

News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

FROM 13TH TO 15TH SEPTEMBER 2013 THE PILGRIMAGE OF THE ORDER TO ROME FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH

The announced great pilgrimage of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem to Rome, on the occasion of the Year of Faith, will take place from 13th to 15th September 2013. The date was defined during a meeting of the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien and of the Governor General Agostino Borromeo with Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, who proceeded to add the pilgrimage to the calendar of the Year of Faith. This way our Institution has been awarded a special privilege: it is in fact the only Order admitted to the official celebrations. The pilgrimage will be preceded, from the 10th to the 12th September, by a meeting of the Consulta, an organism composed of the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates, set for the revision of the Constitution.

The programme of the pilgrimage, which is not an event of religious tourism, is under the control of a special Commission headed by Chancellor Ivan Rebernik. The definition of the details involves agreements between several interlocutors (Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, Prefecture of the Papal Household, Cardinal-Archpriests of the Major Basilicas, authorities of the City Council of Rome). Meanwhile all the Lieutenancies and the Magistral Delegations have received instructions on the terms of participation, in particular they have been informed that for the welcoming, the hotel accommodation and the travels of the pilgrims (also from Fiumicino international airport), the Grand Magisterium stipulated an agreement with UNITALSI, which has a renowned and appreciated experience, also international, in the organisation of pilgrimages.

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



THE OPENING OF THE YEAR OF FAITH LINKED TO THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS AND TO THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE II VATICAN COUNCIL

Next October 11th, Benedict XVI will open the Year of Faith during a solemn ceremony in St. Peter's Square which will gather the members of the Synod of Bishops (devoted to the theme of the "New Evangelization for the Transmission of the Christian faith") and the presidents of the Episcopal Conferences of the whole world. In the afternoon and evening, a torchlight procession from Castel Sant'Angelo to St. Peter's Square will remember the 50th anniversary of the opening of the II Vatican Council. The Year will be closed by the Pope on November 24th, 2013.

A first schedule of the main events of the Year of Faith has been issued by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization. There will be several congresses, conferences, study seminars, concerts, pilgrimages. As well as the pilgrimage to Rome of the members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem from 13th to 15th September (see the special information), two other events stand out: the 13th general assembly of the Synod of Bishops (from the 7th to the

28th October), the canonisation of six martyrs and confessors of faith (21st October), the opening of an exhibition at Castel Sant'Angelo (20th December - 1st May 2013). And in 2013: an ecumenical celebration with the Holy Father in the basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls (25th January), an International congress on the theme "Saints Cyril and Methodius among the Slovak populations: 1150 years from the beginning of the mission" (25th - 26th February), the celebration of Palm Sunday with young people (24th March), the Day of Seminars for the 450th anniversary from their institution (15th April), the Pentecost vigil dedicated to ecclesiastic movements, with the pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Peter's (18th May), the Eucharistic Adoration, occurring at the same time all over the world, in the occasion of the feast of Corpus Domini (2nd June), the Day of *Evangelium Vitae* (16th June), the World Youth Days (in Rio de Janeiro, 23rd - 28th July), a seminar on the Catechism of the Catholics (18th-19th September), the celebration of a Marian Day (13th October).

FAITH, BENEDICT XVI RECOMMENDS, TODAY HAS TO BE THOUGHT OUT AND LIVED AFRESH

*The President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization states:
"The world hungers for witnesses"*

"Faith today has to be thought out and above all lived afresh, so that it is suited to the present day". Taking his cue from Benedict XVI's reflection expressed during his trip to Germany which illuminates his decision to call the Year of Faith, the President of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, wrote that this event could be "a fruitful chance ... to let grace illuminate the mind and heart to make room to let the greatness of belief emerge. The force of belief is joy of an encounter with the live person of Jesus Christ who changes and transforms life. Knowing how to give testimony of this lets believers be new evangelists in a changing world".

"A faith which is lived", he continues, "is so much more necessary as one realises the value of the testimony... The world today hungers for witnesses. It feels a vital need for them, because it looks for coherence and loyalty... A faith accompanied by the reasons of the heart is more convincing, because it has the force of credibility. The challenge is then to be able to conjugate the faith which is lived with its intelligence and vice versa".



THE POPE'S EXHORTATION TO THE MIDDLE EAST: "IT IS HERE AND NOW THAT WE ARE CALLED TO CELEBRATE THE VICTORY OF LOVE OVER HATE, FORGIVENESS OVER REVENGE"

A fruit of the Special Synod of the Bishops for the Middle East, which took place in October two years ago - and which was attended, for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, by the Grand Master, the Governor General and the President of the Holy Land Commission - Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation, entitled *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, bears witness to a Christianity which can claim to have an identity which is never "against" but always "for". The exhortation is strong: "It is here and now that we are called to celebrate the victory of love over hate, forgiveness over revenge, service over domination, humility over pride, and unity over division". The document was signed by the Holy Father and handed out to the Synod Fathers on the 14th September on the first day of his visit to Lebanon during a solemn ceremony in Harissa, in the Melkite-Greek basilica of Saint Paul, a few yards away from the sanctuary of Our Lady of Lebanon.

It is absolutely inconceivable, the Pope writes, to think of a Middle East without

Christians who have been a fundamental part of its history and whom he recommends to resist the drive towards a forced exodus by giving a new credible testimony to the Word of God. He invites them then to hold a constant dialogue with all believers in one God, purifying one's faith by residual temporal incrustations and to become announcers of the true peace, without fear, in a context in which the upcoming and growing requests of freedom risk to drift dangerously towards exclusion, refusing both the excesses of the laity which denies citizens the public expression of their own religion, and of the violent fundamentalism which claims to have a religious origin. In a speech in which the Pope exalts Lebanon as a model of cohabitation, he states that fundamentalism is the falsification of religion.

The Exhortation, which is several pages long, invites people, with its biblical and pastoral orientation, to make a close spiritual and ecclesiological examination, to a liturgical and catechetical renewal, to pursue the way of dialogue without any fear, to nourish purity of faith following the Cross.

THE WORDS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI IN LEBANON

I therefore urge all the Christians of the Middle East, whether they belong to the old stock or have recently arrived, to be peacemakers and architects of reconciliation. (*General Audience at the Vatican, Wednesday 12th September, two days before leaving for Lebanon*).

As the situation (of the region, *editor's note*) becomes more complex, it is all the more necessary to offer this sign of fraternal encouragement and solidarity... Love of neighbour is fundamental to all religions. (*Press conference during the flight from Rome to Beirut, Friday 14th September*).

A pluralistic society can only exist on the basis of mutual respect, the desire to know the other... What nowadays passes for tolerance does not eliminate cases of discrimination. In order to make possible a future of peace the 'Lebanese model' is a possible path. (*Address to the members of the government, institutions of the Republic, the religious leaders and representatives of the world of culture at the Presidential Palace of Beirut, Saturday 15th September*).



ARCHBISHOP GIUSEPPE LAZZAROTTO NEW NUNCIO IN ISRAEL AND APOSTOLIC DELEGATE IN JERUSALEM AND PALESTINE

Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, age 70, is the new Apostolic Nuncio in Israel and Cyprus as well as Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine. He takes the place of archbishop Antonio Franco, who resigned due to the age limit but will still follow closely the negotiations between the Holy See and Israel.

For Mons. Lazzarotto, until now Apostolic Nuncio in Australia, it is a return to the Holy Land because he previously worked in the Apostolic Delegation of Jerusalem from 1982 to 1984 and was a Nuncio in Iraq and Jordan from 1994 to 2000. For this reason, when he was interviewed by Vatican Radio, he spoke about "going back home". "I am conscious", he continued, "that this is an important challenge, but one which I accept with joy, because I think it's important to carry on the work that has been done in the last years with great commitment and generosity by my predecessors. I will follow in the footsteps of their work and will continue to offer my full contribution for dialogue and peace". The hope, he remarked, "is that the deep sense of

awareness will prevail that only through dialogue, by walking together, one can find the right and more suitable solutions to meet the aspirations, I am sure, of many many people, of the great majority of people. Many are the men and women of good will, who live in the Holy Land and who struggle, step by step, so that this way towards peace is finally open to everybody. This is my great desire, my aspiration, my hope".

Born in Carpané di San Nazario, diocese of Padua, on the 24th of May 1942, he was ordained a priest on the 1st of April 1967 and was elected titular bishop of Namuana on the 23rd of July 1994 (consecrated on the 7th of October). The archbishop has a degree in Canon Law, joined in 1971 the diplomatic service of the Holy See and served in Zambia, Belgium, Cuba; then in Jerusalem and at the Vatican State Secretariat, in the department of relations with States. After Iraq and Jordan, he was a nuncio in Ireland for six years and for five years, since 2007, a nuncio in Australia. He is a member of our Order with the degree of Knight Commander with Star.

CONFERENCE ON THE RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF JERUSALEM

"A city between earth and heaven. Jerusalem – The religions, the Churches": this was the theme of the conference which took place from the 3rd to the 7th September in Villa Cagnola of Gazzada, a small town in the North of Italy, in the context of the third "Week of Euro-Mediterranean religious history" promoted by the Fondazione Ambrosiana Paolo VI in collaboration with Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore of Milan. Several themes were developed by University professors and highly qualified scholars, Christian, Jewish and Muslim of various nations. Opened by the scientific organiser, prof. Cesare Alzati, the conference was concluded by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, with the paper "*Jerusalem, common fatherland for all Christians and heart of the world*".



SAINT PIUS X WILL BE COMMEMORATED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

A special year will commemorate Saint Pius X, the Pope who in the last century (1903-1914), in the spirit of the motto *Instaurare omnia in Christo*, not only promoted a reform of the Roman Curia, of the Code of Canon Law and of sacred music, as well as the unification of Eastern Churches, but was especially the protagonist of an innovation of Church and of Catholicism in a pastoral sense (his Catechism and his decree on the sacrament of Eucharist are renowned). His teachings in the social field are also important. He also wanted to be the first Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. By reforming its Constitution with the Apostolic Letter *Quam multa* of the 3rd May 1907, he took upon himself such supreme office; and by thus introducing the direct *collatio* by the Pontiff, he made the Order become, strictly speaking, "papal". One

owes to him the institution of the Lieutenants. The members of the Order revere him particularly since he was elevated to the honour of the altars: in fact he was beatified on the 3rd of June 1951 and canonised three years later, on the 29th of May 1954.

The commemorative celebrations are organised by the diocese of Treviso, in the region of Veneto, where he was born in 1835 (the town of Riese is named today after him). They will start on the 12th of June 2013, they will be highlighted by an international congress in the cities of Treviso and Venice, by the events organised by the newly-founded Centro Studi San Pio X and by the "Progetto Aurora del XX secolo" which has involved so far in Italy 94 schools and 70 University departments. A new Internet website (www.centenariopiox.it) announces several other events.

MARIAN POPULAR DEMONSTRATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE ORDER IN PARIS

The popular demonstrations of this year in Paris for the festivity of the Assumption, organised by the Notre Dame Cathedral and supported by our Order's Lieutenancy of France have been widely covered by the media; two of them in particular - the boat procession along the Seine and the processions along the streets and on the quays around the church - attracted "thousands of participants and cosmopolitan crowds", wrote *L'Osservatore Romano*. The newspaper's reports gave much relevance to the press conference which took place on the 14th of August on the boat which carried the silver statue of the Virgin because "the knights of the Holy Sepulchre answered the questions of the newspapers and press agencies which they had welcomed on board". The Lieutenancy's press office, answering a question on the solidarity of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem in favour of the Arab Christians of the Middle East, and specifically of the Holy Land, "helped journalists to evaluate more carefully the dramatic situation of Christians in those regions and to understand the mobilization of the Catholic world in support of those brothers in trouble". When they were asked about the controversy aroused about the universal prayer for "children the object of the desires and conflicts of the adults", proposed by the Cardinal Archbishop of Paris André Vingt-Trois, they explained how "a great part of the French lay public opinion shares with the Catholics the attachment to the fundamental structures of the family". "From subject to subject", the Vatican newspaper continues, "the conversation extended to the Synod for the New Evangelization and to the situation of Christian faith in today's Europe".



FIRST PILGRIMAGE OF THE ORDER TO THE SHRINE OF SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA

For three days, from the end of June to the 1st of July, about two hundred members of various Italian lieutenancies started the first national pilgrimage of the Order to the Shrine of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, in the region of Apulia. Promoted and organised by the lieutenant of Southern Adriatic, Rocco Saltino, it saw the participation of the Assessor Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, as a representative of the Grand Master, of the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, of the lieutenants Silverio Vecchio for Northern Italy, Giovanni Ricasoli-Firidolfi for Central Appennine Italy, Giovanni Napolitano for Thyrrhenian Southern Italy.

On the night of Friday 29th of June, knights and dames prayed at the tomb of the Holy Capuchin Franciscan friar, in the crypt of the great temple designed by architect Renzo Piano. The day after, 30th of June, they gathered for a conference in the auditorium of the sanctuary; after the greetings of lieutenant Saltino and the archbishop of Manfredonia-Vieste-San Giovanni Rotondo, mons. Michele Castoro, they attended an erudite lecture of prof. Borromeo on the origins, history and devotional meaning of Christian pilgrimage, with special insights on the pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which over time has characterised

itself by its support to charity works. In the following *lectio*, mons. De Andrea, illustrating the theological meaning of pilgrimage, emphasised the sense of going and returning to a holy place and to leave again and again earthly Jerusalem, in view, and with the goal of attaining heavenly Jerusalem. In the afternoon, those who attended the pilgrimage wore their cape and enacted, at the foot of mount Castellano, an emotional *Via Crucis*, enriched by the confrere mons. Carmine La Dogana's meditations; in the last part of the route, the lieutenants carried the Cross up to the Resurrection station where the blessing was imparted. In the evening, the Corradiniana Music Chapel of Molfetta gave a concert of sacred music in the sanctuary of Madonna delle Grazie.

On Sunday morning, the members of the order, wearing their cape, following the gonfalon of the lieutenancy for Thyrrhenian Southern Italy, entered the monumental church of Saint Pio for a solemn eucharistic celebration of religious brothers of the Order, presided by the Assessor De Andrea; introduced by the greetings of lieutenant Saltino, it was concluded by the Governor General with a recitation of the prayer of Knight and Dame of the Holy Sepulchre.

DEATH IN NAPLES OF THE KNIGHT OF GRAND CROSS GAETANO DAL NEGRO

The knight of Grand Cross, professor and lawyer Gaetano Dal Negro, was called home to the Lord on the 20th September in Naples, where he lived, to the great mourning of all. Born in 1931, he was married and the father of six children. Lieutenant of the Order for Southern Italy from 2002 to 2008, and then from 2009 Lieutenant Emeritus, he taught Administrative law and was a tenured professor at the University of Naples in the subjects of State Accountancy and Tax Law. Governor General Agostino Borromeo expressed his condolences to the family.

