

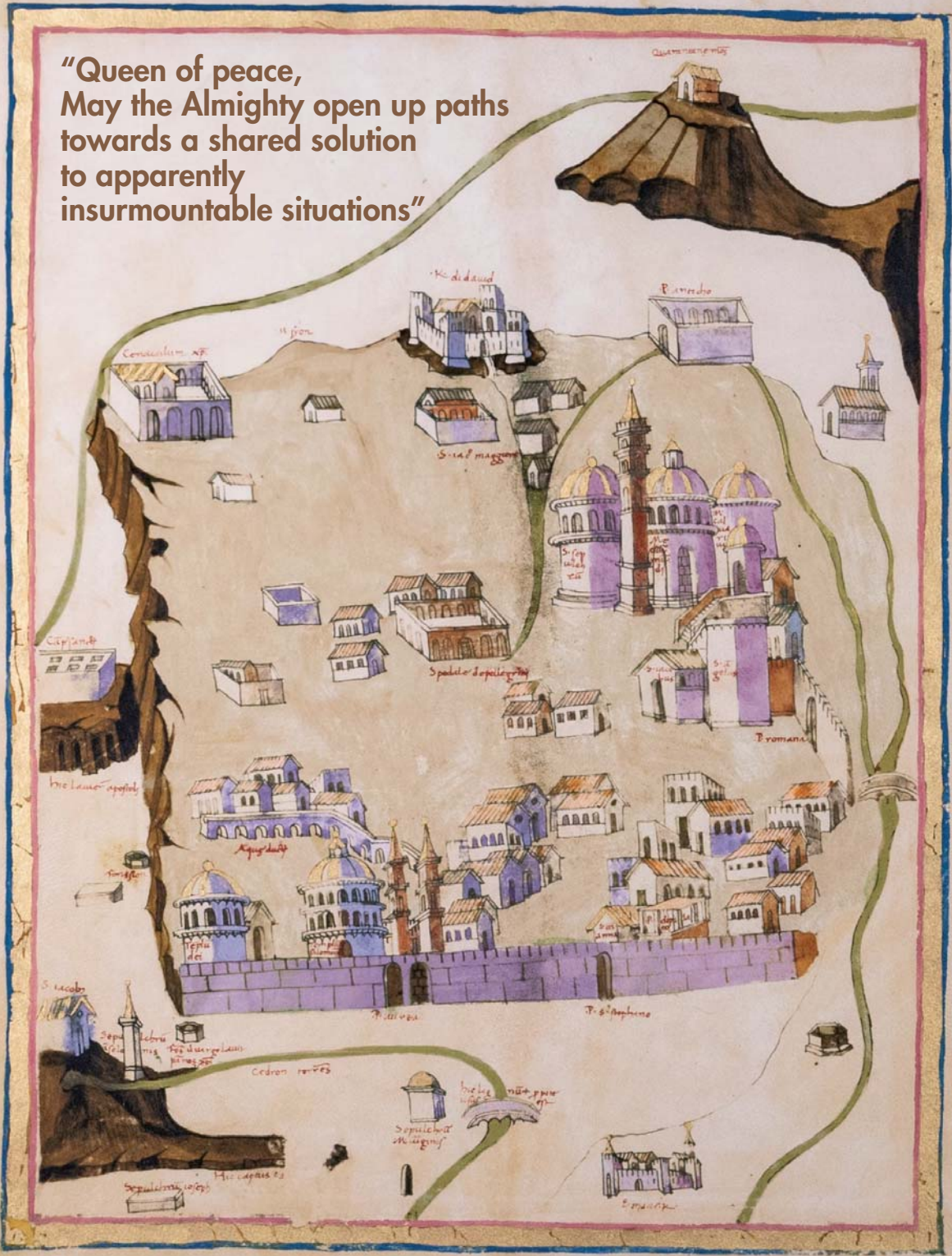


JERUSALEM CROSS

ANNALES ORDINIS EQUESTRIIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIERSOLYMITANI

· : H I E R V S A L E M : -

**"Queen of peace,
May the Almighty open up paths
towards a shared solution
to apparently
insurmountable situations"**



*Grand Master of the Equestrian Order
of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*
Cardinal Fernando Filoni

*Governor General of the Equestrian Order
of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*
Leonardo Visconti di Modrone



ANNALES ORDINIS EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

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On the cover

Pietro del Massaio, *View of Jerusalem.*

Table added to *Ptolemy's Cosmography*, *Vat. lat.* 5699, f. 128v.

Between 1469 and 1472, Pietro del Massaio commissioned several manuscripts of *Ptolemy's Cosmography*, for which he personally painted nine plates representing the cities of Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome, Constantinople, Damascus, Jerusalem, Cairo, and Alexandria. The parchment-type manuscript *Vat. lat.* 5699, from which this reproduction is taken, was made in Florence in 1469 by the French copyist Hugo de Comminellis of Mezières, and intended for Niccolò Perotti, Archbishop of Siponto (1429-1480).

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From communication to communion

Appointments are moments that punctuate our lives and that we look forward to. This is also the case for annual appointments because they signal a meeting for those who delight in coming together or talking to each other.

Thus, for 2022, the annual review of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre will be the meeting point for many friends: you, the Knights and Dames, and those who, out of curiosity or sympathy, are browsing these pages.

What are you going to find on these pages?

First, **news of the life of the Order**. The past year has brought its own share of challenges and gifts and, at the same time, a strong desire to look to the future, both from a personal and ecclesial point of view. Our Order has continued its work of updating important documents, such as the Ritual, and is currently working on the new Regulations which will support Knights and Dames in their daily life as members of the Order, which has been enriched by many new members.

Despite the restrictions brought about by the pandemic, the **activities within the different Lieutenancies** have been numerous and varied; this shows the dynamism of the Knights and Dames, whom I thank for their generous dedication. In the following pages, you will be able to read about some of the projects that the Lieutenancies have carried out to fulfill their mission of supporting the Church in the Holy Land, of involvement in local community and spiritual initiatives, and of generous charity.

I am fortunate, as are readers of this magazine, to be able to read **the testimonies** through which you share your inspiration and your desire to be members of the Order. These testimonials enrich our pages. I hope that this richness will be communicated and shared more widely because your involvement describes the very core of our mission which binds us to the Land of Jesus. The emphasis **on spirituality** is a focal point that makes us stronger. I am sure that the reflections contained in the text *And the whole house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume*, in the podcasts that we have started broadcasting to accompany the highlights of the liturgical year, and other reflections, will help you to maintain the sense of faith which enables us to enter into the mystery of the risen Lord.

We are part of the Church and we participate in its mission. This year, we are on this **synodal path** which is mentioned frequently in these pages. I hope that this ecclesial experience will open us more and more to communion with the universal Church, not only through our Order, but also through your participation in the life of the local Churches. It is important to feel responsible and to listen to the promptings of the Spirit who makes all things new.

Finally, by leafing through this magazine, you can immerse yourself in the real life contexts that are so dear to us: those of **the Holy Land**. The initiatives with the Mother Church that we support allow us to share the richness of the good that comes from these holy places and the communities that live there, so that they are not simply historical sites and museums, but rather the extension of the mission of peace, mercy and salvation initiated by Jesus. The daily existence of a Church, of a small flock, that is a model for the good of society as a whole, will be an example of peaceful coexistence among peoples and of a new way of living and of building relationships.

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Fernando Cardinal Filoni

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A word from the Chancellor

The annual review of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, printed in five languages by the various Lieutenancies, is an essential communication tool for our members throughout the world. There is no shortage of testimonies in this issue, which marvellously illustrate the relevance of our vocation and our mission. The *Jerusalem Cross* thus makes it possible to generate new vocations of Knights and Dames, by raising awareness of our spirituality and our activities in the service of the Mother Church in the Holy Land. The universal Church, to which we belong, always looks to Jerusalem, the city of peace where Christ gave his life for the salvation of humanity.

Alfredo Bastianelli, *Chancellor*

A Synod to continue writing the Acts of the Apostles

Interview with Cardinal Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and member of the Council for the Synod of Bishops.

Your Eminence, not everyone yet fully understands the Bishops' Synod on the theme of synodality. What does Pope Francis envisage as an outcome of this initiative, which affects all the dioceses of the world, before the assembly of bishops in Rome in 2023?

Let us first remember that Saint Paul VI established the idea of the Synod of Bishops, in 1965, so that the great intuitions of the Second Vatican Council would be gradually integrated into the everyday life of the universal Church. The Council of Trent took two hundred years to become a reality in all dioceses. The Synod of Bishops, as we have experienced it for the past fifty years – every three years in Rome – is a way of gradually furthering the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, which lasted for five years. In 2015, as we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Synod, the Pope made a very important speech on synodality, starting from the etymology of the word 'synod' which in Greek means, "to journey together". Francis dwelt at length on this conciliar image of a people who walk together, where pastors may walk in front, in the middle or behind, but always with the flock. The three key words that the Pope has asked the Council of the Synod to



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Member of the Council for the Synod, Cardinal Schönborn explains that the current synodal process is based on reciprocal listening which leads to consolation, "a gift of the Holy Spirit."

focus on are participation, communion and mission. In essence, it is about encouraging all the baptised to participate in the life of the Church and its mission.

It seems perfect but rather abstract when you talk about it but a Synod on Synodality, isn't it a bit like the dog chasing its own tail?

The Pope tells us that the Synod is not simply a procedure, a strategy towards a common goal. Synodality is more than that; its purpose is not questions about pastoral administration or social commitment. What we are being offered here is, above all, the experience of the Holy Spirit, as in the New Testament, especially the Acts of the



Apostles. During this great ecclesial time, we are all invited to experience reciprocal listening and encounter, in the breath of the Holy Spirit, to better discern what God himself is asking of us today. In this way, we can review our commitments, our mission, our ecclesial practice and our outlook on situations in the light of the inspirations of the Holy Spirit that explicit and attentive listening will enable us to welcome. Francis constantly insists on prayer, which gives us, in a particular way, the inner means we require to receive these indications of the Holy Spirit, these inclinations of which all the great masters of the spiritual life speak. This is not as abstract as that, it is a historical phase as important for the Church as that of the Second Vatican Council, but with a communal and universal dimension, a form of global Gospel School open to all.

How can we ensure that the worldwide diocesan experience of the Synod, which will precede that of the Roman Synod of 2023, is not that of a parliament where opposing opinions and demands result in major pronouncements not being followed up? Listening is at the heart of this worldwide

synodal journey, a free and selfless listening full of welcome, a listening that is not primarily focused on conclusions or practical resolutions. Listening leads to consolation, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift of interior healing. So, the Synod's purpose is not action, but rather an invitation to the meeting, to experience a communal discernment through something similar to Ignatian Spiritual Exercises on an international scale, in all dioceses, on all continents.

What is the agenda of these different synodal stages?

Many people have asked the Holy Father if the diocesan phase of the Synod could last at least a year. The bishops who will then participate in the Synod in Rome in two years, will then have to discuss the words heard and shared in the dioceses, so that the experience of the Acts of the Apostles continues, listening to what the Holy Spirit wants to tell us, here and now. Read and reread the Acts of the Apostles. As Benedict XVI encouraged us when he came to Austria, to the sanctuary of Mariazell, in 2007, we must continue to write the Acts of the Apostles. That is our mission.

Interview by François Vayne

“Listening to everyone: a purifying and regenerating exercise”

Interview with Mgr. Castellucci, Knight Commander with Star of the Order and Consulor of the Synod of bishops.

Archbishop Erio Castellucci is Archbishop-Abbot of Modena-Nonantola and Bishop of Carpi. As a consultant to the Synod of Bishops, he was closely associated with the work that made it possible to initiate the preparation phase of the 2023 Synod that we are all currently experiencing at the diocesan level. A long-time member of the Order in the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy as Knight Commander with Star, we caught up with him so that he could explain this phase and share his thoughts on how Knights and Dames are called to contribute within their local communities.



The Archbishop of Modena tells us about this “year of listening to people’s stories, open not just to pastoral workers and participants but to everyone,” a universal synodal phase that precedes the Synod of Bishops scheduled in Rome in 2023.

Excellency, how did you work with the Secretariat before the start of the synodal process? What are the main points that you consider fundamental for the ongoing deliberations?

The synodal process began at the instigation of Pope Francis, who entrusted Cardinal Grech with the responsibility of the General Secretariat. The cardinal made contact with several people, conducted interviews and selected co-workers, then, he divided the work into several central commissions and via the internet, involved all the presidents of the episcopal conferences throughout the world.

In the meantime, the Italian Episcopal Conference (IEC) had decided to launch a synodal journey for the Churches in Italy. Once they were aware of the Synod of Bishops’ schedule, the IEC

decided to align its own journey with the universal phase for the first year (2021-22). This is how this year of “listening to people’s stories” was born; open not just to pastoral workers and participants but to everyone.

The essential point, in my opinion, is precisely this universal openness: the Catholic Church, in a certain sense, “lays itself open” to evaluation by everyone, asking for help to be more evangelical, truly synodal, that is, to “walk with” Christ and with people more effectively. Listening to all those who want to express their views will not be easy, but it will be a cathartic and regenerating exercise.

In your experience, how does the synodal process in the local churches work? Can you tell us about a particular experience?

The journey in the local Churches for now, involves mainly those who work in parishes, associations and movements. But, we will ensure that, from January to April, the individual pastoral workers become in turn the “leaven” of each region, by launching small synodal groups in homes, workplaces, care and convalescent homes, schools and universities, and wherever it is possible for people to listen to each other.

I can tell you about a very small specific experience, namely the creation of a synodal group in Modena, in a cafe... The initiative came from a few young people who found a way to implement the project. It seems to me that this is an excellent departure from the model, which says that “sacred places” and “profane places” cannot communicate with each other.

What fruits can the universal Church expect from this process?

Quite simply the fruits that the Pope expects. During the opening meeting of the Synod, he echoed the words of Cardinal Congar, theologian: “not another Church, but a different Church”. Different, not because she would adapt to the world or, on the contrary, would cut herself off from the world: different because she

Member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Mgr. Castellucci participates in the activities and celebrations that bring together the Knights and Dames of his diocese.

would be less burdened and more responsive, more faithful to the Gospel, more free to announce the message of the Lord’s love, of the Christ who died and rose again.

There will be very delicate stages, in particular the collection of experiences shared in the synodal groups and the syntheses that the dioceses will have to make. Personally, I hope this will be the start, not of an event, but of a permanent style.

How would you advise members of the Order to take part in this process?

Perhaps they could first form synodal groups among themselves, as catechists, pastoral councils, ministers of communion, etc., are doing, using in Italy, using the documentation that the IEC has put online. Then, in a second phase, the members of the Order who are able to do so could invite friends, neighbours, colleagues and acquaintances to their homes to discuss the subject, thus creating small “synodal groups”.

Interview by Elena Dini



How is the Synod in the Holy Land going?

*Interview with
Archbishop
Pizzaballa,
Patriarch of
Jerusalem*

Can you tell us how and why you came up with the idea of proposing the Gospel of Emmaus as a method for working through the diocesan phase of the Synod?

This is a passage that I have used in different ecclesial contexts in the past. Then it was also suggested to me by certain priests of the Patriarchate and has always been a guide for me, especially in recent years.

The text brings together christological, ecclesiological, liturgical and catechetical themes, through the person and the lips of Jesus himself who, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets” (Lk. 24:27), explains to the two disoriented and sad disciples everything that was said of Him in the Scriptures, whilst walking down the road with them. He stands next to the two disciples, listens to them, questions them and helps them review their lives, introducing them to a deeper meaning of the Scriptures. He accepts their hospitality, “breaks bread” with them, and it is only then that they recognise him. It is a text that lends itself very well to the journey that awaits us, and which also describes our particular ecclesial situation. We are



“Rethinking the model of ecclesial community, as Pope Francis suggests, requires a lot of time and work on the formation of priests and lay people,” says the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who attaches great importance to the Synod in the Holy Land.

perhaps a little disoriented after years of closures, crises of all kinds, political and economic stagnation, religious tensions... in short, everything seems to point to tiredness and disappointment, as in the case of the two disciples. Thus, we too need



to encounter the risen Lord and to find a new and restored look at our ecclesial and social reality.

You underline the importance of interaction between the different realities of the diocesan Church: will the Synod lead to new collaboration in our life together, to local fruits, especially in the dialogue between institutions that sometimes spend little time together?

It is still too early to predict the results of this process, which each of our diocesan realities welcomes in its own way. However, I already believe that I am seeing certain forms of collaboration, which I hope will continue. These include continuing education and formation courses in the religious life of women in various congregations, meetings between neighbouring



Collaboration between Churches in the Holy Land, evident during the Synod, becomes increasingly ecumenical.

religious communities, visits and catechesis of parish communities in the Holy Places, meetings between the movements and new ecclesial groups present in the dioceses, and days of joint study between seminaries. We are also reflecting on some tangible signs to leave at the end of this diocesan phase of the Synod, on the area of catechesis. But, it is still in its early stages. At first glance, I can say that I am satisfied with the course we are following.

The preparatory document for the synod says that the purpose is, “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust...” (*Preparatory document*, 32). It just seems to me that these meetings bring a little more confidence to some of our communities who are perhaps a little tired and weary.

Living Synodality in our Local Churches

“We are part of our dioceses and therefore we are part of their lives. As believers in the Risen Christ, we bring the richness and hope of our encounter with Him. As Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre we maintain a focus on the Holy Land, so that it may be a place of encounter among peoples, a place of peaceful coexistence and a place of faith (dedicated charity). Our mission is simply this; to diversity and synergy, we bring the richness of our thinking and actions towards a Church that always responds to the desire of Christ, who took on human nature, made himself a servant and died doing good.

With this in mind, my invitation is to be an integral part of your dioceses at all times, living out the particular service you offer as Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre as a specific calling in the midst of your local Church. Take part with dedication and joy in the synodal process that is due to be launched and make your contribution. The richness of the double bond with the “Mother Church of Jerusalem” and “with all of our Mother Churches” will become a richness for many others and will allow the synodal journey to proceed in the grace and richness of the Gospel as a seed of good for all.”

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

(extract from a reflection on the current synodal process published on the Order's international website in November 2021)

Following the synodal process in the Holy Land via a dedicated website

In 2015, Pope Francis announced, “The journey of synodality is the journey that God wants from his church in the third millennium. A synodal church is a listening church, aware that listening is more than hearing. It is a reciprocal listening in which each one has something to learn.” The Church in the Holy Land is taking this invitation to heart. A website (<https://synodholyland.com/>) was launched with stories and updates about this process. In answer to the question of what this means for Catholics in the Holy Land, we read, “It means embarking on a process of renewal at every level of our Church. Being summoned to a synod is to be called to set off on a journey. We are invited to walk together as a community, knowing full well that Christ walks with us, that he is among us.”

On the website one can read short interviews

with Catholic faithful from the Diocese of Jerusalem but with extremely different backgrounds. Bhea, for example, is originally from the Philippines but has been living in Israel since 2000. To the question about feeling part of the Holy Land Church, she replies, “I think so. It is not like in my country where I feel that I belong 100%. Here it is part of me. We do Summer camps in Deir Rafat, but we don’t meet the Arab community. We are all Catholics, but it is not the same.”

Nizar, on the other hand, like many talented young professionals shares, “After having spent three years in France during my studies, I sensed a kind of vocation to return to the Holy Land and to be involved in the life of my Church. This is not a political question but rather one of spiritual identity.”

We find all the Christian traditions here in the Holy Land, which gives this Synod a particular richness at the local level, in the territories of the Latin Patriarchate. How do you hope to highlight this ecumenical characteristic in the current synodal process?

Cardinal Koch (Dicastery for *Ecumenical Dialogue*) and Cardinal Grech (Secretary of the Synod) sent us a letter, asking us to include the other Churches in our synodal journey. We have already spoken about it to the various leaders of the Christian Churches of the Holy Land. Of course, we should not expect them to agree to be fully part of a Catholic initiative, but ecumenical initiatives of a formative nature are certainly possible. I would add that such initiatives have been quite common between us for a long time. The majority of our families are mixed, that is to say made up of Catholic and Orthodox members. For these families, pastoral and social collaboration is quite usual, although there is obviously no possibility of collaboration – at least not yet – at a liturgical level.

How do you currently encourage lay people to access ecclesial leadership positions with a pastoral focus? What examples of this conciliar evolution can you give us?

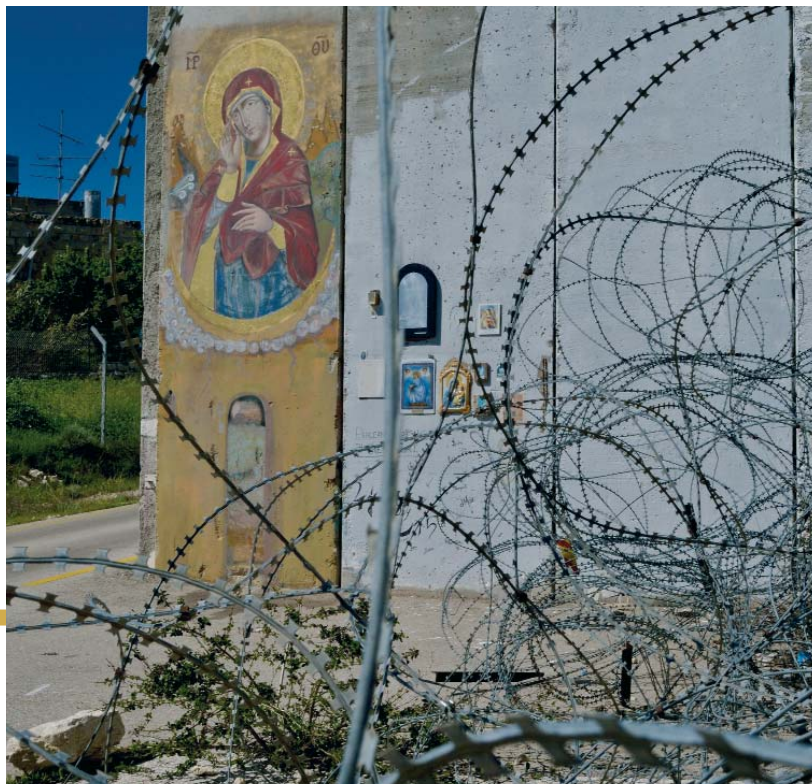
As in other ecclesial realities, we too live in contradictory situations as far as this is concerned. On the one hand, we have a good collaboration with the lay people: the diocesan administrator, for example, is a layperson (Orthodox infact) and the directors of our schools are all lay people. We have lay people in several other key areas of diocesan life. But, at the same time, I also have to point out a certain reluctance to consider the laity as full collaborators in the life of the Church, and not as mere employees. However, I would like to add that having or setting “quotas” for lay people in diocesan life does not solve the problem of clericalism. Rethinking the model of ecclesial community, as Pope Francis suggests, requires a lot of time and work on the formation of priests and laity at the same time.

Interview by François Vayne

A special prayer for peace in the Holy Land

Faced with the tragedy that the inhabitants of the Holy Land experienced in the Spring of 2021, the Grand Master has shared a special prayer written by him that we are printing here. The members of the Order and their friends are all invited to continue reciting it every day and to circulate it as widely as possible in a spirit of communion and hope.

*Queen of peace,
Chosen daughter of a land once again devastated by wars, hatred, violence.
We, Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, trustingly implore you:
Do not allow Our Lord's cry at the Holy City's inability to understand
the gift of peace,
to fall once again into the void of indifference and political calculation.
Help us to see the afflictions of the many mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, children,
who are unable to see a future, all casualties of destructive forces.
Inspire paths of dialogue, vigorous resolve in the resolution of problems
and collaboration in sure and certain hope.
May we never become immune to oppression,
May we never consider the struggles as 'inevitable',
May we never see the casualties they produce as 'collateral'.
May good will prevail over the mentality of aggression,
Help us to see that finding solutions to the many difficulties is not impossible.
As you prayed among the Disciples at Pentecost,
May the Almighty open up paths towards a shared solution
to the apparently insurmountable situation in the Holy Land.*



Enrique Ernesto Shaw: a man who believed in the Gospel

The Lieutenant of the Order in Argentina, Juan Francisco Ramos Mejía, introduces us to a future blessed of his country who was a husband, father, business manager and Knight of the Order.



Enrique Ernesto Shaw was born in Paris on 26th February 1921. His father, Alejandro Shaw, was a lawyer and businessman, and his mother, Sara Tornquist, was the daughter of one of Argentina's most notable businessmen at the end of the 19th century. Unfortunately, his mother died when he was four years old, resulting in a difficult childhood. In 1929, his father went to work in the United States, so he became a boarder in a Catholic religious school in New York.

He returned to Buenos Aires in 1932 and, while his father travelled regularly to the United States for long periods, his aunts and a governess raised him and his brother. He studied at the La Salle College achieving exceptional results, always obtaining the best grades and always appearing on the school's honours board.

In January 1936, at the age of fourteen, he joined the Naval Military school as a cadet, with the aim of forging his character. When he started, he was the youngest in his year group, but he obtained the best grades. He prayed in front of his comrades before falling asleep. He was the youngest in both age and appearance, which made it difficult for him during physical challenges, resulting in much teasing from his comrades. Over

time, he showed that he was not weak, quite the contrary. He was a fine example of faith thanks to his silent devotion, and everyone respected his persevering, consistent, strong, austere, virtuous and humble ways. He worked hard to earn the respect and friendship of his comrades. In 1939, he became a midshipman, and was then promoted to ensign. In 1943, he became a frigate lieutenant, the rank he held at the end of the war, when he asked to leave the Navy to take up a management position in the Rigolleau crystal company.

In October 1946, back again in Buenos Aires, he formed a model family with his wife Cecilia Bunge, who had lost her mother when she was very young, and with whom he would have nine children. He was always attentive to his wife, holding the view that a marriage is happy when one of the spouses works to make the other happy, rather than to be happy themselves.

He was a good father and a brilliant businessman, applying himself to practising the Christian virtues, writing for example, "I must not argue, nor be disrespectful, nor be displeased even if I have reason to be so. I must not be harsh, casue controversy or get angry. Saints love souls. I must prevent anyone from getting annoyed with me."

A committed Christian writer and entrepreneur

In 1962, he published the book *Subdue the Earth* [our translation], a book that extols the benefits of work. Here are some of his ideas:

“To succeed in anything, the most important thing is, without a doubt, to work hard and consistently. Then, with a little organisation and the spirit of synthesis, things work out, but you have to work, work and work.”

“Work has a social function: it serves the common good, it is a link between man and nature and other people. Through work, we collaborate with God in the work of creation by rendering service to God and doing good in society.”

“As in the parable of the talents, we must not simply be grateful for the gifts we have received, but also make them fruitful.”

“You have to be attentive to people’s needs. To know how to understand, to have consideration, communication, compassion, dialogue, to be in communion with others and with Christ.”

Some members of the board of directors regarded the profitability of the company as paramount. Enrique believed that the company was a community of life and that the economy was not the only factor to take into account when making decisions.

With human and professional arguments, he succeeded in preventing dismissals.

He wrote a memorable circular for the staff, explaining that unemployment was above all a moral evil and not simply an economic reality, and it affects human beings physically as well as emotionally with the amount of suffering it causes.

Everything possible must be done to prevent it for anyone who really wants to work.

Enrique also provided significant spiritual and material assistance to the Catholic University of Argentina, serving on the board of trustees until his death.

In 1952, with a group of businessmen, he founded the ACDE, Asociación Cristiana de

Dirigentes de Empresa (Christian Association of Business Leaders), whose primary objectives were to understand the social doctrine of the Church to help better fulfill the duties of justice and charity.

He had great respect for families, which led him to contribute, together with his colleagues from the ACDE, to the drafting of the national law on family benefits.

In 1957, suffering from cancer, he nevertheless continued his intense activity with conferences and publications. He accepted his illness calmly and as part of God’s will. He never complained.

He joined the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in 1962, alongside his great friends Praxiteles Brousalis, Julio Steverlynck and

Hernando Campos Menéndez, with whom he had founded the ACDE.

At the end of his life, after an operation that required a lot of blood, 250 workers from his company including those from the then communist union, queued to donate blood. On 27th August 1962 in Buenos Aires, in gratitude for the blood given by his workers, before falling asleep in the peace of God, he is believed to have said, “I die happy because I die with worker blood in my veins”.



Knight Ernesto Shaw is a model of Christian life for all members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. (He is pictured here at military school, then with his fellow business leaders).



The annual meetings of the Grand Magisterium



On Thursday, 15th April 2021, the Spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium of the Order was held by videoconference. The meetings, coordinated and directed by the Governor General Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, were preceded by the sending to Rome of a series of written reports by the Vice Governors, the Presidents of the various Commissions and the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate, which were the object of analysis and debate among the members of the Grand Magisterium. Among other things, the final budget for 2020 was approved, which closed with a liability of € 1,397,729.07. This included an increase in the resources sent to the Holy Land, which grew from 12 million in 2019 to over 16 million in 2020, including 2.5 million in extraordinary aid for the Covid emergency. Important decisions were also made regarding the deepening of spirituality among members of the Order, the admission of religious, liturgies for rites, and initiatives focused on young people.

The Grand Magisterium Autumn session was

During 2021, two videoconferences brought together members of the Grand Magisterium, headed by the Grand Master and the highest dignitaries of the Order.

held on 20th October, also by videoconference.

In the morning, the Cardinal Grand Master celebrated the Eucharist for the feast of the Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine in the church of Santo Spirito in Sassia, with the participation of many members of the Order.

In the early afternoon Cardinal Filoni opened the session of the Grand Magisterium by recalling his visits to the United States and the Principality of Monaco and the numerous meetings he had had in Rome with members of the Grand Magisterium, Grand Priors, and Lieutenants who had come to meet him.

The Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, then made his report, highlighting the strengthening of dialogue in this era of pandemic, and the efforts made in communication, to make the general public aware of what the Order does for the Holy Land. On



Supporting the life of the Church in the Holy Land is the essential mission of members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

administrative matters, the Governor General reiterated the commitment to maximum transparency and the use of the most modern technologies to ensure the greatest effectiveness.

The Treasurer Dr. Saverio Petrillo presented the Order's economic and financial management and the budget for 2022 for approval, which predicted revenues of about 14 million Euros, comprising more than 13 million for projects in the Holy Land and the remaining for the Order's institutional operating expenses. It is anticipated that the latter

will soon be covered by rental income from the portion of Palazzo della Rovere designated as a hotel, enabling the Order to send to the Holy Land the entirety of the contributions received from the Lieutenancies.

There followed speeches from the Chief Executive Officer of the Latin Patriarchate, Sami El-Yousef, and from the President of the Commission for the Holy Land, Batholomew McGettrick. They highlighted the difficulties encountered in the wake of the pandemic, but at

News from the Commissions of the Grand Magisterium

The Nominations Commission, chaired by the Chancellor of the Order, Ambassador Bastianelli, met every month (except August and December 2021) and, during the year 2021, approved 815 admissions to the Order and 953 promotions to a higher grade, that is a total of 1,768 dossiers, compared with 1,525 (735 and 790) in the previous year.

The Legal Commission, chaired by attorney Rondinini, analysed the Regulations of the Lieutenancies to verify their compatibility with the New Constitution of the Order. It also expressed its opinion on numerous disciplinary cases, drawing up rules that could offer consistency of treatment and guarantees of a fair trial. Finally, it made proposals on fiscal matters aimed at finding, at the European level, agreed formulas for tax deductions.

The Protocol Commission, chaired by Ambassador Bastianelli, met periodically, in the presence of the Grand Master, to update the protocol norms as well as the liturgies of the principal ceremonies and to prepare the texts for the publication of a manual for use by the Lieutenancies.

The Commission for Spirituality, chaired by the Master of Ceremonies of the Order, Mgr. Frezza, assisted the Cardinal Grand Master in the revision of all the liturgical texts of the Order's rites and celebrations. The Master of Ceremonies deals with the protocol of the ceremonies celebrated by the Cardinal Grand Master.

The Economic and Financial Commission, chaired by the Treasurer of the Order, Dr. Petrillo, is responsible for drawing up the annual budget and managing the Order's economic and financial resources. It meets periodically to decide on investments. The Treasurer submits weekly to the Governor General, and countersigns the management of incoming and outgoing cash flows.

The Commission for the Palazzo della Rovere, chaired by the Vice Governor de Glutz, met in the presence of the Cardinal Grand Master, to determine the steps to be taken to choose the future manager of the hotel in the light of the new Vatican Procurement Code and to monitor the work being undertaken to renovate the building.

“Behind these projects, are not buildings, houses, classrooms, or courtyards. There are people, and it is our intention to reach these people because, deep down, they are our brothers and sisters, who have been entrusted to us in a special way by the Holy Father, as a specific mission of our Order. The projects are, therefore, not projects that “respond technically”, but it is rather people who benefit from this work and from the contribution from, I would say, the whole Church. This is because in a certain sense the Knights and Dames represent the whole Church, because not only we are present in many countries of the world, but also because at the end of the day, we are channels, like little arteries that take blood where it needs to go. Then there are also larger veins, other larger arteries, but ours has its own specific task and, in this sense, I like to think that our Dames and our Knights perceive the beauty and the richness of being part of this institution. It is therefore up to us, we might say, to bring this dimension into the life of the Order.”

(Extract from Cardinal Filoni’s closing address to the Grand Magisterium, 20th October 2021)

the same time praised the generosity of the Order’s members, who have continued to contribute over 3 million Euros to the special Covid Fund.

The debate that followed touched on various topics, from the new Ritual to the expansion of the Order into new countries, from its opening up to

young people, to the resumption of pilgrimages, to the work in progress in the Palazzo della Rovere. The various reports and conclusions were sent in written form to all the Lieutenancies for their full and comprehensive information.

Continental Meetings of Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates

“Our Order is not for people who want to be seen as generous or to flaunt their generosity”

Since the pandemic has not yet ended, the meeting of the European Lieutenants on 24th November 2021, and that of the Latin American Lieutenants the following day, chaired by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, were again held by videoconference from the Palazzo della Rovere in Rome. Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, Governor General, led the session in the presence of Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo, Vice-Governors, Jean-Pierre de Glutz Ruchti and Enric Mas, the Chancellor, Ambassador Alfredo Bastianelli, the Treasurer, Saverio Petrillo, President of the Juridical Commission, Flavio Rondinini, and two other eminent members of the Grand Magisterium, Mgr. Fortunato Frezza – Master of Ceremonies and President of the Spirituality Commission – and Prince Marian Hugo Windisch-Graetz.

An in-depth catechetical and biblical growth

The Grand Master took the floor to open the meetings, mentioning his recent travels for some Investiture ceremonies. “Personally, I was able to travel to the United States, where I had the pleasure of conferring Investiture on the first Religious-Dame, co-founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, who for years have been involved in the ‘Holy Child Program’ project in Bethlehem aimed at children in need. We, as the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, sympathise with those who, for years, have shown concern for the Holy Land; indeed, we know that we often rely on their collaboration for the educational, social and pastoral activities of the Latin Patriarchate that we support. Last October, I conferred the honour of Knight of the Collar on Prince Albert II of

Monaco, and I invested two new Knights and a Dame of the Principality. I have presided over some Investitures in Italy and Malta; others are scheduled in the coming weeks,” he said, then announced 2022 pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Cardinal Filoni commented on the wide distribution of his book on the spirituality of the Order in the main European languages. “I appreciated the response that was given to its distribution. I must say that it has also been appreciated outside the Order. The Pope often reminds us that the Church is not a humanitarian organisation, but the living community born from the mystery of Christ’s Resurrection. This means that we too are part of a Body, with a spirit, that of the Risen One. Hence, there is a need for all our Knights and Dames to cultivate their inner life for personal good and for the service we render to the Church itself and to the Holy Land. In addition to the five known translations, a Portuguese translation of the text on spirituality has also been arranged and others are being prepared in Europe.”

Shifting the focus to some of the resistance shown towards the new Ritual, the Grand Master pointed out that the use of a sword has not been abolished, but is placed among the symbols of the Prayer Vigil, along with the fundamental knightly symbols such as the spurs and the vase of oils. “Several times on our website we have explained

the different meanings behind the update and highlighted the rich semiological and spiritual heritage that accompanies our Institution. Here I would like to recall the exhortation of Pope St. John Paul II, who, speaking to the members participating in the Jubilee of 2000, affirmed that, for us too, “a catechetical and biblical growth is required,” and, at the same time, he hoped for a “renewal that did not lose sight of the spirit of the Order.” Such has been the intention. Our Order, in fact, is the only Order in the Church that has, as its Grand Master, a Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church with authority direct from the Bishop of Rome. The use of the sword by a cardinal, or a bishop, whose authority is symbolised by the crozier and the cross, is not the greatest of aspirations, even more so in a solemn moment such as that of an Investiture.”

Cardinal Filoni therefore confirmed that the decision to use the pastoral staff or the processional cross for the episcopal gesture of Investiture was made together with the Order’s highest consultative offices, based on a biblical-ecclesiological redefinition and in light of Christ’s words to the apostle Peter: “Put your sword back in its scabbard” (*John* 18:11).

“Let it not be the case that the membership of Knights and Dames who have sworn love and fidelity to the Order becomes diminished by misunderstandings, by fatigue, by an inappropriate

The Order in Asia and the Pacific

On Wednesday 14th April 2021, the virtual meeting of the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates of Asia and the Pacific took place. Participating were, in Rome, Cardinal Filoni, Grand Master of the Order, in Jerusalem, the Latin Patriarch, His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Grand Prior of the Order, and in Pompei, Archbishop Tommaso Caputo, Assessor of the Order. The Lieutenant General Prof. Agostino Borromeo and the Treasurer Dr. Saverio Petrillo were also present. The meeting, coordinated and directed by the Governor General, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and carefully prepared by the Vice Governor General, Paul Bartley, allowed consideration of the problems of that geographical area, and heard from each of the five Australian Lieutenants, those of the Philippines and Taiwan, and the Magistral Delegates of Guam and New Zealand. The main topics discussed included overcoming the current difficult phase of health emergencies, the need to spread awareness of the identity and mission of the Order, and the Order’s reflection on the involvement of young people in its ranks. The meeting also reflected on some controversial cases and their effects on the image of the Catholic Church, the expansion of the Order in Malaysia through the creation of a Magistral Delegation in Penang, and possible forms of direct collaboration with parishes in the Holy Places to bring the faithful from very distant areas closer to the Land of Jesus.



valuation of their Investiture. After all, there is a fundamental valuation against which all behaviour must be measured: our love for Christ and concretely for the Land of Jesus,” noted the Cardinal, arguing that, “Our Order is also not merely an honorary Order, but a truly contributory and active one, as clearly shown in the Pontifical Yearbook for this year. In this sense, as a Central Body of the Church, we are involved in whatever concerns the Pope,” he continued, citing the new Constitution. “The Order, with its structure and its activities, participates directly in the solicitude of the Roman Pontiff in what concerns the Catholic Places and Institutions in the Holy Land. Its aims derive from the pontifical teachings and fit within the overall framework of the Catholic Church’s goals of charity, vocation and service to the dignity of the human being.”

Facing future challenges without relinquishing noble traditions

In his introductory address to the two meetings, the Governor General welcomed the new Lieutenants, in particular the Lieutenant for the Netherlands, Johannes Krapels, the Magistral Delegate of Norway, Huan Nguyen, the Lieutenant for Slovenia, Mihael Vrhunec and the Lieutenant

The continental meetings of the Lieutenants and the Grand Magisterium champion improved coordination of the Order’s activities, taking into account the needs of the Holy Land and the difficulties encountered by members due to the pandemic.

for Central Italy, Anna Maria Munzi Iacoboni. During the meeting of the Latin American Lieutenants, he also thanked the Lieutenants for Western Spain, Eastern Spain, and Portugal, who came to bring their experience to the joint reflection.

The Governor explained that, after the approval of the new Constitution, a Commission meets every Thursday morning under the presidency of the Cardinal Grand Master and is gradually drawing up a draft of the General Regulations. “This is a complex and delicate work, requiring careful study that will take a long time. “The willingness to contribute to this work has been mentioned in many quarters. Naturally, the text will be subject to collective scrutiny before finally coming into force. In fact, it is the intention of the Grand Master to organise an initial *ad experimentum* period for a couple of years, during which comments and suggestions can be made,” he responded following specific questions received on this topic.

The Governor General expressed relief on

everyone's part regarding the University of Madaba, since the Latin Patriarchate has managed to close the painful chapter of debts (thanks to the help of various leaders of the Order). He continued, highlighting the Order's current renewal, in line with that of the Church advocated by Pope Francis. "Renewal also means rereading the meaning of the symbols of our Order, which represent a reference that commits us, in the name of the mystery of the Resurrection, to a life of solicitude for a very specific purpose of the Church." The Governor explained that the desire to accentuate the spiritual and charitable aspect of the commitment of the Knights and Dames (Article 4 of the Statute) is accompanied by the desire to modernise the management and administration of the institution: the Order is "ready to face future challenges but, clearly, without renouncing its noble traditions."

"Our budgets have been approved, our administration faithfully complies with all the latest regulations, including those on anti-money laundering, in the utmost transparency. In recent days, we have approved a rather daring budget for 2022, which provides for an expenditure of over 14 million euros. [...] Our projects for the current year, agreed with the Latin Patriarchate, have been enthusiastically received and almost all of them have been signed off. All the Lieutenants can use the website to track where the proceeds of their donations go. A new list is being developed by the Latin Patriarchate for 2022 for a total amount of \$ 1,397,000," added Ambassador Visconti di Modrone. He also recalled that the appeal launched by the Cardinal Grand Master for the Covid emergency has raised more than three million dollars, but that on the other hand the Order has seen its ordinary income decrease due to the decline in contributions, and has had to resort to statutory reserves to rebalance the budget.

The Governor reassured the Lieutenants regarding the renovation of the Palazzo della Rovere, as "the entire operation will be implemented without any particular burden on the Order, the work being primarily the responsibility of the new tenant, as well as thanks to a reserve accumulated in past years for this purpose." Another aspect that the Ambassador emphasised was the effort to expand the Order in Europe, in



the East, in South America and in Africa, dwelling finally on the need to maintain a continuous dialogue between the Grand Magisterium and the Lieutenants. This channel of communication will soon be strengthened, when visits to the various Lieutenancies for the Investiture ceremonies are intensified.

"We are continuing what the families who gathered around Jesus and the first communities were doing. Think of Martha, Mary and the numerous men and women who gave their resources and their time" underlines the Grand Master, recalling that the action of the Knights and Dames in the service of the Holy Land "is a continuation of the attention we give to the 'Mystery' of the Body of Christ present today through the Church."

A decrease in contributions due to the economic recession

During the two meetings, Sami El-Yousef, administrative director of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, spoke, thanking the Order of the Holy Sepulchre whose help he described as essential, especially through the institutional support provided by the Grand Magisterium (over \$ 750,000 per month allocated to the daily life of the Patriarchate: schools, institutional expenses,

seminary training, etc.). In 2021, the Lieutenancies adopted twenty projects, for a total of almost one million dollars. Humanitarian and pastoral projects benefited from a considerable increase in funds. Sami El-Yousef emphasised the importance of the school network in the Holy Land, actively supported by the Knights and Dames (see our full article on solidarity with the Patriarchate on pages 35 - 39 of this annual magazine, which also quotes Bartholomew McGettrick, president of the Commission for the Holy Land of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre).

The spokespersons of the linguistic and geographic groups of the European Lieutenants, as well as the Latin American Lieutenants, spoke in turn, asking a variety of practical questions (recruitment of young people, training of candidates, information on projects, etc.). They

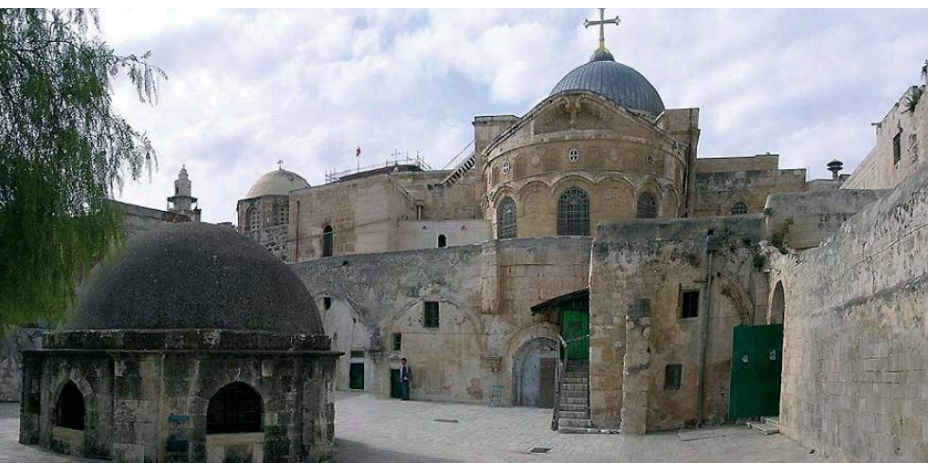
returning to the lack of means of the Grand Magisterium - which had to draw on the statutory reserves. He invited the Lieutenants to consider more direct payments, in order to cover ordinary expenses related to the regular and “invisible” – but very demanding – aid sent monthly to the Latin Patriarchate.

Interesting Proposals to Consider

The Governor General raised the issue of recruiting young people, a theme very dear to the Grand Master, pointing out that the reflections gathered during the speeches at these meetings will be particularly useful for future arrangements, although ample room for decision will be left to the Lieutenancies, so that local customs and traditions may be taken into consideration.

The interesting topic of the “Friends of the Order”, or those who, though not members, wish to contribute to philanthropic initiatives, attracted considerable attention. In this regard, the Ambassador recalled that, “for non-members of the Order who, in some way deserve recognition of merit, there is the possibility of conferring the Cross of Merit, of the different classes.” “The issue of non-active members is equally important. The role that each Lieutenancy must play in trying to maintain contact with, and in bringing back those who leave, but also in investigating and understanding the reasons for their departure, in applying a certain flexibility in demanding the payment of dues from those who are going through a difficult time, was rightly underlined. Equally delicate is the attitude that needs to be shown toward family situations that do not conform to the dictates of the Church. Judgements should be made on a case by case basis, with rigour but also with understanding,” added the Governor General.

The proposal to create a body of reference texts for the Lieutenant, from statutory rules to liturgical and administrative ones, was heard with interest, as was the recommendation from certain Lieutenancies that fundamental ethical principles, such as the protection of children, the



also pointed out the very real difficulties of the members in these times of economic crisis, especially in the countries of Eastern Europe or Latin America, where social problems make fundraising very difficult in this second year of Covid-19.

“Apart from the generosity shown in response to the Grand Master’s appeal for an extraordinary donation to the Emergency Fund, we have noted a decrease in contributions due to the economic recession,” commented the Governor General,

As stated in its Constitution, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre participates in the solicitude of the Roman Pontiff with regard to Catholic Places and Institutions in the Holy Land and its aims derive from pontifical teachings.

correspondence of fair wages, the safeguarding of the environment and administrative transparency should always be respected. The suggestion to organize the coordination of volunteer activities in the Holy Land will be considered and studied further.

Finally, the Governor indicated that the next *Consulta* (International General Assembly of the Order) will take place in 2023. “In consideration of the year lost to Covid, the Cardinal Grand Master has decided, informing the Secretariat of State, to derogate from the provision of the Constitution which provides for the *Consulta* to be held every four years, extending the period to five years. This will allow for better preparation.”

The fruit of a common generosity inspired by the Gospel

In his conclusion, the Grand Master – attentive to the economic difficulties faced by many people in this period of pandemic – wished to reiterate that the Order is not an institution for the rich. “The Knights and Dames are people who, through their work, wish to contribute to supporting the Holy Land. Their action is a continuation of the attention we give to the “Mystery” of the Body of Christ present today through the Church we love and want to care for. In doing so, we follow what

the families around Jesus and the first communities did. Think of Martha, Mary and the numerous other men and women who gave their resources and their time.”

“They were not powerful people. They were not the king of Judea or the Roman governor. They were people drawn to Jesus. That’s how it is for us today, too,” he stressed, also turning to the Patriarchate representative to redefine the context and meaning of the help offered.

“Therefore, let us not be discouraged. On the contrary, it is good to see that, alongside people who can give more at this time, there are also those who cannot, but this does not make them any less ‘members’ of the Order. Generosity encompasses both but the situations of need that our Knights and Dames sometimes experience can be different. This prompts me to say that the projects carried out are always the result of a common generosity,” Cardinal Filoni said, citing Jesus’ attitude towards a poor widow who had put only two coins (*Mark* 12:38-44) into the temple treasury in Jerusalem. “Jesus teaches us that she gave more than all others because of her generosity, taking not from what she had over, but from all she had to live on. [...] Ours is not an Order for people who want to be *seen* as generous or to flaunt their generosity.”

François Vayne

Podcasts, an original way to reach members of the Order

As the period of social distancing that we have been experiencing due to the pandemic continues, the Grand Master, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, in recent months has wanted his voice to reach out to the Knights and Dames. This is how the podcasts, supporting the members of the Order in important spiritual moments, came about.

Three short series were produced: one in Italian and English entitled, “I would like to tell you...” to prepare for the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine, and another in Italian called “Let’s experience the mystery of Christmas together”, for the season of Advent and Christmas. During Lent, the voice of the Grand Master will continue to guide us with some meditations related to this time, which is very close to the mission and vocation of our Order of the Holy Sepulchre. All podcasts are available on our website:

<http://www.oessh.va/content/ordinequestresantosepolcro/en/podcast.html>



Two mandates at the head of the Order renewed in 2021

AMBASSADOR LEONARDO VISCONTI DI MODRONE

On 29th June, on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul the Apostles, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, signed a decree renewing the mandate as Governor General for another term of four years on



Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.

Born in Milan in 1947, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone served forty-five years in the Italian diplomatic service, and was called to join the Grand Magisterium of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 2014 by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. He was appointed Governor General, succeeding Prof. Agostino Borromeo, in June 2017, in an effort to maintain continuity with the previous governorship. In October of that same year, he was conferred the rank of Knight of the Collar. The Governor General of the Order is, according to the Constitution, the central administrator of the Order and the person responsible for its direction. He oversees the activities of the Grand Magisterium and moderates its meetings, analyses and reports to the Grand Master on the needs of the Holy Land and issues directives to the Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations. Four Vice-Governors, the Chancellor and the Treasurer of the Order who, together, make up the office of Presidency of the Grand Magisterium, assist him.

Leonardo Visconti di Modrone visited the Holy Land several times both as a private citizen and as a diplomat. He made his first pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1960, at the age of thirteen. As Governor General, he visited many of the buildings and organisations financed by the Order, such as parishes, nurseries, schools, universities, care homes, hospitals, orphanages, refugee camps, etc., in continuous contact with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. For the second quadrennium of his

mandate, he proposes to complete the visits begun to the various Lieutenancies in the world, in order to increase dialogue and commitment, also drawing on the collaboration of the Vice Governors, with the aim of strengthening the Order in all its facets, at the service of the Church and the Holy Land.

PROFESSOR AGOSTINO BORROMEO, LIEUTENANT GENERAL

Born in Oreno di Vimercate (Milan) in 1944, and member of the Grand Magisterium between 1995 and 2004, Agostino Borromeo held the office of Chancellor from 2002 to 2004 and then that of Governor General from 2009 to



2017. In that year, he was appointed by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien as Lieutenant General, succeeding Prof. Giuseppe Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto. A professor of Modern and Contemporary History of the Church and other Christian Confessions at La Sapienza University in Rome and a member of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences since 2001, he is the author of more than 180 publications mainly concerning the history of the papacy in the early modern age. The Lieutenant General is the highest lay authority of the Order and, in accordance with the Constitution, he represents the Cardinal in events concerning the Order or when delegated by him; he also carries out any other task that the Cardinal Grand Master deems appropriate to entrust to him. The Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, expressed on his own behalf and on behalf of the Grand Magisterium, his congratulations and best wishes to Prof. Borromeo. He declared that the renewal of his mandate was a great joy to all the members of the Order, who appreciated his commitment during the past years and are glad to be able to avail themselves again of his experience and dedication.

The post-pandemic watchword: dialogue

The development of international relations of the Order

With the end of the pandemic emergency, we need to revive those external contacts and events that will help people know about the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and its charitable action in the Holy Land. In a word: dialogue.

A dialogue implies speaking whilst also actively encouraging the other person's response. The encounter presupposes a physical closeness, which has been so lacking in recent times, so that today the need to speak to each other according to the golden rule in the biblical book of Sirach is all the clearer: "Do not answer before you listen, and do not interrupt when another is speaking." (11:8).

In the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, this renewed dialogue has taken on different forms.

Every day, the Cardinal Grand Master welcomes priests who are visiting Rome. He discusses the evolution of the Order with them, taking into account what they have to say about the differing opinions of the faithful all over the world, while reinforcing their feelings of being part of the Order.

It is often Cardinal Filoni's past experience as an expert on the problems in the Far East and China in particular, or as a nuncio in important Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq or Jordan, which generates the requests for these meetings.

Thus, thanks to the prestige and charisma of the Grand Master, the reference point that the Order represents in the complex international context of dangers and tensions, is strengthened.

The Governor General, in turn, drawing on the experience acquired during his 46 years in the diplomatic service of his country has, in recent months, expanded his connections with members of the diplomatic corps in Rome. Of particular note is the connection with the new Italian Ambassador to the Holy See, Francesco Di Nitto, a former colleague of the Governor and a good friend and expert of the Order, who has also previously served as Consul of Italy in Jerusalem. But the Grand Master and Governor's connections also extend to



While the Grand Master regularly receives key figures from the Church, to discuss the evolution of the Order, the Governor General, with a long experience in his country's diplomatic service, has expanded, in recent months, his connections with members of the Diplomatic Corps in Rome.

representatives of countries in areas where the Order could open new Lieutenancies, in Africa, Latin America and the East. The meetings are sometimes bilateral, sometimes collective, with small groups of

ambassadors from the same geographical area or the same language.

There is no shortage of contacts with the political authorities either. Among the most important, is the audience granted by Philip VI of Spain to the Cardinal Grand Master for the presentation of the Collar of the Order to the Spanish sovereign, on 1st April 2022 at the Zarzuela Palace, an audience that was preceded by meetings at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Madrid for the Governor General. Then, the month before, there was the invitation from the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Vincent



The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Vincent Keaveny, organised a grand banquet in March 2022 in honour of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. During the evening, at the prestigious Mansion House, Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, spoke with other high dignitaries of the Order.

carried out under the careful supervision of the Superintendent, the Pinturicchio frescoes and the famous *Demi-gods* ceiling are attracting more and more Italian and foreign visitors. Now, with the lifting of restrictions and the reopening of borders,

visitors are returning to Rome in large numbers, curious to discover monuments that are not usually open to the public.

Recent events held in the halls of the Palazzo della Rovere include book presentations, film previews, debates and round tables on subjects dear to our faith, interviews and recordings of films intended for broadcast around the world.

The initiatives are therefore very diverse, but they all have one very specific objective: to make the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and its charitable action in the Holy Land known through modern technologies and the prestigious instrument of the palace assigned to the Order by Pius XII in the already distant 1950s. In the well-known Gospel parable, the master who is leaving for a long journey assigns different amounts of talents to his servants, so that they can make them fruitful according to their abilities. In the same way, the Order also wishes to make the best use of the precious “talent” represented by the palace that Cardinal Domenico della Rovere had built to welcome his most illustrious guests with dignity and which, during its long history, has hosted sovereigns, princes, cardinals and artists.

Keaveny, to a solemn banquet at the prestigious Mansion House, in honour of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. More than 250 guests attended the banquet, at the presence of the Governor General, the Vice-Governor General, Enric Mas, the Lieutenant for the England and Wales, Michael Byrne, Lieutenant for Ireland, Peter Durnin, and the President of the Holy Land Commission, Bartholomew McGettrick.

In this respect, the Palazzo della Rovere also receives members of the Government or representations of foreign parliamentarians.

In addition, after the long interruption due to health restrictions during the pandemic, researchers and art lovers have been able to resume their guided tours of the Palazzo della Rovere, and events take place once again in the splendid rooms of the building.

With the completion of the restoration work,

The experience of supporting the growth of the Order

Interview with Professor Agostino Borromeo, Lieutenant General

Professor, in 2021, the Grand Master renewed your mandate as Lieutenant General of the Order. What does your service consist of?

On 29th July 2021, the Grand Master, His Eminence Cardinal Fernando Filoni, was kind enough to renew my term of office as Lieutenant General of the Order, to which the then Grand Master, His Eminence Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, appointed me four years ago.

According to the hierarchical order, the holder of the office occupies a leading position among the lay members of the Institution. However, the function itself does not entail any specific tasks, apart from that of representing the Grand Master at events concerning the Order or when, in any other circumstances, the Grand Master delegates him to do so. In addition, the Grand Master may expressly instruct the Lieutenant General to carry out any other task that he "deems appropriate to entrust to him". (Art. 9, § 2 of the Constitution).

The Most Eminent Cardinal O'Brien then entrusted me with several tasks, in particular, taking care of the expansion of our Institution in the geographical areas where it is not yet present, and chairing the Commission responsible for drafting the text of the Lieutenant's Manual, a task confirmed to me by the present Most Eminent Grand Master, Cardinal Filoni.

You served as Governor General for eight years under Grand Masters Foley and O'Brien. What were the main milestones in the life of the Order during these years?

As Governor General, I was fortunate to be present at many great ecclesial events. I had the honour of leading the Order's international delegation which followed Benedict XVI on his apostolic pilgrimage to Jordan, Palestine and Israel (8-15th May 2009) and, the following year, to Cyprus (4-6th June 2010). A few months later, the



Professor Agostino Borromeo served the Order as Governor General, notably under the pontificate of Benedict XVI.

Pope appointed me lay auditor at the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East (8-24th October 2010). In September 2013,

under the leadership of Cardinal O'Brien, the Order's Consulta was organised and, shortly afterwards, the Order's international pilgrimage for the Year of Faith culminated in the papal audience on 13th September of the same year. From 24 to 26th May 2014, I once again guided my confreres during Pope Francis' pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

As for the two Grand Masters under whom I had the privilege of serving, they gave a decisive boost to the spirituality of the Order, notably through their systematic participation in the ceremonies of Investiture in the various Lieutenancies (some of which had never been visited before). During their tenure, we experienced three "firsts" for the Order: the highest number of members (over 28,000), the greatest number of new peripheral branches (63 in total) from the Magistral Delegation for southern Africa to those for Russia and Croatia, and an

increasing amount of donations (from 9.3 million in 2009 to 16.362 million in 2016).

Could you give us some information that highlights the continuity of the Order's governance over time?

Firstly, I would like to say that the continuity of the governance of the Order is not determined by the actions of the Governor General, but by the directives given to him by the successive Grand Masters, of which he strives to be the faithful executor. As far the dissemination of information is concerned, Cardinal Carlo Furno decided on an annual review, the *Annales Ordinis Equestris Sancti Sepulchri Hyerosolimitani*, in 1996. Since then, the communication sector has experienced significant development with the publication of a new magazine, the *Jerusalem Cross*, a quarterly newsletter and a website that is updated daily. The current Grand Master, Cardinal Filoni, brought



Pope Francis welcomed the Order's international pilgrimage during the Year of Faith in 2013.

further momentum with the printing of his invaluable text on the specific spirituality of the Order, "And the whole house was filled with the fragrance of perfume." For a spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Regarding the transparency of financial management, since the time of Cardinal Furno a certified budget has been prepared, but it was only briefly presented at the Spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium. Then Cardinal Foley wanted this budget sent to the various members of the governing body before the meeting, so that they could prepare their questions and comments in advance. This practice, explicitly confirmed by Cardinal O'Brien, was extended in the sense that, once approved by the Grand Magisterium, the complete text of the budget, accompanied by the certification given by an external international company, was then sent to the various Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates. This procedure is still in force today, thanks also to the impetus given by Cardinal Filoni and the attention focused on it by the current Governor General, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.

There is no doubt that this line of total transparency has helped to inspire the greatest confidence in the management of funds within the Order, but also outside the Order.



A mutual esteem bonds the Lieutenant General of the Order and Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State of the Holy See, who have often had to work together to serve the Church in the Holy Land.

Three new Members of the Grand Magisterium

Hugo Mariano Windisch-Graetz, Helene Jørgensen Lund and Luigi Giulianelli

On 9th June 2021, His Eminence the Cardinal Grand Master appointed, as member of the Grand Magisterium, His Serene Highness Prince Hugo Mariano Windisch-Graetz, an Austrian entrepreneur born in 1955. Prince Windisch-Graetz has been a member of the Order since 1980 and of various charitable organisations of the Catholic Church. He studied philosophy, political science, and economics at the University of Buckingham (Oxford) and belongs to a family with close historic links to the Vatican. He was appointed a Gentleman of His Holiness in 1987 by Pope St. John Paul II. Married to Archduchess Sophie (Habsburg) of Austria, he is the father of three children.



On the same day, the Grand Master also appointed Professor Helene Jørgensen Lund, born in 1973, of Norwegian nationality, as a member of the Grand Magisterium. Professor of Theology, Helene Lund, who entered the Order in 2008, served as Magistral Delegate for Norway from 2013 to 2020, always distinguishing herself by her assiduousness at the meetings of the



European Lieutenants and the Consulta, and for her attachment to the Order, contributing to its expansion in the Nordic countries. In 1995 she married Rev. Øystein Johannes Lund, also a professor of Theology, who came into full Catholic communion from Lutheranism in 2014, in a ceremony attended by Cardinal O'Brien, and who has been a member of the Order since 2016. The couple has two children.

As of 8th October 2021, Knight Grand Cross Luigi Giulianelli has become a member of the Grand Magisterium. On the day of the appointment, the Grand Master conferred on him the title of Lieutenant of Honour for Central Italy. Born in Rome on 22nd February 1944 and with a degree in Engineering, Luigi Giulianelli has been a member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre since 1967. Promoted Knight Commander in 1982 and Knight Commander with Star in 1990, Luigi Giulianelli was awarded the rank of Knight Grand Cross in 1996. He received the Silver Palm in 2000, and the Golden Palm in 2005. Since 2004, he has held the position of Lay Master of Ceremonies and Chancellor of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy, before being called to direct it in 2017, succeeding Knight Grand Cross Saverio Petrillo, current treasurer of the Grand Magisterium, in the historic seat of Sant'Onofrio al Gianicolo.



The Grand Master speaks about the new Ritual of the Order

In 2021, the Grand Master of the Order was interviewed by the Catholic News Agency and ACI Stampa about the new Ritual of Investiture of Knights and Dames. We publish the article taken from this interview, where Cardinal Filoni explains what there is to know about the important evolution of this Ritual, linked to the new Constitution of the Order signed by Pope Francis.



Though the sword is no longer used during the Investiture ceremony of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, it is still present in the Vigil, as a symbol along with all the other knightly symbols. This is not a break with tradition, but rather an evolution towards a more simple form but one with greater significance. This is how Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, explains this decision. The Order is among the oldest Catholic orders of chivalry and today it is present in nearly 40 nations with about 30,000 members worldwide. It has, for this reason, a strong bond with the Holy Land, where it carries out projects of various kinds and distributes aid. It is a chivalrous order that since 1888, by decision of Leo XIII, also admits women, called “Dames”. Women are, in all respects, on a par with the other Knights, in terms of both commitments and the distribution of contributions. Obviously, the Dame’s oath did not include the sword. But, the approval of the new Constitution in 2020, continued with a reflection on spirituality at the request of the Knights themselves (Cardinal Filoni, *And the House was*

Filled with the Fragrance of Perfume) and is now substantiated by the reform of the Ritual.

Speaking to ACI Stampa, Cardinal Filoni explains that the reform follows the general principle of Paul VI who, in a homily on 2nd February 1967, spoke of a “renewal which remained faithful to its original statutes and suitable for pursuing its goals with forms more suited to needs.” The reform of the Investiture Ritual was promulgated on 19th March, and distributed to members on 7th May. It immediately generated criticism specifically because of the absence of the sword in the oath-taking ritual.

Agostino Borromeo, Lieutenant General of the Order, defended the reform. In a reflection published on the Order’s website, Borromeo said that the earliest text on the Investiture of Knights dates back to 1623, and that it seems that the ceremony centered on the delivery of the sword to the candidate, who “extracted it from its scabbard, handed it to the celebrant. The latter, drawing the sign of the Cross in the air three times with it, touched the weapon to the candidate’s shoulders.” The sword was then returned to the Franciscan



Knights symbols are highlighted during the Prayer Vigil preceding the Investiture of new members of the Order, as per the new Ritual.

bound by the same obligations and holders of the same rights are received in different ways in the same institution. The new ritual fully responds to this basic requirement. It should be noted, moreover, that the sword, because of its symbolic significance, is in any case still a part of the liturgy of the Vigil.”

Custos of the Holy Land. It was thought, in fact, that the sword had belonged to Godfrey of Bouillon. With the admission of women into the Order, it was decided that they, not traditionally part of a knightly order, should take their oath using a different formula and without the sword. Hence the last reform, necessary, according to Borromeo, because “at the beginning of the 21st century, it no longer seems acceptable that people

And he adds that with the new ritual, “the celebration of the most solemn act provided for by the liturgy of the Order will be identical, in words and gestures, in all the Lieutenancies and Magistral

The cross of the pastoral staff placed on the shoulder replaces the sword during Investiture, and clearly underlines the vocation of each member of the Order to bear witness to Christ – to his humility and charity – in daily life.





hope and charity.” It remains as a symbol “in the Vigil of Prayer before the conferral of knighthood,” along with the spurs (for the Knights) and the jar of perfumed oil (for the Dames), but also the cross, worn around the neck, the cloak, the beret, the veil and the gloves. All of these make up the vesture of a Knight and a Dame. In addition to this, each class has its own particular garment: members of the clergy wear a mozzetta, religious wear a white scarf, women religious wear a black shawl, while the main distinguishing mark is the Jerusalem cross. All this emphasises “the practice of Christian virtues” and to encourage “a more intimate participation in the life of the order.”

In short, it has nothing to do with gender equality, an issue among others that Cardinal Filoni considers “reductive,” because women have been admitted to the Order since the 19th century, “in a time when this was not expected.” They are “full members, in participation and contributions,” because the Order is “inclusive,” accepting “bishops, priests,

Delegations of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.”

There is no break with tradition, therefore, explains Cardinal Filoni, and not even a decision to defend a kind of gender equality. On the contrary, the sword has an important meaning in the symbolism, evoking virtues such as “loyalty, fidelity, solidarity, honour, nobility of spirit, fortitude, self-denial, defence of justice, truth and above all faith,

deacons, as well as religious men and women, despite being a predominantly lay order,” and all “contribute their love for the land of Jesus and Mother Church,” men and women contributing to the Holy Land in equal dignity. “And it is much more than the sociological concept of equal dignity.”

Andrea Gagliarducci
Catholic News Agency

The service and gift of religious men and women within the Order

For some time, religious men and women connected in a special way to the Holy Land have been approaching the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to experience communion with other brothers and sisters who manifest special zeal and solicitude for the Land of Jesus. During Spring 2021, a circular letter with guidelines for the admission of religious men and women, accompanied by an explanatory note, was addressed to all the Lieutenancies with the intention of formalising, in a clear manner, the entrance and presence in the Order of those who belong to institutes of consecrated life. Although admission to the Order is primarily reserved for the laity, “the admission of religious (men and women), as faithful called by God to a particular consecration (cf. *Lumen Gentium* no. 43), is part of the spirit of the Order. In fact, because of their specific consecration to God, they play an important role in maintaining the awareness that the Cross is the superabundance of God’s love overflowing into this world (cf. *Vita Consecrata*, no. 24),” as stated in the explanatory note released.

The guidelines emphasise that, “a religious shall not seek out, or be included in, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem for the sake of an honorary title, but in imitation of those men and women, like Joseph of Arimathea, who offered his tomb to the Lord after asking Pilate for his body (cf. *Mt* 27:57-60), or like Nicodemus, who brought myrrh, aloes, and burial cloths (cf. *Jn* 19:39-40), or again like Mary of Magdala and the other women who piously provided for the burial of the tortured body of their Master (cf. *Lk* 23:55-56) and were the first witnesses of his Resurrection (cf. *Mt* 28:1-10; *Mk* 16:1-11; *Lk* 24:1-12; *Jn* 20:1-18).”

This attention to the body of Christ translates today not only into a deep love for the Land in which he lived, gave his life for us and rose again, but also into a charitable concern for the communities that live there. Father Jean-Michel Poffet, a Dominican, was director of the École Biblique in Jerusalem from 1999 to 2008. It was in



Religious men and women have their place in the Order, in particular through the moral support they can provide to the inhabitants of the Holy Land, and their prayers, which are essential.

this context that he became acquainted with the work of the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. During a visit to Rome, he had met Cardinal Furno, then Grand Master, who had decided to support their institute. The Order’s contribution to the École Biblique has continued over time and for the past ten years or so, it has been supporting the Palestinian employees who work in the famous and well-stocked library of this centre of study. Concerning his entry into the Order through the Lieutenancy for Switzerland, Father Jean-Michel says, “As a religious, I was not looking for a new affiliation but becoming a member of the Order allowed me to make my solidarity with Eastern Christians meaningful in a specific way. I know the good that the Order does and how valuable this support is for the schools of the Patriarchate and other institutions. It is not only economic support: it is also prayer and moral support.”

Sister Anne Marie Smith took her vows in the

Franciscan order in 1960. She joined the Order of the Holy Sepulchre as a Religious-Dame with the Lieutenancy for Western USA. She recounts discovering the existence of this pontifical institution through one of the priests with whom she worked. “I had just completed my second trip to the Holy Land and had learned so much about the people, the conflicts, and the care of the various sites by the Franciscans – another connection. On my first trip, I experienced a member receiving the Pilgrim’s shell. I later learned what that meant and I wanted to support the faith community in the Holy Land.” For Sister Anne, belonging to the Order is also a way of keeping in touch with the Franciscan communities in those places.

Involvement in the family of the Order is undoubtedly another important component of choosing to be a Religious-Knight or Religious-Dame. Father Jean-Michel tells us of his regular



Father Jean-Michel Poffet is a Dominican religious and a Knight of the Order.

participation in the activities of the Lieutenancy and, in addition, how two years ago, he had “the honour and joy of accompanying a pilgrimage to the Holy Land: a great moment for all of us. In addition, I have led pilgrimages for some French Delegations (Paris, Provence, Lyon).” Sister Anne is aware that belonging to the Order is also accompanied by a desire to contribute financially to the needs of the Church in the Holy Land. In the case of religious, this is not always possible, yet the support

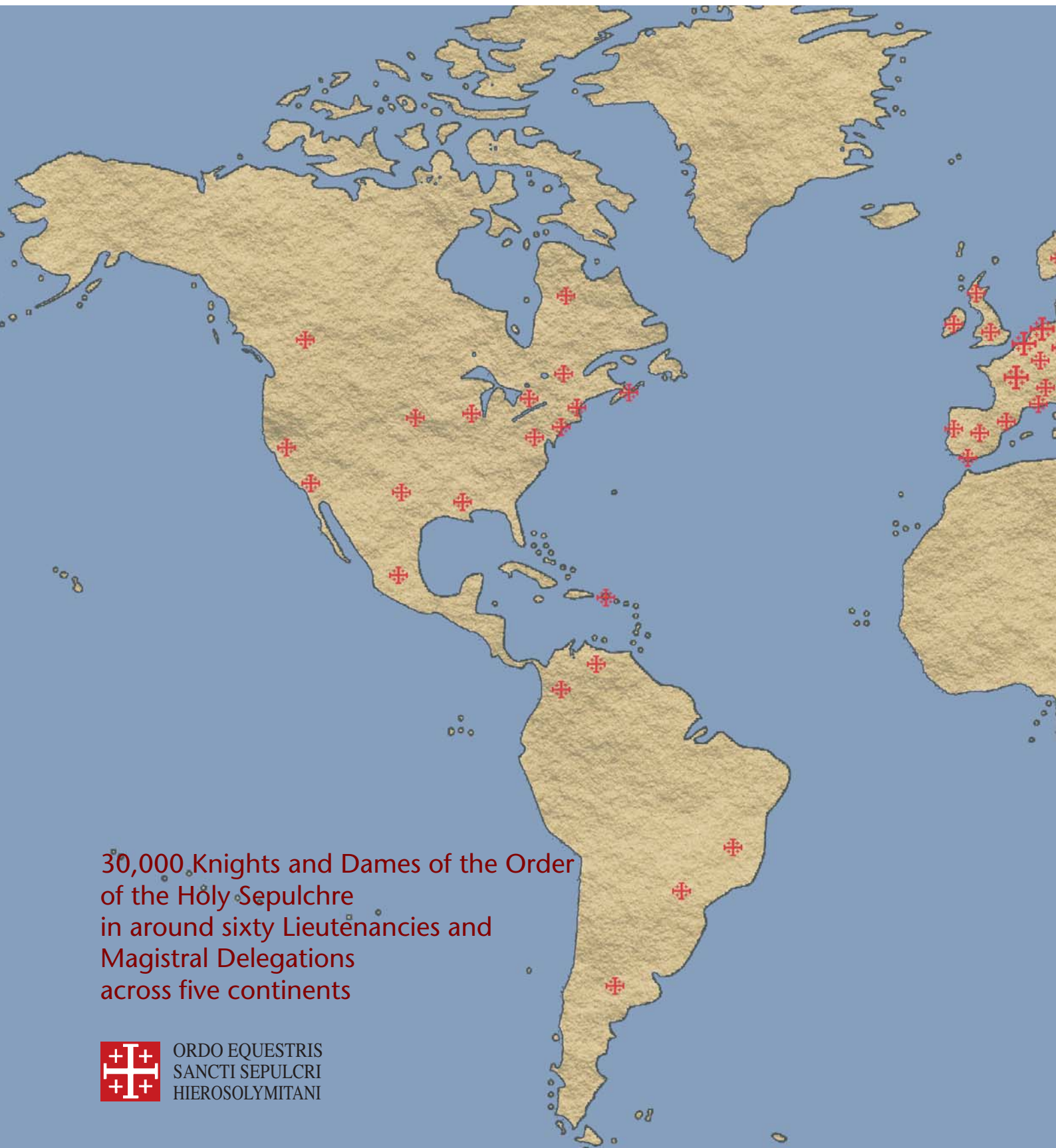
they offer is no less important. “As Sisters” she explains, “we are not able to provide the financial support expected of members, but we can provide our prayers.”

The beauty of the Order’s life profoundly benefits from this rich diversity of states of life, united at the same time by the feeling of being part of the same family guided by the same purpose of service and love for the Holy Land.

Investiture of Mother Shaun by Cardinal Filoni

On 21st September during a visit to the United States, Cardinal Fernando Filoni presided at the Investiture of a sister of the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. The ceremony took place in Meriden, Connecticut, in the presence of her community and the head of the USA Eastern Lieutenancy, Victoria Downey. Mother Shaun Vergauwen, co-founder of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, “is a nun who”, recalled the Grand Master in his homily, “has given a lot to the Holy Land and who continues to do so thanks to the sisters of her community who work on site, in the pastoral, educational or social field.” In 1978, shortly after the foundation of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, Mother Rosemae Pender, the Founding Mother, and Mother Shaun sent sisters to prepare the opening of a centre in the Holy Land. In 1996, as spiritual advisors to centre staff, they established the “Holy Child Program”, a therapy and education centre for children and families going through intergenerational trauma. Speaking of the admission of Mother Shaun into the Order as a Religious Dame, Cardinal Filoni recalled that, “taking on this responsibility is a great honour,” and he added, “to love the Holy Land is to love Christ. [...] We are not asked to do this just occasionally, but continuously and very deliberately.”





30,000 Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in around sixty Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations across five continents



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Solidarity projects in the Holy Land

Report on the support provided by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 2021

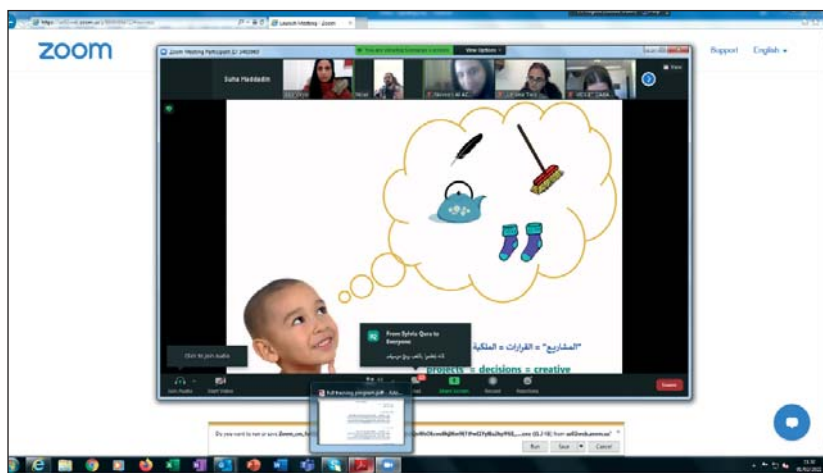
After two very difficult years (2020-2021) due to the pandemic, the health situation seems to be slowly improving in Israel. On the economic side, unemployment remains an important issue.

Against this backdrop, pilgrimages have slowly resumed since December when Israel once again opened its doors to tourists. "The situation is volatile and could change at any time," Sami El-Yousef, administrative director of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, rightly says. During the meetings of the Grand Magisterium and the continental meetings of the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates, he thanked the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. He stressed the importance of the help brought by the Knights and Dames, as well as the support regularly provided by the Grand Magisterium, amounting to more than \$ 750,000 a month, which supports the daily life of the Patriarchate (schools, institutional expenses, seminary training, etc.).

Some 20 small projects were funded in 2020, such as the refurbishment of a school playground in Jifna, Palestine, and the purchase of interactive whiteboards for various schools in the Patriarchate. Several major projects were also completed. These included the construction of a new house for the Sisters of the Rosary in Beit Jala, in Palestine, the construction of a new floor for the house of the Sisters of Saint Dorothy who serve in the parish of Hashimi, in Jordan, and the renovation of the house of the Sisters of the Rosary in Marka, also in Jordan.

For 2021, the Lieutenancies adopted twenty projects, primarily investment projects such as building classrooms in Mafraq, Jordan, renovating a study centre in Al-Ahliyya, Palestine, and

building a balcony for the sisters' house in Gaza, totalling approximately \$ 1 million. Humanitarian and pastoral projects benefitted from a considerable increase in funding. The former increased from \$ 650,000 to \$ 1 million for, among other things, medicines and health emergencies, subsidies for Iraqi refugees, social assistance, women's empowerment and job creation in Gaza. Funding for pastoral projects increased from



Teaching in the Holy Land continued virtually during the pandemic, with IT equipment funded by the Order.

\$ 340,000 to \$ 500,000, for Summer youth camps, spiritual retreats and Christian Student Youth leadership training.

The appeal launched by Cardinal Filoni, which raised more than three million dollars, to address the damage caused by Covid-19 made it possible to pay for tuition in about forty schools, support families in about forty parishes with food parcels and create jobs in collaboration with Bethlehem University. In total, relief sent by the Grand Magisterium of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre has helped more than 20,000 people in need during these difficult times. In addition to practical help, more than \$ 1 million has been held in reserve to address the pandemic in 2022.

The Patriarchate's 44 schools have 1777 employees and nearly 19,000 students, but have lost more than 600 of those registered, mostly Christians. "The challenge is to be able to maintain these schools, bearers of the Christian values of dialogue and fraternity in our biblical territories," explained Sami El-Yousef, pointing out that, with approximately 2,000 employees, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is the largest Christian employer in the Holy Land. Each year, the Order contributes nearly \$ 4,800,000 toward school expenses so that children can continue to benefit from a high-quality education. This education offered in a Christian environment, is open to young Muslims giving everyone the chance to grow and develop in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

Bartholomew McGettrick, president of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre's Holy Land Commission, which closely monitors activities and projects in the Holy Land, told the Order's international meetings that the



Thanks to financial support from the Order, the Summer camps are opportunities for the evangelisation of young people in the Holy Land, through catechesis but also games that highlight universal unity.



Commission hopes to visit the projects in early 2022. "The general strategy of our support to the Christian presence in the Holy Land remains the same: we focus on education, humanitarian aid and pastoral support. It is through these activities," he concluded, "that we promote an encounter with Christ, in today's world, by being with the most vulnerable: the children, the sick, the elderly and the needy."

A project for women in East Jerusalem

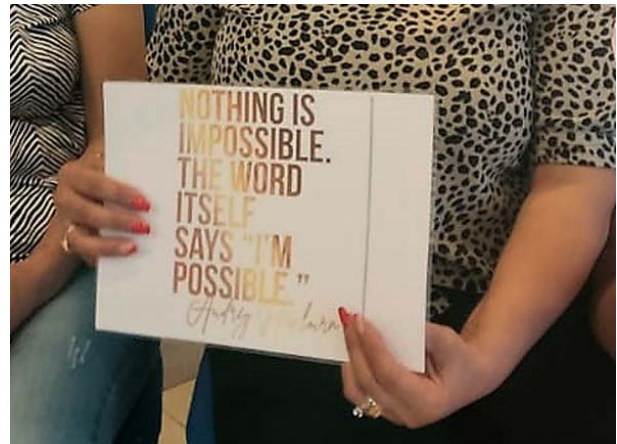


In this period of economic recession in many parts of the world, due to the pandemic, which continues to have a profound impact on the life of our societies, the Grand Magisterium of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre has decided to support the Department of Social Services of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem's initiative encouraging the participation of women in business in East Jerusalem.

"The Latin Patriarchate believes that when women are given the means to express their full potential, everyone benefits," commented Dima Khoury, Patriarchate social worker, who is directly involved in this project which, in recent months,

Women supported by the Latin Patriarchate express their joy after finishing their training and finding a job.

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible'."



has seen several women receive funding to start their own businesses.

"The objective of this initiative is to give these disadvantaged women the opportunity to earn a salary and acquire economic independence by offering them a culturally appropriate context in which they can receive assistance to start a

business,” continued Dima. The project took a variety of forms: it enabled some women to buy the equipment necessary to launch their activity, while it supported others in the process of training and developing their project.

Four beneficiaries received a donation for equipment: for the purchase of sewing machines, for the machines needed for a pastry business, for a freezer, and for instruments and equipment for a nail bar. Thirteen other women, on the other hand, have taken training courses to prepare for their future work in the fields of make-up, manicure and cooking. Some of these participants have already created profitable small businesses and we hope

very much that they will continue on this journey and will soon be joined by their colleagues.

“Our intervention is aimed at women with low or no income, who often do not have the opportunity, qualifications or training to seek traditional employment and who also face difficult challenges because they have young children to raise and family responsibilities,” Dima told us.

Supporting the entrepreneurial activities of these women means encouraging them in their development, their self-esteem and the active contribution they know how to give and are called upon to make to society. You can read two of their stories in the adjacent boxes.

Leila: “I can now cover my family’s needs”

Leila is a mother of three who lives in the Old City of Jerusalem. Her chronically ill husband is unable to work and needs access to regular kidney dialysis after undergoing a transplant. Leila’s three children are all enrolled in private Christian schools, which adds to the household’s financial burden. Leila has always had a passion for cooking and baking and, in particular, for pastry. She struggled for years to make ends meet until she decided to use her talents to start an income-generating business. Before setting up a baking business, Leila took part in a private cookery course, but she lacked the funding for the necessary professional equipment to bake her trademark pastries.

The grant provided through this project gave her the opportunity to create a kitchen with modern, professional equipment. Leila now sells her products to local pastry shops and is currently exploring ways to expand her business.

“I can now cover my family’s needs by making pastries and selling them. I do not have to worry about my children going to school or having enough food on the table. I have the LPJ Social Department and the generous donor to thank for my good fortune.”

* * *

Sama: “I thank the generous donors for their support”

Sama is a young mother; she lives in Jerusalem with her husband and three-year-old son. Sama did not have the opportunity to continue with her college education, because she married young and decided to devote her time to her son. Since her childhood, Sama has been fascinated by nail art and she aspired to be a nail artist. Sama’s husband worked in the hospitality sector, and just like the thousands who worked in this industry, he was laid off after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns, when he and his family were forced to survive on unemployment benefits. After an entire year of unprecedented financial hardships, Sama decided to use her passion and talents to generate a steady income to cover the needs of her small family. Thus came the idea to establish a nail art business to fulfill her dream. Sama used the grant she received to purchase the equipment needed for her small nail bar. She has already started her project and has built an impressive customer base through a successful use of social media to promote her work and attract new clients.

“The satisfied looks on my customers’ faces after I have done their nails is very rewarding. It gives me the power and the persistence to keep going. My long-term plan is to expand my business and open my own salon where I can continue doing what I love. I thank the LPJ and the generous donors for their support and for enabling me to believe in myself and for giving me the power to transform my life.”

The Order stands alongside the Eastern Churches

There are many groups in the Holy Land that are in need of support and that continue to give life to the local Church, which is part of the richness and diversity of the communities present in the land of Revelation. This is why, in addition to the monthly contributions and projects that the Order of the Holy Sepulchre supports through the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Knights and Dames also undertake, through the Grand Magisterium, to contribute to the implementation of certain initiatives indicated by the Congregation for the Oriental Churches within the framework of ROACO, Group of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches, to which the Order belongs.

In 2021, six projects were approved at a total cost of nearly € 500,000. During the first half of the year, the aid focused on three projects comprising the construction of an additional floor at the “House of the Lady” pastoral centre in Nazareth, the completion of the work on the multipurpose hall at the parish of Saint Philippe the Apostle in Tur’an, two installations at the Greek-Melkite Catholic Church in Israel, and the renovation of the guardhouse of the Benedictine monastery of Our Lady of Calvary in Jerusalem.

In the second half of the year, there were two other projects at the Greek-Melkite Catholic Church: the renovation of the perimeter wall of the

parking lot of Saint-Joseph high school in Nazareth and the completion of the top floor of the primary school of Shefa Amr, also in Israel. These two schools each have more than 600 students. In Nazareth, the collapse of part of the structure posed serious security problems and this project will ensure that students and teachers are kept safe.

In Shefa Amr, an Arab town in Israel about 20 km from Haifa, inhabited by Muslims, Christians and Druze, there are two Catholic schools, one primary and one secondary. The Order is contributing to the plastering work on the top floor of the primary school and, thanks to local cost-sharing, the premises will have new classrooms, science and



The Melkite Greek-Catholic parish of Saint Philip the Apostle, in Tur’an, a few kilometres north of Nazareth in Israel, benefits from the Order’s support through ROACO, a solidarity organisation coordinated by the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in Rome.



computer suites, a chapel and a room for social and religious activities.

The final project with ROACO in 2021 came under the continuity of a project previously financed by the Order at the Maronite convent of Saint Charbel in Bethlehem. The convent has two buildings, one of which was largely destroyed by fire in 2015. Previously in 2018, the Order contributed to the reconstruction of the ground floor. This year, the funded project is making possible the restoration of the basement structure and its transformation into a kitchen for the monastery and visitors.

The vitality of the Church in the Holy Land through the words of the Patriarchal Vicars

At the beginning of July 2021, His Beatitude Patriarch Pizzaballa appointed Mgr. William Shomali to assist him in leading the Diocese of Jerusalem as Vicar General, replacing him in Jordan with Father Jamal Daibes, who becomes Patriarchal Vicar resident in Amman. In Israel, Father Rafic Nahra assumed the position of new Patriarchal Vicar in Nazareth.

In addition, Archbishop Pizzaballa appointed the new officer of the Vicariate responsible for migrants Father Nikodemus Schnabel, a German Benedictine, while the chaplain of the Saint James Vicariate for Hebrew speaking Catholics is Father Piotr Zelazko, a Polish priest. In March 2022, Father Daibes and Father Nahra were appointed Auxiliary Bishops.

Interview with Mgr. William Shomali, Vicar General of the Diocese of Jerusalem,
Mgr. Jamal Daibes, Patriarchal Vicar in Jordan,
and Mgr. Rafic Nahra, Patriarchal Vicar in Nazareth in Israel.

What is it that you, each of you, wants to give thanks for after these years of service? What do you keep in your heart now that this great mission is accomplished?

Mgr. William Shomali: I thank the Lord for the four and a half years of service I spent in Jordan. I was able to get to know the other part of the diocese better, which has the majority of our faithful of the Latin rite. I remember full churches, especially on Sunday and Saturday evenings. I treasure the memory of the beautiful choirs, especially of Tla el Ali, of Webdeh, of the school of Shmeisani, of Sweifieh, of Zarka, of Madaba and of Jubeiha... I keep in my heart the image of the new parish church of Jubeiha, built with the help of the Knights and Dames of the Order of Holy Sepulchre, a church that can accommodate 1,000 people seated. It is the largest and most beautiful church in Jordan! Thank you to the Knights and Dames of the Order and to the Grand Magisterium.

I will not forget the effective collaboration between our priests, our deacons and our acolytes, nor the warm farewell of the faithful and friends who came to the Vicariate before my departure to greet my successor, Father Jamal Daibes, and me.

I would like to thank the Lord who supported me, especially in the following initiatives. As soon as I arrived in Jordan, I learned of a big problem



Mgr. Shomali, Auxiliary Bishop, returns to Jerusalem as Vicar General, after serving the Latin Patriarchate in Jordan.

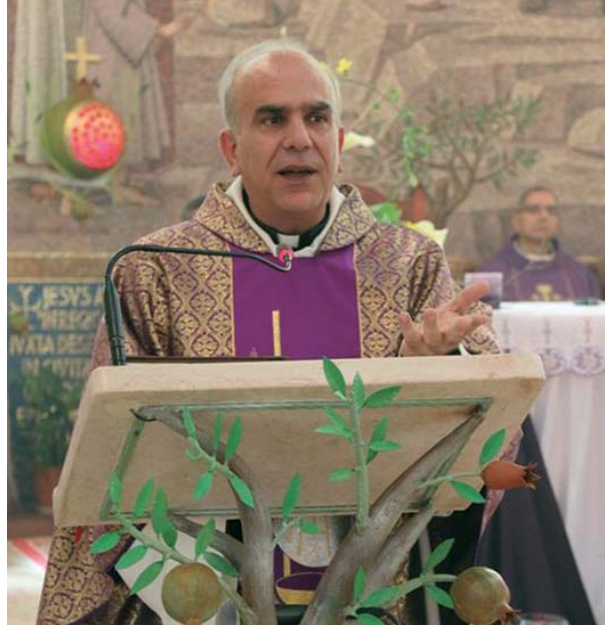
between two Christian tribes in the south. There were death threats, a spirit of revenge and diabolical divisions between them. Thanks to the Latin Vicariate of Amman and a group of priests from the Patriarchate who took the lead in reconciliation, this story ended well. I do not have time to go into detail here but would refer our readers to the Patriarchate website (<https://www.lpj.org/fr/posts/reconciliation-historique-entre-deux-grandes-familles-chretiennes-de-jordanie.html>).

Eight permanent deacons help the priests in various parishes. We felt the need to have acolytes to distribute communion during Sunday masses and, on the first Friday of the month, to the sick. Twenty-one candidates came forward. After a yearlong preparation, they received the ministry of lectors and acolytes. These acolytes, all married and active, are young, enthusiastic and give pleasure through their voluntary work.

In 2017, we were able to reactivate the Council of Heads of Churches in Jordan. Bishops and church representatives meet six times a year to discuss challenges facing Christians. Together we were able to deal with the pandemic, especially with regard to the opening and closing of prayer houses, work together on a catechism book that will be submitted to the government with a view to teaching it to all Christian students at private and public schools. We have also obtained from the government a piece of land, which will become a cemetery for Christians in the northern area of Amman...

Jordan has eleven million inhabitants less than 2% of whom are Christians. The others are Sunni Muslims. One of the forums for dialogue is the Royal Institute for Interreligious Dialogue, founded and chaired by Prince Hassan Bin Talal, uncle of the current king. According to tradition, the Latin bishop of Amman is the vice-president of the Institute. This is an opportunity to remember the support that the royal family gives to the Christian minority in Jordan. Many interreligious meetings have taken place between this royal Institute and the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Dialogue is important in this period marked by Muslim radicalism and political Islam.

Because of the debts that stigmatised the American University of Madaba (AUM) during its construction and which the Patriarchate had to pay for by selling land, it was not much fun to suddenly become the President of the Board of Trustees ... I accepted out of pure duty. The help offered by lay people faithful to the Patriarchate has slowly borne fruit. The number of students has increased significantly, new programmes have been launched, the latest being a master's degree in risk management. A university residence for girls, built thanks to the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, currently accommodates 70 students.



Mgr. Jamal Daibes replaces Bishop Shomali in Jordan as Patriarchal Vicar.

We hope the university will flourish.

Mgr. Jamal Daibes:

After ten years of service at the University of Bethlehem as Head of the Department of Religious Studies, and four years as Rector of the Seminary, I spent four years as pastor of the parish of the Holy Family in Ramallah. These years allowed me to work on the formation of lay people, seminarians and catechists. In Ramallah, I was director of the parish school (for two years) then director general of the schools of the Patriarchate (also two years). "The harvest is plentiful" (*Mt 9:37*), says the Lord. There is always work to be done, and even if we cannot always see the fruit of our work, we leave the rest to the Holy Spirit, the one "who makes the plant grow" (*1 Co 3:7*).

What I keep in my heart is the urgency of announcing the Word, at the University, at the Seminary, at school... The preparation of pastors, catechists and good educators must remain a priority in the local Church. The Patriarchate has made great progress in this area, thanks to the help of our friends the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre. The schools of the Patriarchate are the main means of continuing our mission in the Holy Land.

Alongside this, the work in the parish has been a grace for me. Meeting parishioners, administering the sacraments, collaborating with the laity... all this has taught me what it means to be a pastor. The parish is a big family, and the solidarity among the parishioners makes them one body, a living community in the Lord. I will miss Sunday Mass!



Mgr. Rafic Nahra:

Before my four years of service at the head of the Saint James Vicariate, I had already taken part for more than ten years in the life of Hebrew-speaking Catholic communities. Our communities are small, but very committed, with a family atmosphere that I have always very much appreciated. The team of Vicariate priests is also quite tight-knit; we were able to create beautiful pastoral projects together, especially with young people and children. I thank God who has protected and blessed us in the face of multiple challenges. Contact with the Jewish world was energising for me. I met people who were wonderful in their commitment and open-mindedness. It was also very enriching from an intellectual and spiritual point of view because of the richness and creativity of Jewish thought.

My close contact over the past four years with the migrant workers and asylum seekers has given me the opportunity to meet many courageous and very generous people, suffering the greatest poverty. This is unforgettable. It was a difficult mission, because serving the migrants makes you in one way or another a stakeholder in their precarious condition and forces you to face many material, administrative and psychological difficulties. My small experience has allowed me to

Mgr. Rafic Nahra (centre - in a cassock), the new Patriarchal Vicar in Israel, wants to encourage joint work practices, in the spirit of the current synodal journey.

understand much better the appeals from Pope Francis to welcome, protect, promote and strive to integrate migrants. Our work with migrants focuses on young people and children. The all too brief moments that I was able to spend with the babies in our daycare centres were like a ray of sunshine for me in testing times.

How are you each approaching your new position, and what are the main challenges you will have to face in the years to come?

Mgr. William Shomali: The pastoral plan is still to be developed with the help of our priests and under the direction of the Patriarch. I would like to work towards a growth in faith with our young people and our families. This is the most important and the main reason why the Church exists. With the help of our priests and lay people, we will create faith education centres as well as biblical and catechetical centres. In the near future we will have to work on the Synod of Bishops, convened by Pope Francis, on the theme “communion, participation and mission”. Of course, I will continue to promote ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and I will continue to implement liturgical reform. In fact, because of the work of the liturgical commission of which I have been a past member, and thanks to effective collaboration between religious, priests and bishops, we will have the new altar missal in

Arabic, a huge work of 1,600 pages, started six years ago.

Mgr. Jamal Daibes: I lived in Jordan before as a pastor more than twenty years ago! We have a lively and active community. I have a lot to learn about this community. The priority will be working with priests, those who work directly in pastoral life. Through them and with them, we can live as a Church in Jordan.

Ecumenical and interreligious relations are always a challenge. How does the teaching of the Gospel and of the Church translate in the context of Jordan? It is about living out our mission as a Church in this rich and sometimes difficult context.

We have twenty-five parish schools in Jordan. Helping the schools in their mission as Catholic

and daily work.

As I have not lived in Jordan for long, priority at the beginning will be given to listening: listening to priests, lay people, those who work in pastoral life; visiting the parishes, meeting the people, listening to everyone will help me better understand their needs and make the right decisions for the good of the Church. All this will be done in close collaboration with the Patriarch, at the head of the Church in the Holy Land.

Finally, in the Latin Patriarchate, we know that the Church of the Holy Land has a universal, Catholic dimension. We need to be open to the universal Church, and the charity and solidarity of the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre is proof of the concern of the whole Catholic Church for the Church in the Holy Land. We will continue our collaboration for the good of the Church and the glory of God.

Mgr. Rafic Nahra: I am very happy to begin the new mission that the Patriarch has entrusted to me. I would like to meet consistently with the different Catholic communities in Israel: the parishes, the male and female religious communities, the heads of schools and hospitals, the ecclesial movements, etc. I would like to encourage and develop joint working practices and a common pastoral care within the great diversity of ecclesial groups present. The synodal journey that Rome asks us to make this year should help in this.

I see two main priorities. First, the theological formation of the laity. The Patriarch attaches great importance to the opening of a theological training centre for our lay people so that they can acquire a greater knowledge of Christ, a greater attachment to the Church, and that they are better formed to be good catechists in schools and parishes. I intend to give priority to this training project. Then, youth ministry in Israel. This needs to be developed and unified. Young people and children are very dear to the Church.

Interreligious dialogue is also very important. I am already aware of this through my previous missions, and I would like to get involved.

Interview by François Vayne



schools open to all will be a constant concern. This includes the preparation of catechists, financial support, planning for the future...

Interreligious dialogue is a very important aspect of the Church's mission in the Holy Land.

The laity are active and there are many lay movements: young people, scouts, young families... These movements always need the support and backing of the Church; these movements are also the treasure of the Church in Jordan.

The work with Madaba University is very important because it is the only Church-owned University in Jordan. I need to learn more about the situation at the University, especially its mission



Investiture in Innsbruck, in Wilten Abbey, Austria.

Testimonies from some Dames of the Order

“I was chosen”

Anais Salamanca (Lieutenancy for Monaco)

“During the Covid 19 crisis, I was able to follow various masses for the Knights and Dames, through “Zoom”. I was delighted to be able to share these times from my home alongside my daughter and my husband. One evening, to my surprise, I got a call, which for me was a sign. Someone had dreamt about me and the dream had been about my Investiture in the Order.

Through various exchanges, with an exceptional person from the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and through various meetings with Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, I then realised the extent and importance of this mission. Joining this Investiture was an honour for me; I was so happy to have been chosen from among so many others. Even today, I still do not know if I am worthy of receiving this title, but I do know that I took it as a sign from elsewhere, I was chosen! And this choice was made for a specific reason, so that I could accomplish, support, help and be available to others. I will offer all my sincerity, all my love and all the availability necessary for this new commitment. I was so



moved to see my seven-year-old daughter looking at me spellbound at this event. She is so proud, and that allows us to share real values together.

The Church’s values are very important to us. At home, this strengthens our bonds of trust as well as makes everything calmer and more compassionate. I thank the Lord for giving me this chance and I will do my best to transmit the true values of Christian life to as many people as possible whom I will meet on my path of life.”

“I want to help my neighbour and contribute to peace in the Holy Land”:

Colombe de Boccard (Lieutenancy for Switzerland)

“On 5th June 2021, I had the immense honour of being invested in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. This celebration, as beautiful as it is solemn, moved me deeply. It made tangible my desire to serve the Church, the Holy Father, to

make a commitment to support Eastern Christians, and to cultivate my faith. Being pregnant with our second child at the Investiture, this commitment took on special meaning for me. The kind support and attention of my friend, Donata Kretlow-



Benziger and my godfather, Jean-Pierre de Glutz-Ruchti, during these stages, supported me a lot. I am very grateful to them.

My husband is a Knight of the Order of Malta. Thus, through our involvement in these two Orders of the same Christian family, we wish to give a spiritual and charitable dimension to our lives. We also want to pass on these values to our children. It seems to me that the ancient values cultivated by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre –prudence, justice, courage, temperance – are more relevant than ever. They are the foundations of Christian morality, and must be upheld in the 21st century. Through this commitment I wish to help my neighbour and contribute, at my modest level, to peace in the Holy Land”.

“We want to be those people the Order can count on”

Victoria Vergara y Martínez (Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain)

“**T**he most intense and exciting moment of my Christian life was my Investiture in the Cathedral of Barcelona! The sensation had already settled in my heart from the time of my application and it grew during the days of training we had beforehand.

As a novice, and the only Dame in this Investiture, I had the honour of representing all my colleagues, and of making a short speech to my henceforth brothers-in-robles. This is a summary of what I said on that occasion.

What we all felt on entering the Order was the gratitude to be able to be part of this great family and to be able to help the brothers of the Holy Land. We may be few in number, but we are great in our desire to be useful. Given the situation we find ourselves in, this was

a long-awaited Investiture, which made us want to get involved even more. We have had time to reflect on the responsibility of this commitment. We want to be those people on whom the Order can count, with initiatives that make our help to the Holy Land grow every day (...).”



Dame of the Order and boxer: the story of Teresa

“Order and discipline”: these words have been my constant companions throughout my life!

I am the proud daughter of a Marshal of the Carabinieri and, since I was a child, I was brought up to respect the rules, hearing one single phrase repeatedly: “Order and Discipline!” These words, a sort of constitutional law in the Mascione house, have shaped me, both spiritually and culturally, over the years.

I was born in Padua and raised from the age of two in Campobasso. After graduating as an accountant programmer, and dreaming of a great career, I enrolled at the university graduating in the field of law. I then obtained a qualification to practise law and I started, at a very young age, a professional and working career in the insurance field, first with a Broker and immediately afterwards in an insurance agency where I still work today.

I am particularly proud to have joined the Order with which I had unknowingly come into contact many years ago when, as a child, I started attending the Church, the choir, the oratory, the catechism preparation course for my first Holy Communion and to meet Jesus in my first contact with the Gospel. As our Grand Master Cardinal Fernando Filoni underlined, “belonging to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre does not happen outside the Church, but in it.”

A few years ago, I met some members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, as the offices of the Abruzzo-Molise Section and the Delegation of the Order are in my city. These were very special people including the Head of the Section, the Knight Commander with Star Carmine De Camillis, who invited me to come to their meetings, and to whom I owe my presentation to the Order. At the first spiritual meeting to which I was invited, I was able to learn more about their nobility of soul, their loyalty and dedication to the



A Dame of the Order in the ring.

Order, their commitment to witness, faith and charity towards the Holy Land. I was drawn to them, so much so that I asked in committed and frank terms to be allowed to start on the path of formation and preparation during which the firm passion and determination to be part of this wonderful world of solidarity and love got rooted in me.

Being a Dame of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is a great honour for me. It represents a constant and continuous commitment to the Catholic Church and individual Christians, not only financially but above all spiritually, because “joining the Order means being convinced of the spiritual value of membership and, at the same time, of the very great value of charity.” (cit. F. Filoni, *And the whole house was filled with the fragrance of perfume*).

A great desire, as soon as the socio-economic and political situation improves, is to be able to go to the Holy Land with my brothers and sisters, to see the Holy Sepulchre, to touch and walk through the places where Jesus lived. Being able to see the charitable and social works carried out through the tangible contribution of material and spiritual solidarity that we send to support our Christian brothers and their families who live there in difficult circumstances is a human and faith encounter that I cannot wait to experience. I want to tell others about it, as a Christian testimony, part



Teresa Mascione, who became Dame of the Order (left), approaches her Christian life like sports training, cultivating the values of courage and respect with perseverance.

of a centuries-old history, in places where time seems to have stood still.

Discipline, technique, education, order are also an integral part of the sport that I have been practising for several years in my free time, boxing.

does not matter whether we win or lose, but which teach us courage and respect.

There is always a lot of confusion and almost ignorance when people compare boxing to street fighting. We should look at this sport with more

I approached this discipline gradually because I was fascinated by a lifestyle that always creates new challenges to face and the ability to react to blows. Fighting is not just a physical action, but it forms, enriches, makes us grow, it is a psychological reaction in the face of adversity, those situations where it

Why did we become Dame and Knight?

Testimony of a young couple, members of the Order

Some of our Knights or Dames knew the Order in their youth, others later. Some were deeply moved by a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, deciding to act on behalf of their Christian brothers and sisters who live there, while others discovered the Order through its members and its Investiture ceremonies. Whatever the path, the call is the same and is experienced within a local community, with faith, solidarity and with eyes turned towards Jerusalem. Here is the testimony of a young Austrian couple who joined the Order in 2018.

“**I** knew the Order of the Holy Sepulchre when I was nine years old, when my father, Andreas Leiner, was invested as a Knight in Kremsmünster in 1993. For a whole weekend, with my mother and my brothers, we understood what it means to be welcomed with open arms into a community of faith. What impressed me the most were the interpersonal relationships between the members

of the Order and the feeling of simply being made welcome.

Sixteen years later, in October 2009, I made my first pilgrimage to the Holy Land with my parents. For five days, I was immersed in another world. On the first day of our stay, we went to a school for deaf children in Bethlehem. I still remember the joy and gratitude of the children, as well as the affectionate welcome of the Sisters of Saint Vincent de Paul. I was also very touched by the visit to, and the mass at, the seminary of Beit Jala. The important role of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in supporting these socio-religious institutions became immediately apparent to me.

Another highlight was undoubtedly the meeting with the then Latin Patriarch, Fouad Twal, and his Auxiliary Bishop, William Shomali. We had the honour of celebrating the birthday of Mgr. Fouad Twal at the Patriarchate and taking part in the pilgrimage to the shrine of Deir Rafat. During various conversations, we learned about the

humanity, break down the stereotype of violence represented by physical sport, but use the right term to define it: the noble art of boxing. All this is understood at the end of a match: the embrace of two boxers at the end of the fight. A gesture that shows that beating your opponent is not synonymous with superiority but with determination and mutual respect.

Behind every match, there are many sacrifices, especially when you are no longer as young as you once were, like me, and when work takes up most of your day, but those very sacrifices lead you to victory, and helped me personally to win the title of Italian vice-champion of light boxing in 2019.

In Greek culture, the word “athlete” identified a more complex figure than the simple sportsman, rather it embodied all the virtues and values of the human being. I can say that I feel like an Athlete, with a capital A both in and out of the ring, because sport, as a source of principles, can be a place of inspiration for others. It can revitalise civic

commitment to society, be a place for integral development, where a person can learn about the faith and Christianity in exercising the various disciplines. In this perspective, the European Code of Sports Ethics was developed, the fundamental principle of which is fair play, which incorporates the concepts of friendship, mutual respect, honesty and team sporting spirit. Every day I try to pass it on to my teammates, especially the younger ones, so that they can “give the best of themselves”, an expression used several times by Pope Francis and Cardinal Kevin Farrell in his Vatican document on sport. I hope to stimulate my teammates to become better people in the world in all aspects of life, because the sporting effort to achieve set goals can be compared in the context of faith, to the commitment to the Church to maintain a Christian life focused on doing good, and loving your neighbour.

Teresa Mascione

Lieutenancy for Central Italy

situation of Christians in the Holy Land. I then developed the personal desire to support the Latin Patriarchate and the Christians who live there.

I am very happy and proud to have found, in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, a religious home in which we all share the aspiration to do good for our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.”

Maria Stadler-Leiner

“**T**hanks to family ties and friendships with the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, I have had the pleasure of participating, as a guest, in various meetings and events of this Order for more than ten years. This has provided me with extraordinary opportunities for intellectual exchange on both religious and secular topics, allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of the great imponderable challenges facing Christians living in the Holy Land.

The cordiality of relations

between members of the Order, as well as the manner in which they communicate with non-members has repeatedly impressed me. I particularly remember exciting experiences during the Investiture ceremonies in Linz (2006) and in Burgenland (2008), where I was able to take part in organisational and administrative tasks, but also serve as a driver for international guests, which gave me the opportunity to engage in interesting conversations with the highest authorities of the Order.

From that moment, and encouraged by many other meetings with members, the need to support our fellow believers in the Holy Land became a personal concern, and it was a great honour for me to become a Knight of the Order in September 2018. The Investiture took on an even more special dimension as it took place in the basilica where my wife, also a Dame of the Order, and I were married.”

Clemens Stadler



Pooling the experiences of members of the Order around the world

Some Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations told us about their experiences during the past year, which gave us the opportunity to write three summary articles on different themes, illustrating the activity of the members of the Order on the five continents.

Community events organised despite the health crisis

For years, it has been a tradition in the Lieutenancy of Eastern Spain to take advantage of the holidays in December to organise a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. This pilgrimage is clearly open to all members of the Order, so that they may respond to the obligation of all Knights and Dames to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at least once in their life. But it is also open to family and friends to whom they can pass on their love for the land of Jesus Christ and the Order's concern for the Christian community in the Holy Land. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the last pilgrimage was in 2019. The Lieutenancy therefore chose to create a virtual pilgrimage. Throughout this pilgrimage, which lasted about an hour and a half, with the help of photographs taken during previous pilgrimages, the participants were able to visit the geographical places in Palestine, which marked the main stages of the life of Our Lord. All left with a better knowledge of the earthly homeland of Jesus and a greater awareness of the needs of our brothers and sisters in faith who live there.

In Portugal, the launch of the Portuguese version of the work of the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, on the spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, took place on 4th November, 2021, in the Chapter Church of the Lieutenancy, the Church of Santo Condestável in Lisbon. Shortly

after the Holy Mass, the Lieutenant Colonel Bartolomeu Nuno de Guanilho Costa Cabral invited the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Portugal, Cardinal Manuel Clemente, Patriarch of Lisbon, to present this work in which the Grand Master of the Order offers meditations on the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, based on the Gospel accounts. These meditations make the Holy Places so vivid for readers that they are a very enriching spiritual experience, especially for those who are willing to read them prayerfully.

The Slovenian Lieutenancy, for its part, continued its activity through virtual meetings. Each meeting featured exchanges on the history of the Order, the rules of the Order, and the teaching of Pope Francis, while preparing the translation of the book of the Grand Master, Cardinal Filoni, on the spirituality of the Order. In Summer, the pandemic subsided somewhat and the Lieutenancy was able to make the traditional one-day pilgrimage to one of the replicas of the Holy Sepulchre in Slovenia. Built in 1752, the replica of the Holy Sepulchre located near Moravãe, 30 km from Ljubljana, offers an extraordinary spiritual experience.

In Russia, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre has signed an official contract with a publishing house for the very first Russian-language book on the history of the Order and its current activities. In Spring 2022, the book should be printed and



available to readers. Unlike the Order of Malta, whose history is closely linked to that of Russia (this is especially true for the end of the 18th century, when the Russian Emperor Paul I was elected Grand Master of the Knights of St. John), the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is known only to a relatively small group

A reproduction of the Holy Sepulchre in Slovenia, a place of pilgrimage for Knights and Dames.

of Russian historians. Until now, there has been no Russian publication on the history of the Order, and texts on the current situation of Christians in the Holy Land are scarce. When the initiative to publish a book on the Order materialised, the Russian historian Vitaly Zadvorniy, editor-in-chief of the Russian Catholic Encyclopedia and author of numerous works on the history of the Holy See, joined the ranks of Knights and Dames.

In Quebec, on, the feast of Saint Pius X, celebrated on 21st August, five new members were invested. During the Vigil, the new Lieutenant, Mireille Éthier was officially installed in her service. Among the activities offered during the year by this Canadian Lieutenancy, the recollection “The fragrance of perfume”, also open to European French-speakers, was an opportunity to learn more about the spirituality of the Order from the book of the Grand Master.

In Mexico, the pandemic has been difficult for everyone, but one of the events organised by the Lieutenancy was the “Eucharistic Hour for Peace in the Holy Land,” in the chapel at the house of the auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Mexico, two of whom were present. Broadcast by the archdiocese media, the video of this prayer has been shared twelve thousand times, also highlighting the mission of the Order throughout Latin America.

The second year of the pandemic unfolded in Colombia, like everywhere else in the world, with difficulties in meeting personally, and working with restrictions on the freedom of movement. However, the Grand Master’s book on the spirituality of the Order has been a beacon for the Knights and Dames in their journey of witness to

professing the Christian faith, as they strive with joy and generosity to put into practice the commitment made to serve those who live in the Holy Land. Adriana Mayol, the Lieutenant, fuelled by this reading, for example, agreed to an interview with Colombian media, which was seen by a person in Ecuador... The person thus touched by the testimony of the Lieutenant became a Knight, preparing the establishment of a future Magistral Delegation in the neighbouring country. This anecdote encourages each and everyone to give an account of their hope so that, everywhere, love of

the Holy Land and people's desire to make their own life a "holy land" may flourish.

In Brazil, the annual retreat of the Order was held, virtually, in Rio in November 2021, bringing together people from almost all the country, but also including participants from England, Italy and Portugal. The presentation of Cardinal Filoni's work on spirituality was a highlight, awakening in everyone the desire to make it his or her bedside book so that the spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is continually exemplified in daily life.

The feast of Our Lady of Palestine

Patroness of the Order, Our Lady of Palestine is honoured throughout the world each year, generally on the last Sunday closest to the 25th of October, which is the date of the liturgical feast.

The members of the Croatian Magistral Delegation and the Slovenian Lieutenancy came together to celebrate this feast in the Baroque Church of Our Lady of Jerusalem in Trški Vrh, a village near Krapina, a town in northern Croatia, near the Slovenian border. In the 18th

century church, a miraculous statue of Our Lady of Jerusalem, brought back from the Holy Land in the 17th century, is venerated. Also present at the celebration were Croatian candidates preparing to become Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre.

Among Italian Lieutenancies, the Southern Adriatic Lieutenancy celebrated this solemnity on



Among other testimonies received from the Lieutenancies on the feast of Our Lady of Palestine, a beautiful photo that speaks for itself illustrates the experience of Poland.

the Sunday dedicated to "World Mission Day", in the Church of San Giovanni Battista di Fasano. Lieutenant Ferdinando Parente concluded the meeting with a brief reflection on the historical and spiritual significance of this official feast of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

The Knights and Dames of the Magistral



Delegation for Southern Africa celebrated the feast of the Patroness of the Order with the Grand Prior, Archbishop of Cape Town. The celebration took the form of a mass in the chancellery chapel of the archdiocese, during which the Grand Prior stressed the need to pray for people who live in the Holy Land. Lunch was an opportunity to relax together. With the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa at the beginning of 2020 and the announcement of the lockdown, the restrictions had made it impossible to organise such reunions. Thanks to the easing of restrictions at the beginning of 2021, a morning of Lenten recollection could also take place.

Our Lady of Palestine was also celebrated in the Philippines, thanks to the technical means of telecommunication, which were greatly developed during the pandemic.

In New Zealand, members were unable to meet as an Order to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Palestine, due to the restrictions associated with the pandemic. They followed the live broadcast of Masses in Rome and Deir Rafat in Palestine. At the beginning of the mass in Deir Rafat, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa, welcomed all the members connected to the online celebration, so that they felt active participants in this important annual mass.

In the Philippines, in May 2021, Dames and Knights held a virtual Marian pilgrimage to

Antipolo Cathedral, Antipolo Diocese, during which Our Lady of Palestine was invoked. Pope Francis had chosen this place to participate in the global Rosary Marathon, praying for the end of the pandemic. On 7th May, Vatican media broadcast the event live at midnight Philippine time, the day just before the Knights and Dames pilgrimage. Filipinos love the Virgin Mary. She is the patron saint of their country, honoured under the name Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. The Order's virtual pilgrimage, which took place in the midst of the pandemic, was most uplifting and spiritually enriching and a few members were invited to share personal experiences of their faith. It was very touching and meaningful to see married couples, Dame and Knight, praying with great fervour and piety.

Members of the Magistral Delegation for Southern Africa also held a dignified celebration of the Order's Patroness.



Projects that provide a direct link between the Lieutenancies and the Holy Land

Maintaining a living link with the Holy Land is experienced in a variety of ways by our members, but is always something very intense.

The financial aid sent monthly to the Latin Patriarchate for institutional expenses, schools and the seminary ensures in many respects, the continuity of the central activities of the life of the diocese. In addition, the opportunity to maintain a direct and privileged link with a small entity allows the Lieutenancies and their members to get to know the local life, to establish friendly relationships and to create deep ties.

With this in mind, the Lieutenancies often favour ongoing relationships with certain groups or certain types of projects. The Lieutenancy for Luxembourg, which has around forty members, specifies that the project chosen to receive financing in 2021, from the list of small projects agreed between the Grand Magisterium and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem “is part of the continuity of the project financed by the Lieutenancy in 2020.” Over the past two years, the Knights and Dames of Luxembourg have helped to install or upgrade information systems. In 2021 in particular, the chaplaincy service of the Christian youth group of Jabal Amman in Jordan benefitted from this, thanks to a project to renovate the main meeting room and computer equipment, which was adapted for conferences, remote interviews and activities during this time of pandemic.

The members of the Order always plan during their pilgrimage to the Holy Land to visit the projects they support. Thus, the Knights and Dames of Luxembourg are joyfully awaiting their pilgrimage scheduled for June/July 2022 when they will be able to go to Jordan to see, on the ground, how their help has enabled the birth of this project and to meet the people who benefit from it.



Lieutenancies organise local events – like here at a Christmas market in Austria – to raise funds for the Holy Land.

The Lieutenancy for Ireland, which has the same bond of affection with a small specific group, told us of its experience with the Christian community of Bir Zeit, a town located seven

kilometres north of Ramallah. The Lieutenancy first contributed to the renovation work in the parish hall, which is now used for different activities by the parishioners and the pupils of the adjoining school. It then decided to continue this established relationship and to commit to completing the work of the ceiling at the parish. For Irish Knights and Dames too, the pilgrimage is an opportunity to experience and strengthen ties with a community that has names and faces. “During the 2019 pilgrimage, 50 Irish members and their friends met the parish priest, visited the parish hall, met the students and prayed in the church. All were impressed by the enthusiasm of the local population.”

Among the various Lieutenancies that rejoice in visiting not so much the projects they support as

the people who benefit from them, the USA Western Lieutenancy had the good fortune, in August 2021, of being able to travel to Jordan to attend the ordination of new priests of the Patriarchate. Since 2005, this American Lieutenancy has supported the “Adopt a Seminarian” programme which, each year, sponsors seminarians from the Patriarchal Seminary of Beit Jala by offering them scholarships. “What joy we receive in being adopted as children of God by the grace of his Son Jesus Christ. Likewise, what a great blessing to be able, in our turn, to adopt and take care of seminarians in the Holy Land”, say the members of the USA Western Lieutenancy who confide to us that they still pray for these boys and maintain a correspondence with them. In a letter addressed to Lieutenant Margaret Romano, the rector of the seminary, Father Bernard Poggi, writes, “I would like to thank you for your initiative... Your presence and your support for the seminary are a marvellous expression of your love for the Holy Land and its future priests.”

Gaza is another place that is particularly close to our members’ hearts, and various projects are carried out for the benefit of the local population, in particular the very small Christian community of around a thousand believers out of a population of two million people. Since 2018, the German Lieutenancy of the

Aid from the Order creates, for example, jobs for young people in Gaza.



Order sends funds to facilitate the entry of young Christians in Gaza into the world of work by paying them a salary in cooperation with local companies. Since the beginning of the “Job Creation Program”, more than 40 young people have been able to use their knowledge and skills to help develop commercial and entrepreneurial activities in the area: young pharmacists, computer scientists, or health care assistants have worked and obtained a decent salary. “Thanks to this training programme”, explains Father Gabriel Romanelli, parish priest of Gaza, “the chances of finding a permanent job in the labour market are much higher. Several participants in the programme have found a job in a company, although the unemployment rate is extremely high, especially for young people. Some of our young people have been able to rent or buy an apartment and have even taken the plunge and got married now that they have a salary.”

The USA North Central Lieutenancy also decided to invest in a project in Gaza linked to the school and to the parish of the Holy Family, in particular by financing the one-month Summer camp for some 200 children. “The Summer camp provides a positive environment for the Christian and Muslim children who attend. Most of these children suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder... At school and at camp, they get to know each other and become friends,” the Lieutenancy says of the project.

In Gaza, another small project was supported by the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy which contributed to the renovation works of the house of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word who are very committed to pastoral and humanitarian activities with the local community. The same Lieutenancy also decided to allocate part of its funds to restoring the rainwater collection system of the seat of the episcopate of the Latin Patriarchate. In addition to these small projects, the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy reports that, in 2021, it was able to accept and pass on to the Grand Magisterium, the five per thousand contributions. The



managed to sell more than 135,000 bottles of oil, which has sent € 637,000 to the Holy Land, most of which has been reinvested in local projects. This activity involves the Austrian Sections and Delegations of the Order, which actively promote sales through various channels. Finally, Taybeh extra virgin olive oil is the

contributions were received via the Religious Foundation “Opera per la Venerazione dei Luoghi Santi e del Santo Sepolcro” (“Work for the veneration of the Holy Places and the Holy Sepulchre”) created by the Lieutenancy in 2013. This amounted to around € 100,000 that the Lieutenancy wished to allocate to scholarships for Christian students attending the schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Education is always a priority for the Order to enlighten hearts and foster peace in the Holy Land.

Still in the field of education, since 2017 the Lieutenancy for Belgium has been sending aid to the Spanish school in Jerusalem run by the Missionary Daughters of Calvary, sponsoring twelve students. “The cost per student is around 1,000 euros per year, but the sisters also welcome students who cannot afford to pay for their schooling,” write the members from Belgium. And it is to support these situations that the Knights and Dames intervene, in some cases even paying alimony for young people whose families find themselves in abject poverty.

The Lieutenancy for Austria also has a long history with several Holy Land places. Since 2001, their Commission for the Holy Land has wanted to search on the ground, for a way of providing financial support to Christian families and has decided to do so by purchasing products made in Palestine. Initially, the action focused on olive wood products, but for over ten years now, they have also distributed olive oil produced in Taybeh, a Christian village fifteen kilometres northeast of Jerusalem. Since 2009, the Lieutenancy has

one used by all Austrian dioceses as the holy oil consecrated during the Chrism Mass. “Thanks to the olive oil initiative, we have been able to improve the economic situation of the Taybeh community and its inhabitants. The profits obtained have made it possible to support other projects in the Holy Land,” rejoice the Austrian members of the Order.

Other Lieutenancies engage in fundraising, which they carry out in specific ways during certain key events such as annual meetings and Investitures, or even special celebrations organised with other entities linked to diocesan life. The Magistral Delegation for Norway, for example, collaborated with Caritas to organise a fundraising mass to help the populations of the Holy Land affected by the crisis linked to the pandemic. For its part, the USA Northern Lieutenancy successfully held its August meeting in Sioux Falls with an attendance of more than 500 Knights and Dames. It was an opportunity to have news direct from the Holy Land, which gave an even greater impetus to solidarity. After the testimonies of Sami el-Yousef, administrative director of the Patriarchate, and George Bannoura, owner of a craft business in Bethlehem, several members wished to make an additional contribution to a special collection, which exceeded \$ 100,000 over this weekend alone. In addition to this spontaneous initiative, the Lieutenancy has also decided to fund in its entirety the Bethlehem University Nursing Scholarship Fund to the tune of \$ 100,000.

The huge impact of the book about the spirituality of the Order

In the United States, nearly 10,000 Knights and Dames have received the book as a gift.

The book, *The House was Filled with the Fragrance of Perfume: A Spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*, written by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, has been a great gift for the Members of the Order. The book embraces the idea of placing the Spirituality of our Members at the forefront of our Order. His Eminence notes, “It is the Order itself that gives primary importance to the vocation to holiness of its Members and aspires to be an instrument of development and of deepening the spiritual progress of each and every person in the environment in which they live and practice their Faith.” (pg. 6)

In July 2021, through the generosity of Dame Shirley and the late Sir Charles Drury, a copy of the English version of the book was sent out to the 9,800 Member households in North America. The Drury Family donated the cost of printing and distributing these books. A wonderful gift to our Members.

The spirituality of the book has served as a source of discussion. Developing a deeper personal relationship with Our Lord leads to greater love and support of the Catholic Church and the Christian presence in the Holy Land. One Lieutenant conveyed that he has “received many positive comments about the powerful message of salvation.... Our Order is not a charity seeking

donations, but a religious entity that has the salvation of souls as its mission.”

In his video report for October, for North America, Sir Matthew Bunson, Ph.D., provided an excellent overview of the Spirituality contained in

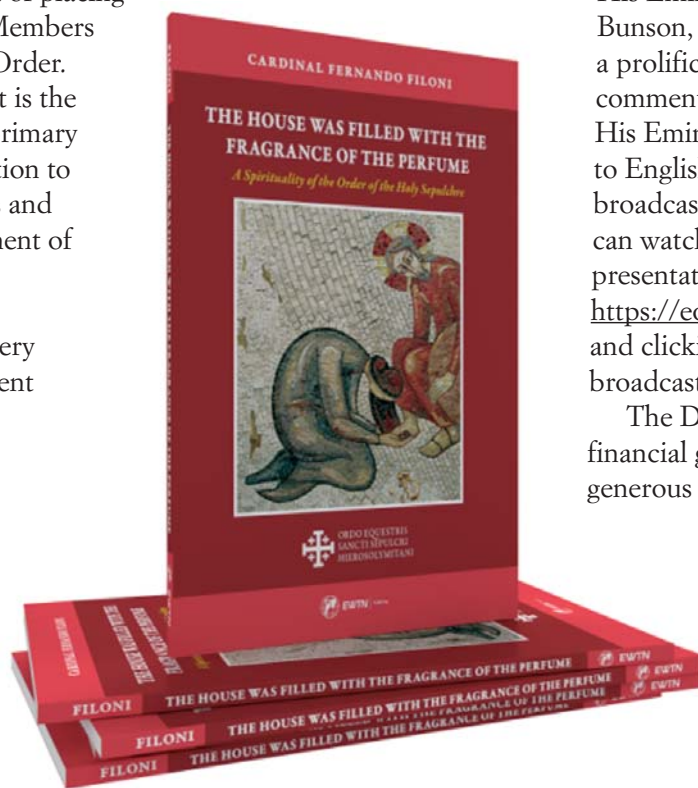
His Eminence’s book. Dr. Bunson, a Member of the Order, a prolific author and Catholic commentator, helped translate His Eminence’s book from Italian to English. These monthly broadcasts are recorded, and you can watch Dr. Bunson’s presentation by going to <https://eohsjnorthamerica.org/> and clicking on the October broadcast.

The Drury Family’s generous financial gift and Dr. Bunson’s generous gift of his time and talent with the translation are indicative of the Spirituality contained in His Eminence’s book and reflect the generosity of all our Knights and Dames. The North America Members are grateful

for the clarity of the spiritual guidance provided by His Eminence and for the receipt of his book.

The English version of the book is published and marketed by EWTN Publishing and Sophia Institute Press and can be ordered at: <https://www.sophiainstitute.com/products/item/the-house-was-filled-with-the-fragrance-of-the-perfume-case-of-80>

P. Thomas Pogge KGCHS
Vice Governor General, North America





The Prince of Monaco, Knight of the Collar of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre

On 1st and 2nd October 2021, the Investiture ceremonies of the dynamic Lieutenancy for Monaco were presided over by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Present also was Mgr. Dominique-Marie David, Archbishop of Monaco and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, who notably gave a very beautiful homily during the prayer Vigil (the text of which is published below).

Prince Albert II, who attended the Investiture mass in Monaco's cathedral on 2nd October, received the Cardinal in his palace, accompanied by Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, Chancellor Alfredo Bastianelli,

Lieutenant for Monaco, Dr. Hubert Perrin and members of a small delegation of the Order.

The Sovereign conducted an informative meeting, after which he spoke with the Grand Master, before the latter presented him with the insignia of "Knight of the Collar" of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as a sign of gratitude for the activities carried out in the Holy Land by the Principality of Monaco. In turn, Prince Albert conferred on Cardinal Filoni a high honour of the Order of Grimaldi. The visit was also marked by the delivery of a cheque in support of the Order's projects and a lunch in the Palace gardens.

Ready to put on “God-given battle gear”

Homily by Mgr. Dominique-Marie David, Archbishop of Monaco, during the prayer Vigil preceding the Investiture.

We know that the rite of the prayer Vigil, which brings us together this evening, and the ceremony of Investiture, which we will celebrate tomorrow, are two parts of the same solemn act. In the Preface to the Revised Ritual for the celebrations of the Order, our Grand Master, Cardinal Filoni, clarifies, *“It is extremely significant that a new Knight and a new Dame experience these moments in a spirit of recollection and joy, supported by the esteem and affection of the other members”*.

“A spirit of recollection” firstly, because we are aware of the importance and gravity of the acts we are performing in the holy presence of God.

“A spirit of joy” because we know that we love each other freely, unconditionally, and that the welcome of new Knights and Dames gives rise to immense thanksgiving in our hearts.

“Sustained by the esteem and affection of the other members” because this is a family event bringing us together, strengthening the bonds that unite us in the same call and at the service of the same mission.

In this same Preface, we also read, *“being aware that the Risen One calls us by name and chooses us for a noble ecclesial mission also helps us to respond generously to the commitment we assume.”*

Dear friends, the risen Christ calls you by name, as in the First Reading, God, the Beloved, called Jerusalem, like a bride, by name. And it is in the name of this love that God chooses you tonight to be watchmen, to be those who watch over the ramparts of

Jerusalem. This is firstly a watch of faith which, says the prophet, keeps the memory of the Lord awake. It is also one of prayer where our Creator comes to marry us. Finally, it is one of charity which never rests.

I can only invite you to deepen and nourish



Mgr. David in prayer with the members of the Order, during the Vigil preceding the investiture of Knights and Dames in Monaco, in October 2021.



The new members of the Order in Monaco at the Prayer Vigil during which they meditated on their noble ecclesial mission: to love to the end with the eyes of Christ.

and of the Church. The Church, in turn, welcomes your availability with joy and gratitude.

From now on, the Church awaits you with Mary, at the foot of the Cross, her eyes

your specific vocation by reading deeply the recent work on the spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre that our Cardinal Grand Master wanted to offer for our meditation. May our houses, our Lieutenancy of Monaco, the whole Order, the Church and the world be filled “with the fragrance of perfume”, with the sweet-smelling fragrance of Christ’s charity.

This is what the reference texts of the Order call a “noble ecclesial mission”. But let us not forget that, in the mystery of the Church, what is noble is always akin to service and the gift of self and requires those who are called to be ready for battle. This is why you must be ready from the Vigil tonight but also, tomorrow, during your Investiture, to put on “*the God-given battle gear.*”

Dear brothers and sisters, we are gathered in this Prayer Vigil because vigil and prayer are part of our “noble ecclesial mission.” “*Pray in the Spirit at all times,*” the apostle Paul tells us, “*in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints*” (Ephesians 6:18).

You who are going to be invested, aware of the grace bestowed on you, wish to respond with confidence and generosity to the call of Christ

turned towards the One who loved us to the end... to teach you to love like him.

The Church awaits you with Joseph of Arimathea near the tomb where the body of Jesus has just been laid with honour and respect... to teach you how to take care of the wounded members of the Body of Christ.

The Church is waiting for you, with Mary Magdalene and the holy women of Easter morning... to teach you how to bear the Good News, which moves hearts and transforms the world.

Eminence, in a recent article, you invited us to “*place ourselves before the empty tomb of Christ and experience the moving experience of Mary of Magdala who was asked: who are you looking for?*” May we, this evening, find the One whom our hearts love and seek. May we respond to our vocation by participating in the mission of the Church, by announcing to all the Joy of the Gospel without forgetting to support, in every possible way, the Holy Land and our brothers and sisters who, from there, pray for us and count on us. Amen!

+ Dominique-Marie DAVID
Archbishop of Monaco

The Holy Land in the hearts of artists

Chateaubriand, as a pilgrim to the Holy Sepulchre

In his *Itinerary from Paris to Jerusalem*, published in 1811, Chateaubriand recounts the long journey he made in the East, from July 1806 to June 1807. Reconnecting with a thousand-year-old tradition, he established the pilgrimage route to the Tomb of Christ and was to be followed, throughout the nineteenth century, by many artists and writers (Lamartine, Nerval, Flaubert, Vernet, etc.). To meditate in the Holy Places was one of the main goals of his journey, which he claimed to undertake with the piety of a pilgrim and the courage of a crusader. His journey was not without its difficulties, in particular because Franco-Turkish relations, damaged by Bonaparte's recent Egyptian campaign, were still struggling to return to normal and the French were not very well regarded in the Levant. The view that the author of *Le Génie du Christianisme* cast on the Islamic world was therefore not very kind, as many passages in the *Itinerary* show.

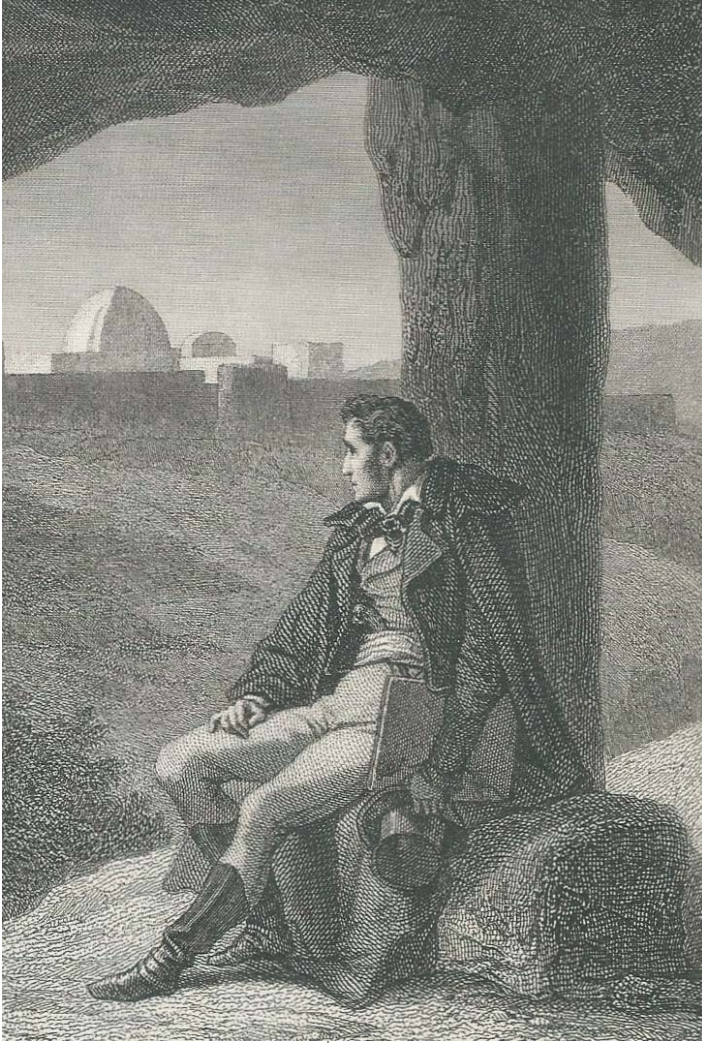
Chateaubriand stayed only a few days in the Holy City, which he visited while re-reading Tasso's work, *Jerusalem Delivered*. But shortly before leaving, he still had time to be dubbed a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre: "The Fathers of the Holy Land wanted to do me an honour that I had neither asked for nor deserved. In consideration of the small services, which according to them, I had rendered to religion, they begged me to accept the Order of the Holy Sepulchre." The author shows a certain false modesty in this paragraph. Research by Émile

Malakis, who published a critical edition of the *Itinerary* in 1946, and by Fernande Bassan (*Chateaubriand and the Holy Land* – 1959) has shown in fact that he requested the dubbing rather than it being the Franciscans who offered it to him spontaneously (he also benefitted from the compelling recommendation of General Sebastiani, then French ambassador to Constantinople). However, he was far from unworthy, because the dangers of the pilgrimage that he helped to relaunch were then very real, even if the account he gives of them tends to exaggerate their magnitude.



In the *Itinerary*, after having briefly recalled the history of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Chateaubriand sets out to describe the ceremony of dubbing, which took place on 12th October 1806. "We left the monastery at one, and went to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We entered the chapel, which belongs to the Latin Fathers; the doors were carefully closed, lest the Turks saw the arms we had with us, a sight which would cost the monks their lives. The Custodian [the Custos] donned his pontifical robes; the lamps and candles were lit; all the

brothers present formed a circle round me, their arms folded on their chests. While they softly sang the Veni Creator, the Custodian approached the altar, and I knelt at his feet. The sword and spurs of Godfrey of Bouillon had been brought from the treasury of the Holy Sepulchre; two monks stood by my side, holding these venerable relics. The priest recited the usual prayers and asked me the usual questions. Then he buckled on the spurs, and struck



me three times on the shoulder with the sword, so granting me the accolade. The monks chanted the Te Deum, while the Custodian uttered this prayer above my head: 'Almighty God, pour out your grace and blessings on this thy servant, etc.' [...] When one remembers that I was in Jerusalem, in the Church of Calvary, at twelve paces from the tomb of Jesus Christ, thirty from that of Godfrey of Bouillon; that I had just put on the spurs of the Liberator of the Holy Sepulchre, touched that iron blade, long and broad, that so noble and fair a hand had wielded; [...] one will easily conceive how greatly moved I must have been."

In his travelogues, a German traveller, Ulrich Seetzen, who visited Jerusalem just after Chateaubriand in November and December 1806, alludes to the dubbing of the writer, also specifying

Chateaubriand described his experience as a pilgrim in a famous book entitled "Itinerary from Paris to Jerusalem." Of all the decorations received in his life, he valued only his Cross as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, a sign of his commitment to living the Gospel and serving the Church of Christ.

that he had discharged his duty of aid to the Holy Land: "Mr. Chateaubriand visited Jerusalem this Summer. In particular, he made himself being dubbed a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre there with great ceremony and tried to respond to the honour which was thus reserved for him by making an important donation to the monastery."

Aware that, in its fury, the French Revolution had engulfed the old chivalry, for which he nevertheless cultivated a certain nostalgia, Chateaubriand will always proudly bear the title received in Jerusalem, which linked him to the glorious saga of these heroes of the past. In a letter dated 3rd July 1814, addressed to the Duke of Fitz-James, future aide-de-camp to Charles X, he explains, "I was made a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre with the sword of Godefroy de Bouillon, at the Tomb of Jesus Christ." A few years later, on 13th September 1818, he wrote to Father Muñoz, one of the Franciscans who had welcomed him to Jerusalem, and signed his letter, "Viscount of Chateaubriand, Peer of France, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre." This letter appears in the

book *Souvenirs de l'Orient* by Count De Marcellus, a French diplomat who also undertook the trip to the Holy Land and was himself dubbed in 1820. Chateaubriand confided to him his particular attachment to the insignia of the Order. "Of all these decorations piled up on my breast, I only value my cross of the Holy Sepulchre; I won it in Jerusalem, when I was reopening the road to Palestine for Christians."

Jean-Maurice Durand

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The oak and the Palazzo della Rovere

By Mgr. Fortunato Frezza

Botanical texts, faithful to the school of Linnaeus, describe the common oak as *Quercus robur*, and the sessile oak as *Quercus petraea*, thus indicating that they both belong to the *Quercus* family. It is because of this fortuitous prerogative that they seem to share certain qualities: the common oak is *robur*, i.e. “rouvre”, while the sessile oak is *petraea*, i.e. “as hard as a common oak”.

A recent publication by Maria Cristina di Chio, *Il Palazzo della Rovere*, Ordine Equestre del Santo Sepolcro, Roma 2021¹ illustrated the historical, architectural, pictorial and ecclesiastical merits of this famous monument. Its construction, which probably began in 1475, was completed around 1490, the date engraved on the side of a beam in the “Hall of the Seasons”.

In 1471, Francesco della Rovere, Minister General of the Franciscans, elected pope under the name of Sixtus IV, promoted, among other urban planning works, the construction of the palace which then took the name of Palazzo della Rovere.

The sanctuary of Our Lady of the Oak, near Viterbo, not far from Rome, might have inspired certain decorations in the Palazzo della Rovere, seat of the Order.



There are three large main halls: the Hall of the Grand Master, the Hall of the Seasons and the Hall of the Apostles and Prophets, whose ceilings not only have an ornamental function, but are also a crowning glory of immense worth.

Outside Rome, Renaissance works spread throughout civil and sacred buildings. One of them, the sanctuary

of the Madonna della Quercia (Our Lady of the Oak) in Viterbo, built in 1467, four years before the election of Sixtus IV, became a centre of devotion of great renown and appeal. Sixtus IV della Rovere was the first pope, in chronological order, to visit the sanctuary to venerate the image of Our Lady of the Oak. On 28th March 1474, he

ratified the first agreements between the community of Viterbo and the Dominican Fathers, rectors of the sanctuary. In 1476, during the plague in Rome, he turned to the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Oak and went to the sanctuary to implore the intercession of Our Lady. He invoked her once again when Christianity was threatened by the Turks and, in 1481, he returned to venerate the Virgin, celebrating a mass of thanksgiving because the danger was averted.



His devotion to the image of the Madonna, painted on a tile and placed in an oak tree, was such that he treasured this memory in his heart and also on these walls that were so familiar to him, and which in some ways bear a striking resemblance, conscious or otherwise, to the botanical elements in the heraldic badge. One simply needs to note the frequency of the oak leaf painted in various ways, Spring-like or Autumnal, on the beams of the Hall of the Grand Master. Then again, the image of Our Lady of the Oak painted on a tile, placed in the foliage of an English oak, seems to have inspired another of Pope Sixtus IV's initiatives.

In the Hall of the Seasons, an obvious pictorial reminder of the tree in the sanctuary of Viterbo, appears on the side of the beams, in the form of a square, which clearly represents a tile surrounded by the leafy branches of either a common or a



Images of the oak tree from the Our Lady of the Oak sanctuary are frequently found on the beams of the Palazzo della Rovere, a sign of the devotion of its owner, Domenico della Rovere, friend of Pope Sixtus IV whose same surname he bore despite being no relation. They both had a great devotion to the Virgin of the Oak, to whom Rome owed a debt of protection from the plague in the 15th century.

sessile oak. Is it a painting on wood or on canvas? It is difficult to say because of the damage to various parts. Who knows if an attempt at restoration will give us a clear answer?

The sanctuary of Our Lady of the Oak of 1467 and the Palazzo della Rovere of 1490 knew, shall we say, a common youth, and so it cannot escape anyone's notice that there is a link. This connection between history, botany, heraldry and above all the piety of a pope, who bears in his name the mark of his

inner consciousness, satisfies the classic *nomen est omen* (the name is a portent) which, in the Palazzo della Rovere, headquarter of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, is joyfully evident.

¹ In English, *The Palazzo della Rovere*, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Rome 2021 [our translation]

Book from the Grand Magisterium on the Palazzo della Rovere

(Available in Italian and now also in English)

Prefaced by His Most Reverend Eminence, the Cardinal Grand Master, and edited by the Office of External Relations in collaboration with the Communication Service, this book contains introductory texts by Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo and Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, as well as a complete historico-artistic description of the Palace by the art historian Maria Cristina di Chio.

The texts are accompanied by extensive photographic documentation, both on the frescoes and the works of art that are in the halls of the Palace, and on the main events of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem that have taken place in recent years. The book also includes a brief report by the "Special Superintendency for Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape of Rome" on recent discoveries in the city's subsoil, dating from the Imperial period and the Lower Middle Ages. For more information, Lieutenancies can send a message to relazioniesterne@oessh.va





GUCCIONE

SINCE 1975

DECORATIONS OF KNIGHTLY ORDERS



Order of the Holy Sepulchre

Papal Equestrian Orders

Order of Malta

Italian Dynastic Orders and Orders of the Italian Republic

