



# ORDINE EQUESTRE DEL SANTO SEPOLCRO DI GERUSALEMME

GRAN MAGISTERO

Prot. #627/2011

20 September 2011  
00120 CITTÀ DEL VATICANO

Members of the Grand Magisterium  
Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates  
Grand Priors  
of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Dear Confrere,

It is my pleasure and great honor to greet you, a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a historic and faith-filled institution whose mission and works I am privileged to promote as Pro-Grand Master.

I am most grateful to our Holy Father for his confidence in me and pray that I might carry out the will of God and of His Holiness in preserving the Faith and defending the sacred places in the Holy Land.

My thanks I also extend to the many members of the Order throughout the world who offered me their personal greetings in the days since my appointment was announced. I am grateful for their warm welcome and expression of fraternal loyalty and support.

While I do not expect to be able to fill his shoes, I welcome the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of my esteemed predecessor, Cardinal John Patrick Foley. I am grateful to Cardinal Foley for his outstanding leadership as Grand Master and for the personal support he has given me these past weeks. I look forward to his continued good counsel and in the months and years ahead.

My service over the past year as Grand Prior of the Order's Mid-Atlantic Lieutenancy of the United States, though relatively brief, has given me a deeper insight into the workings of the Order and a keen appreciation for its core mission of furthering the spiritual growth of its members, preserving the Faith in the land Christ walked, and supporting the Latin Patriarchate.

The goals established by my predecessor, Cardinal Foley, will continue to guide our pursuit of this mission as we took to play a greater role in promoting the *New Evangelization* among our members. "For a renewed proclamation of the Gospel in the modern world we need evangelizers animated by the same apostolic zeal of (Saint) Paul", the Pope challenged us.

To better guide us in our individual and collective efforts in this regard, I would ask you to consider the following questions:

- 1) What motivates our members, spiritually, to join and to continue in the Order?
- 2) What ongoing spiritual benefits are our members receiving?
- 3) What might I and the Magisterium do to promote the spiritual lives of our members, as well as the goals of the Order in your Lieutenancy and in the Holy Land?

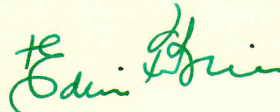
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Among the opportunities I most look forward to in my new position is the chance to discuss questions such as these as I meet with the faithful and dedicated members in the Order's various Lieutenancies throughout the world. During these visits, I hope to meet with as many of you as possible and to discuss these questions and your reactions to them so that together we can succeed in promoting the critical mission that has been entrusted to us.

Finally, I am most grateful to our Assessor, His Excellency Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea and to our Governor, Count Agostino Borromeo, for their commitment to our Order, especially during this time of transition.

In the Lord,



+Edwin F. O'Brien

*Pro - Grand Master*

*Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*

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