutenancy.

In May, 30 Knights, Dames and friends led by the Grand Prior, Archbishop Emeritus Mario Conti and Lieutenant Ritchie Greig led a pilgrimage to Bavaria – specifically Regensburg. There is a strong Scottish connection between Scotland and Bavaria when priests and monks from Scotland contributed greatly to the development of the church in Bavaria. There is also a connection with Scotland's post-reformation saint – Saint John Ogilvie – and Bavaria. The pilgrimage was a great success due in no small part to the direction of Dr. Hermann Reidel – a Bavarian Knight – who put his vast knowledge and expertise at our disposal, en-

abling us to visit churches and buildings and giving us the benefit of his knowledge of the ecclesiastical history of the region. Bridges were then built between Scotland and Bavaria.

For Corpus Christi, members of the Lieutenancy joined the parishioners of Corpus Christi Church for Mass. This parish is the parish of the Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Michael Conroy Knight Commander. Knights and Dames mixed with the first communicants to everyone's enjoyment.

In the same month, Knights and Dames attended the service wherein Bishop Toal Knight Commander with Star, Bishop of Argyll was enthroned as Bishop of Motherwell.

September marked the 25th year of the founding of the Scottish Lieutenancy which was marked by the Vigil and Investiture in Saint Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow, where three new Knights joined the Order. Also in September, fifteen members joined a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with

Photo taken during the pilgrimage of the Lieutenancy to Regensburg (Bavaria), after visiting a local church.



four of these receiving their pilgrim shells at the Patriarchate. The highlight of the pilgrimage was a visit to Aboud where we joined Our Lady of Sorrows Parish for Sunday Mass.

In October, the Lieutenancy celebrated Mass in Motherwell Cathedral in honour of Our Lady of Palestine with the celebrant Bishop Toal Knight

Commander with star.

In November, Mass for deceased members was celebrated in the Chapel Royal, Falkland Palace – the hunting palace of the Scottish Stuart kings. The ancient chapel was packed to capacity with a robed congregation and the Cecilian choir led by Kevin Veal, Knight Commander with Star.

SLOVENIA

KNIGHTS AND DAMES FULLY ENGAGED IN THE LIFE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

On the last weekend in March the Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy had a regular annual spiritual retreat. We retired to *St. Joseph's Home* in the vicinity of the town Celje which is an excellent place for small groups to have spiritual activities in a peaceful and natural environment. Father Franci Seniãar, a Franciscan friar, took us on a path of profound spirituality and retreat from temporal concerns. Father Franci co-operated with the

Slovenian Lieutenancy in the past and is acquainted with the spiritual needs of the members of our Order. Candidates for the next investiture were also invited to our spiritual retreat. The participants returned to their homes enriched by this experience.

From 12 October to 14 October, the members of the Lieutenancy of Finland went on a pilgrimage to some holy places in Slovenia and in the Austrian Kärnten. They kindly invited Slovene Knights and



Dames to join them. Together we visited two Marian shrines.

First, we visited The Basilica of St. Mary Help of Christians in Brezje, the Slovenian National Marian shrine. We enjoyed the hospitality of the Guardian and Rector of the Basilica Father Dr Robert Bahãiã, a Franciscan friar. During a Holy Mass we made a joint commitment to the Mother of God who guards our Order. The reputation of the altar image of Mary Help of Christians at Brezje is known worldwide.

Pilgrimage in Kärnten, in the footsteps of Saint Modestus

Our pilgrimage also took us to Maria Saal in Kärnten. This ancient Sanctuary is nowadays located within the state boundary of Austria, however, it is both culturally and historically of utter importance to Slovene Christians as well. From there, the Irish missionary Saint Modestus expanded Christianity in the 8th century to the present terri-

tory of Slovenia. The Finnish and Slovene knights were warmly welcomed under the vaults of the magnificent Gothic church by a delegation of Knights of the Austrian Lieutenancy in Kärnten. The meeting of all three Lieutenancies took place in an amiable and relaxed atmosphere which is one of the spiritual guidelines of modern Knights. The next day, after having returned to Slovenia, the Finnish guests visited Ljubljana, especially the famous baroque Seminary Library and the cathedral, the domicile church of the Slovene Lieutenancy.

On 23 November 2014, a new Archbishop of Ljubljana, the metropolitan Franciscan Father Stanislav Zore was consecrated by the hands of the Apostolic Nuncio in Slovenia, Mgr Dr Juliusz Janusz. The Slovene Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre were also invited to this highly important ceremony during which we carried in our prayers the intentions of the local church in which we are fully engaged.

Marjana Kos
Lieutenant

USA EASTERN

THE NORTH AMERICAN LIEUTENANTS, WHO REPRESENT HALF OF THE ORDER'S MEMBERS, MEET IN NEW YORK

On 5-8 June 2014, the annual North American Lieutenants Meeting was hosted by His Excellency Raymond Teatum, Lieutenant, and by the Eastern USA Lieutenancy in New York City. The 15 Lieutenants of North America (Canada, the United States and Puerto Rico) attended. The combined membership of their lieutenancies represents approximately half of the Order's members worldwide. The meeting also drew members from the Grand Magisterium, including Governor General, Professor Agostino Borromeo and Giorgio Moroni-Stampa, the Vice Governor General of Europe. The Order's Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien celebrated the Masses and presided over the meetings which were arranged by His Excellency Patrick Powers, Vice Governor General of North America.

In April, the Lieutenancy organised a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Eighty five members, family and friends participated. They visited and prayed at the Holy Sites and the Latin Patriarchate where the members received the Pilgrim Shell.

In addition to pilgrimages for its members, the Lieutenancy sponsors annual pilgrimages for seminarians from dioceses within the Eastern Lieutenancy. The Seminarian Study Program, which was established in 2010, thus far has sent 60 seminarians to the Holy Land, as well as Rome and Turkey. In July, the Lieutenancy sponsored its fourth Pilgrimage for twenty seminarians from each diocese. Before their departure, a Mass and dinner were held in their honor at the Archdiocesan Center in New York City.

On 26 and 27 September, the Lieutenancy held



Seminarians during an educational visit to the Holy Land sponsored by the USA Eastern Lieutenancy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

its annual Vigil and Investiture, at which time 104 new members (23 priests, 48 men and 33 women) were welcomed into the Order, and 139 members were promoted in rank (20 Priest Knights, 72 Knights and 47 Dames). On 21 June, the candidates attended a Day of Formation prior to their Investiture.

Throughout 2014, members of the Lieutenancy participated in many other events some of which were at regional level. They included Lenten and Advent Days of Recollection, retreats, priestly and episcopal ordinations, church dedications and rededications, installations of diocesan bishops, and various other diocesan and archdiocesan events.

USA MIDDLE ATLANTIC

PRAYER LIFE IS AT THE HEART OF THE VOCATION OF THE KNIGHTS AND DAMES

The Lieutenancy was honored to have the Cardinal Grand Master in Baltimore, Maryland for our Investiture Weekend on 31 October and 1 November, which coincidentally was the weekend of celebrations for the 225th anniversary of the

Archdiocese of Baltimore and the 20th anniversary of the Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy.

The Knights and Dames held a vigil at St. Mary's Seminary, the first Catholic Seminary established in the United States. The Grand Prior,

Archbishop William E. Lori, Knight Commander with Star, presided and presented promotion insignia to thirty Knights and Dames, conferred the Pilgrim Shell on five Knights and Dames, and awarded the Silver Palm of Jerusalem. During his homily, the Grand Prior spoke of the historic significance of the Seminary and the struggles of the first Catholics in the United States, linking those challenges to those the American Church faces today regarding religious freedom and the distress the Christians are experiencing in the Holy Land.

In America's first cathedral in Baltimore

The Rite of Investiture and Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, America's first Cathedral. The Grand Master invested thirteen Clergy Knights including an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, nineteen Knights and fourteen Dames. In his homily,

the Cardinal Grand Master urged the newly invested members to recall the words of the Knights Prayer: Knights and Dames are to be free from egoism and cowardice, and are called to be ambassadors of peace and love. All present, but especially the Knights and Dames, were reminded of the importance of our prayer life and that we should be attentive to our spiritual growth, drawing ever closer to Christ.

At the White-tie Dinner, the Cardinal Grand Master shared, more intimately, details of the recent devastation in the Holy Land and the dire situation of the families who live there. These moments of poignancy moved many present physically and in the depths of their being – we are united with our fellow Christians, and suffer with them. The Lieutenancy was honored to receive the Cardinal's Award in recognition of service to the Church of the Archdiocese of Washington from Cardinal Donald Wuerl, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington.



USA NORTHEASTERN

WELCOME THE CHILDREN: KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF THE FUTURE!

On Sunday 5 January 2014, to celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord, the Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem/North Eastern Lieutenancy in the Diocese of Portland held their first annual Children's Christmas Gathering. The 14 children in attendance brought gifts of school supplies, made angel crafts, and decorated Christmas cards to be sent to the children who attend a school in Jordan sponsored by the Order. The event included a 'Twelfth Night' cake, through which three kings were chosen, and after which the three kings, following the star of Bethlehem, lead a procession to the Christ Child who lay beneath the Christmas Tree. There, 'the kings' offered their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and the children presented their gifts of school supplies. The celebration ended with the traditional Epiphany Blessing of Chalk for use in Epiphany House Blessings for the New Year.



Taking Cardinal O'Brien's words at the Consulta to heart regarding involving more young families in the Order, the USA Northeastern Lieutenancy, is going a step further by engaging a second generation at the same time – our Knights and Dames of the future!

USA NORTHWESTERN AND WESTERN

TWO AMERICAN LIEUTENANCIES IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HAWAIIAN SAINTS

The Annual Meeting, "Saints in Paradise", ("Na Kana I Hawai'i") was a most memorable event.

The theme for the weekend was chosen to reflect the life and work of St. Damien of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, as well as St. Mother Marianne of the Sisters of Saint Francis of Syracuse, New York. Damien's legacy of heroic charity among the lepers of Kalaupapa was selflessly carried on, for almost thirty-five years after his death, by Mother Marianne. These patron saints of Hawaii were chosen as outstanding mod-

els as we, Knights and Dames, encounter the need for help for the suffering faithful in the Holy Land. Furthermore, each of the liturgies and speakers illustrated how, being united in Faith, we must fulfill this obligation to our brothers and sisters of the land sanctified by Our Lord's own earthly life and work.

Six hundred and fifty Knights and Dames of the Northwestern and Western Lieutenancies gathered on the spectacular grounds of the Sheraton Waikiki from 3 to 6 October. The Grand Master, Cardinal



Edwin O'Brien, was joined by Cardinals William Levada and Roger Mahony and 12 Archbishops and Bishops in celebrating liturgies deep in spirituality, and incorporating the beauty of the Islands in music and dance. Brother Peter Bray, FSC, Vice Chancellor of Bethlehem University, delivered a very informative and moving report on the status of the University and the conditions in Palestine. It was greeted with sustained applause by those attending the Educational Forum.

An inner commitment renewed

The Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace, which is honored as the oldest Catholic cathedral in continuous use in the United States, was a most fitting setting for the Retreat for the sixty-five Knights and Ladies who were admitted to the Order for the Western Lieutenancy. The twenty-two Knights and Dames invested for the Northwestern Lieutenancy were officially introduced to the Order at the Vigil Ceremony in the Church of St. Augustine by the Sea, with an inspirational homily by Archbishop Alexander Sample. The Promotions and Memorial Mass was celebrated on

Saturday morning by Mgr Larry Silva, the Local Ordinary and Honorary Chair of the 2014 Meeting. Saturday night found the attendees reveling in a Luau with a feast of traditional Hawaiian dishes, and entertained by magnificent native dancing.

His Eminence Cardinal O'Brien initiated the Sunday events with a thorough update on the current condition of the Order and its work in the Holy Land. The Grand Master also presided at the Investiture Mass on Sunday afternoon. The banquet on Sunday night was a truly great closing to the weekend. In the setting of the Grand Ballroom, the beautifully attired ladies and formally dressed gentlemen, although indulging in delicious cuisine, never had far from their minds the real reason for being a Knight and Dame of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and for coming together, namely, to renew their inner commitment to the work of the Order.

The 2014 Joint Meeting of the Northwestern and Western Lieutenancies went down in history as a time of sanctification, enrichment and unification.

Thompson M. Faller
USA Northwestern Lieutenancy

“JERUSALEM, CAPITAL OF HUMANITY”

*The life and thoughts of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem
in an interview in book form*

Born in Madaba, in the Bedouin tribe of Al Uzaizat, fifth of nine children, the current Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Fouad Twal, at the beginning of his priestly life probably did not expect to live in so many countries and to directly experience the wealth of charismata and cultures of the Catholic Church.

Mgr Twal is accustomed to living his ecclesial ministry in areas where Christians are a minority. The book-interview “Jerusalem, Capital of Humanity”, published in Italian by Nicola Scopelliti for the publishing house *La Scuola*, begins with his memories of thirteen years as Bishop of Tunis. “The announcement of the Gospel in a country that is not your own should start with charity, through the institutions, people and especially with a spirit of service, as Jesus said: ‘This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how’”. (Mk 4,26-27). (p. 26)

Going back a little - in 1966, the young Fouad was ordained in the Co-Cathedral of Jerusalem. He began his studies with twenty-two other seminarians. He was the only one to reach ordination. The excitement and joy of this day still accompany the Patriarch today. In the following years, Father Twal commences the diplomatic career that will lead

him to exercise his ministry in very different countries, such as Honduras, Egypt, Germany and Peru. Despite his diplomatic duties, he tells us, “I have never forgotten my priestly mission. I dedicated my free time to a parish where I would celebrate Mass, hear confession and celebrate baptism. I always preached during Holy Week. I have, and have always had, a great thirst for my priestly functions” (p. 54).



Fouad Twal

*Gerusalemme
capitale
dell'umanità*

Among the memories that His Beatitude shares in the book, a large section is reserved for pilgrimages of the Pontiffs: that of Paul VI when he was a seminarian and was asked to provide the team of stewards; that of John Paul II to Tunisia when he was Bishop of Tunis, and then that of Benedict XVI to the Holy Land when he greeted the Pope as Patriarch. In addition to all these events, he would, of course, add the recent pilgrimage of Pope Francis in 2014.

A considerable part of the interview is dedicated to the Holy Land, its reality and its people. The Church of Jerusalem is always called by His Beatitude “Mother Church of all Churches”, a name he particularly likes. If we ask him if Christians should live through Calvary or the Resurrection, Mgr Twal has no doubt: “It’s sad to say that we are the Church of Calvary. The Middle East, entirely, is now a Calvary because of the political situation, of the occupation, the division of Christians, and emi-

gration. But it is also true that we, as Christians, must not forget that the empty Sepulchre is a sign of Resurrection and Hope” (p. 82). It is perhaps this way of speaking that characterizes the pages in which, on the one hand he denounces the situation, and at the same time, invites Hope: feet on the ground and eyes towards the sky.

Five words remain engraved in the heart and mind of the reader that delves into this interview: education, family, ministry, and especially peace and justice.

Youth education is a critical priority for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, because the school is considered the best way to “get the kids off the street and train them as good Christians” (p. 131). And further, schools allow contact with Christian and Muslim families and become a great place to learn to accept others.

The importance of the family is often underlined by the Patriarch. The family, the small domestic church, is at the centre of the parish priest’s evangelization work. It is the “model for any kind of society” (p. 167) and has as its model the family of Nazareth. In these pages, Mgr Twal gives advice

to parents, and talks about a project close to his heart: helping young people to start their own family. He invites dioceses around the world to contribute to the purchase of homes in the Holy Land for young married couples. The theme of the family is always linked to a pastoral action: we must support families in their path and visit them regularly.

The “leitmotif” common to all of his answers is that of a call for peace and justice in the Holy Land. When asked if one day there will ever be peace between Israelis and Palestinians, Mgr Twal responded that he is well aware of the obstacles to achieving peace, but despite these he continues to believe. “Neither the aggressor nor the aggressed have the power to impose peace. Peace is a gift of God. War does not produce peace, prisons do not guarantee stability. Peace is above all a gift of the Lord” (p. 84-85). He concludes with an invitation to Christians: “Christians are called to contribute by the example of Jesus, of reconciliation and peace through forgiveness and generosity” (p. 85). ■

E. D.

A GUIDE TO JERUSALEM

Jerusalem, a guide to the biblical city, ancient and medieval

Editions Cerf have just published, posthumously, a French edition of the excellent book by Jerome Murphy O’Connor, originally published in English under the title “Keys to Jerusalem: collected essays” (Oxford University Press 2012). The author was an Irish Dominican, and Professor at the Ecole archéologique et biblique de Jérusalem.

The subtitle in French would suggest a tourist guide of the Old City of Jerusalem. But that’s not the case, though the reader is invited to survey the sites and streets full of history with someone who obviously has extensive experience of wandering in this place.

Jerome Murphy-O’Connor, a great Dominican scholar, Professor at the Biblical School of

Jerusalem, uses his vast experience, incorporating his many skills, in this “visit”. His familiarity with these places is primarily as a historian following the traces of the occupation of the site since the Bronze Age (3000 BC). How was this small village, at nearly 800 meters altitude, surrounded by hills, without resources, particularly water, and remote from trade routes, able to attract and establish such populations?

If history does not answer all the questions, it is the archaeologist who takes over by detecting successive layers of a city that was destroyed several times (among others, by the Persians in 586 BC and in 71 AD by the Romans). So, on a detour, the visit will raise current controversial issues. Thus, is the esplanade called the “Temple”, the Arabic “Haram esh-Sharif”, really the site of Solomon’s

temple or that of the Antonia fortress of the Romans? In either case, the land claims of the protagonists, Jews and Muslims, today lead to very different conclusions!

Historian and archaeologist, the author is also, and perhaps above all, a biblical scholar and theologian. His finest pages are probably those that evoke the biblical sites (Mount Moriah, Mount Zion, the source of Gihon in the valley of Kidron...) and the main evangelical sites: the Temple of Solomon, Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, and the Cenacle. On one occasion, he departs from his role as a guide in a masterly study of the Gospels to decipher “what really happened in Gethsemane”.

The historian-theologian is at his best in a long chapter on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Very rigorously, he demonstrates how the early Christian communities preserved the memory of the site, even though the Romans had displaced the Jewish population and built at this location their Capitoline Temple. And how, from Constantine, quarries were found, tombs and early Christian remains under Roman buildings. The authenticity of the Holy Sepulchre site leaves no doubt, when so many Gospel episodes are sometimes vague on this subject and claimed in the name of traditions born more of legend than histo-

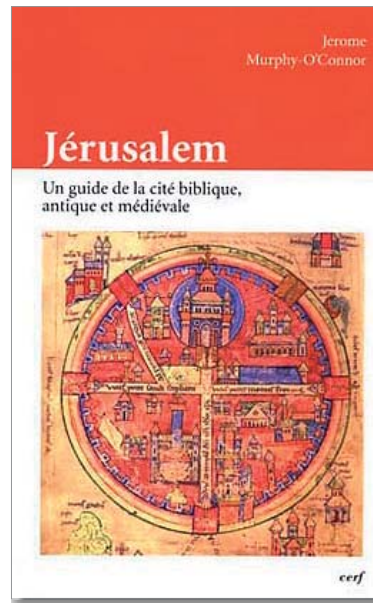
ry ... Finally, the flavour of the adventures surrounding the story of the restoration of the dome of the Holy Sepulchre (1955-1997), sometimes “Oriental” in nature, will be appreciated. In a difficult political context (Arab West Bank first, then State of Israel) and ancestral conflicting interests among Latin Christians, Greeks, and Armenians ...

it was a struggle to carry out the excavations and restorations which one enjoys today.

The tour ends with a systematic visit of the old Christian quarter of the Old City and the evocation of the Hospital of Saint John and the Order of the Hospitallers. Divided into four quarters (Jewish, Christian, Armenian, Muslim), the Old City of Jerusalem still concentrates, within a few acres, one of the most extraordinary testimonies of a long succession of peoples: Canaanites, Hebrews, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Latin Crusaders, Arabs, Ottomans, British, Israelis ...

This small village which became a city, has never ceased to be coveted and claimed. And even if the etymology tells us that “Yeru” means “foundation” and “shalem” a Canaanite god of dusk, after reading such a book we must prefer the more traditional translation, more full of hope than history: “The House of Peace”.

■
Claude Popin





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