

N° XXX

Città
del
Vaticano

MARCH 2013

News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

A message of the Grand Master to the Knights and Dames

THE ORDER IN PRAYER FOR POPE FRANCIS

"So that what began in the interest of the renewal of our Church can, with time, sink in depth into our hearts and into our institutions"

To His Holiness Francis, elected on 13th March as successor to St. Peter after Benedict XVI by the Conclave of which he was a member, the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, paid obedience. He also expressed the joy and filial devotion of the Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, and invoked for them his apostolic blessing. With this message, Cardinal O'Brien shares his reactions and sentiments with all the members of the Order:

Safe to say, I think, that the surprise



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



over the brevity of the recent Conclave electing Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio bishop of Rome, has been surpassed by the universal reception he continues to receive.

There will be ongoing speculation as to the reasons for this acclaim, and they might well be summarized in his choice of Francis as his papal title:

- simplicity in words and gesture;
- love for the poor in his embrace of the sick and those with special needs;
- appreciation of nature as in his early pleas to respect the environment.

All these, as well as his promotion of world peace, will play out in some surprising and even dramatic ways in the months and years that God will allow him to lead us. Members of our Order, with priority on personal sanctification, should take special note of the direction he would take us.

And do we not all have a special obligation to pray that what has begun as a renewal of our Church will penetrate hearts and institutions well into the future.

In the Lord,

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien
Grand Master

“IMMENSE JOY” AND THE TESTIMONY OF THE LIEUTENANT FOR ARGENTINA

Lieutenant for Argentina Eduardo A. Santamaria shares with his brothers and sisters, knights and dames, the feelings he experienced when the election of “his” archbishop of Buenos Aires as shepherd and Pope of the Catholic Church was announced:

When cardinal Jean Louis Tauran, whom I had met in Rome at the Council of the Order in 2000, informed God’s people, from the balcony of the Basilica of St. Peter, that cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio had been elected Pope, a feeling of incredulity spread at first, but immediately afterwards there was an explosion of joy. The incredulity was due to the fact that, because of his age and profile, his election had not been expected by his fellow countrymen; and joy was felt for the honour that having an Argentinian Holy Father means. Indeed the fact that the Primate of the Church of our country ascended the chair of St. Peter filled with pride Catholics and non-Catholics alike, who represent the great majority of believers.

Those of us who had the opportunity to meet him and to listen to his homilies know his clear doctrine, his wise advice, his cautious behaviour, and especially the warmth, the simplicity, and the spirit of poverty which characterise him. Firm in his convictions, he has a clear and trustworthy attitude. We would often meet him when he was walking alone, reciting his Rosary, or travelling on public transport. He is just like this!

In the words he wrote me in July 2010, accompanying the image of Santa Maria Desata Nudos, “Mary the Knot Untier” (that is how she is called in Argentina, where she is ardently venerated – editor’s note), he stated among other things: “... in all simplicity and patience, she gives us an example of how to unravel the knot of our life”. He concluded: “I ask you, please, to pray and have people pray for me. May Jesus bless you and the Holy Virgin keep you”. Now I fully understand the need that today’s Pope Francis felt of being accompanied by prayers, even if I could never have imagined how the knot of his life would unravel.



MESSAGE - TESTAMENT LEFT BY BENEDICT XVI

The last General Audience, on 27th February 2012 in St. Peter's Square, was attended by a delegation of the Order, led by the Governor General.

"God guides his Church, he sustains it always, especially at times of difficulty. Let us never lose this vision of faith... In our hearts, in the heart of each of you, may there always abide the joyful certainty that the Lord is at our side: he does not abandon us, he remains close to us and he surrounds us with his love." These are the last phrases of the last message-testament left by Pope Benedict XVI on 27th February 2012, in his last general audience. The next day, at 8 p.m., his renunciation of "the ministry of Bishop of Rome, successor of St. Peter". would become effective. Thus he fulfilled the declaration he made in the Consistory of 11th February, which took the world by surprise.

During a memorable, almost spring-like day, in St. Peter's Square, more crowded than ever, many people came from the nearby Palazzo della Rovere to listen to him, to salute him, and to show their closeness and filial devotion: Agostino Borromeo, Governor General; Alberto Consoli Palermo Navarra, member of the Grand Magisterium; Adolfo Rinaldi, vice Governor General of Honour; Mario Cantuti Castelvetro, Dignitary of Honour; Saverio Petrillo, Lieutenant for Central Italy; Francesco Sicilia, the Head of the Rome delegation; and eighty knights and dames. They shared with their brothers and sisters Benedict XVI's wish to be "remembered before God" in their prayers, thus joining him in his own prayer which accompanies "the Church's journey".

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger ascended to the Petrine ministry on 19th April 2005, succeeding Pope John Paul II, whom he would proclaim Blessed on 1st May 2011. The Order remembers in particular, among his many signs of benevolence, the speech to the members of the Council, whom he received in the Vatican on 5th December 2008; the participation of the Grand Master Cardinal Patrick Foley and of Governor General Agostino Borromeo in his pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 8th to 15th May 2009, in his apostolic journey to Cyprus from 4th to 6th June 2010 and in the Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East from 10th to 24th October 2010.

THE ORDER INVOLVED IN THE JUBILEE OF THE EUCHARISTIC MIRACLE OF BOLSENA

The Order, through the Lieutenancy for Central Appennine, was involved in the jubilee celebrations for the 750th Anniversary of the Eucharistic miracle of Bolsena (1263), following which Pope Urban IV established, on 11th August 1264, the feast of Corpus Christi. Today, knights and dames all over the world have the privilege to escort the solemn Eucharistic processions which celebrate the event.

The extraordinary Jubilee, granted by Benedict XVI, started on the 6th January with two celebrations. One in Bolsena, in the basili-

ca of Santa Cristina where the four "sacred stones" are venerated. They carry the blood which gushed out of the host raised by the priest Pietro da Praga, who had doubts about the Real Presence of Jesus in It. The other in Orvieto, where the Corporal, also covered with blood, is kept, and around which the monumental Cathedral was built, in memory of the miracle. Both cities of the Umbria region are the destination of constant pilgrimage.

The Lieutenancy of the Order participates with its members in the main events which also coincide with those of the Year of Faith.



ARCHBISHOP ANTONIO FRANCO NEW ASSESSOR OF THE ORDER

He has been in the Holy Land, in the diplomatic service of the Holy See, for six years

76-year-old Archbishop Antonio Franco is the new Assessor of the Order. He was appointed by the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien by decree of 22nd February. He succeeds 83-year-old Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, who, for his great merits at the service of the Order since 2008, was appointed Assessor of Honour by the Grand Master by decree of the same date.

Archbishop Franco was Apostolic Nuncio in Israel and Cyprus from 2006 to December of last year and Apostolic Delegate for Jerusalem and Palestine. Born in Puglianello, in the province of Benevento and diocese of Cerreto Sannita-Telese-Sant'Agata dei Goti, on 24th March 1937. He was ordained as priest on 10th July 1960. On 28th March 1992, shortly after he joined the diplomatic service of the Holy See, he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio in Ukraine and elected titular bishop of Gallese, receiving a month later, on 26th April 1992, episcopal ordination by Pope John Paul II. In Ukraine, from August 1993 to October 1997 he also lived a peculiar pastoral experience as head of the new Apostolic Administration of Zakarpattia of Latini, today diocese of Mukachevo. From April 1999 to January 2006 he was Apostolic Nuncio in the Philippines. From 21st December 2012 he has been, through *motu proprio* of the Grand Master, Commander with Badge of the Order.

The experience as Assessor of the Order of Mons. De Andrea is unprecedented: he had to substitute for Grand Master Cardinal John Patrick Foley, according to the Statute, during the months of his long sickness and then since he resigned until the appointment of his successor, the present Grand Master Cardinal O'Brien. On 1st January of this year, Cardinal O'Brien promoted him *motu proprio* Knight of the Grand Cross.

PARISH PRIEST OF THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE APPOINTED ARCHBISHOP OF TUNIS

Pope Benedict XVI appointed, as new Archbishop of Tunis, don Ilario Antoniazzi, priest of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, until now priest of the parish of Saint Anthony of Rameh (Galilee), as well as director general of the Schools of the Patriarchate in Israel. For both these activities he has been then very close to our Order, which, on 21st February, learnt the news with joy and expressed its heartfelt felicitations.

On 16th March, he was ordained in Nazareth, in the Basilica of the Annunciation, by His Beatitude Fouad Twal who had been Archbishop of Tunis before being appointed Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. Mons. Maroun

Lahham, Archbishop Emeritus of Tunis and now auxiliary of the Patriarch for Jordan and Mons. Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo, auxiliary of the Patriarch for Israel and from the same area as Mons. Antoniazzi, were co-consecrators. The latter was born 65 years ago in Veneto, in the diocese of Vittorio Veneto, whose bishop, Mons. Corrado Pizziolo was present at the ceremony accompanying about a hundred pilgrims. Mons. Marcuzzo and Mons. Antoniazzi had arrived in their youth in the Holy Land in order to cultivate their vocation in the Seminar of the Latin Patriarchate, where they were later incardinated.



A COMMITMENT TO CARRY OUT SIX PROJECTS OF THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE IN THE HOLY LAND

Five of them concern Jordan, among them the Centre for the Disabled, Our Lady of Peace and a kindergarten in Bir Zeit, Palestine

The upgrade and amelioration of the services offered by the Centre for the Disabled "Our Lady of Peace" in the capital of Jordan, (feather in the cap of the Catholic charity and social activities in the Holy Land), and the restoration and renovation of the kindergarten of Bir Zeit, in Palestine, are two of the six projects of the Latin Patriarchate that the Grand Magisterium of the Order will finance this year, by involving knights and dames of all the Lieutenancies and Magisterial Delegation. The other four projects, also in Jordan, concern restorations to the parish house of Ajloun, the rectory of the parish church of Fuheis, the rectory and in the nuns' accommodation quarters in the parish of Naour and finally in Amman, the living quarters of the nuns at the service of the Patriarchal Vicarage.

For a decade "Our Lady of Peace Centre" has welcomed in Amman, in the modern area of Marj el-Hamam, 120 disabled children and adults. Within five years (it will be able to welcome 250). The patrons are helped to integrate into society not only through medical treatment and physical exercise, but also through various social and cultural activities. Today the Centre is in need of new equipment for physiotherapy and sport, the renovation of the swimming pool and garden areas, the latter measuring as much as 1500 square metres, and the restoration of the kitchen. Work will go on for six months; the budgeted cost is almost 226,000 Jordan dinars, equal to about 240,000 euros.

The improvements at the kindergarten of Bir Zeit, university city of the West Bank with a flourishing Catholic parish, is part of a

much wider project of the Latin Patriarchate which interests all the kindergartens of its school system. It is meant to improve the quality of education and to renew its equipment. It accommodates 42 boys and 28 girls, attended to in each class by four teachers. The 80 families involved collaborate with the educators in order to let their children grow up peacefully when they are at home too. The project includes the renovation of the classrooms and of the furniture, the restoration of the external areas, in particular those which are more at risk for security, recreation and games, for a total cost of 262,289 US dollars.

In the parish Church of Ajloun - a small city in the North of Jordan, celebrated for its Arabian medieval castle - urgent restoration work is required. Among other things, the restoration includes the substitution of many of the characteristic red tiles on the roof and its insulation, the elimination of humidity causing factors which damage plaster, the painting of ceiling and walls, the repair of the electrical system and of the windows. The budgeted expense is more than 45,000 Jordan dinars (47,800.00 euros).

The rectory of the parish of Fuheis, an important city in central Jordan, needs an important restoration. This project includes brick work and painting of the bedrooms and living room, the renovation of the kitchen and the dining room, the renovation of the hygienic-sanitary structures. The budgeted cost is over 64,000 Jordan dinars (68,100.00 euros).

The restoration of the living quarters of the priests and nuns at Naour, a town in the south of Amman, is a difficult task because it



concerns not only the interiors of the building (restoration of a roof and its waterproofing, thermic insulation which is lacking both in the winter and in the summer), but also the exterior (entrances, garden) and the substitution of solar panels and antennas. The total budgeted cost is 60,390 Jordan dinars (64,150.00 euros).

Finally, in the convent of the sisters of the patriarchal Vicarage of Amman, the project includes renovation or substitution of equipment and furniture in the kitchen, installation of bathroom fixtures and construction of three bathrooms, and repair and painting of the walls are needed, for a total cost of 23,704 Jordan dinars (25,200.00 euros).

702 SHELLS GIVEN TO KNIGHTS AND DAMES PILGRIMS IN THE HOLY LAND

During the year 2012, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and Grand Prior of the Order, gave the Pilgrim Shell to 702 knights and dames, pilgrims for the first time in the Holy Land. The statistics shared by the Patriarchate Media Office, indicate that the highest number of them, 238, were pilgrims from the United States, 154 from Italy, 63 from Germany, 52 from France, 31 from Australia, 29 from Spain, 27 from England and Wales, 20 from Portugal, 15 from Austria, 12 from Holland, 11 from Canada, 10 from Switzerland, 7 from Belgium and 7 from Colombia, 4 from Argentina, 4 from Malta, 4 from Puerto Rico and 4 from Russia, 3 from Poland and 3 from Scotland, 2 from Ireland, 1 from Brazil and 1 from Norway.

It should also be mentioned that Patriarch Fouad Twal gave the Pilgrim Shell to Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien in November 2012, during his first visit to the Holy Land as Grand Master of the Order.

THE DEATH OF CARDINAL JULIEN RIES KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER

The death of cardinal Julien Reis, on 23rd February, at the age of 92, is a great loss for the Church, for culture, and for our Order, which he joined as a knight in 1984, and where he was promoted Commander in 1992 and then, last year, by *motu proprio* of the Grand Master, appointed as Knight Grand Cross.

A life of studies "devoted to man and the sacred" (he is considered the founder of "fundamental anthropology of religion"), marked by an immense bibliography of over 600 titles. From 1960 to 1991 he taught history of religions at the Catholic University of Lovanio, where he had graduated in theology, philosophy and oriental history. The awards he re-

ceived are innumerable, among which the *laurea honoris causa* in philosophy and science of education at the Catholic University of Milan.

He was born on 19th April 1920 in Belgium, in the town of Hachy (now Arlon), in the diocese of Namur. He was ordained a priest in 1945, and was a parish priest for many years. On 6th January 2012 he was elected for the titular church of Belcastro, with the personal office of archbishop; and a month later, in the consistory of the 12th February, Pope Benedict XVI had made him a cardinal, entrusting him with the diaconate of Sant'Antonio di Padova. The funeral was celebrated on 2nd March in the Cathedral of Tournai.



Knights and Dames in Rome in the Year of Faith

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS

CENTRAL FEATURE IN THE INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF THE ORDER

The liturgical feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, object to great devotion by knights and dames of the Order, will be a central feature in their pilgrimage to Rome for the Year of Faith from September 13th to the 15th. The general schedule has already been defined. In fact, in the afternoon of Saturday September 14th, in the Basilica of St. Peter's, they will join the Grand Master, cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien, in the commemoration of St. Helen's retrieval of the remains of the Cross. The Cross was retrieved, in the same area of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, on which the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre would be erected. About three thousand people will attend the celebration of the Mass, a number too big accommodated, in the small Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, as was originally planned. They will then gather close by, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, for prayer and a meditation on the great feast which has spread from Jerusalem and is being celebrated all over the world.

The opening Mass of the pilgrimage will be celebrated in the morning of Friday September 13th in the Basilica of St Mary Major. In the afternoon in the Vatican, in the Paul VI Audience Hall, Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization will hold a conference and will guide a meditation on the Year of Faith, over whose organisation he presides.

On the following Sunday September 15th, in the afternoon, knights and dames will attend the celebration of Holy Mass in the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls to conclude the pilgrimage. They will thus fulfill the

pilgrims' duty to visit all four major basilicas. Benedict XVI's retirement and the election of Pope Francis has caused a delay in the deciding the date and time of a meeting with the Holy Father.

On the other hand the whole pre-pilgrimage programme has been decided, from September 10th to the 12th, the days in which the Council of the Order takes place. It includes the celebrations of the Holy Mass in the churches of Holy Spirit in Sassia, il Gesu and St Mary in Trastevere, rich in history and works of art. There will also be, guided tours of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major (including excavations and museum), the Capitol and the Vatican Museums.

Participation in the programmes of pilgrimage and pre-pilgrimage is ensured for members of the Order who, within the deadline and through the respective Lieutenancies and Magisterial Delegations, participate in to the UNITALSI package, the association designated by the Grand Magisterium to organize the event, UNITALSI accordingly has booked the hotels and obtain permission from the city authorities for all the bus transfers in the city. Participation in the package will also provide participants with special badges and a booklet, also prepared by the Order, containing aids for liturgical celebrations and historical-artistic descriptions in various languages.

Those knights and dames who have organized their own accommodations, restaurants and transportation, should register as soon as possible in their respective Lieutenancies and Magisterial Delegations in order to attend liturgical celebrations and other events of the pilgrimage and in order to receive the badge and the pilgrimages booklet.

