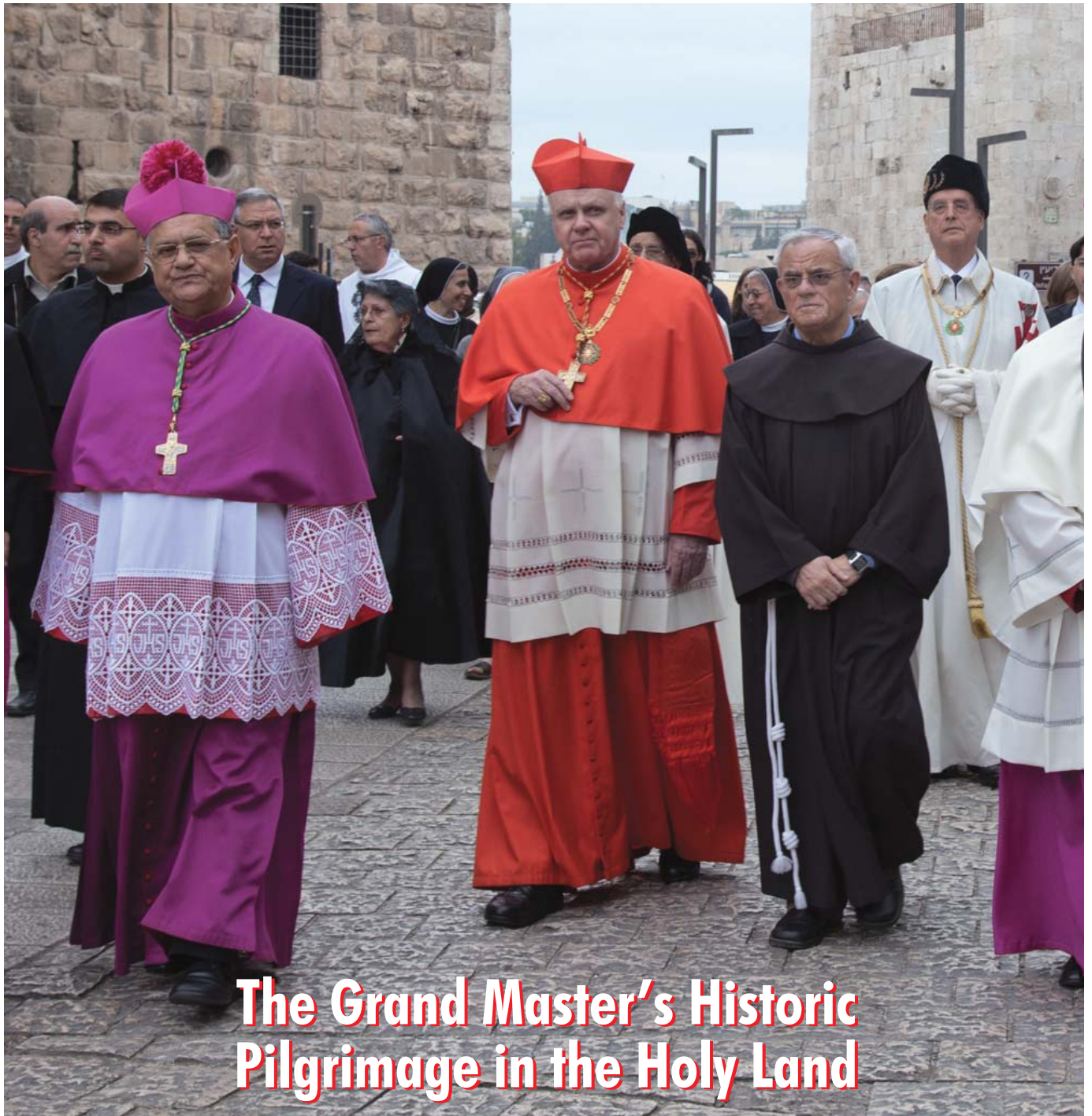




ANNALES

ORDINIS EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

2012



**The Grand Master's Historic
Pilgrimage in the Holy Land**

VATICAN CITY
2013



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Jerusalem – the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien proceeds from the Jaffa Gate for his solemn
entrance into the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. He has just received an official welcome from the
Holy City. Near him (in the photo) are the Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Order,
the Vicar of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, Father Artemio Vitores, and the Governor
General Agostino Borromeo.

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IN THE SIGN OF CONTINUITY

“ANNALES” comes back to life! With the same pulsation, the same intent, the same aspirations that marked its birth in the 1990’s when it was welcomed with pleasure all over the Order and at all levels; so much so that it was missed and there were many requests to bring it back. Many of our members saved their copies; others used them to present our institution to those who wanted to be closer to it or even join it. The hoped-for work of its rebirth in the sign of continuity, which was a decision of the Grand Magisterium, once again availed of the valuable collaboration of its Co-Director, Graziano Motta, who was called back to place at the service of the Order a unique professional experience, not only in the field of Catholic journalism, but also in his knowledge of the Holy Land where he had lived for almost thirty years,

during a large part of which he was actively involved in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The process began with the revisiting of the periodical “AD”, and in fact its latest issue, that of last year, outlined and anticipated its general lines. The involvement of the same art design firm and the same graphics firm was meant to show a continuity that nonetheless assimilates the technical and stylistic updating. The life of the Order was naturally given pre-eminence: the two big events of the year were, in fact, the consistory of Pope Benedict XVI in which Grand Master Edwin O’Brien was created a Cardinal and then his pilgrimage in

In the life of the Order two great events marked the beginning and the end of 2012, with the Grand Master as the protagonist of both: on 18 February he was created a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church with the diaconate church of San Sebastiano al Palatino; his first pilgrimage to Jerusalem, with his solemn entrance into the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on 27 November. Thus he has been fully inserted into the Church of Rome, among the Holy Father’s closest collaborators in service to the Holy Land; and in venerating the tomb of the Risen Lord, he highlighted the centuries-old bond of the members of the Order with that tomb and thus renewed their dedication to the support of the Mother Church of Jerusalem.

the Holy Land with his solemn entrance into the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre and his making contact with the reality that is the Order’s *raison d’être*.

The sign of continuity is offered by Jerusalem, which receives special attention because of the concomitance of four events deserving due attention; first of all the Study Week dedicated to the city by the *Fondazione Paolo VI* at Gazzada, which brought together scholars and researchers of great renown; we are honored to publish the introductory report given by Professor Cesare Alzati, scientific director. Then there is the millennium of the city of Sansepolcro – built by two enlightened pilgrims not only to perpetuate the meaning of Jerusalem, but also to keep it alive in time – which was rendered more solemn by the visit of the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI and his memorable discourse. Then there was the

seminar at Acquapendente, a city in Tuscia on the medieval *Via Francigena*; thanks to the research of an Israeli historian, H.E. Mordechai Levy, Ambassador of Israel to the Holy See, it can claim the title of housing in its cathedral the most ancient reproduction of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. (For this reason Sansepolcro and Acquapendente continue to be centres of historical attraction and a source of spirituality for the members of the Order).

And finally the continuity with the past of “Annales” cannot be better highlighted than by mentioning the fact that this year our confrere George Doty, featured in 1996 in the first volume of “Annales”, was called home to the House of the Father: in fact, it was shortly after the inauguration of the restoration of the *Anastasis*, the rotunda of the Holy Sepulchre, in a unimaginable and unrepeatable ecumenical ceremony. The project, which was stalled for several decades, became a splendid reality thanks to the acceptance of his generous and disinterested offer that was made at the conclusion of exhausting diplomatic negotiations by the President of the “Pontifical Mission for Palestine” at that time, Monsignor Robert Stern.

In the necessary documentation of the projects realized in the Holy Land through the donations of the Knights and Ladies – which this year reached an all-time high – we would point out the monumental parish Church dedicated to *Maria Stella Maris* in the Jordanian city of Aqaba on the Red Sea, which is in a period of impressive demographic and economic growth; and the Catholic secondary school in Rameh, an Israeli town near the border with Lebanon. Because of their importance and the commitment of funds over the years, they are the “crown jewel” of the Latin Patriarchate. The volume has as an appendix two singular accounts: on the scientific front, the dating of the olive trees of Gethsemane – promoted and executed by our confrere Professor Giovanni Gianfrate, which caught the attention of the world’s media; and one on the development of the initiative by Father Raed Abusahlia, enterprising priest of the Patriarchate, who has provided stable work to almost a hundred Palestinian Christian workers through his collaboration with several European Lieutenancies.

Two more contributions deserve mention: that of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, who reflects on the closing document of the Special Assembly for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops, in which our Order was called to participate actively; and the one by our confrere Davor Zovko who proposes for the attention and veneration of the Knights and Ladies Blessed Cardinal Aloiz Stepinac, Commander with Plaque of the Order, recounting his tormented story. For many of us, this is quite a discovery!

Ivan Rebernik
Chancellor

The Grand Master's historic pilgrimage to the Holy Land

CARDINAL O'BRIEN'S SOLEMN ENTRANCE INTO THE BASILICA OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE



In his first official visit to Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jordan, he was accompanied by the Grand Prior, Patriarch Fouad Twal, and by Governor General Agostino Borromeo. An event that, at the beginning of the Year of Faith, is inserted in the dynamic of the new pastoral missions that the Pope had entrusted to him

In front of the chapel containing the empty tomb of Jesus, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien prepares to impart the solemn blessing at the conclusion of the ceremony for his solemn entrance into the Basilica.

“The presence of the Church in the Holy Land, where it has miraculously survived over the centuries under hostile domination, must persevere in bearing witness of its service to the lived Gospel”. This, in substance, is the message of hope and peace proclaimed by the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre upon his arrival in Jerusalem, Monday, 26 November.

He was officially received at the Jaffa Gate, the “Gate of the Friend”, by the Patriarch of Jerusalem of the Latins and Grand Prior of the Order, Fouad Twal, by the Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine and the Nuncio in Israel, Giuseppe Lazzarotto, by the Vicar of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy

Land, Father Artemio Vitores, and by religious and civil dignitaries. Then in procession they went to the nearby co-cathedral of the Patriarchate, where, after reciting together the Creed for the Year of Faith, the Pilgrim shell was solemnly conferred upon him. An enthusiastic crowd accompanied him on his first steps in the Holy City, and Patriarch Twal did not hide his deep joy in giving him the prestigious “shell” reserved to members of the Order in memory of their pilgrimage in the Holy Land.

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

On Tuesday afternoon – after having visited the Greek Orthodox Patriarch and the Armenian Orthodox Patriarch in the morn-

ing – the Grand Master, accompanied by the Grand Prior and Governor General Agostino Borromeo, entered the Sepulchre of the Risen Christ at the end of a fervent procession through the streets of the old city of Jerusalem, opened up by the *kawwas*, guards wearing the traditional uniform that dates back to the time of the Ottoman Empire.

As is stipulated by the *status quo*, the Franciscan Custos of the Holy Land, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, had the honour of welcoming him and leading him in the Basilica of the *Anastasis*, accompanied by many Franciscan religious, “custodians” of this holy place, and by representatives of the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Orthodox Patriarchates. Before the sepulchre up-





A procession led by the “kawwas” (their uniform, from the Ottoman era, is kept because of the “status quo” in Jerusalem) and by the Franciscan friars of the Custody of the Holy Land, accompanied the Cardinal Grand Master to the entrance of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. The procession formed at the Jaffa Gate (in the background in the photo on the previous page). Near him are (l-r): Auxiliary Bishop William Somali; the Latin Patriarch; the Vicar of the Franciscan Custody; the Governor General; our confrere, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, Nuncio in Israel and Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem; a Bishop from the Armenian-Orthodox Patriarchate; Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo, Auxiliary and Vicar of the Latin Patriarch for Israel.

on which our faith in the divine victory over evil and death is founded, Monsignor Twal recalled the centuries-old sentiments that bind the Patriarchate of Jerusalem of the Latins to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, emphasizing the January 1868 message of Pope Pius IX. With this message the Pope entrusted to the Knights the mission of supporting the works and cultural and social institutions of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, in particular through the construction of schools.

“We are particularly grateful for the generous interest in the Holy Land that Your Eminence, the Grand Magisterium, and all the members of the Order display. We accept your support and your solidarity with gratitude. Know that we place our hope, our aspirations and our trust in you”, in few words said the Latin Patriarch, a native of Jordan, which daily faces the countless difficulties of the Eastern Chris-

tians in living and remaining in the land of their ancestors. “Please do not let us down”, Monsignor Twal insisted.

This cry from the heart deeply touched the Grand Master who urged the faithful to imitate the faith of the first Christians and to “show that the sepulchre is empty and that Christ is living”.

THE BETHLEHEM STAGE AND THE INAUGURATION AT THE UNIVERSITY

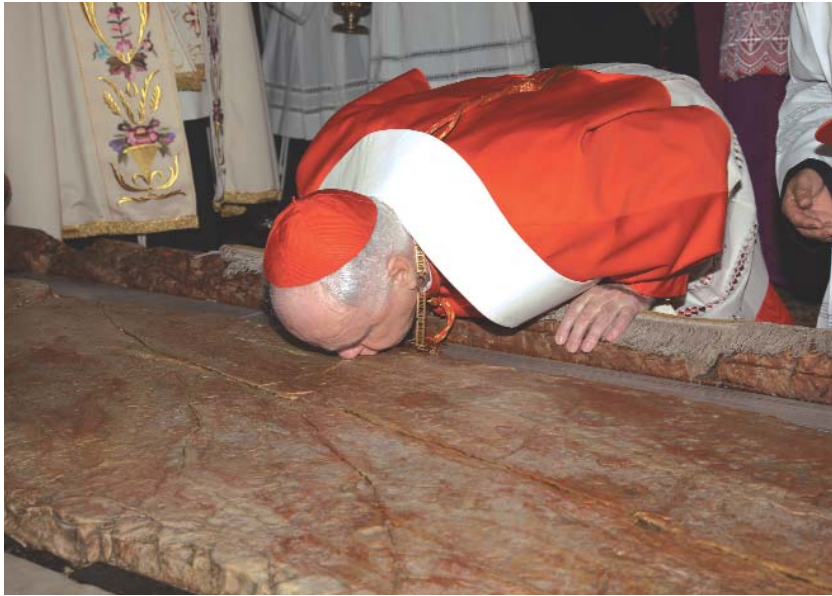
On the third day of his official visit, Cardinal O’Brien went to Bethlehem, south of Jerusalem, first and foremost to pray at the place where Jesus was born and also inaugurate a new building at the Catholic University that had taken two years of work.

Upon his entrance into the Basilica of the Nativity, he was received by the Franciscan Custos, who accompanied him to the Grotto; here he knelt to kiss the star that marks the place of the

Saviour’s birth.

The Grand Master then visited the Catholic University, the first one founded in Palestine in 1965, one of the fruits of Pope Paul VI’s pilgrimage; here he was awaited by more than 500 directors of schools and many professors and teachers from the throughout the region. “Jesus told his disciples to go and teach the whole world. The Brothers of the Christian Schools and their colleagues wonderfully illustrate these words of our Lord, especially in Palestine”, the North American Cardinal stated with gratitude.

During the inauguration, Brother Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of this University that today has 2,600 students and more than 10 thousand graduates, thanked the generous donors of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem who allowed the realization of the new building with eight classrooms equipped with the most modern



technology. He also made mention of the recent violence in the region, noting that “while we are gathered in Bethlehem on this happy occasion to inaugurate the construction of this new building, we join in prayer with the 435 former students and graduates of the Bethlehem University who at Gaza have been struck by

the recent destruction of many of homes and the loss of numerous relatives”.

The Cardinal also wanted to go to the parish of Beit Sahour, east of Bethlehem, where he visited the school and spent time talking to the students of the various classes. Then, not too far away, in the village of Beit Jala,

he went to meet the future priests in formation at the Patriarchal Seminary, listening with emotion to the testimony of one of the 35 seminarians, Bernard, an American Palestinian, who expressed how happy he was to be able to study in the Holy Land to prepare for the priesthood.

TO THE MEETING WITH THE CHILDREN OF RAMEH

Nazareth was the next stop, Thursday 29 November, with a Mass celebrated in the Basilica of the Annunciation and the blessing of a new school in Ramen, in Upper Galilee. Today the school building is a dream come true. It took two years (2009-2011) to finish the work after Pope Benedict XVI blessed the first stone during his pilgrimage in the Holy Land while celebrating Mass in Nazareth on 14 May 2009. On the occasion of the official inau-

The Franciscan custos of the Holy Land, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa introduces the liturgical ceremony at the “Stone of the Anointing” which Cardinal O'Brien prostrates to kiss (photo above). This is a traditional act of veneration that recalls the rite by which Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus placed the body of the Crucified Lord here to anointing it with oils and perfume, according to Jewish custom, before placing him in the tomb.





Festive inauguration of the secondary school of the Latin Patriarchate in Rameh (Upper Galilee). Cardinal O'Brien guides the hand of a child in cutting the traditional ribbon; near him are (right-left) Patriarch Twal, a member of the Druse community, the Greek-Melkite Archbishop emeritus Pierre Mouallem of Akka-St John of Acre, and the Vicar for Israel, Bishop Marcuzzo. In addition to the invited guests, participants included Patriarch emeritus of Jerusalem of the Latins, Michel Sabbah, and members of the Muslim community (photo below).

guration, Druse and Muslim religious participated in the ceremony and the celebrations. Because of many difficulties, mostly bureaucratic in nature, it took no less than 18 years to bring to completion the project, initiated in 1995 by Auxiliary Bishop and Patriarchal Vicar in Israel resident in Nazareth, Monsignor Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo.

Rameh is home to 8 thousand inhabitants, 51% of whom are Christians, 29% Druse and 20% Muslim. The school plays a fundamental role in the city for the unity of the inhabitants: indeed, it was quite moving to see Christians, Muslims and Jews gathered with the Patriarch and Cardinal O'Brien to ask God to bless the school and to grant grace to the teachers and students. This



school, which has 650 students from Rameh and the surrounding area, allows 141 Christian families of the area not to have to move to another place in the region.

During his discourse the Patriarch recalled that the school is not merely a place of learning, but also a place of dialogue between religions and cultures; it must always be at the service of the human person and contribute to the building of new bridges of friendship and love for all, without distinction. Cardinal O'Brien, moved by this concrete religious brotherhood that promotes Islamic-Christian dialogue, said: "I had prepared a written address, but when I saw the crowd, the faithful of different religions living together in joy, when I saw the enthusiasm of the parents and students, I put my written text aside and let my heart speak". As usual, he especially took the role of a pastor most attentive to the little ones, and his presence will certainly affect the history of this region.

"Jesus grew up here, like you", the Grand Master said to the children who joyfully surrounded him. His speech, so filled with goodness, will remain one of the highpoints of this journey and perhaps some new religious vocations will come

from it. "The coming of such an important person to our school is a memorable event, and we are greatly encouraged by the honour he has paid us" one of those responsible for teaching said to the press.

THE MEETING IN JORDAN WITH KING ABDALLAH II

During the last three days of his official journey, the Grand Master went to Jordan, to Patriarch Twal's homeland. At Amman the Cardinal had a meeting with the Vicar of the Latin Patriarch in that country, Archbishop Maroun Lahham, and with some priests; then he went to visit the centre for the disabled dedicated to Our Lady of Peace and to the parish-sponsored outreach works in the town of Zerka. That evening he dined with the priests of the Vicariate. The following day he went to Madaba to visit the new AUM (American University of Madaba), which was the desire of Patriarch Twal, and

to the schools of the Patriarchate supported by the Order. He also visited the famous map mosaic in the Orthodox Church. Last of all, he went on pilgrimage in the footsteps of Moses on Mount Nebo. Returning to Amman, he celebrated Mass in the parish Church of Hashimi. On Sunday, 2 December, Cardinal O'Brien and Patriarch Twal, who accompanied him, were cordially received by the King of Jordan, Abdallah II, who discussed with him various topics of current concern for the Christians in the Middle East.

After having greeted the faithful of the parish of Sweifieh, the Grand Master re-entered Israel in order to return to Rome from the airport at Tel Aviv.

Upon his return to Rome, the heart of the universal Church, he presented at the tomb of Peter all these testimonies of a courageous, consistent and persevering faith being lived out in the land of the Saviour's birth.

François Vayne

Cardinal O'Brien and Patriarch Twal who accompanied him, were received by King Abdallah II of Jordan, who entered into a cordial discussion with them about various timely topics of interest to the Christians in the Middle East.



The Order's great joy and gratitude at the appointment

CONSISTORY, THE POPE CREATES THE GRAND MASTER A CARDINAL



Vatican, 6 January, the Solemnity of the Epiphany. When the Eucharistic celebration in St. Peter's Basilica ends, Benedict XVI goes to his study window for a festive encounter with the faithful who filled the immense piazza and, before the traditional recitation of the Angelus, he makes the surprise announcement that on 18

February he will preside at an ordinary public consistory for the creation of 22 new Cardinals, and reads their names. The seventh one listed is the Archbishop of Baltimore, Edwin O'Brien, Pro-Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

An appointment that is expected, because it is now traditional

for the Holy Father to entrust to the care of a Cardinal the leadership of the ancient chivalric Order that is placed, as we find in the *Annuario Pontificio*, "under the protection of the Holy See" and is a juridical person under Canon Law as well as in Vatican City State. The joy of the Knights and Ladies is as great as their expectation. This is conveyed by the





Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, who expresses his gratitude to the Holy Father for this appointment, and presents to the new prelate best wishes and the devotion in the name of the dignitaries of the Grand Magisterium, the Lieutenants and the Magistral Delegates. A great number of congratulatory messages are sent by members of the Order and from personages and faithful from every continent, in particular from his fellow citizens of the United States of America. The Order is pleased as well by the elevation of five other members to the College of Cardinals: Timothy Michael Dolan and Thomas Christopher Collins, Grand Pri-

ors respectively of the Lieutenancies of New York and Toronto; Giuseppe Bertello, President of the Pontifical Commission of Vatican City State and President of its Governatorate; Giuseppe Betori, Metropolitan Archbishop of Florence, Domenico Calcagno, President of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See.

The highest officials of the Order cannot fail to attend the Consistory: present in Saint Peter's Basilica on Saturday, 18 February are the Grand Prior, the Patriarch of Jerusalem of the Latins, Fouad Twal, and the Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea; Lieutenant General Giuseppe Della

Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto; Governor General, Agostino Borromeo; the Vice Governor Generals, Adolfo Rinaldi, Patrick D. Powers and Giorgio Moroni Stampa; the Ceremonial Officer Francis D. Kelly; the members of the Grand Magisterium: Christa Von Siemens, Joseph E. Spinnato, Pierre Blanchard, the Conde de Rezende Joao de Castro de Mendia, Michael F. Welan, Alberto Consoli Palermo Navarra, Thomas McKiernan; the Assessor of Honor, Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo (who designed the new Cardinal's coat-of-arms); the Chancellor of Honor Monsignor José Dorronsoro; the Dignitaries of



Saint Peter's Basilica. Deeply recollected, Cardinal O'Brien approaches Pope Benedict XVI who will confer the Cardinal's berretta on him.

On the preceding pages the images capture this moment and recount the liturgical ceremony at the altar of the Confessio. Seated behind the eleven cardinals (right) are their closest collaborators; one of them is our confrere Monsignor Adam J. Parker, the Grand Master's secretary.

Honor Aldo Maria Arena, Philippe Husson, Mario Cantuti Castelvetri, Michael R. Earthman and Otto Kaspar; the Lieutenants of England and Wales David Lawrence Gilbert Smith; of Western Spain Juan Garcia Martínez; of Eastern Spain Jacinto de

Maristany y Ibarra; of Ireland, Nicholas Mc Kenna; of Italy Central Saverio Petrillo; of Italy Apennine Central, Giovanni Ricassoli; of Italy Southern Tyrrhenian, Giovanni Napolitano; of Italy Southern Adriatic, Rocco Saltino; of Italy Sicily, Giovanni Russo; of Holland, Godfried J.M. Prieckaerts; of Poland, Karol Szenkier; of Portugal, Goncalo De Medina Figueredo de Bar; of Switzerland, Jean-Pierre Marie de Glutz-Ruchti; of Scotland, Sheriff W. Frank Lunny, of USA Northcentral, Charles H. Foos; of USA Western, William H. Davidson; the Magistral Delegate of the Russian Federation, Yaroslav A. Ternovskiy; representatives from the Lieutenancies of Belgium, France, Eastern Spain, Malta, Hungary and the Principality of Monaco. Several Lieutenancies send delegations, some of them—particularly those from Italy—are composed of tens or even a hundred members. There is also a significant presence of faithful from Baltimore, the Archdiocese of which the Grand Master was pastor and is now Apostolic Administrator, as well as from New York, his birthplace.

The event will also be marked by a reception in honour of the new Cardinal on Monday the 20th at Palazzo della Rovere, decorated as a sign of festivity with tapestries hung from the windows on Via della Conciliazione. With the Governor General at his side, he personally attends to the invited guests: besides the officials of the Grand Magisterium and the Lieutenants, the Dignitaries of Honor, the members of the delegations of

Ladies and Knights who had come to Rome for the occasion, participants included several cardinals, (including one with his same surname, Keith Michael Patrick O'Brien, Archbishop of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of Scotland, and José Manuel Estepa Llaurens, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of Spain West), Archbishops and Bishops, prelates from the United States (including the Rector of the Pontifical North American College, which the Grand Master had attended and later served as rector), diplomats and civil officials. Serving as honour guard at the flag of the Order were members in ceremonial dress from the Lieutenancy of Italy Central; led by their Ceremonial Officer, they also fulfilled other roles in the reception.

The Cardinal has the intense experience of other moments of the Consistory: on the vigil, Friday the 17th, he participates in a day of prayer and reflection on the theme of "Proclamation of the Gospel today, between the *missio ad gentes* and the New Evangelization", which was introduced by a reflection given by his confrere, Archbishop Dolan, which the Pope would describe as "uplifting, joyful and deep"; the reflection day itself was guided by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, focusing on the imminent beginning of the Year of Faith at a time of particular crisis that sees, first and foremost, many Christians far from the life of the community and often confused



The Pope's warm embrace was also a sign of encouragement for the work performed by the Order's 30 thousand members on behalf of their Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

because of the events of history in this period and in a serious crisis of identity and social responsibility”.

On Saturday the 18th in St. Peter's Basilica, shortly before conferring the “red biretta” on the Cardinals, giving them their rings and the titular Church that would mark their insertion into the Church of Rome (the Grand Master is given the diaconate church of San Sebastiano al Palatino), Benedict XVI chooses to recall the revolution caused by Jesus with the words from the Gospel of Mark: (10:44-45): “*Whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many*”. “Words”, he explains that “shed light upon today's public Consistory with a particular intensity. They resound in the depths of the soul and represent an invitation and a re-

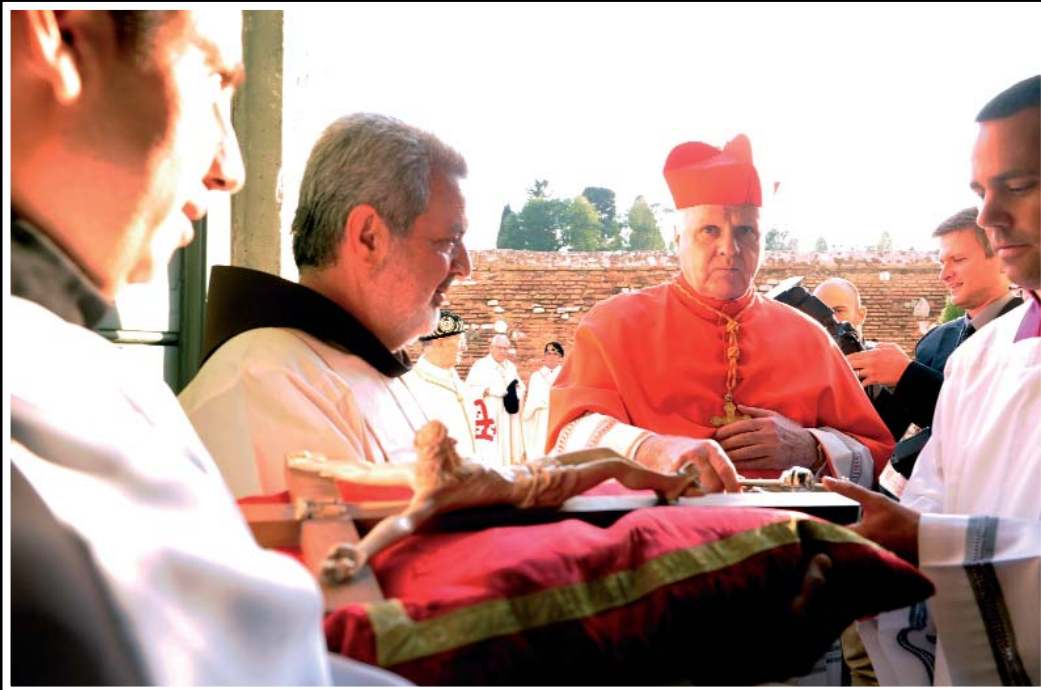
minder, a commission and an encouragement especially for “you”; authentic faith imparts and develops in our daily lives and which is not the type of power and glory which belongs to this world”. Lastly, he recalls that in every time and place there is a struggle between “dominion and service, egoism and altruism, possession and gift, self-interest and gratuitousness”, but “there can be no

On 16 March Pope Benedict XVI conferred the title of Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem on Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, who until that time was Pro-Grand Master. After confirming him a member of the Congregation for Catholic Education he also appointed him to the Congregation for Oriental Churches and to the Pontifical Council “Cor Unum”.

doubt about the road chosen by Jesus”.

Other themes would be elaborated upon by the Holy Father the following day, Sunday the 19th, during the homily at the solemn Mass celebrated with the new Cardinals on the Solemnity of the Chair of St. Peter (which the liturgical calendar marks on 22 February, but whose celebration was anticipated because that date coincided with Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent). The Chair, he says, recalls the famous expression of Saint Ignatius of Antioch that the Church of Rome is “the one who presides in charity”. In truth, the Pope emphasizes, “presiding in faith is inseparably linked to presiding in love”; therefore the Petrine ministry is “a primacy of love in the Eucharistic sense”. Everything in the Church, he continues, rests on faith: love and authority, evangelization and charity, the sacraments and liturgy. “Faith without love would no longer be an authentic Christian faith”, but it is also true that “Love collapses if man no longer trusts in God and disobeys him.” In conclusion the Pope urges all “to remain always united to their pastors, and to the new cardinals as well, to be in communion with the Church”, whose unity “is a divine gift to defend and help grow”; to his “dear brother cardinals” he said that their task in particular is to “bear witness to the joy of Christ's love”.

THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER TAKES POSSESSION OF THE DIACONAL CHURCH OF SAN SEBASTIANO AL PALATINO



Cardinal O'Brien's titular Church is dedicated to Saint Sebastian, a Roman soldier and martyr for the faith, intercessor for all Christians, witnesses of peace, who are persecuted today

There was great excitement on 25 October at the Roman Forum, amid the famous archaeological remains, over an uncommon event: tens of members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, in their white capes, welcomed their Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, near the Church of St. Sebastian on the Palatine Hill when he came

to take possession, during the course of a religious ceremony, of the diaconate title of this church assigned to him by Pope Benedict XVI in the Consistory of 18 February; this appointment also requires a series of canonical steps to confirm his membership in the clergy of Rome.

There was a solemn processional entrance. At the door the Cardinal kisses the Crucifix pre-

sented to him by the Rector of the Church, Father Alvaro Cacciotti OFM who offers him an official salute from the altar. Then the Apostolic Protonotary, Monsignor Nicholas Henry Marie Denis Thevenin, a diplomat in service at the Holy See's Secretariat of State, read the Pontifical Bull of appointment in Latin. This was followed by Mass; concelebrants were the Patriarch of Jerusalem



The Lieutenant General and the Governor General with many members of the Grand Magisterium (photo) and dignitaries of the Order participated in the event which, according to the ceremonial, has as its witness the crucified Christ from the beginning, with the Cardinal's entrance into the church (photo on previous page) to the reading of the Papal Bull that attests to the appointment (photo below).

of the Latins, Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Order, the Assessor Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea and Archbishop Gérald Cyprien Lacroix of Quebec.

In his homily the Cardinal recalled the figure of Saint Sebastian, a soldier in the imperial

army, who was tortured because of his faith, and recalled that the members of the Order which he heads are the guard of honor for the protection of the Holy Sepulchre of Christ, no longer with the force of arms but with the constant witness of their faith. He

then urged his listeners to pray for them as well as for the suffering of the Palestinian Christians and for all Christians who courageously face persecution; then, recalling that he had been a chaplain and then the Military Ordinary (Archbishop for the Military Services, USA) – for the men and women in uniform committed to preserving the peace.

Present also were the Lieutenant General Giuseppe Della Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, some members of the Grand Magisterium, the Lieutenant for Italy Central Saverio Petrillo with many Knights from the Rome Section, some of whom had assured the service of order. There were other ecclesiastical and civil dignitaries present, including Cardinal Bernard Francis Law, Archpriest emeritus of the Papal Basilica of Saint Mary Major and Bishop Franco Croci, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy Italy Central.

G.M.





Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, presents the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation

POPE BENEDICT XVI AND THE WAY OF THE CHRISTIANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Ecclesia in Middle East* gathered the fruits of the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which was held in the Vatican in October 2010. Two special circumstances highlighted its importance: Benedict XVI chose to sign the document and give it personally to the recipients in the heart of the Middle East, in Lebanon, and on

a special day, 14 September, the liturgical celebration of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, one of the major feasts that spread from the East throughout Christendom following the Dedication of the Basilica of the Resurrection built on Golgotha and Our Lord's Sepulchre.

It is the Pope presenting its purposes during his address at the ceremony in which it was

consigned: "the Exhortation", he said, "although destined for the whole world, is meant to be a *roadmap* for the pastors for the coming years.... Through them I paternally greet all the Christians of the Middle East"; and he emphasized that the presence of the Orthodox Patriarchs and Bishops who had come to welcome him, as well as the representatives of the diverse religious com-



Pope Benedict XVI decided to sign the Apostolic Exhortation in Lebanon, the nation that gives witness to peaceful coexistence in the heart of the Middle East, and he personally gave it to its recipients, including representatives of the Orthodox Churches, Muslim leaders, and exponents of culture and society. The solemn ceremony took place in the Greek Melkite Catholic Cathedral of Harissa (photo on the previous page), on the hill noted for its Marian shrine.

The Pope's address on the Apostolic Exhortation in the Greek Melkite Basilica of Saint Paul

“Rethink the present so as to look to the future with the eyes of Christ”

“In examining the present situation of the Church in the Middle East, the Synod Fathers reflected on the joys and struggles, the fears and hopes of Christ’s disciples in these lands. In this way, the entire Church was able to hear the troubled cry and see the desperate faces of many men and women who experience grave human and material difficulties, who live amid powerful tensions in fear and uncertainty, who desire to follow Christ – the One who gives meaning to their existence – yet often find themselves prevented from doing so. That is why I wanted the First Letter of Saint Peter to serve as the framework of the document. At the same time, the Church was able to admire all that is beautiful and noble in the Churches in these lands. How can we fail to thank God at every moment for all of you (cf. *1 Th* 1:2;

Part One of the Post-Synodal Exhortation), dear Christians of the Middle East! How can we fail to praise him for your courage and faith? How can we fail to thank him for the flame of his infinite love which you continue to keep alive and burning in these places which were the first to welcome his incarnate Son? How can we fail to praise and thank him for your efforts to build ecclesial and fraternal communion, and for the human solidarity which you constantly show to all God’s children?

Ecclesia in Medio Oriente makes it possible to rethink the present in order to look to the future with the eyes of Christ. By its biblical and pastoral orientation, its invitation to deeper spiritual and ecclesiological reflection, its call for liturgical and catechetical renewal, and its summons to dia-

munities of Lebanon, demonstrates the esteem and collaboration that should be fostered with mutual respect among all. He thanked everyone for their efforts in this direction and, saying that he was certain that they would continue to seek the paths of unity and harmony, he pointed out how the happy conviviality that characterizes Lebanon must show the whole of the Middle East and the rest of the world that within a nation there can be collaboration among the diverse Churches, all members of the one catholic Church, in a fraternal spirit of communion with the other Christians and, at the same time, conviviality and respectful dialogue between Christians and

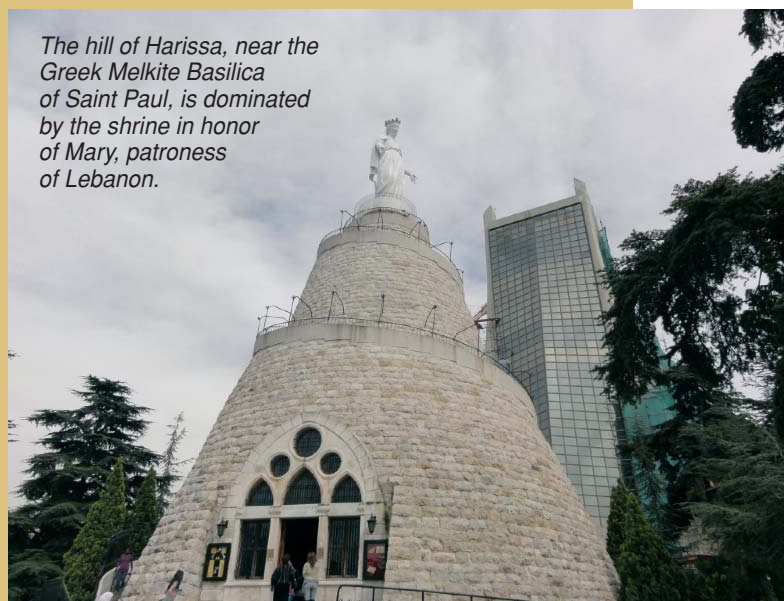
their brothers and sisters of other religions.

Quite aware of how terribly delicate this balance can be, and of how it threatens to break when it is stretched like a bow or put under pressure – often from parties or interests that are contrary and extraneous to Lebanese harmony and gentleness – the Holy Father urged his listeners to give proof of real moderation and great wisdom, recommending that reason prevail over passion in order to foster the common good. Efficacious was the mention of King Solomon: well he knew Hiram, King of Tyre, and precisely because he considered wisdom the virtue *par excellence*, he did not hesitate to ask it

of the Omnipotent and God gave him a wise and intelligent heart.

The Pontiff made explicit mention of God to signify the absolute value of the divine presence in the life of individuals and the Churches, but also to affirm that the conviviality to which Lebanon wants to give witness will not be credible unless it is founded on a welcoming gaze and an attitude of mutual good will, unless it is rooted in God, who desires all men and women to be brothers and sisters. Through the good will and commitment of each and every person, the Lebanese can give to the inhabitants of the region and of the whole world an example to follow but only if they remember

logue, the Exhortation points out a path for rediscovering what is essential: being a follower of Christ even in difficult and sometimes painful situations which may lead to the temptation to ignore or to forget the exaltation of the cross. It is here and now that we are called to celebrate the victory of love over hate, forgiveness over revenge, service over domination, humility over pride, and unity over division. In the light of today's Feast, and in view of a fruitful application of the Exhortation, I urge all of you to fear not, to stand firm in truth and in purity of faith. This is the language of the cross, exalted and glorious! This is the "folly" of the cross: a folly capable of changing our sufferings into a declaration of love for God and mercy for our neighbour; a folly capable of transforming those who suffer because of their faith and identity into vessels of clay ready to be filled to overflowing by divine gifts more precious than gold (cf. *2 Cor* 4:7-18). This is more than simply picturesque language: it is a pressing appeal to act concretely in a way which configures us ever more fully to Christ, in a way which helps



The hill of Harissa, near the Greek Melkite Basilica of Saint Paul, is dominated by the shrine in honor of Mary, patroness of Lebanon.

the different Churches to reflect the beauty of the first community of believers (cf. *Acts* 2:41-47: Part Two of the Exhortation); in a way like that of the Emperor Constantine, who could bear witness and bring Christians forth from discrimination to

that it is not merely the work of humans, but rather a gift of God, which must be asked for insistently, preserved by all means possible and strengthened with determination.

The signing of the Exhortation took place in the Greek Melkite Basilica of St. Paul on the hill of Harissa, overlooking Beirut, in the presence of the Head of State, the Patriarchs and Bishops, the Members of the Special Council for the Middle East of the Synod of Bishops, of the Orthodox and Muslim delegations, as well as representatives of the world of culture and civil society. Each one received the text because, as the Pope observed, although it is destined for the Universal Church, it has a

special importance for the whole of the Middle East.

After all, Benedict XVI had announced the Special Assembly of the Synod for that area in a memorable meeting at Castel Gandolfo on 19 September 2009. It was the first time that the Bishop of Rome had received the Eastern Patriarchs and Major Archbishops together in a fraternal gathering intended to give the Universal Pastor direct knowledge of the situation in the motherland of Christianity.

The Exhortation *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente* is a true gift of God because it points out what is essential for the Christians of the Orient, regardless of their origin, who are all rooted in the inheritance of the Apostles themselves,

and the timeliness of their mission, that is, the unity of all the baptized, especially in the East. It was the Second Vatican Council that pointed out this wonderful synthesis of the identity of the Christians of the Orient in the decree *Orientalium Ecclesiarum*. The desire for unity is obviously inseparable from the desire for peace. Both of these come from another word pair: communion and witness. This is the theme that guided the Synod's work and now constitutes the sure path for the Christians of the Orient, in the womb of the universal Church, to direct human history with the light of the Gospel.

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri
Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches

enable them openly and freely to live their faith in Christ crucified, dead and risen for the salvation of all.

Ecclesia in Medio Oriente provides some elements that are helpful for a personal and communal examination of conscience, and an objective evaluation of the commitment and desire for holiness of each one of Christ's disciples. The Exhortation shows openness to authentic interreligious dialogue based on faith in the one God, the Creator. It also seeks to contribute to an ecumenism full of human, spiritual and charitable fervor, in evangelical truth and love, drawing its strength from the commandment of the risen Lord: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (*Mt* 28:19-20).

The Exhortation as a whole is meant to help each of the Lord's disciples to live fully and to

pass on faithfully to others what he or she has become by Baptism: a child of light, sharing in God's own light, a lamp newly lit amid the troubled darkness of this world, so that the light may shine in the darkness (cf. *Jn* 1:4f. and *2 Cor* 4:1-6). The document seeks to help purify the faith from all that disfigures it, from everything that can obscure the splendour of Christ's light. For communion is true fidelity to Christ, and Christian witness is the radiance of the paschal mystery which gives full meaning to the cross, exalted and glorious. As his followers, "we proclaim Christ crucified ... the power of God and the wisdom of God" (*1 Cor* 1:23-24; cf. Part Three of the Exhortation).

"Fear not, little flock" (*Lk* 12:32) and remember the promise made to Constantine: "In this sign you will conquer!". Churches of the Middle East, fear not, for the Lord is truly with you, to the close of the age! Fear not, because the universal Church walks at your side and is humanly and spiritually close to you!".

THE LIFE OF THE ORDER

RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

Appointments:

- **Ivan Rebernik** is Chancellor of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Knight of the Order since 2000, born in 1939, holding a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University, he served as a librarian in the Vatican before representing his homeland, Slovenia, as Ambassador to the Holy See.
- **Bo Theutenberg** is a member of the Grand Magisterium. Professor of international law, born in 1942, Knight-Commander with Star, in 2000 he became the first Lieutenant of the young Lieutenancy of Sweden.
- **Philippe Plantade** is a member of the Grand Magisterium. A lawyer in Paris, born in 1958, he is a Knight-Commander with Star of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem since 2004 and he has exercised roles of great responsibility in the Lieutenancy of France.
- **Pier Carlo Visconti** is a Consulter of the Grand Magisterium. An engineer and industrialist, born in Turin, a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of

Jerusalem, he was director of administrative services of the Fabric of St. Peter's Basilica and of the Fabric of St. Paul's Outside-the-Walls.

- **John Theodore Ralph** is a Member of Honor of the Grand Magisterium. Knight of the Grand Cross, an Australian, he was Lieutenant of Australia Victoria and later a member of the Grand Magisterium.

Terms of office completed

- **Adolfo Rinaldi**, one of the Vice Governor Generals of the Order, a Knight of the Grand Cross, he renounced for personal reasons a second four-year term. He was appointed Vice Governor General of Honor in recognition of his activities and received the Palm of Jerusalem of gold.

Confirmation of a second term

- **Joseph E. Spinnato**, Knight of the Grand Cross, former Lieutenant of USA Eastern, member of the Grand Magisterium since 2008, he has been confirmed for a second term.

THE YEAR OF FAITH

The Order mobilizes for a pilgrimage to Rome

Within the dynamic of the Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelization, which was celebrated in Rome from 7-28 October 2012, the Year of Faith was opened by Pope Benedict XVI who, in his homily at the opening Mass on 11 October, introduced it as "a pilgrimage ... in which we must take only what is necessary: the Gospel and the faith of the Church, of which the Council documents are a luminous expression, as is the Catechism of the Catholic Church, published twenty years ago." From that day onwards the entire Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem went into gear for this Year of Faith, which will end in November 2013.

Stimulated by the enthusiastic appeal of Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, the Knights and

Ladies active in the Lieutenancies throughout the whole world began preparations for their participation in an extraordinary international pilgrimage to Rome, organized by the Grand Magisterium in coordination with the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, presided over by Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella.

After a planning meeting with the latter, the Grand Master confirmed the dates of the pilgrimage to coincide with the *Consulta*, from 13-15 September 2013. The commission, with Chancellor Ivan Rebernik presiding, worked together with the Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Cardinal Archpriests of the Papal Basilicas, and the authorities of the Commune of Rome. The Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations received in-



structions on the method of participation and, in order to better manage the logistical aspects, especially regarding questions of reception and transportation, the Grand Master signed an agreement with UNITALSI (from the Italian for “Italian National Union for the Transporta-

tion of the Sick to Lourdes and Other International Sanctuaries”), a public association of the faithful with proven experience in the field of pilgrimages.

It is the “spiritual desertification” of recent decades that Benedict XVI gave as his motivation for creating a



Gathered in Synod to delve deeper together into the topic of the New Evangelization, the Bishops also prayed together with the Pope during the opening Mass for the Year of Faith in St. Peter's Square.

Pontifical Council delegated to promoting the New Evangelization, thus situating the Year of Faith in this perspective. Naturally he placed the event in the context of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council: “The Council did not formulate anything new in matters of faith, nor did it wish to replace what was ancient. Rather, it concerned itself with seeing that the same faith might continue to be lived in the present day, that it might remain a living faith in a world of change”.

This work of Church renewal, begun by John XXIII and Paul VI, has not ceased to develop, up to the announcement by Pope Benedict XVI – at the close of the

celebrations marking the 2000th anniversary of the birth of the Apostle St. Paul, in the summer of 2010 – of the creation of a new dicastery specifically dedicated to the New Evangelization, followed by this historic Year of Faith. It was in 1979, at Nowa Huta, in Poland, that John Paul II began to make popular the expression “New Evangelization”, which he took up again in Haiti in 1983, a few days before opening the Year of Redemption on 25 March of that same year, with a view to better preparing for and anticipating the Jubilee of 2000, whose spiritual fruits are still multiplying in these opening years of the 21st century within the Order as well.

F.V.

IN CHICAGO AND ROME MEETINGS OF THE LIEUTENANTS

The Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates of North America and Europe – the geographic areas with the greatest number of members of the Order – met again in 2012, in Chicago (31 May - 2 June) and in Rome (14-15 June), for the traditional appointment presided over by the Grand Master. It was the occasion for Governor General Agostino Borromeo to announce for the month of September 2013 in Rome both the *Consulta* of the Order for the revision of the Statutes and the international pilgrimage on the occasion of the Year of Faith, which the Holy Father wanted to tie to the Synod of Bishops for the New Evangelization, from 7-28 October 2012. The Ceremonial Officer of the Order, Monsignor Francis D. Kelly, especially explained to the European Lieutenants the importance of these events for the life of the Order and the spiritual growth of its members.

Presenting the financial report for 2011, the Governor General emphasized that once again the income (in excess of 11 million Euros) has established



Vice Governor General Patrick D. Powers.



The Governor General and the Grand master of the Order.

a new record, higher than that of 2010 (more than 10 million Euros), which also had been unprecedented in the life of the Order. However, the deficit in the balance of the Patriarchate of Jerusalem of the Latins, especially in the operation of the schools, places new challenges in front of the Order, as Vice Governor General Patrick D. Powers explained in Chicago and Consultor Pier Carlo Visconti did in Rome, also including aspects of the balance of the current year which, as always, is destined for the needs of the Christians of the Holy Land.

THE ORDER'S PROJECTS

BEGUN OR COMPLETED IN 2012

THE CHURCH OF AQABA PROCLAIMS THE FUTURE



The financial report of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem reached an all-time high in 2011: because of the tireless commitment of the Lieutenancies members donated 11,6 million Euros to the Patriarchate of Jerusalem of the Latins, which is facing great challenges. Thus in 2012 important projects could be finished or undertaken.



The first stone of the church in Aqaba was placed in May 2011. The work took approximately one and a half years and the consecration took place on 14 December 2012, in Advent. The solemn Mass, with the Latin Patriarch and Grand Prior of the Order, Monsignor Fouad Twal presiding, was concelebrated by Archbishop Maroun Lahham, Auxiliary Bishop for Jordan, by Bishop emeritus Salim Sayegh, by Auxiliary Bishop for Israel Giacinto-

The monumental Church of Aqaba (photo on preceding page) is dedicated to Mary, “Stella Maris”. It was consecrated by the Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal who then proceeded to the solemn Eucharistic celebration (photo above).

Boulos Marcuzzo, the Greek Melkite catholicos of Petra and Philadelphia, Yasser Al-Ayyash, and the parish priest, Father Issam Zoomot and many priests, including the First Secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature in Jordan.

Gover Fawwaz Irshedat of Aqaba and other civil and Muslim authorities participated in the celebration, together with the faithful of the parish and many Christians who had arrived by bus from every part of Jordan.

The new church, located in this port city on the Red Sea which sees the arrival of merchant ships – and, naturally, sailors too, many of whom are Catholic – from every part of the world, is dedicated to the Virgin

Mary, “Star of the Sea”.

Christians in Aqaba represent 2% of a constantly growing population with the considerable development of the tourist industry due to its proximity to the famous UNESCO world heritage archaeological site of Petra, which welcomes approximately 300.000 visitors a year.

Emphasizing this new church’s importance for the region, the Patriarch stated that it “proclaims the future” and that “this place will be a reference point for Christians”. With its modern form and its shining brightness, the church makes all forget about the little parlour in which Father Zoomot had been celebrating Mass for his parishioners for several years. In his ad-



The bright interior and Church furnishings of the parish Church in Aqaba and (photo below) the exterior of the new secondary school in Rameh. This building was inaugurated by the Grand Master Cardinal O'Brien during his pilgrimage in the Holy Land (see pages 7 and 8).



dress of welcome on the day on which the church had opened its doors, the parish priest thanked the architect, Oussama Twal, and the many donors, especially the Knights and Ladies of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In his homily the Patriarch expressed his gratitude for the Order's generosity that allowed the construction of the building with its large meeting space in the basement: financing of more than 1,5 million Euros was the result of the particular commitment of the Lieutenancies of France, Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Canada, United States and Taiwan.

Now, he said, Jordanian Catholics, together with the Filipinos and Sinhalese who have come to work in this city, can better develop the life of the local Church with the youth groups and prayer groups and with those involved in various parish activities. Aqaba, located on the border of Israel and not far from Egypt, has come to be a strategic place for dialogue between cultures and for the building of peace between Christians, Jews and Muslims, all believers in one God.

THE GRAND SECONDARY SCHOOL IN RAMEH

The second important project of 2012 was in Upper Galilee, in the town of Rameh. It involved the construction of a four-story building on the school campus of the Latin Patriarchate to host the secondary school. Thus the pri-

SPIRITUAL CARE OF CHRISTIAN WORKERS FROM FOREIGN LANDS

The Latin Patriarchate has entrusted the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land with a program designed to assure the spiritual assistance of the 220 thousand Christian workers from other nations (the Philippines, India, Sri Lanka, Eastern Europe, Latin America) living in Israel, in particular with the construction of a church and a pastoral centre. This is one of the most urgent problems facing the local Church that was illustrated to the Grand Magisterium of the Order by the Grand Prior, Patriarch Fouad Twal while, paradoxically, it is committed in the opposition to the phenomenon of the emigration of many Christian families from the Holy Land. In the context of a thorough report on the religious, social and political situation in Palestine, Jordan, Israel and Cyprus, the Patriarch recalled that the recent Assembly of the Catholic Ordinaries in the Holy Land has created a commission for the pastoral care of immigrants and political asylum seekers (approximately 30 thousand, mostly from African countries) entrusted to the patriarchal vicar for the Catholic community of Hebrew expression, the Jesuit Father David Neuhaus.

mary and secondary school students can complete their studies here. This initiative, financed entirely by the Order, was already referred to in the account of the Grand Master's pilgrimage in the Holy Land (see pages 7 and 8).

THE SISTERS' CONVENT IN ABOUD RESTORED

The projects for 2012 also included the restoration of the convent in Aboud. In this town, situated in the Palestinian Territories about 20 kilometers northwest of Ramallah, the convent of the Rosary Sisters was in need of restoration, since it had been without maintenance for at least 40 years. The building, constructed in 1011, served as a priests' residence for many years; then it was used to house the sis-

ters who are very active among the local population. Their congregation, founded in Jerusalem in 1880 by Blessed Maria Alfonsina, is the only women's congregation founded in the Latin Patriarchate.

Sister Nadia and Sister Eva, the former a Palestinian and the latter a Jordanian, take care of the house. They visit the Christian families, giving special attention to the elderly and the children and seek to maintain fraternal bonds with the Muslim inhabitants, increasingly numerous because of the constant demographic growth. Thanks to funds sent by the Grand Magisterium – the results of a collection from the Lieutenancy of Portugal – they were able to begin and bring to conclusion major work in the main parts of the convent, in particular in the chapel, kitchen, of-

fice and parlor. The whole electrical system was rewired and a new outside space was put in good order.

RESTORATION WORK IN THE VICARIATE OF AMMAN AND FOUR PRIESTS' RESIDENCES IN JORDAN

The building of the Vicariate of the Latin Patriarchate in Amman is an important place for pastoral and diplomatic gatherings in one of the Arab countries more open to and respectful of the Christian presence. It was necessary to repair the exterior, modify some of the spaces and remodel the adjacent monastery of the women religious. Precisely for the pastoral activities centre, the offices of the administration, the rooms and offices of the Patriarch and the Auxiliary Bishop, the rooms of the women religious and guestrooms, the total financing provided by the Grand Magisterium was in excess of 8 million Euros.

The parish house in Amman's **Misdar** neighbourhood, the parish dedicated to Christ the King – the oldest of the city parishes, founded in 1924 – was in urgent need of restoration because the old building was in very poor condition. The stairs were rebuilt, as were the plumbing and electrical system. Until the end of the 1960's the building had been the seat of the Vicariate; today it is the "general headquarters" of a large parish that includes 800 families and 2.500 faithful, many of whom are immigrants from Iraq. "Poverty is one of the biggest problems of our parish and many people want to leave the area", says the parish priest, Father Riad Hejazin, always available to give his all to face the difficulties of daily living.

In **Al-Hashimi**, east of Amman, near the international airport, work on the priest's house of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish was financed by the contribution of the Lieutenancy of Spain Western. The parish unites 400 families, a number which, according to the parish priest, Father Adnan Bader, is growing. Father Bader is the spiritual assistant for the young people of the



The Rosary Sisters of Aboud (photo above) in one of the newly-restored rooms in their convent. In Amman (center and below): the entrance to the church of the Latin Vicariate and a view of the parish church of the Sacred Heart.



At Al-Hashimi and Al-Rusaifeh important restoration work was done on the priest's residence (photo above and center) while in Al-Wahadneh a new one was built. Here (photo below) the work on the roof is still underway.

patriarchal school that has 600 students, from pre-school through high school, half of them Christians. The school, whose director is the parish priest, has been funded by the Order since its founding in 1958; it promotes increased mutual respect among the religious groups.

In **Al-Rusaifeh**, a city situated on the road to Zarka, to the east of Amman, a contribution from the Grand Magisterium allowed the restoration of the priest's house of Mary Mother of the Church Parish. Here the Christian families are dynamic in keeping the Catholic community alive, although there is still a constant exodus of the faithful at the same time as there is a corresponding exponential growth in the Muslim population, especially due to the presence of a refugee camp. The church was built in 1967, when the territory still contained several tens of families of Latin Rite Christians, but their number is considerably less today. The Christian university youth movement is very active at Al-Rusaifeh and holds its gatherings in the newly-remodelled parish hall. Today, without a parish priest, the community is cared for by a priest from Sri Lanka who lives in the parish house; he is also occupied in the care of his fellow countrymen living in Amman and in other cities throughout Jordan. Parish life is animated by the Sisters of Charity of Mother Teresa who care for handicapped children in a centre they opened.

Farther north, not far from Ajloun, in the town of **Al-Wahadneh**, where the school of the Latin Patriarchate was just remodelled, the reconstruction of the parish house was also necessary. The old building, built in 1948, was in very bad condition; it was demolished and another one, naturally more comfortable, was built. The new house, near the church dedicated to Saint Elias, will allow the parish priest to perform his role of hospitality, listening and counselling the faithful who are more than one thousand of the 10 thousand inhabitants, members of a community rich in faith and which has in recent years given the Church many priestly vocations.

F.V.

The event of the year in the eyes of the world's media

GETHSEMANE'S OLIVE TREES REVEAL THEIR SECRETS

*Professor Giovanni Gianfrate
tells his confreres how the scientific
research he sponsored and
coordinated revealed for the first
time the age, state of health and
genetic code of the trees whose
ancestors were witnesses of the
Agony in the Garden*

I had admired those olive trees so many times without ever asking myself “who” they might be and what they might have witnessed, and what importance that would have today in a disoriented and incredulous Christianity. Then, a bit of enlightenment came from a passage of one of St. Cyril of Jerusalem's catechetical lectures (X, 19) (“Gethsemane bears witness,



still to the thoughtful almost showing Judas”) and the “discovery” that at my age I knew almost nothing about Gethsemane and what its eight “venerable” olive trees could tell us. From my professional experience and my awareness as a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem that it was not enough only to know that these were the “Olive Trees of the Agony” of Christ; it was necessary to know more and, most of all, about them and their “memory”.

Therefore, as director for projects in the Holy Land of Florence’s cultural association “Coltiviamo la pace” [Let’s cultivate peace], I sponsored and coordinated a scientific research project that I named *Hortus Gethsemani, the memory of an environment*, naturally, with the agreement of the Franciscan custody of the Holy Land, proprietor of the site. The study was conducted with the scientific collaboration of the CNR (from the Italian for “National Research Council) through IVALSA (Trees and Timber Institute) in Sesto Fiorentino, calling upon its most renowned researcher, Professor Antonio Cimato as scientific coordinator and counting on the financial support of *Copagri*, the confederation of Italian agricultural producers, whose members include the majority of Italian olive growers. Significant assistance was also offered by the *Olive Branch Foundation* of Jerusalem, whose President, Father Raed Abusahlia (at that time parish priest in Taybeh/Efracim



but now director of the Holy Land’s Caritas organization), due particularly to a decades-long friendship resulting from the Italian Bishops’ Conference of a gift of an olive press (which I sponsored), which has assured a modest survival-level income for his agricultural parishioners. This initiative marks the beginning of the commercialization of Palestinian oil in Europe and the “lamp for peace” project to which a number of Lieutenancies have responded.

The study of Gethsemane’s olive trees was conducted over a three year period, from 2009 to 2012, and involved 15 Italian researchers from various university departments and institutes of the National Research Council. First of all the author, assisted by his former student in agricultural technology, Adriano Rossi, collected samples of the roots and branches of the eight plants, necessary for identifying their genetic profile, the verification of their physical, and “nutritional” condition and their morphological description. One year later, in

The olive trees are both a promise and a symbol of peace in a region torn by conflicts. They also are a remainder of Christ’s Agony in Gethsemane and hence of God’s immense love for humanity. On the preceding page: the Basilica of Gethsemane and, behind it, the convent of the Order of Friars Minor.

August of 2010, I accompanied a scientific mission composed of research scientists from the Trees and Timber Institute from Sesto Fiorentino and Trento to collect samples needed for the dating of the plants (taken from the trees above the soil level). This would be followed in 2011 by the analysis of the olives and their oil and in May of 2012 by the collecting of flower samples for observation under an electronic microscope. Given the extraordinary importance of the project because of the religious, cultural and scientific expectation, there was a mobilization of interdisciplinary expertise from five university departments (Udine, Florence, Pisa, Chieti-Pescara) and three institutes of the National Research Council from the “Scien-



tific Pole” of Sesto Fiorentino.

On 19 October of this year the results of the research were made public in Rome, in Vatican Radio’s Marconi Room. This author and Prof. Cimato explained to the international journalists that the eight olive trees did not grow spontaneously nor are they the result of grafts on previously-existing plants; they are absolutely “twins”, children of the same mother, having identical DNA. It was possible to date three of them, which exhibited less lack of wood at the base of the trunk; this was done by the use of Carbon 14 dating (the particularly precise *wiggle matching* method). The test was done by two independent accredited laboratories, the *Center for Dating and Diagnostic* of the University of Salerno and the *Vienna Environmental Research Accelerator (VERA)* at the University of that city. The result is that their trunks can be dated to 1198, 1092 and 1166. However, for various reasons, especially of a historical and ar-

Some 15 research scientists from Italian universities were involved for three years at Gethsemane (photo of them at work on an ancient olive tree). The analysis and scientific dating of the olive trees was done in reputable laboratories.

chaeological nature, it is possible that they are descendants of much older plants, even from several centuries before the time of Jesus. The studies also revealed that these plants are not affected by any disease, not even those of environmental origin generated by the ever-present sources of pollution. As if the ground in which they are growing were capable of blocking – Professor Cimato called it a “little miracle” – the proliferation of bacteria, insects, virus and any other cause of suffering in these sacred plants.

The research therefore furnished results of great scientific interest, but in order to offset any concern for the conservation of these plants, I am now in-

involved in launching a plan of agronomical intervention and techniques of cultivation that will allow their vegetative revitalization and unlimited conservation as well as the improvement of the whole Franciscan holding at Gethsemane. This study, however, should be reason for rediscovering and revitalizing devotion to Christ in his Agony, in which he freely chose to accept the Passion for the salvation of humankind. Blaise Pascal reminds us (*Pensees*, 717) that “*Jesus is in agony until the end of the world. We must not sleep during this time*”.

Giovanni Gianfrate

Professor. Giovanni Gianfrate, 65 years old, a professor of agronomy, is considered the foremost expert on Mediterranean olive history. A Knight of the Equestrian Order of Jerusalem since 2007, he has served as secretary of the section of Florence. The scientific results of his project *Hortus Gethsemani, la memoria di un ambiente* [Hortus Gethsemani, an environment’s memory] were very well received; for the world’s media, it was the event of the year in the Holy Land.

A look at the Christians in Taybeh

OIL FOR PEACE

“I studied philosophy at the Lateran University in Rome; but people say I have business and economics in my blood”, says Reverend (“Abouna”) Raed Abusahliah, until recently the parish priest of Taybeh and now in Ramallah. We – a group of pilgrims from western Austria – are sitting in a circle in the large courtyard of the presbytery in Ramallah, listening intently to Abouna Raed talking about the projects in Taybeh. He is so enthusiastic that he can hardly sit still for a single sentence, his many emphatic gestures animating his words. Our mere presence here is an event. We have come to his new parish because some of us already had personal contacts with him and wanted to discuss with him how these contacts could be given concrete expression without difficulty during the year. The topic is oil. Not that oil (i.e., petroleum) that causes so much friction in the Near East but the olive oil from Taybeh that we have been selling at home for several years now.

A man with many strings to his bow

Abouna Raed, born in 1965 in Zababdeh in Palestine, was ordained a priest in 1990. He held appointments in various institutions in the Holy Land – as a professor in the Patriarchal Semi-

The Order's projects for the construction or renovation of schools, kindergartens, churches, presbyteries and other structures usually involve donations on a large scale and we like to report the results with pride and joy. Yet our direct support for the "living stones", brothers and sisters of the Holy Land, descendants of Christ's first followers, should not be ignored, especially when our assistance makes it easier for them to become self-sufficient. In this article we provide a look at the Christians of Taybeh.

nary of Beit Jala, as Chancellor of the Patriarchate itself; he studied in Rome and in 2002 became parish priest of Taybeh, the biblical Ephraim. Taybeh is renowned for its olive groves, vineyards and the cultivation of figs. Christians live throughout this region, though now in dwindling num-

bers. At present there are about 1,300 but some 3,700 are spread around the world.

It soon became evident to the parish priest that something had to be done to combat unemployment. So, in 2003, a new and powerful oil press was donated by the Italian Bishops' Conference. Nowadays 430 olive growers make use of it. From the outset it was clear that the oil must be of top quality. In fact it was tested in Austria by a food research organization and certified to be an exceptional product. Everyone who tries it can immediately taste the difference in comparison with olive oils produced and marketed in industrial quantities. Last year 800 tons were pressed; this year Abouna Raed is hoping for 1000 tons.

A “minor” project

A member of the Order from Bregenz, Austria organized the import of 7500 500ml-bottles and 92 5-litre cans (this year he hopes it will be 9,000 bottles). Some of them will be sent on to the German and Swiss Lieutenancies.

Some members of the Order offer the oil for sale after Sunday Mass in a number of parishes, and it can also be bought from monastery shops. Several good restaurants and businesses have also been persuaded to use it and they are all very happy with the

quality and price. But there is another important fact at the heart of the matter: by their own efforts, the people in the Holy Land are producing something that gives them an income and validates their dignity. What they receive is not a handout but a fair price.

Peace lamps

As well as producing oil, since 2004 the local Christians have been making “lamps for peace in the Holy Land” which, indeed, are lit by oil and provide employment for 20 people. In fact, the theme of peace arises again and again as we proceed on our pilgrimage. A Palestinian Christian guide in Bethlehem told us that she and several other women come together at 6.30 every Monday evening to pray for peace. It would be a good thing if Christians in our own areas were to meet and pray together for the same purpose and at the same time.

An Israeli guide stated – in a true Catholic perspective – that, looking at the situation from the viewpoint of the people today, it

is impossible to see any path to peace in the foreseeable future. “It really does need the Holy Spirit to give the politicians ideas on what they can and must do”.

But there’s more...

Oil production has been accompanied by the manufacture of soaps and cosmetics; then in 2005 the parish priest was able to found the “Bet Afram” home for the elderly and later, the Bet Afram Guest House for pilgrims. In the same year Holy Land Radio was set up, the first Christian radio station in the Holy Land.

So many jobs

Altogether these parish enterprises employ almost 90 people, about a quarter of all the workers in Taybeh.

Father Raed Abusahlia, among the most active priests of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, with the Italian olive press that allowed the beginning of the economic development of Taybeh, where he was the parish priest. Following the production of the oil he promoted its sale in Europe and affirmed the initiative of the “Lamps for peace in the Holy Land”.

Since 1869 the area has also had a school of the Latin Patriarchate which, in 1978, was improved with a new building financed by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In the past school year around 500 children from the whole area attended this school, 60% of whom are Christians. The school employs 31 teachers and other staff.

As he describes these developments we understand why Abouna Raed cannot sit still. Yet he has not forgotten his priestly vocation. Shortly before our visit the story of the multiplication of the bread (John 6, 1-15) had been related during a Sunday Mass and Abouna Raed explained that this story also points up one of the Church’s missions in our own day: to give to people the means to achieve what they need to live. But the miracle of the bread was only possible through sharing: what would have happened if the boy had kept his five barley loaves and two fishes for himself? But he did not hesitate even for a moment and Jesus used that sacrifice as the basis for His miracle.

Abouna Raed associates another reflection with the “lamps for peace in the Holy Land”: he hopes that many Christians will buy these lamps and light them as they pray for peace in the Holy Land. And he sums up his hope as follows: “If 100,000 churches are united in praying for peace in the Holy Land God cannot fail to hear our request – He will have no choice!”.

Otto Kaspar





Jerusalem the city in which, as Scripture says, every person was born, invites us to enter into the “other world” dimension. The monotheistic religions recognize themselves in the message of spiritual growth and interior rebirth that it has transmitted throughout the centuries, uniting individuals in a common desire to live here below the values of eternity, and in a certain sense to achieve “heaven on earth”

Research into history of religion

JERUSALEM: A CITY BETWEEN EARTH AND HEAVEN

In the context of the Study Weeks at Villa Cagnola sponsored by the Fondazione Ambrosiana Paolo VI (the Ambrosian Paul VI Foundation) the one devoted to Jerusalem has an extremely special significance. We can say that an intellectual journey lasting several decades has arrived at the goal *par excellence* of a research in religious history, the goal capable of transfiguring even a simple journey of historical knowledge into a “holy journey” (*Ps* 84 [Heb. 84]:5) it is an approach to a holy reality: Jerusalem.¹

However, drawing near to this unique city also means rediscovering its significance in the history of European-Mediterranean civilization and – owing to the spread of the religious traditions of the later on the global level – in the story of the whole of humanity.

Jerusalem also had a prehistory; however, it is one of preparation, preparing the way for its extraordinary and unrepeatable subsequent destiny. The Book of Genesis itself, through the mysterious figure of the king-priest Melchisedek (*Gen* 14:18), seems to show the prefigurative value that the early era of Jerusalem takes on with respect to what devel-

oped during the conquest of the Jebusite stronghold at David's hands.

In fact its transformation into the City di David gives rise to a something new, something which would cause Jerusalem to take on universal significance, the basis of which, however, is to be found in the fact that – because of Solomon's Temple – the city of the king became the city of the *shekinah*, the place of the presence of the God Most High.

That place, which the Book of Chronicles identifies with the mountain in the territory of Moriah (2 Chronicles, 3:1) which Abraham climbed to offer his son Isaac to God (*Gen* 22:2), started

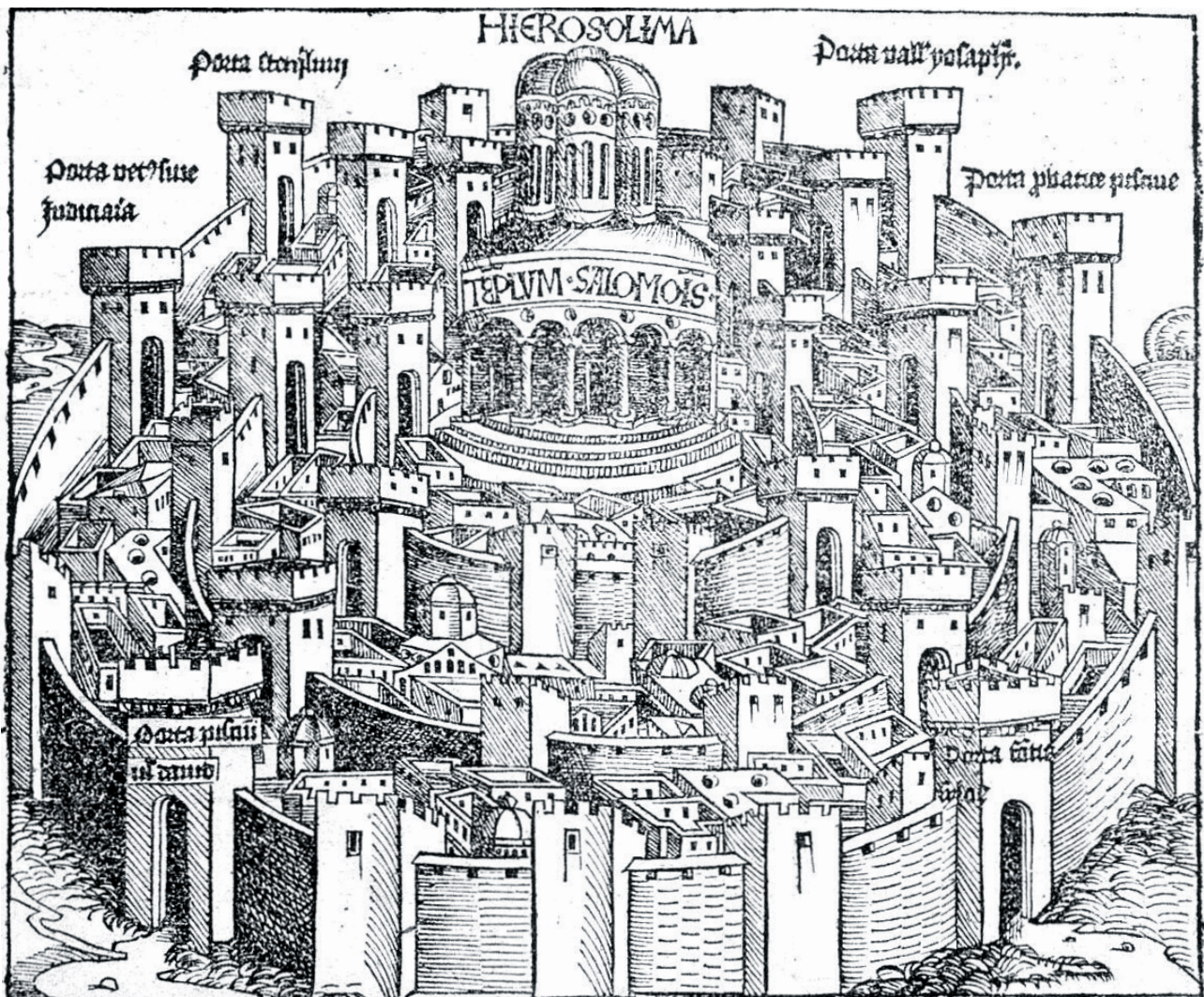
to become the center – and progressively exclusively so – of Israel's sacrificial worship, or in the specific acceptance of the term, the liturgy of the Levitic priesthood. From the reign of Josiah in the latter part of the 7th century onwards, the celebration of Passover, described in the Book of Kings (4 *Kgs* 23:21-23; cf. 2 *Chron.* 35: 1-19), was absorbed into that process of centralization that made Jerusalem the only place in which the children of Israel were allowed to eat the

Passover meal (*Dt.* 16:1-8).

Because of that evolution, in his day Jesus of Nazareth also went up to Jerusalem to celebrate his own Passover (*Mk* 10:32-34 [*Mt* 20:17-19; *Lk* 18:31-33]; cf. *Jn* 11:55 ff.) which, rooted in the Passover of Israel, was transformed into the new Passover, which for those who believe in Him is a sign – in the blood of the Lamb of God (*Jn* 1:29) – of Covenant and expiation and – in the Resurrection – the source of eternal life (cf. R. CANTALAMESSA, *La Pasqua della nostra salvezza*, Genova-Milano, Marietti, 2007² (1971¹), ch. III (*La Pasqua di Cristo*)).

The centrality thus acquired

An ancient image representing Jerusalem, city of peace, the spiritual heart of human history.



by Jerusalem in the Hebrew and Christian world was not without reflection in Mohammed as well.

Jewish synagogue praxis, particularly the *Amidah*, is characterized by an orientation in the direction of Jerusalem (cf. J. HEINEMANN, *Amidah*, in *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, II, Jerusalem, Keter, 1971, cc. 838-845). For a certain period of time that orientation was shared by the primitive Muslim community until in the Medina phase after the *hegira*, according to what is stated in the *II Sura* of the *Q'uran*, it was determined that the *qibla* (or the direction) for prayer was the Holy Mosque of Mecca (*Q'uran Sura II [The Cow]*, 142-150). With reference to the ancient sanctuary, from the earliest days of Islam until the second half of the 10th century (the 4th century of the *Hegira*), Jerusalem increasingly referred to as *al-Quds* [the Sanctuary] (cf. S.D. GOITEIN, *al-Quds*, in *Encyclopédie de l'Islam*, V, curr. C.E. BOSWORTH - E. VAN DONZEL - B. LEWIS - Ch. PELLAT (coop. T.h. DIJKEMA - S. NURIT), Leiden-Paris, Brill - Maisonneuve & Larose, 1986, pp. 321-323). Jerusalem would later be considered, especially in the Sunni world, the place of Mohammed's miraculous nighttime voyage in which the Prophet was taken up into the contemplation of celestial signs (*Q'uran, Sura XVII [The Nocturnal Journey]*, 1).

Following the dispersal onto the various continents in the Jewish Diaspora and the rooting of Christianity and Islam among a multiplicity of peoples and nations throughout the world, Jerusalem's centrality and its

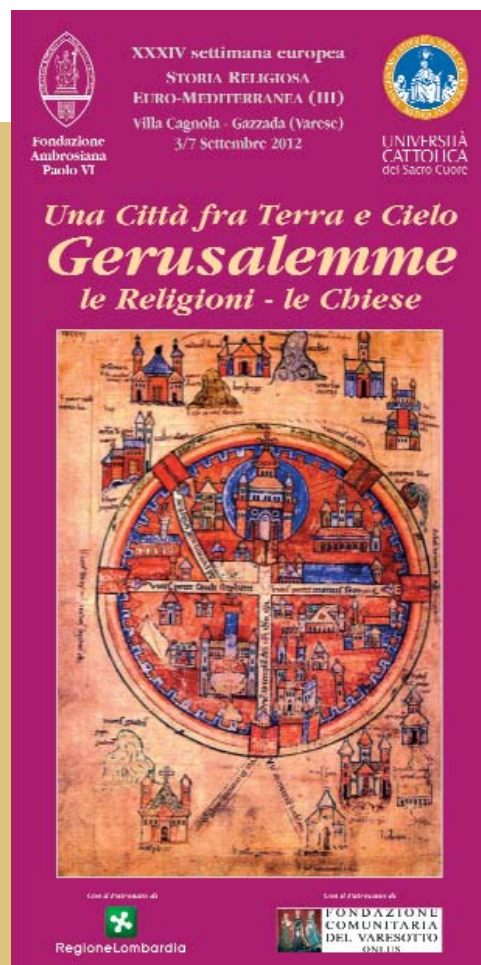
Jerusalem, common homeland of those who believe in one God

The article by Prof. Cesare Alzati, who kindly allowed us to publish it, opened the 34th European week, the third on the history of religion at the Euro-Mediterranean university, sponsored by the "Paul VI Ambrosian Foundation" in collaboration with the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, where Prof. Alzati teaches modern and contemporary history. He was scientific director of the seminar on Jerusalem, "a city between Earth and heaven", which was held from 3-7 September 2012 at Villa Cagnola di Gazzada (Varese). The reports and discourses of the academics and scholars, some coming from outside Europe, and not only Christians but also Jews and Muslims, treated topics such as religions, churches, pilgrimages, liturgy, spirituality, art, and imitations of the Holy City. Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo, as Docent in Bethlehem University, spoke about the historical and pastoral aspects of the reconstitution of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in 1847. The conclusion of the week was entrusted to His Beatitude Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarch and Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, who spoke on the "common patrimony for all Christians and the heart of the world".

The acts of the seminar will be published by the sponsoring agencies. Information can be obtained from the Secretariat of the Fondazione Ambrosiana Paolo VI, whose Headquarters are at Villa Cagnola di Gazzada, e-mail: fagazzada@tin.it

character as a sign marked by divine holiness have obtained for it a recognition of extremely great dimensions.

What is found in Jerusalem is, therefore, a reality with precise spatial and temporal dimensions, but also a reality that transcends those coordinates to assume a significance that touches on the dimension of the spirit.



It is no coincidence that this city, a junction point in human history, would also become the symbol of the end and transcendence of history.

Already in the time of Israel's prophets they delineated an eschatological Jerusalem in which all nations would find their dwelling: "In days to come the mount of the LORD'S house

shall be established higher than the mountains; ...and peoples shall stream to it” (Micah 4:1). In this regard we can thank of what is written in the Book of Isaiah “Many peoples shall come and say: ‘Come, let us climb the LORD’S mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths’” (2:3); “On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food.... He will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations” (25:6-7); “Nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you” (55:5); “The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants – all who keep the Sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; ... for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (56:6-7). Nor is it different in the Book of Zephaniah: “For then I will change and purify the lips of the peoples, that they all may call upon the name of the LORD” (Zeph 3:9) In this context Psalm 87 could well state: “Glorious things are said of you, O city of God! From Babylon and Egypt I count those who acknowledge the LORD. Philistia, Ethiopia, Tyre, the Lord notes in the register of the peoples: ‘This one was born here’” (3-4, 6).

In the Christian of Revelations by John, the eschatological

Jerusalem which the prophets of Israel lauded, is placed not at the end of history, but beyond history, and described as follows: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth.... I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race. ... they will be his people and God himself will always be with them (as their God)” (Rev. 21:1-3).

We can find traces of this eschatological dimension connected to Jerusalem and understood differently in the diverse religious environments in the cemeteries of the Valley of Josaphat, with the Muslim tombs facing Mecca, the Jewish tombs facing the Temple, and the Christian tombs aligned with the East, (expressing their expectation of the glorious return of the Lord Jesus.

Therefore any reconsideration of the historical data regarding Jerusalem cannot fail to take in the religious meanings the city has acquired in the spirituality of the diverse religious components who regard it as a Holy City.

In this is the unique capacity (already mentioned in the beginning) of that city to transform every approach to it, even a purely intellectual one, into a “holy journey”. In fact, anyone who draws near to it cannot fail to consider the words of that pious Israelite: “Let us go to the house of the Lord! And now our feet are standing within your gates, Jerusalem!” (Ps 122:1-2); and he or she cannot fail to hear the

echo of the prayer of ancient Christian generations: We make our offering “to You also, O Lord, for the holy places, which You have glorified by the divine appearing of Your Christ, and by the visitation of Your all-holy Spirit; especially for the glorious Zion, the mother of all the churches” (as it was expressed in the Liturgy of Saint James: ed. B. Ch. Mercier, *La Liturgie de Saint Jacques. Edition critique du text grec avec traduction latine*, Paris, Firmin-Didot, 1946 (*Patrologia Orientalis*, XXVI, 2], p. 206 [92]; nor can he or she ignore the blessing of the Q’uran in the common Suni interpretation: “Glory be to Him who by night transported His servant from the Holy Mosque [Mecca] to the distant Mosque [the place of the Temple of Jerusalem” (Q’uran, *Sura XVII* [The Night Journey], 1).

Because of these multiple religious meanings of Jerusalem, studying the situation, analyzing its manifold aspects, entering into contact with the spiritual themes related to it naturally also becomes an experience of profound sharing with the human communities living there in dramatic conditions at this time, and not without suffering, the unique and unrepeatability of the City that is holy for all and deeply loved by all, but a City that throughout the centuries (and even to this very day) has been so painfully contested.

Cesare Alzati

¹ Ps 84 (Heb.: 84): 5: “Happy are those who find refuge in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrim roads”.



The Millennium of Sansepolcro in the presence of Benedict XVI

A CITY BUILT IN ITALY IN THE IMAGE OF JERUSALEM

“A thousand years ago, on their journey to the Holy Land, the pilgrim Saints Aegidius and Arcanus, in the face of the major changes taking place, began to search for the truth and the meaning of life. On their return, they brought with them not only the stones gathered on Mount Zion but the unique idea they had thought of in the Land of Jesus: building on the Upper Tiber Valley an image of Jerusalem, a *civitas hominis* which in its very name, recalls justice and peace”. This opening passage is from Pope Benedict XVI’s address of 13 May 2012 when he joined with the citizens of Sansepolcro in celebrating the city’s great jubilee. Joining in the historic event – no Pope had visited the city dedicated to the Holy Sepulchre for about 500 years – was a group of Knights and Ladies from the

Lieutenancy for Italy Central Apennine, representing our Order which has a special relationship with Sansepolcro.

“They planned a well-structured model for the city, one full of hope for the future, where the disciples of Christ were called to be the engine of society in promoting peace by practicing justice”, the Holy Father said further to the crowd which, despite the rain, had filled Piazza Torre di Berta. An homage to the two pilgrim founders, considering that the prospective they opened – “to see life as a journey to come closer to the ‘truth’ and the ‘just’ – is still valid today.”

A “new public ethic”

A diocesan pilgrimage without precedent the previous month of March, in which the members of the Lieutenancy participated, allowed a good preparation of the

hearts for that unforgettable day whose success was obtained by the efforts of Bishop Riccardo Fontana of Arezzo-Cortona-Sansepolcro, and the mayor of the city, Daniela Frullani, who had the honor of giving a warm welcome to Pope Benedict XVI.

The idea of building a new little Jerusalem at the mouth of the Tiber, the river that flows through Rome, expressed Arcanus and Aegidius’ desire to support spiritually the ministry of the successor of Peter, in a fidelity renewed by the missionary spirit of the apostolic times. Using the example of these two laymen, the Pope highlighted the timeliness of the message conveyed by Sansepolcro: “Today there is the particular need for the service of the Church in the world to be expressed through enlightened faithful lay people, capable of working in the city of man with the will to serve



Pope Benedict XVI greets the citizens of Sansepolcro. At his side are Bishop Riccardo Fontana and Cardinal Giuseppe Betori, Archbishop of Florence. On the previous page: among the festive crowd there is a group of Knights of the Lieutenancy of Italy – Central Apennine.

over and above personal interests, beyond partisan views. The common good counts far more than that of the individual and it is up to Christians to contribute to the birth of a new public ethic”. Even beyond the anniversary of the founding of the city and its cathedral – which in addition to Piero della Francesca’s famous Resurrection contains the beautiful sculpture of the Holy Face of Jesus – the Holy Father’s visit assumed an important significance with this invitation.

Six months after the opening of the Year of Faith, Benedict XVI addressed the new generations: “Christians, especially the youth, are called to counter distrust of the political and social sphere with their commitment and love for responsibility, enlivened by the love of the Gospel which calls us to not to withdraw into ourselves but to take care of others. I invite the youth to think big; may you have the courage to be bold! Be ready to give new

flavour to the whole of civil society with the salt of honesty and disinterested altruism. It is necessary to recover a strong motivation to serve the good of citizens”.

In a context of a strong European social crisis, where desperation is gaining ground, the Pope told his listeners to broaden their horizons, turning their thoughts to the Christians in the Holy Land who are undergoing a much more serious and painful crisis. The Holy Father’s words on this topic particularly struck the members of the Order, who have had a bond with the city of Sansepolcro for a long time, so much so that Grand Master emeritus Cardinal Carlo Furno, is an honorary citizen. “We thank God that your diocesan community through the centuries developed an ardent missionary openness, as is witnessed by its twinning with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem which I was pleased to learn has borne fruitful collaboration and charitable works to help the need-

iest brethren in the Holy Land”, the Holy Father noted. “These ancient bonds led your forefathers to build a replica of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in stone here, in order to give the identity of the people a solid basis and to keep the devotion and prayer for the holy City alive. This bond continues and makes everything concerning the Holy Land appear as a reality that involves you, and likewise Jerusalem. Your name and the presence of the pilgrims of your Diocese nourish the fraternal relationship”. He urged the inhabitants and all their friends to open up new perspectives of solidarity, giving a renewed apostolic impetus at the service of the Gospel.

Contemplation of the Holy Face

Before this celebration of the Millennium the Pope had visited the cathedral and prayed before the depiction of the Holy Face, in spiritual communion with the Franciscan religious family that animates, not far from there, pilgrimages to Mount La Verna, in the foothills of the Apennines, where St. Francis received the stigmata in mid-September 1214. Because of the inclement weather, Benedict XVI was not able to visit there, as was planned; therefore in Sansepolcro he entrusted the intentions of the universal Church, in the paths of the Poverello of Assisi and his disciple, the great saint of these Tuscan lands, Margaret of Cortona, who knew how to unite contemplation of the Crucified with extreme charity.

François Vayne

Confirmation of the medieval chapel built in the crypt of the cathedral

IN ACQUAPENDENTE THE OLDEST REPLICA OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

“**T**he enigma of Acquapendente”, a city in Tuscany (now in the Province of Viterbo) on the Via Romea, that is, the medieval route taken by pilgrims between Canterbury and Rome, continues to fascinate: in fact, over the cen-

turies there have been many suppositions and hypotheses about the origin, construction and dating of the city’s most precious monument, the copy of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, or rather a chapel in the Romanesque crypt of its Basilica Cathedral.

The experts, studying the unusual and stratified structure of the basilica, have established with certitude only that the little building with a pyramid-shaped roof, like that of Jerusalem, was a tribute to a non-extant larger religious building from the High

The research of the historian, Mordechai Levy, Ambassador of Israel to the Holy See, presented at an international gathering of scholars with the presence of many Knights and Ladies of the Lieutenancy of Italy Central who have made this monument the center of their spiritual life



Middle Ages. This was enough for the Knights and Ladies of our Order from the nearby Delegation of Viterbo to make it the center of their spiritual life and for those from Lazio for it to become a goal of frequent pilgrimages. Now the confirmation that the chapel is “the oldest replica in Europe” of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem came from the studies of the historian Mordechai Levy, Ambassador of Israel to the Holy See, who presented his findings during an international seminar on 11 March 2012 in that very Cathedral of Acquapendente. The event, sponsored by the local Church and municipality, is seen as fundamental for its religious history by the Bishop Lino Fumagalli of Viterbo, Prior of the Lazio Section of the Order, who encouraged the presence of many members of the Lieutenancy for Italy Central and celebrated a Mass for all the seminar participants, especially the docents and academicians.

Mordechai Levy stated that the date of the “Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre” must certainly be placed in the 10th century. He began by excluding that it was commissioned by a noblewoman named Mathilde, as oral tradition states, and so neither by the Saxon princess Saint Mathilde, wife of Henry the Fowler, King of Germany and mother of Otto I the Great, King of Italy from 951 to 973 (who dedicated her life entirely to works of charity supporting the poor and building churches, monasteries and hospitals) nor her niece



Mathilde, the sister of Otto II. Both of them lived in the 10th century, but no documents indicate that they founded a religious house in Italy. Naturally it could not have been commissioned by Mathilde of Canossa, Marchessa of Tuscany, nor by Mathilde of Scotland, who lived a century later. He then declared that he had concentrated his attention on the powerful and pious Count Ugo of Tuscany, who in a letter of Saint Peter Damian is mentioned as the founder of seven monasteries. Scholars have identified five of them, said Levy, and the sixth should be that of Acquapendente. In support of this thesis he cites the “Charter” of 993 by count Ugo (which many scholars consider proof of an uninterrupted relationship between the Latin West and the

The facade of the Basilica of Acquapendente is from a recent era, while its medieval crypt houses the most ancient reproduction of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The monument (in the photo on the previous and adjacent pages) is particularly venerated by the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre of Lazio.

Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from the time of Charlemagne through the beginning of the Crusades). This document makes mention of the donation of his large properties to two churches in Jerusalem, that of the Holy Sepulchre and Santa Maria Latina, annexed to the monastery.

However, Levy affirmed, “the document could be interpreted in another key”: Ugo’s “Charter” states that the donations were in favor of the monks who in



Jerusalem would be taking care of the pilgrims coming there and leaving from there. These tasks, however, could have been performed during the pilgrimage as well, not at the final destination, “as if there were two Jerusalems”. Many and specific are the written examples of the use of the term Jerusalem not so much as a geographic place but as an expression of its spiritual importance. We should also recall the many churches, beginning with the Roman Church of Santa Croce and the medieval monasteries, with explicit reference to Jerusalem.

Documents from 993, Levy continued, indicate as a beneficiary of part of Count Ugo’s donations a certain abbot Farinus, that is, Guarinus of Cuxa, an important religious personality

even though his biography was never written and none of his writings are extant. He is known to have been a promoter of the monastic life, inspiring Saint Romuald in the foundation of the Camaldolese Order and the Venetian Doge, Pietro Orsoleo, in his seeking the contemplative life as a hermit at Cuxa. Both of these have been canonized and we know of Guarino through their biographies. Guarino, Levy continued, was also a key figure in the Cluny movement, so much so that he introduced that reform in five monasteries of the Pyrenees and Languedoc. He went as a pilgrim to the Holy Land several times and in 993, upon his return from a prolonged stay, seems to have participated in the act of the foundation of the Monastery of the

Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by count Ugo. It seems that he had brought from Jerusalem a relic of the Holy Cross to be placed in the chapel in Acquapendente. The marble reliquary came from the Holy City more than a century later, at the time of the Crusades, during the planning stage for the crypt which would shelter it. For Levy, Count Ugo was probably one of the first sovereigns in Italian territory to have founded a hostel for pilgrims on the way to Jerusalem, in the spirit of Cluny.

In conclusion Levy explained the reason that the chapel of Acquapendente is an imitation of that of Jerusalem, an imitation that in the medieval era – he began by saying – was based on symbolic parameters, and therefore not a full-scale model.

The majority of the descriptions of the aedicule in Jerusalem before the time of the Crusades mention a conical roof resting on a polygonal structure, almost always a pentagon, with five external columns surrounding the Sepulchre. From different viewpoints the shape of the roof could appear to be a cone or a pyramid; viewed from the front, however, it appears to have a triangular form. Villibar, the English monk who visited Jerusalem in 735, has left us a notable description of the aedicule of Jerusalem: the tomb carved into the rock, the square base, the pointed extremities surmounted by a cross. “An impressive description”, says Levy. “It is as if he had the chapel of Acquapendente in front of him”. **G.M.**

GEORGE DOTY DIES, LEADING FIGURE IN THE RESTORATION OF THE ANASTASIS

We remember him in this first volume of the new series of Annales with some photographs of our reporting on the event and the article dedicated to him in 1996, in the first volume of Annales

On 2 January 1997 the restoration of the dome of the *Anastasis* in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre was hailed as an event of unprecedented historical importance. After thirty years, the scaffolding hiding the aedicule of the Resurrection was dismantled; it had been erected for work that was always delayed because of financial reasons or for those of a juridical nature; now, however, the vault appeared again in all its splendor to the patriarchs and leaders of the Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Churches of

Jerusalem, to the many authorities and important personages, including the Apostolic Delegate for Jerusalem and Palestine, who was also Nuncio in Israel and a member of the Order, Archbishop (now Cardinal) Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo; and to the limited number of invited guests, first of whom was

Jerusalem, the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. George Doty and his wife, accompanied by Monsignor Robert Stern, admire the restoration of the dome of the Anastasis on the day of its dedication. His generosity allowed the work to be done.





Knight of the Grand Cross George Doty, accompanied by his wife and the then Secretary General of the “Pontifical Mission for Palestine”, our confrere Monsignor Robert Stern.

Doty, a wealthy banker and

member of the Lieutenancy of United States Eastern, had financed the whole restoration project; Monsignor Stern had secretly brought to a successful end the lengthy and difficult negotiations that allowed the co-

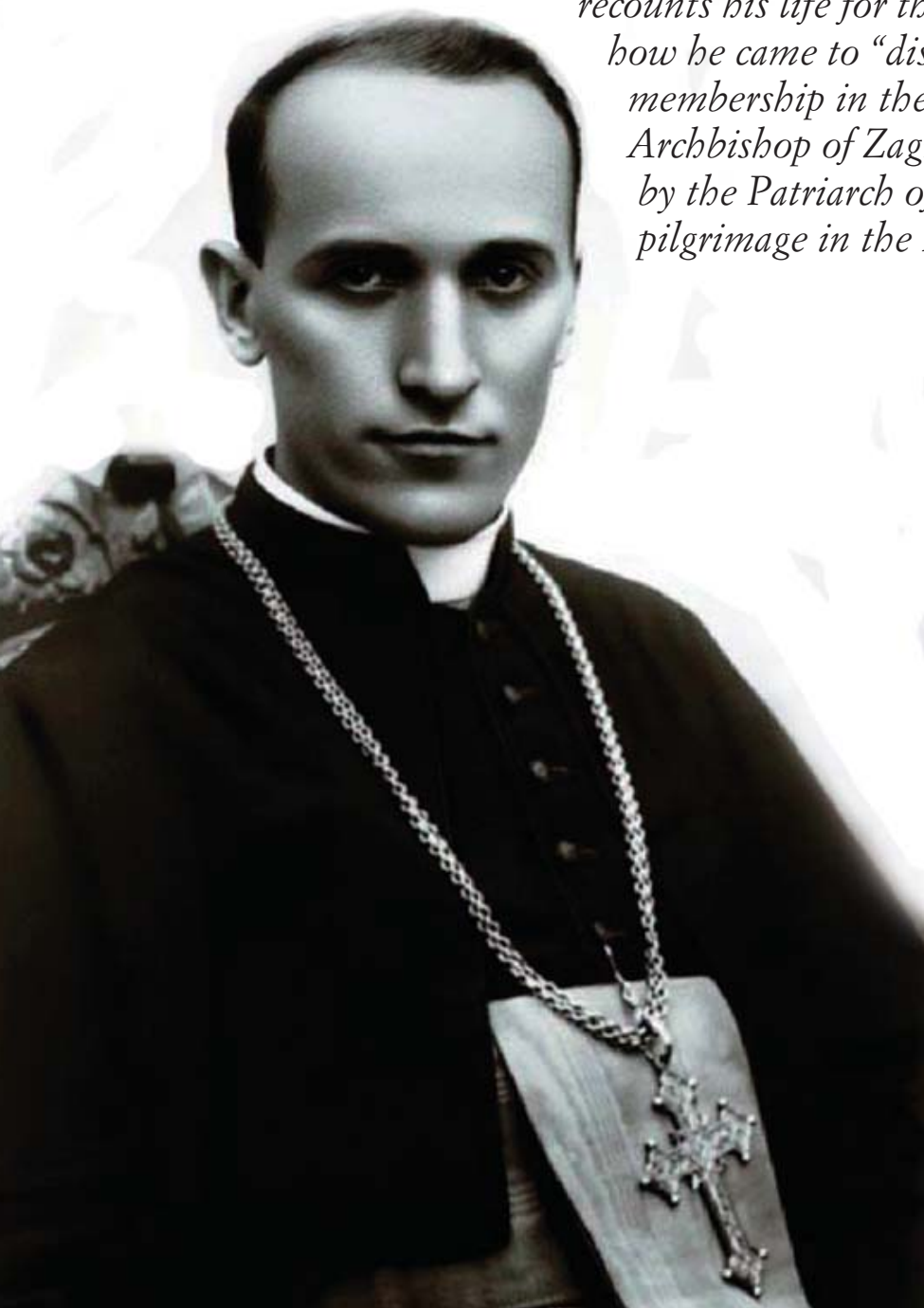
owners of the Basilica, the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Patriarchs and the Franciscan Custos of the Holy Land, to agree on the terms, goals and juridical aspects of a gift that would respect the historic rights sanctioned by the *status quo*. Naturally, present also was the artist, Ara Normart from the United States (who was introduced by our confrere Monsignor Denis Madden, at that time working for the Pontifical Mission and currently Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore); he had submitted several designs, the last of which was then executed in almost three years of work.

On 24 April 2012 Doty died in New York where he had been born on 15 February 1918. He was 94 years old. Exemplary for his Catholic faith, he was invested as a Knight of the Order on 19 April 1981. Greatly esteemed as well for his “notable dynamism” by the Archbishop of the metropolis, Cardinal John O’Connor, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, and by Vice Governor General F.Russell Kendall, on October 1990 he was called to lead the Lieutenancy of United States Eastern. On 19 May 1997 he was given the Cross of Merit and Gold Palm of Jerusalem by Grand Master Cardinal Carlo Furno; on 10 September 1993 he had received the Silver Palm of Jerusalem from the latter’s predecessor, Cardinale Giuseppe Caprio.

The father of five, he had also visited Rome many times in his capacity as one of the *Patrons of the Arts* of the Vatican Museums.

BLESSED CARDINAL ALOYSIUS STEPINAC, MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

*A confrere, his devoted compatriot,
recounts his life for the Annales and tells
how he came to “discover” the prelate’s
membership in the Order: the then
Archbishop of Zagreb was admitted in 1937
by the Patriarch of Jerusalem during a
pilgrimage in the Holy Land*



Aloysius Stepinac was born on 8 May 1898 in the village of Brezarić, in the parish of Krašić, forty kilometers from Zagreb. He was baptized the following day with the name of Alojzije Viktor. He was ordained a priest in Rome on 26 October 1930. In July of 1931 he returned to his native Croatia with two degrees, one each in philosophy and theology. Yugoslavia at that time was under a strong military dictatorship and the government forces particularly tried to weaken the Catholic Church. He served as Master of Ceremonies in the Archdiocese. On 28 May 1934 Pope Pius XI appointed him Coadjutor Archbishop with the right of succession: only 36 years old and a priest for less than four years, he



was the youngest bishop in the world. Three years later on the death of Archbishop Bauer on 7 December 1937, he assumed responsibility for the Archdiocese and was also entrusted with the presidency Bishops' Conference of Yugoslavia.

The whirlwind of the Second World War

From the beginning of the Second World War, consistent with his patriotism but very faithful to his pastoral mission, Stepinac firmly and bravely condemned the racial, ideological and political persecutions. In his public appearances as well as his many courageous written interventions, he demanded respect for every person, regardless of differences in race, ethnic origin, religion, gender or age. Faithful to the Gospel, he tirelessly condemned the crimes against humanity and all other injustices. Immediately after the adoption of the racist laws in April 1941,

Zagreb, 3 October 1998 – Pope John Paul II in prayer in the Cathedral in front of the funerary monument to Cardinal Stepinac. Several hours before he had presided over the ceremony of his beatification in the famous shrine of Marija Bistrica.

he strongly protested to the authorities. During the war he saved many Jews, Serbians, gypsies, Poles and even his Communist compatriots from persecution. When the Croatian government was installed, he intervened decisively, stating: “According to Catholic moral teaching, it is never permissible to kill a prisoner for a crime committed by others”. In a sermon in the Cathedral of Zagreb on 25 October 1942, he declared: “Every nation and every race present on the earth today has the right to live a life that respects human dignity and has the right to a treatment worthy of human dignity. Everyone, without exception, whether gypsies or of another race,

whether black or refined Europeans, whether hated Jews or arrogant Arians, have the same right to say, ‘Our Father who art in heaven’. And if God has given this right to everyone, what human authority can deny it?”.

He also opposed the practice of forced religious conversion and when he could not prevent it, he gave confidential instructions to the clergy: those who were seeking conversion to save their life should be received into the Catholic Church unconditionally, because “when this wild time of madness is over, those who were converted because of their own conviction will remain, while when the danger is over, the others can return to their own confession”.

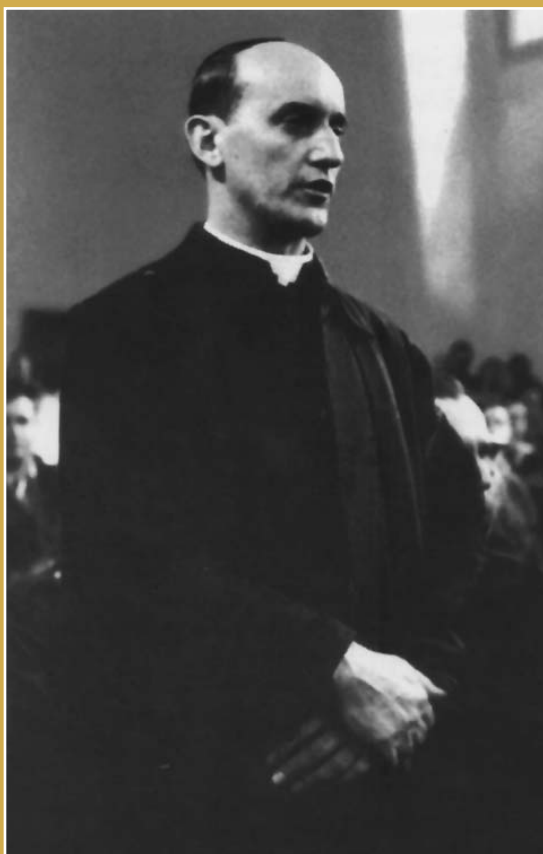
The Communist attacks after the war

After the end of the Second World War, the Communist Party, inspired by the Bolsheviks and especially by militant atheism,

took power in Croatia and in all of Yugoslavia. Archbishop Stepinac was already arrested on 17 May 1945 and remained in prison until 3 June. The following day the dictator Tito called him for a discussion in Zagreb. From this conversation, just as from Tito's conversation with the representatives of the Catholic clergy two days earlier in Zagreb, it was clear that the new regime wanted a "national Church", independent of the Holy See. For Stepinac it was an attack on Catholic unity and indeed it soon became clear that the government was planning violent persecutions against the Church. These persecutions would not be aimed only at bishops and priests, but also at all Catholics.

An unprecedented media campaign was mounted against the Church, especially against Stepinac, and it lasted with varying intensity until the fall of the Communist regimes on the European political scene.

In September 1945 Stepinac convoked a meeting of the Bishops' Conference to study the new circumstances and at its conclusion on the 22nd he promulgated a pastoral letter in which he minutely and courageously documented the violence and injustices committed by the new government during the war and after it, and not only against religion and the Church, but also against the citizens' freedom of conscience. Still harsher persecutions followed the pastoral letter, focused on Archbishop Stepinac personally. They even began attacks in the real, true sense,



Martyr of communist totalitarianism founded on lies, Monsignor Stepinac underwent an iniquitous trial in 1946 and was condemned to 16 years in prison. Pope Pius XII created him a cardinal in 1953, an act that led to a break in diplomatic relations between Yugoslavia and the Holy See.

throwing stones at him in Zatrešić, near Zagreb on 4 November 1945. The Archbishop was no longer able to carry out his pastoral activity and in January 1946 the new Communist authorities also began behaving in the same way as the preceding Nazi regime: they asked the Holy See to remove Stepinac from his ministry as Archbishop of Zagreb.

A farce trial

Following all the vehement attacks against his person, Stepinac was arrested again on 18 September 1946. A political trial with a predetermined outcome began on 30 September. Memorable were his words in his third address to the court, in October, which were not merely a defence, but even an accusation against

the legality of the tribunal. The address is also a sort of creed which shows how the Archbishop was ready to give his own life for the faith and the Church.

Based on forced statements and false testimony, even on falsified documents, on 11 October 1946 the innocent Archbishop was condemned to 16 years of forced labour and a further five years of deprivation of civil rights. Witnesses who wanted to testify in favour of him were not allowed into the courtroom. Their written testimony was never used. These testimonies have survived and today they are on exhibit in the Aloysius Stepinac Museum at the Kaptol in Zagreb.

After an impressive amount of protests from the civilian world, the Archbishop was transferred to house arrest in Krašić for the

rest of his sentence. On 12 January 1953, when he was still in prison, Pope Pius XII created him a Cardinal. Because of this the Yugoslavian government severed diplomatic relations with the Holy See. Stepinac, convinced that he would not have been allowed to return to his homeland, decided not to go to Rome to receive his Cardinal's biretta nor to participate in the conclave at the death of Pius XII. He wanted to remain with his people at all costs, to be a guiding light for his faithful throughout those dark times.

Prison and death

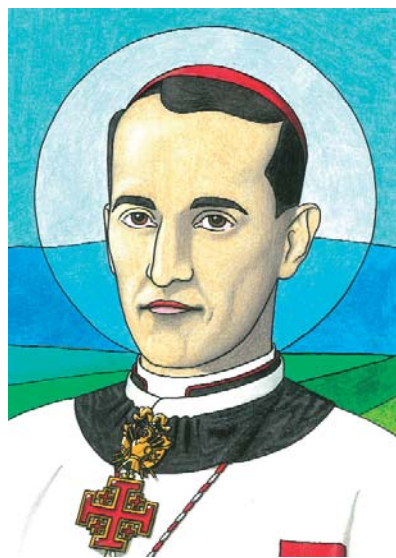
While in captivity, in the harshest isolation, he carried on his apostolate by writing. He wrote thousands of pages of sermons and other spiritual works. He sent more than five thousand letters to bishops, priests and faithful (approximately 700 of the letters are still extant) in which he, a man of faith, firm hope and total abandonment to God, encouraged and comforted his correspondents, especially urging them to persevere in the faith and in the unity of the Church. In these letters, as he did throughout his trial and imprisonment, he demonstrated a sincere love even for those individuals who had persecuted and unjustly accused him. Prayer for his enemies and asking forgiveness for all are the constant themes of his statements, his letters, and of the three testaments that he wrote.

Beginning in the spring of 1953, the illnesses he contracted

at the time of his imprisonment in Lepoglava worsened. He would have needed systematic hospital care and the doctors, closely watched by the regime, could not do anything. He refused any care that would mean that he would have to bow before biased judges who were slaves of the regime, or who could intimidate the clergy and other persons. His pain became a part of his life as a prisoner, but he bore it patiently until his death.

Death found him on 10 February 1960, while he was still serving his unjust sentence. He died a martyr, as the dictionary says, "*ex aerumnis carceris*" – because of "hardships in prison", but on his lips he had a prayer for his persecutors and the Lord's words: "Father, may your will be done!".

The virtuous life and the



Portrait of Blessed Stepinac with the insignia of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (Detail of a painting by Davor Zovko).

death of Cardinal Stepinac were recognized and honored by the people even during his lifetime and especially after his death, despite the efforts of and persecutions by the Communists. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II at Marija Bistrica on 3 October 1998. The beautiful area behind the main altar in the Cathedral of Zagreb, where his earthly remains are kept, is continuously decorated with an abundance of flowers, candles and notes of thanksgiving for prayers answered through his intercession. Many pilgrims acknowledge him as their personal protector and a patron of the Croatian people.

The testimony of a Jewish historian

Confirmation of the greatness of Cardinal Stepinac has come from an American Jewish historian, Ester Gitman. She lived in Zagreb for two years while working on her doctoral dissertation, studying thousands of documents about the Second World War. She had never heard of Aloysius Stepinac before that time. However, from the very beginning of her research she continuously ran into his name and so she could not but try to find out more about him. Developing a great admiration for his person and his action, she expressed it in her work "A Question of Judgment: Dr. Alojzije Stepinac and the Jews" (*Review of Croatian History* 2/2006, no. 1, 47, 58) and in the book, *When Courage Prevailed: The Rescue and Survival of Jews in the Independent State of Croatia 1941-1945*. (Saint

866
Pas. 2059.

Cognome e Nome P. S. Rev. Mons. Luigi Stepinac

Paternità Archiev. Titular e coadiutore con diritto a successione di Agr. Bauer a Zagreb.

Indirizzo Zagreb (Croasia)

Chi propose la nomina Motu Proprio

Diocesi e data del « nulla osta » _____

Posizione sociale _____

Grado accordato Comm. c. P. e.

Data di nomina 15/7/37

Spedito all'interessato il 28/7/37

Se nominato « motu proprio » si

Promozione il _____

Spedito a _____ il _____

Promozione il _____

Spedito a _____ il _____

Osservazioni _____

The register of new members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre preserved in Jerusalem in the archives of the Latin Patriarchate shows that Monsignor Stepinac was listed on 116 July 1937. It also notes his title of Titular Archbishop and Coadjutor to the Archbishop of Zagreb with the right of succession. (The Archbishop died six months later, on 7 December).

Paul, Paragon House Publishers) and in a documentary dedicated to him (*Kad istina pobijedi*, by Jadranka Jureško-Kero). Gitman's work demolished the insinuations and lies about the presumed ties between the Archbishop and the dictator, Ante Pavelic, head of the regime, a Croatian *ustasha* faithful to the anti-Nazis, documenting how his

life was in immediate danger several times, she illustrated and lauded Stepinac's aversion to the racial laws and his defense of human dignity; she showed how he was personally involved in saving hundreds of Jews, even stating that she was surprised that he had not yet been recognized as one of the "Righteous among the Nations".

In October 2008, Mr. Sandro Bariević wrote to tell me that he had seen a cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem among the personal effects of Blessed Aloysius Stepinac on display in the Aloysius Stepinac Museum at the Kaptol in Zagreb. He also sent me a picture of the distinction which I immediately recognized as belonging to a Knight Commander with Star of the Order. I immediately understood that Blessed Aloysius Stepinac was one of our confreres! Several days later Mr. Bariević found confirmation of that in a couple of biographies, maintaining great discretion but informing the Church authorities in Croatia. The confirmation came from the registry of the members of the Order (see photo), that I received from the Latin Patriarchate.

Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac was made a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in 1937, during the Croatian pilgrimage to the Holy Land which he led, by Latin Patriarch Luigi Barlassina who at that time exercised the role of Grand Master of the Order. As a Coadjutor Archbishop, he had the rank of Commander with Star (Grand Officer).

I am one of the many pilgrims who visit the tomb of Blessed Aloysius and ask his intercession. As a member, and now secretary, of the Lieutenancy for Sweden, I recognize that this great saint of our times has sustained me and my family in all of life's important events.

Davor Zovko



FROM THE
LIEUTENANCIES



AUSTRALIA - VICTORIA

New investiture in Melbourne

The Knights and Ladies of the Lieutenancy gather periodically for Mass, the recitation of the Rosary, and other moments of the spiritual life. The most important moment took place in Melbourne in October, with the investiture of new members in St. Patrick's Cathedral, with the Grand Prior, Archbishop Dennis Hart (*center of the photo*), presiding. The ceremony was preceded by the Vigil of Arms in the Carmelite Monastery of Kew, led

by Mons. Carlo Portelli and distinguished by the warm welcome the sisters gave to the many participants.

The annual dinner was enlivened by confrere Frank Costa and his accounts of an immigrant childhood, his career as a successful businessman, and his management of the Geelong Football Club, marked three times with the team's victory in the championship.





AUSTRIA

The Gold Palm of Jerusalem given to brother Otto Kasper

Lieutenant Karl Lengheimer presented to our Tyrolean confrere Otto Kasper, Lieutenant of Honor for Austria and member of the Grand Magisterium, the Gold Palm of Jerusalem, which had been conferred on him by Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien for his merits as a member of the Grand Magisterium, and in particular for his efficient renewal of the international informational

bulletin published by the Order. During his address of homage the Lieutenant affirmed that Doctor Kasper deserved this great honour not only because of his authority, founded upon a solid faith, his fidelity to the authorities of the Order in the tasks entrusted to him and his sensitivity to the needs of the times, but also so that his work may be an example for the Knights and Ladies of the Order. Doctor Lengheimer expressed a wish for much strength and God's blessing in the future. *(The photo above recalls the ceremony).*

In recognition of his various extraordinary merits Knight of the Grand Cross Otto Kasper also received a great pontifical distinction: Pope Benedict XVI named him a Commander of the Order of Pope St. Sylvester.

THE INVESTITURE IN BADEN WIENER NEUSTADT

Friday, 21 September 2011, the Vigil of Arms for a new investiture was celebrated in the ancient Cistercian Abbey of Heiligenkreuz, which has existed without interruption since 1133 and where more than 80 monks live today. The abbey is also known



beyond Austria for its philosophical-theological athenaeum that bears the name of Pope Benedict XVI (who visited there in 2007) and since this year is of pontifical right. Its Grand Chancellor, Abbot Maximilian Heim O.Cist., a very active member of the Order, ended the long procession bearing the relic of the Holy Cross, which was then exposed on the main altar. The celebration was presided over by the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, Archbishop Alois Kothgasser S.D.B., while the homily was given by the Prior of the Baden-Wiener Neustadt section, Father Amadeus Hörschläger O.Cist.

The investiture the following day began with a solemn chapter at Mödling. Member Gerhard Engelhardt greeted the members of the Order, led by the Chancellor of the Order, Ivan Rebernik, by the Lieutenants of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Slovenia and Hungary, by the Chancellor of Switzerland and the German Chancellor; also present was a large group of English and Scotch confreres. The Austrian Knights and Ladies were led by Lieutenant Karl Lengheimer and Grand Prior, Alois Kothgasser.

During the celebration of the Mass of Investiture 21 candidates (17 Knights, 2



FROM THE LIEUTENANCIES



Ladies, 1 priest and 1 deacon) were solemnly received into the Order by the Grand Prior, Archbishop Alois Kothgasser (*photo above*).

On 23 September the Sunday Mass of the Order was celebrated, respecting the Austrian tradition, together with the community of St. Stephan's parish in Baden; the church, which is also the section's place of worship, this year celebrated 700 years of parochial independence.

CHRISTMAS BAZAARS

For about 10 years the various sections of the Lieutenancy have been organizing Christmas bazaars. They sell

handicrafts made of olive wood as well as oil and incense from Christian producers in the Holy Land. The purpose of these Christmas bazaars (*see photo*) is to give work to Christians in Palestine, but their proceeds support the Order's projects in the Holy Land.





BELGIUM

The investiture presided over by the Patriarch of Jerusalem

Intense activity in the dioceses – Confreere Julien Ries created a Cardinal

The Mass for the deceased of the Order is traditionally the first gathering of the Liturgical Year. It is held on 24 March and is followed each year by the General Assembly of the Association of the Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which directs the Belgian Foundation for the Holy Land, the activities in economic support of the Holy Land .

In the month of April the members of the Order participated in the celebrations of Holy See (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday) in the caputular church of Notre Dame de Sablon. They participated in the *Te Deum* on the National holiday, 21 July, and on the king's feastday, 15 November.

The big event of the year, naturally, was

that of the investitures. On Friday, 14 June, the Chapter met, followed by a lunch and the Vigil of Arms. The following day the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Order, presided over the investiture of ten new members (four Knights, one Lady, one bishop and four priests). A brief ceremony marked the installation of the new Lieutenant, Jean-Pierre Fierens. This was followed by a dinner with a discourse by His Beatitude. The Order's liturgical year concluded with the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Palestine on 27 October. Archbishop Joseph Jules Zerey, Auxiliary of the Greek Melkite Patriarch of Jerusalem, was the main celebrant and he spoke at the dinner following the Mass.

The annual retreat, which was held from





15–18 November in France in the Cistercian Abbey of Notre Dame du Mont des Cats, was directed by an experienced preacher, our confrere Father Christian van Zeebroeck, OSB. Approximately 50 members participated. The Lenten day of recollection, it which about 40 of our brothers and sisters participated, some of them coming from the Netherlands, was held as it is every year in the Cistercian Abbey of Westmalle and was directed by the Ecclesiastical Ceremonial Officer, Canon Rijckenqui, who had also presided at the retreat for the aspirant members of the Order in the Benedictine Abbey of Maredsous.

The series of conferences held in Brussels during the year was opened on 17 January by Grand Prior Bishop Jean Kockerols allowed the members of the Lieutenancy, many of whom participated, to reflect on and delve deeper into the problems of present concern in the light of faith. Particularly interesting was the conference by the jurist Etienne Montéro, Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain, on the topic of “Euthanasia and Ethics”, which demonstrated the urgency of a general involvement in the public debate on respect for life from conception to natural death (the practice of euthanasia is being performed in Belgium without the consent of the patient).

In the dioceses also many were the gath-

erings and spiritual activities. On 21 March Bishop Jozef De Kesel of Bruges spoke about the situation of the local Church; on 14 November Bishop Lucas Van Looy of Gand celebrated the Eucharist in his private chapel, followed by refreshments; on 16 May Fr. Dominique Collin, OP spoke to the confreres of the Dioceses of Liege and Limburg on how Christianity can still be credible today. In the Diocese of Namur and the Vicariate of Brabant on 9 October Lebanese Father Francesco el Kouri of the Maronite Antonine Order illustrated the history of the Christian presence in his country. On 29 November our confrere Bishop Guy Harpigny of Tournai analyzed various current problem areas in the local Church.

An important moment for the Lieutenancy was the Consistory on 18 February because Pope Benedict XVI created a cardinal not only our Grand Master Edwin O'Brien, but also our confrere Bishop Julien Ries, professor emeritus of the Catholic Universities of Louvain and Milan, anthropologist and religious historian of international renown. The conference he gave on 24 November at Lessines, in the Diocese of Tournai, organized by Notre Dame à la Rose Hospital, was attended by a great number of people.

The annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land took place from 11-14 November with approximately 30 participants.

CANADA - TORONTO

Increased distributions and donations

The memory of the September investiture of 17 new members of the Lieutenancy in St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto will remain alive for a long time. The ceremony, with Grand Prior Archbishop Thomas Collins presiding, was particularly suggestive when Archbishop James Weisgerber of Winnipeg (Manitoba), as he expressed in his address during the gala dinner, described his joy and emotion upon entering the Order of the Holy

Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Among the more significant events of the year, there was the celebration of the Easter Vigil by our confrere Fr. Allan Hood, in the Augustinian Monastery of Marylake, near Toronto. It was attended by more than 60 Knights and Ladies gathered in the splendid church dedicated to Our Lady of Graces, with its impressive architecture; they then proceeded to a meeting with a reception



Celebration of the Easter Vigil in the Church of Our Lady of Grace, at Marylake.



Ladies and Knights who had just been invested in the Order in Saint Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, Toronto, Ontario.

and supper in the monastery's dining room. The Lieutenancy continued fostering the spiritual life of its members during Advent, with Lenten days of reflection, Easter meditations, special conferences, and parish vis-

its. One of the latter was marked by the celebration of Sunday Mass in Corpus Christi Church in Toronto, at which more than 70 Knights and Ladies participated. The speaker at the dinner that followed



Lieutenant Sir Clare Beingessner explains the annual report of the Lieutenancy during the annual general gathering in Le Parc, Toronto.

was Sir Hugh Mac Kinnon, a member of the Lieutenancy Council and of the Bethlehem University Foundation, who spoke about the activities and needs of this precious institution of the Holy Land and encouraged all to not allow it to lack support.

The Lieutenancy's program, which began in 2007, continues to develop with donations and distributions which reached a record level in 2011 and particularly benefited two institutions in Bethlehem: the Crèche (a day care) and the Catholic University.

IRELAND

The Lieutenancy mobilizes for the 50th Eucharistic Congress

There were five main events this year, occasions for the members of the Lieutenancy to meet and pray, and they all had the Eucharist as their center: a nocturnal vigil was held at the Marian shrine of Knock in County Mayo; the "springtime Mass" in Galway in which the postulants were accept-

ed; the procession for the feast in honor of Saint Oliver Plunkett at Drogheda County Louth; the Vigil of Arms and the investiture of new members at Saint Patrick Pontifical Seminary in Maynooth, with Governor General Agostino Borromeo present. Lastly, the year was brought to a close in November



with a reflection day.

However, from 8-18 June this year Ireland hosted the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, with the city of Dublin at its center; it was an exceptional event prepared for by a special day led by its Secretary General. Many Knights were involved in various ways for the whole of the time, in particular by chauffeuring ecclesiastical dignitaries, including our own Cardinal Grand Master, from their arrival at the airport to their departure, often dedicating themselves from dawn to late at night. The Lieutenancy contributed financially to the pilgrims' travel expenses to Ireland. The Council welcomed 34 of them coming from the Holy Land; others were lodged in the homes of the Knights and Ladies.

Two Knights participated in the opening ceremony, carrying the banners of the Order. On the feast of Corpus Christi, a solemnity enhanced by the presence of more than 10 thousand faithful, approximately 50 mem-

bers in mantle participated in the procession. Some of them took care of the stands where religious articles were displayed, others gave conferences or interviews in various sessions of the Congress. In his homily on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, the Grand Prior of the Order, Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, said, among other things: "Recalling our communion in suffering, I come to you as the pastor of Christ's little flock (Lk 12:32) which suffers in the Land of Promise, the Land of the new and modern promises and international resolutions that have never been fulfilled. It is the Land that first saw the fulfillment of God's plan to redeem His creation in the incarnation, passion, death, resurrection and ascension of the Son of Mary, our Mother and Virgin".

Many Knights and Ladies in mantle participated in the closing ceremony of the "Statio Orbis" at Croke Park, the general headquarters of the Gaelic Association.

Pilgrims from the Holy Land in Dublin. Leading the procession is a Franciscan friar (left) and a priest of the Latin Patriarchate (right).



ITALY CENTRAL

Intense spiritual activity marked by pilgrimages and by First Friday gatherings in Rome

During the course of the year the Lieutenancy began a rich program of significant events that met with a great and involved response for all the sections and delegations.

We recall the Holy Mass in the Basilica of

St. Mary Major on 13 January celebrated by the then Pro-Grand Master Edwin O'Brien for the "month's mind" of the death of Cardinal John Patrick Foley, Grand Master Emeritus. After that we had the joy of participating in the Consistory in which our Grand Master

Rome Section – Pilgrimage to Santiago di Compostela and Fatima (16-21 June 2012).



Jerusalem – Holy Sepulchre: Pilgrimage of the Rome Section (1-8 October 2012).





Pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of "Madonna della Quercia" - Viterbo 27-28 October 2012.

was created a Cardinal and his taking possession of the Church of St. Sebastian on the Palatine, his titular church as Cardinal.

On 19 January the Lieutenancy suffered a great loss: the death of Archbishop Giovanni De Andrea, Grand Prior of Honor. His memory shall remain a blessing and will be conserved in the hearts of all for all the good that each of us received from his assiduous and precious closeness.

We must make particular mention of the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and Fatima, from 17 to 21 June and the pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 1 to 8 October, both of them with Lieutenant Saverio Petrillo presiding, with the participation as well of the Grand Prior, Bishop Franco Croci, and the expert leadership of the Prior of the Rome Section, Monsignor Natalino Zagotto. All the participants, particularly the new Knights and Ladies, returned from this experience with a great satisfaction and a deep sense of spiritual enrichment.

As is customary, on the occasion of the Solemnity of Our Lady Queen of Palestine, the Lieutenancy made a pilgrimage to the beautiful Shrine of the Madonna della Quercia in Viterbo on 27-28 October.

At the end of the year there were two solemn investitures, the first in Rieti on 12 and 13 October for the Knights and Ladies of the Lazio Section, presided by the Grand Prior, and the other on 14 and 15 December

in Rome in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, with the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien presiding, and in the presence of the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, the Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, and other dignitaries of the Grand Magisterium

Particular attention was given to the or-



The Eucharistic celebration in the sanctuary of Santuario "Madonna della Quercia", represented in the icon.



ganization of the First Fridays of the month. The Lieutenancy gathered around the altar in the historic Roman Church of St. Praxedes, with the Grand Prior Franco Croci presiding. On 1 December Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello presided at the Mass and on 7 December the Grand Master, on the first anniversary of the death of Cardinal Foley.

During the course of the year the Lieutenancy prepared two publications: one of them, a *Quaderno di spiritualità* [Notebook

of spirituality], is a collection of the Grand Prior's homilies on devotion to the Sacred Heart, which he gave during the Masses on the First Friday of the month in 2011; the second work, with the title *Cenni storici e compiti attuali* [Historical notes and today's tasks] is a brief presentation of the Order's history and its noble aims, for the purpose of facilitating and promoting a more thorough and correct understanding of the Order for those aspiring to become a part of it.

ITALY – SOUTHERN ADRIATIC

Knights and Ladies of Italy at the sanctuary of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Hundreds of Knights and Ladies participated in the first national pilgrimage to the shrine of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina in the town of San Giovanni Rotondo. Every year tens of millions of faithful come from all over the world to this place in southern Italy, on Mount Gargano, to venerate the miracle-working Capuchin friar who was privileged with the Stigmata and left behind a magnificent charitable activity, the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza [Home for the Relief of Suf-

fering], a hospital and scientific research center *par excellence*. Next to it, in commemoration of his canonization, the Capuchin friars have built a monumental church, designed by the famous architect, Renzo Piano, embellished with important works of art, including the mosaics by the equally famous Jesuit Father Marco Rupnik. In every continent "Padre Pio Prayer Groups" memorialize his beatification and canonization celebrated by Pope John Paul II, who had known him personally and had been his devoté.

Promoted and organized by the Lieutenancy for Italy – Southern Adriatic, which is at work in this region, Apulia, through many very active sections and delegations, the pilgrimage took place from 29 June to 1 July with the significant presence of the Assessor of the Order, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea representing the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, and the participation of the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, of the Lieutenants for Italy Northern Giuseppe Vecchio, for Italy Central Appennine Giovanni Ricasoli-Firidolfi, for Italy South





Tyrrhenian Giovanni Napolitano. To them and all the pilgrims a greeting was given on Saturday morning, 30 June, in the Basilica's auditorium, by Lieutenant Rocco Saltino, by Archbishop Michele Castoro of Manfredonia-Vieste-San Giovanni Rotondo and by friar Mariano Di Vito, in the name of the Rector and his confreres (*in the photo on the preceding page the presidency of the gathering*).

Lieutenant Saltino highlighted the idea that the secret of the widespread devotion to Padre Pio should be sought "in his being 'a friar of the people', a miracle worker, but first and foremost a religious sincerely enamored of Christ Crucified; therefore, in the mystery of the Cross that he lived with the Stigmata as well. Indeed, with his thoughts turned to the Holy Land, he loved to join the glory of Mount Tabor to the mystery of the Passion of the Lord."

Governor General Agostino Borromeo devoted his address to the pilgrims on the theme of "Christian pilgrimage" in which, as a professor and historian, he reconstructed and described its expressions over the centuries. He made particular mention of the protection, defense and assistance of pilgrims to the Holy Land offered by the Equestrian Orders who in that way joined it to the devotional visit and veneration of the holy places of the Redemption. Over time it matured in their ongoing support of all the Christian institutions in the Holy Land.

Archbishop De Andrea reflected on the theological meaning of pilgrimage, not only on the idea of going to and returning from the holy places, but also of departing and departing anew from the earthly Jerusalem, having always the heavenly Jerusalem as our goal. Recalling, then, some episodes of his life as a diplomat, Papal Nuncio in various parts of the world, he urged each Knight and Lady to reconsider their own Christian vocation in the light of a journey of pilgrimage, devotion and conversion, an "occasion for re-energizing one's own faith and hope", in such a way as to attend fully to the works of charity, without which the other virtues would lack meaning or fulfillment.



The pilgrimage had begun in the afternoon of the previous day, Friday the 29th, with a visit to the basilica, the masterpiece of architect Renzo Piano, and a procession to the crypt for the veneration of the mortal remains of Saint Pio, which are enclosed in a silver and glass urn. The splendid mosaics along the walls of the corridor present a parallel of the life of St. Francis and that of St. Pio, with citations that are not so much historical as they are theological and pastoral.

On Saturday afternoon on the slope of Monte Castellano, a moving *Via Crucis* was held based on the meditations of our confrere Monsignor Carmine La Dogana at each Station of the journey, which is enriched by the monumental sculptures of Francesco Messina. Particularly symbolic was the Fifth Station in which (*see photo above*) the Cyrenean was depicted as Saint Padre Pio. The cross was carried by the Lieutenants in the last section and up to the Fifteenth Station, the Resurrection, where after receiving the final blessing, the group posed for their photo-record.

The pilgrimage concluded in the Basilica on Sunday with Archbishop De Andrea presiding at the solemn celebration of the Mass, which was made more memorable by his homily. The Lieutenants led the Prayers of the Faithful and at the end the Governor General recited the prayer of the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre.



ITALY NORTH

On 28 October 2012 in the Church of San Bernardino in Crema the feast of the Patroness, the Blessed Virgin Queen of Palestine was celebrated, with the Grand Prior, Bishop Oscar Cantoni presiding, and the Ecclesiastical Ceremonial Officer, Monsignor Giordano Ronchi and the Prior of the Delegation of Torino, Monsignor Ottorino Girotti, concelebrating.

With the Pope the Festival of the Family

In the beginning of June the great diocese of Milan, with its millions of faithful, hosted the Seventh World Meeting of Families, with Benedict XVI presiding. Many Knights and Ladies, not only from this Lieutenancy, participated in the event with their families in the context of their ecclesial involvement, particularly at the parish level.

At the gathering on Saturday 2 June in Bresso Park during the "Evening of Witness", the Holy Father dialogued with the families, responding to the few testimonies expressed in the name of the whole assembly. He insisted on the necessity of joining reason, sentiment and will with the goal of achieving that "forever" of the sacrament of Matrimony. "I often think of the wedding-feast of Cana", he said. "The first wine is very fine: this is

falling in love. But it does not last until the end: a second wine has to come later, it has to ferment and grow, to mature. The definitive love that can truly become this 'second wine' is more wonderful still, it is better than the first wine." He also invited divorced and remarried to offer their suffering of not being able to participate in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, a suffering that can truly help the Church if it is intimately accepted. At the Sunday Mass the next day in the same park Benedict XVI urged the families to "believe ... in authentic love, the kind that comes from God and unites us to him". Among the other important events of the Lieutenancy we would mention the feast of the Patroness of the Order, the pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and the annual ceremony of investiture.





The ceremonies of investiture of new Knights and Ladies were celebrated on 23 June and 20 October at Milan in the church of Santa Maria della Pace; both were presided by the Grand Prior Oscar Cantoni, Bishop of Crema, in the presence of Lieutenant Silverio Vecchio and civil and military authorities.





ITALY - SICILY

Growth in the spiritual life, in engagement for the Holy Land and in the field of communications

After a period of organization and the overcoming of some initial difficulties, the Lieutenancy now experiences a spirit of fraternal collaboration, thank to a general commitment and the active collaboration of the Grand Prior, Cardinal Paolo Romeo, and all the Bishop Priors of the sections and delegations. The Lieutenancy now numbers 669 members: 398 Knights, 182 Ladies and 89 ecclesiastics.

The Council of the Lieutenancy decided on a slight increase in the dues for 2012, a small step towards the fulfillment of the di-

rectives of the *Consulta*, but a significant move because it was taken at the time of a noticeable economic and financial crisis. The sections of Palermo and Catania made provision for the extraordinary collection of outside funds: the first through the management of the ancient Church of San Cataldo; the second through the 8th annual Lenten concert that allowed a collection of funds, and other initiatives. The Lieutenancy also brought its expenses into line with what is indicated in the Statutes and made provision for sending the money coming from do-

In the photos, the ceremony of investiture in the Cathedral of Catania.





nations and other initiatives to the Holy Land through the Grand Magisterium for the ends determined by the Patriarchate. Next year there are plans to support some ROACO projects, in particular the restoration of the house of the Daughters of St. Anne at Ein Karem and the remodeling of the Church of St. John the Baptist at Rafidia; there are also plans for the awarding of an annual scholarship to a seminarian from the Holy Land, whose name will be chosen by the Patriarch, and renewed until the time of his priestly ordination.

From 29 April to 4 May the Lieutenancy's pilgrimage to Lourdes was held, incorporated into the pilgrimage of the Diocese of Catania and led by the Metropolitan Archbishop Salvatore Gristina, Prior of the Section. There was great participation in the Eucharistic celebrations and the candlelight processions, during which the Knights and Ladies carried the cross or the statue of Our Lady. The Lieutenancy's pilgrimage to the Holy Land is planned for April 2013.

On 19 May the ceremony of investiture was held in the Cathedral Basilica of Catania, preceded by the Vigil of Arms and prayer in the capitular Church of Saint Julian, Headquarters of the Order. The Chancellor of the Order, Ivan Rebernik, participated in

both events.

In the field of communication an internet site was activated (www.santosepolcrosicilia.it), and is followed with great interest not only by members of the Lieutenancy; it has intensified participation in the various seminars and round tables in all the dioceses. Still within the perspective of imparting better knowledge of the Order, the Lieutenancy sponsored the publication of a volume on "*S. Andrea a Piazza Armerina, Priorato dell'Ordine del Santo Sepolcro. Vicende costruttive, cicli pittorici e spazio liturgico*". (St. Andrew's at Piazza Armerina, Priorate of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. History of its construction, painting cycles and liturgical space.)

In the context of the ongoing formation of the Knights and Ladies, in agreement with the Grand Prior for the year 2011-2012, the sections and delegations were encouraged to study and discuss with the assistance of ecclesiastics Pope Benedict XVI's Exhortation, "*Verbum Domini*". Furthermore, following the indications in his Apostolic Letter "*Porta Fidei*", they delved deeper into the great topic of the faith, on the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council "so that the Lord may grant each of us to experience the beauty and joy of being Christians".



The Lieutenancy of Mexico generously mobilized to give a warm welcome to the Pope, gathering around Lieutenant, José María Carracedo Bolinaga and Grand Prior Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera.



MEXICO

The Pope urges resistance to and reaction against fear

Great was the joy of the Knights and Ladies of the Lieutenancy upon the visit of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to that nation from 23 to 26 March, which was followed by a visit to the island of Cuba.

The war between the drug cartels in Mexico, which also involves the police forces, has claimed more than 50 thousand victims in five years, a *de facto* civil war. For this reason there was much expectation about the Pope's message. He revived the Christian hope of its population of 108 million inhabitants, 90 per cent of whom are Catholic, im-

mersed, however, in a political situation of a distinct separation between Church and State, the result of a strong anticlerical tradition. Replying to the welcoming address of the Federal President, Felipe Calderón, and at the homily during Mass in León, at the monument of Christ the King, which saw the participation of approximately six thousand faithful, the "pilgrim of hope" who had come from Rome encouraged all Mexicans to resist the fear that helps the gang warfare to flourish and "boldly to promote peace, harmony, justice and solidarity".

HOLLAND

An experience, meeting with a Sister who has contributed greatly in raising aid to the Holy Land

The Lieutenancy's activities are always focused on the spiritual development of the members and support for our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. A good relationship among the members con-

tributes to the achievement of these objectives. Therefore, the three foundational pillars are: spirituality, charity and brotherhood and on these this year's program allows for a broad reflection.

The spiritual activities are related to the ceremony of Investiture and the celebrations of advent, Holy Week and the Exaltation of the Cross. These events allow personal encounters and fund-raising initiatives. This is what happens as well in the meetings that the Lieutenancy sponsors in its eight regions. The feelings of fraternity develop better in a group with a smaller number of persons. The deepening of faith requires a spiritual education and to that end the Lieutenancy is promoting and organizing courses, retreat days and meetings, giving preference to small group gatherings in every region.

The "Caritas" Commission is charged with collecting aid not only from the members of the Order, but also from foundations outside the Order, thus establishing relationships with Catholic institutions and individuals who are sympathetic to our objectives. The funds raised help support the life of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and contribute to the realization of projects of other Catholic institutions.

The political and religious situation in the Holy Land is complicated. During journeys to the Holy Land and through publications in the media, the members of the Order face this complex situation and the problems related to it. Special public lectures help to give the most balanced possible picture of the situation.

All the Christians in the Holy Land offer their services to persons of other confessions as well. Children belonging to the Muslim religion attend Christian schools. In the hospitals patients are cared for without consideration of their religion or philosophy of life. It is important that these Christian institutions give people the possibility to enjoy a more decent life and show in practice what is meant by love of God and love of neighbor.

Through its internal publications the Lieutenancy tries to motivate the members to sponsor fund-raising activities, as much as possible. However, personal contact is more effective than any publication and for this reason, on the occasion of its pilgrimages to



the Holy Land, they visit one or more institutions of the Latin Patriarchate, such as the seminary, the schools, parish institutions and other humanitarian institutions conducted by religious congregations. Often these institutions given agonizing impression of the complexity of life for Christians in the Holy Land, but also of the wonderful humanitarian work they perform. They meet priests, religious and laity who are attractive examples of faith put to work in love. In the conviction that meeting people is more effective than any publication, we sometimes invite individuals who work in the Holy Land to visit Holland to give them an opportunity for a richer knowledge and experience.

In 2012 Sister Maria Rosa di Toro, of the Congregation of the Hortus Conclusus, was our guest; she works in the village of Ortas, near Bethlehem, in a totally Muslim area. Adjacent to the beautiful Marian shrine she conducts a day-care that is extremely respectful of the religion of the children entrusted to their care. The members of the Lieutenancy who visited Ortas were impressed by the sentiments of faith that emerged in their meeting with Sister Maria Rosa (*in the photo*) and her sisters.. And the Knights and Ladies who met Sister Maria Rosa in Holland had the same experience. Thus Sister Maria Rosa's visit to our country has doubtlessly contributed much to the support of our aid programs.



PORTUGAL

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land That began in Rome near the Pope

Various activities in the spiritual, social and cultural field were sponsored by the Lieutenancy, all of them aimed at promoting the spiritual growth of the members, increasing their knowledge of the Order, and sensitizing them in their support of the Holy Land.

There was great participation in the traditional religious celebrations of the Order and the Church for the feasts of Our Lady Queen of Palestine and the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, for Holy Week, *Corpus Christi* and Christmas. A spiritual retreat on the theme of *Porta Fidei* was led by the Ecclesiastical Ceremonial Officer, Father Gonçalo Portocarrero de Almada. In Lisbon a Mass for peace in the Holy Land was celebrated, with Monsignor João Seabra, Canon of the Holy Sepulchre, presiding, and with the participation of a delegation from the Lieutenancy for Finland, which included the Lieutenant Matias Sarimoe, the Lieutenant of Honor, Lauri Juhani Gorki and the Archbishop of Helsinki, Teemu Sippo.

A conference organized in collaboration with the Catholic University, was given by Professor Miguel Ayuso, President of the Union of Catholic Jurists. Three other conferences, each preceded by social gatherings, permitted the collection of funds for the Holy Land: the first conference, by the Ambassador of Hungary, Norbert Konkoly, was on the topic of his nation's constitution; the second, on the social marginalization of Christians, was given by Monsignor Duarte da Cunha, Secretary of the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of Europe; lastly, Father Gonçalo Portocarrero de Almada spoke on the Year of Faith. Other financial contributions were raised on the occasion of the second annual Christmas Bazaar, which was a great success.

Among the year's most important events were: the February consistory in which the Holy Father created the Grand Master, Edwin

F. O'Brien, a Cardinal, at which a delegation from the Lieutenancy was present; and from 25 September to 4 October the pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Land, with 75 participants, led by Lieutenant Gonçalo Figueirado de Barros. At the general audience granted by the Holy Father on 26 September, the group of 41 Knights and Ladies, wearing their capes and the insignia of the Order, were seated in a reserved section at the left of the altar in St. Peter's Square. Before imparting his Apostolic Blessing, Pope Benedict XVI greeted them in Portuguese. Then he blessed a composition of *azulejos* (ceramic tiles) depicting Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, Patroness and Queen of Portugal, offered by the Lieutenancy to the Sanctuary of the Annunciation in Nazareth through the contribution of two of its Knights.

The pilgrimage to the Holy Land was marked in the beginning by a visit to Aboud to the Convent of the Rosary Sisters, which had been restored with contributions from the Lieutenancy; two days (2 and 3 October) were spent in Jerusalem for the Vigil of Arms in the Co-Cathedral of the Latin Patriarchate and the investiture of 10 new Knights and Ladies in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, both celebrations presided by Mons. William Shomali, Auxiliary Bishop of Patriarch Fouad Twal, who then conferred the "pilgrim's shell" on all those who were making their first pilgrimage. In the evening, during a dinner offered in the Patriarchate to the Lieutenant and the members of the Lieutenancy Council, they presented a statue of Our Lady of Fatima, produced by the historic factory of Vista Alegre, a gift for Patriarch Twal from the Bishop of Leira-Fatima, Antonio Marto, who accompanied it with an invitation to preside on 13 May of next year at the ceremonies celebrating the apparition of the Virgin. Lastly, on 4 October, before setting out on their



return flight to Portugal, the group of pilgrims visited the shrine of the Patroness, Our Lady of Palestine, at Deir Rafat and participated in the celebration of the Mass, gladdened by the singing of the Correja de Campos family, who had also participated in all the other events. We should also recall the valuable pilgrim's guide book prepared for the occasion by Father Miguel d'Aguiar and the sou-

venir DVD which was distributed to all the participants.

The recent investiture ceremonies in the Holy Land, which combined the periodic ones held in various cities in Portugal, had a very positive and significant impact on the spiritual life of the members of the Order and a gave them greater awareness of their statutory commitments.

The 75 Portuguese pilgrims with Bishop William Shomali and the Portuguese ambassador to Israel (Holy Sepulchre, 3 October 2012).

SWDEN

Initiatives to raise awareness about the Order and to support the work in the Holy Land

During the course of 2012 the Lieutenancy conducted various activities. "The Days of the Order" were held regularly; the Diocese of Marielund hosted a spiritual retreat for the Knights and Ladies, which was

also open to their friends; pilgrimages to the Holy Land were organized in collaboration with other Lieutenancies.

The fifth issue of the periodical *Acta Locumtenentiae Sveciae* contained a study



FROM THE LIEUTENANCIES



of the history of the Order by Lieutenant Carl Falck. Another member, Biblical studies Professor Tord Fornberg, wrote an article in which, on the basis of the data acquired from many scientists, confirms that the place we venerate as the Holy Sepulchre is precisely the empty tomb of Our Lord. An article about the Holy Land was sent by Fr. Firas Aridah of St. Joseph's Parish in Jifna.

To support the Order's activities and present these activities to the Swedish public the Lieutenancy, in collaboration with the Croatian Catholic Mission in Sweden, published two postcards with paintings by confrere Davor Zovko, an expert in heraldry: the first card shows a detail of the portrait of Blessed Cardinal Aloysius Stepinac working

the mozzetta and insignia of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (see the article on page 46); the second card shows the coat-of-arms of the Grand Master, Cardinal O'Brien. In this way they celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Archbishop of Zagreb's admission into the Order and the Consistory at which the Grand Master was created a Cardinal, and at the same time they raised funds for their works of charity: a project, which they were able to complete thanks to the contribution of some donors and the assistance of the Lieutenant for Canada Atlantic, Stewart LeFort. Brother Zovko, who is also a talented baritone, gave a benefit Christmas concert to publicize the goals of the Order and raise funds for its activities.

In September the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross was celebrated together with Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, a guest in Sweden at that time because of his evangelization initiative, "The Courtyard of the Gentiles". The central event of the year was the feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine, celebrated with a solemn Mass in St. Erik's Cathedral in Stockholm and conferences by two illustrious speakers: Ulla Gudmundsson, Ambassador of Sweden to the Holy See and Douglas Brommesson from the University of Lund.

Since the Feast of All Saints, the new Lieutenant is our confrere Stefan Ahrenstedt (*in the photo*), a noted psychiatrist, who has been working for 17 years in his clinic in Stockholm. Married, he is the father of three. He has the rank of Major in the Swedish armed forces, is involved in the Arctic forestry service and in hyperbaric medical emergency care. A Knight since 2004, he is Commander since 2009; he served as secretary of the Lieutenancy from 2004 to 2008 and treasurer from 2008 to 2012.

REVIEW

Redemptionem misit Dominus in populo suo



Musical Compact Disc – Edited by the Lieutenantcy for Italy Central Appenine, 2012

The project of Umberto Lorenzetti and Cristina Belli Montanari, authors of the important book *L'Ordine Equestre del Santo Sepolcro di Gerusalemme. Tradizione e rinnovamento all'alba del Terzo Millennio* (which I reviewed in the periodical “AD” 2012), has now been completed with the production of a musical compact disc, this too with the approval of the Lieutenantcy of Italy Central Appenine, of which they are very active members, and with the same scope, that of “making known the charitable mission of the Order for the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and to collect funds for the Christian brothers and sisters who are living today in the tormented Land of the Redeemer”.

But why have recourse to music? Because “in the art of sounds one finds a reflection of the sovereign beautiful of God”, they explain in the booklet that accompanies the CD. And why with Gregorian liturgical chant? Because “it is considered the most elevated expression of prayer, thanksgiving and praise of God”. Therefore it is a gift offered to all listeners – but first and foremost to our confreres – “capable of arousing sentiments of devotion and disposing the spirit

to receive the fruits of divine grace”. An intention that is even more laudable in that, they point out, “profane influences have penetrated into sacred music, rendering it unadapt for the ministerial function that belongs to it”.

The work is of the highest quality. The planner and artistic director is Maestro Gabriele Gravagna, renowned teach of musical philology and Chair of organ and Gregorian chant at the “Conservatorio Gioachino Rossini”, the prestigious musical school of Pesaro (the composer’s birthplace). Performers are members of the two formations, men and women, of the choir Gravagna founded twenty years ago for the philological recovery of Gregorian chant pursued through the study of the most authoritative codices of the 12th, 11th and 12th centuries. With the title of *Redemptionem misit Dominus in populo suo*, the program follows an itinerary of liturgical chants planned “for meditation on the mystery of the Redemption, that supreme manifestation of God’s love for humanity”, and to facilitate meditation on the texts of the chants, which are naturally sung in Latin, the booklet contains Italian and English translations.

The program is also accompanied by three of the *Huit pièces modales pour orgue*, compositions for the organ, by the Frenchman Jean Langlais (1907-1991), exquisitely performer by Giovanna Franzoni, professor of organ and organ composition at the Conservatory of Pesaro. And – SURPRISE! – it is completed and brought to closer with the Choir’s rendition of the *Inno dei Cavalieri del Santo Sepolcro*, the unforgettable composition of Riccardo Pick-Mangiagalli (1882-1949). The composer and pianist, born in Bohemia and a naturalized Italian citizen, from 1936 until his death he directed the Conservatory of Milan, alternating his teaching and concert work. The text of this hymn, a beautiful lyric poem by Luigi Orsini, (*in the adjacent box*) deserves to be reproduced here [in an unofficial English translation].

HYMN OF THE KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

God of pardon, God of salvation,
Ray that enkindles heavenly dawns,
Light of grace, flame of valour,
Temper us all with your strength.

You, font of every good and gladness,
Burning sun, mystical dew,
In the sign of the cross and the sword,
Keep us worthy of your service.

There are no better statements of esteem and pleasure for this project created and executed by Umberto Lorenzetti and Cristina Belli Montanari, than those of the Lieutenant for Italy Central Appenine Giovanni Ricasoli-Firidolfi (who calls it a “fortuitous instrument” for promoting the patrimony of faith, history and the finality of the Order) and of the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, Bishop Luciano Giovannetti. He says that he is certain that “in listening to this sacred music one will experience what Saint Augustine said, that is, that ‘Whoever prays singing is praying twice’. And so that the beauty of this prayer may be authentic, my wish is that it may have a profound effect on one’s existence, as that same great doctor of the Church recommended, “*And with your life you must keep singing without ever ceasing*”.

Graziano Motta

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