

N° XXXI

Città
del
Vaticano

JUNE 2013

News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIERSOLYMITANI

"Rejoicing at his election and filial devotion to his Magisterium"

THE GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE TO THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS WHO REPLIES WITH A BLESSING

He extends the Apostolic Blessing to your loved ones and exhorts all to persevere in prayer for his person and his ministry to the Church

The Grand Master Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien communicated to the Holy Father Francis on the occasion of the meeting of the Grand Magisterium on 16 April - the first meeting after the latter's elevation to the Petrine Ministry - and by extension in the name of all the Knights and Ladies of the Order, "the expression of our rejoicing and the message of our filial devotion to Your supreme magisterium".

"In the name of all the participants at one of our periodic meetings", he wrote, "I have the honour of expressing, through our governing body, the sentiments of fidelity to the Holy See of the approximately 30,000 members of our public association of the faithful. Under your supreme leadership we intend to foster within each of us the practice of the Christian life and to promote with renewed commitment our charitable aid that benefits the Church in the Holy Land and our brothers and sisters there who maintain a living Christian witness, despite every type of difficulty and adversity.

"In uniting in prayer for your intentions, we remain at the disposal of the Apostolic See in the fulfilment of the mission entrusted to us by Your predecessors in the



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IMPRESSUM

GRAND MAGISTERIUM
OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER
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office of Supreme Pontiff and the directives which Your Holiness will eventually communicate to us.

"Imploring your Apostolic Blessing, Most Holy Father, please be assured of the sentiments of our filial obedience".

On 24 April, the Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, replying "to your affectionate wishes to the Holy Father on the occasion of his election to the Chair of Peter", wrote also that "His Holiness was well pleased to receive the testimony of sincere

devotion and he similarly appreciated the declarations of faithful adherence to his universal ministry and, thanking you for your kind gesture, exhorts you to persevere in prayer for his person and his ministry to the Church.

"With these wishes", he continues, "he invokes upon you and all those associated in this filial act, the joy and peace given by the Risen Christ and cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing, which he gladly extends to all those dear to you".

ON 13 SEPTEMBER POPE FRANCIS WILL GREET THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER PILGRIMS FOR THE YEAR OF FAITH

The Holy Father will meet the Knights and Ladies of the Order, pilgrims for the International Year of Faith, in the Vatican in the afternoon of 13 September. The communication was received with joy and gratitude by the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien and immediately communicated to the lieutenants and magistral delegates of every continent, also because it will take place at the conclusion of the *Consulta* of the Order, in which they will participate from 10 to 12 September.

The Holy Father's greeting, which will enhance the motivations of the pilgrimage for members of the Order, will take place in the Paul VI Hall. The Holy Father's greeting will come at the end of the conference and meditation led by Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelisation, the organization that coordinates all of the Year of Faith initiatives.

Naturally as the date of pilgrimage draws near, planning has intensified. In particular the commission established for organizing the pilgrimage has determined that those who did not sign up with the UNITALSI association and want to participate in the religious events should pay 100 Euros *per capita*. The Rome section of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy will take care of the enrolment of these pilgrims through the list of names for every Lieutenancy and Magistral Delegation (who have already received communications about this from the Grand Magisterium). The Lieutenancy for Central Italy will distribute to these pilgrims the materials, which includes a bag, identity badges to gain access to the ceremonies, and a publication in five languages (Italian, English, French, Spanish and German) containing a greeting from the Grand Master, a presentation of the history of pilgrimage by the Governor General; a reflection by Msgr. Adriano Paccanelli (an official of the Secretariat of State and ecclesiastical master of ceremonies of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy) on the spirituality of this pilgrimage of the members of the Order for the Year of Faith; an artistic-historic illustration of the Basilicas by our confrere Dr. Sandro Barbagallo, an expert from the Vatican Museums; and last of all, the Latin texts of the liturgical celebrations.



Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Lieutenancies and Delegations

“GOING SIGNIFICANTLY AGAINST THE TREND” IN DONATIONS COLLECTED FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND

*Financial statements, new projects, developments in initiatives
(from the pilgrimage for the Year of Faith to communications)
studied at the spring session Grand Magisterium*

“**G**oing significantly against the trend” is the way Governor General Agostino Borromeo described, the “enormous effort made in 2012 by the Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations” to address the needs of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, in his remark opening the spring session of the Grand Magisterium on 16 April. This is one of the two main commitments of the Order’s members, while the other involves their personal holiness. Indeed, he said, despite the serious international financial crisis, they amassed donations equalling 11,700,000 Euros, a new record. This made it possible to cover the deficit and the greater part of the costs of the institutions of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for its seminary and schools.

This year, the Governor assured all, will see “the greatest financial effort in the whole history of the Order” to cover all the costs of the 44 schools of the Patriarchate (attended by approximately 19,000 students, Christians and Muslims) and the expenses related to its institutional activities (63 parishes, the seminary, youth ministry activities) in addition to the financing of new projects (last year’s total was almost 4,000 700 Euros), humanitarian aid and the expansion of the University and other Catholic schools and institutions in the Holy Land. The Governor General highlighted the purchase of a large building in Tel Aviv in which the Patriarchate will create a pastoral centre for the faithful of Jewish expression and the thousands of immigrant

workers in Israel and to help those who have come seeking political asylum.

A report on the status of projects of the Patriarchate realized in 2012 and those planned for 2013 was offered by Dame Christa von Siemens, President of the Grand Magisterium’s Commission for the Holy Land, in the light of her visits there. (This report will be presented in greater detail in the next edition of the *Newsletter*) These projects were also the subject of the address by Patriarch Fouad Twal. The Patriarch in his capacity as Grand Prior of the Order, evoked the important events in the life of the Church, the ecumenical and interreligious initiatives, the political situation in the region and the immense drama of the Syrian refugees in Jordan.

In opening the session it was the Grand Master who recalled the important events related to his office since the last meeting of the Grand Magisterium. These included his taking possession of the Church of San Sebastiano al Palatino and the November pilgrimage to the Holy Land with his entrance into the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. He also spoke of events pertaining to the Universal Church in which he participated such as the Synod of Bishops for the New Evangelization in October and the Consistory in February. To Pope Francis he addressed a message in which he expressed the Order’s sentiments on his election (*the text of his message and the Cardinal Secretary of State’s reply open this Newsletter*).



In the next address the Governor General, expressing to Cardinal O'Brien the homage of the Grand Magisterium, affirmed that he "has the reins of the Order firmly in hand". He expressed a grateful greeting to the Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, who was ending his term and extended best wishes to Archbishop Antonio Franco who succeeds him and, from the outset, profound gratitude for the great availability of his commitment. He also spoke about preparations for the *Consulta* of the Order which will take place in September, dedicated primarily to the revision of the Statutes.

Reports were given by Fr. Humam Khzouz on the financial accounts of the Latin Patriarchate and the schools in Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Jordan. Eng. Pier

Carlo Visconti reported on the Grand Magisterium's financial management, Dr. Graziano Motta reported on the expansion of communications, including with the development of the web-site and the hiring of a new collaborator, François Vayne, former Communications Director for the Sanctuary of Lourdes, Chancellor, Prof. Ivan Rebernik spoke about recent organizational developments for September's international pilgrimage to Rome for the Year of Faith. Various members of the Grand Magisterium gave reports, including the Lieutenant General Giuseppe Dalla Torre, the Vice Governor General, Patrick D. Powers, the Master of Ceremonies Msgr. Francis D. Kelly, Pierre Blanchard, Alberto Consoli Palermo Navarra, Bartholomew McGettrick and Thomas E. McKiernan.

At the centre of the meeting of the European Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates COMING SOON: THE REVISION OF THE STATUTES AND OTHER TOPICS ON THE CONSULTA'S AGENDA

*In anticipating it, the Governor General revealed a new vision
of the Order enlightened by the universal call to holiness
and the increase of the Christian life in its members*

The meeting of the European Lieutenancies, which was held in the Headquarters of the Grand Magisterium on 18 and 19 June, focused its attention on two very important events. The *Consulta*, which gathers every five years and this time will see the involvement of the Grand Magisterium, Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates in Rome for the revision of the Statutes on 10-12 September. And the international pilgrimage for the Year of Faith, which will be held on the three following days, 13-15 September. The pilgrimage will bring thousands of Knights and Ladies to the four major Roman Basilicas and its highpoint will be an encounter with the Holy Father Pope Francis.

In introducing the work, the Governor General Agostino Borromeo reviewed the life

of the Order, under the sure leadership of the Grand Master, who addressed some introductory remarks. The Governor General described the Order's growth also in terms of geographic expansion and thus highlighted the increased effort of the Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations - which he described as a true record - to meet the needs of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. In this regard he mentioned the realization of two projects of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (concerning which there was a report from the President of the Commission, Dr. Christa von Siemens) and those entrusted by the Holy See through ROACO. He introduced the summary financial report for 2012 and the budget for 2013 (which would be explained by Eng. Pier Carlo Visconti, Consul-



ter of the Grand Master) and spoke of the expansion of communications (which was also reported on by Dr. Graziano Motta). All the topics, including the pilgrimage (its organisational aspects were explained by the Chancellor, Prof. Ivan Rebernik), generated ample discussion.

Particular interest was aroused by the Governor General's communication about the revision of the Statutes – the purpose for which the *Consulta* will meet. The current Statutes are fifty years old and must therefore undergo a literary review of the texts as well as the elimination of some internal contradictions and some norms not in conformity with the Code of Canon Law promulgated in 1994. Most of all, however, it must be adapted to the advances provided by the Second Vatican Council. The new Statutes, he explained, should no longer reflect the "rigidly pyramidal structure" of the Church that prevailed before the Council. Furthermore, they should be in harmony with the "universal call to holiness" of all the faithful and therefore with the member's increased practice of the Christian life and the expectations of service to which they are called in the lo-

cal Churches (in charity, in diocesan and parish life, in catechesis, liturgical ministry, etc.). It should also take into account the extension of the Order's involvement in the Near East, to which the Order was called in 2009 by the Holy See; and furthermore, to an updating of the financial contributions of its members that has been brought about over the years through the decisions of the Grand Master.

"If the Order were to develop, thanks to its ability to recruit new members, we could offer aid much further than the geographic areas in which we work today", said the Governor General. He was reflecting on the fact that the poverty in some areas of the world in which we are present or where we are encountering hesitation in extending our presence – "is more severe than in certain areas of the Middle East". He concluded by stating his wishes that the Statutes may express "a genuine rethinking of our identity and our sense of membership in the Church, or rather of our service of communion that goes well beyond our specific aid to the Holy Land, which remains our charism and confers identity on our institution".

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH EXPANDED TO INCLUDE LIEUTENANTS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

An event in the life of the Order: the annual Meeting of the Lieutenants for North America, held in Mexico City from 21-25 May, was expanded for the first time to include the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates of Central and South America. Thus it has taken on a special significance for the organizational life and further expansion on that Continent, as the Grand Master and Governor General highlighted in their addresses, mentioning developments in Brazil and Venezuela.

They, along with Vice Governor General Patrick D. Powers, gave a thorough description of the activities, finances, projects in the Holy Land as well as the initiatives of the Order that were the main agenda items for the meeting of the Grand Magisterium held in Rome in April.

The meeting benefited from the excellent organization provided by the Lieutenant for Mexico, José Maria Carracedo Bolinga, who inserted into the programme a pilgrimage and visit to the famous Marian shrine of Guadalupe. Sadly, however, it was on that occasion that he was struck by a heart attack, as was reported in another part of this *Newsletter*.



Requested by the Holy See through ROACO

THE ORDER FINANCES EIGHT NEW PROJECTS FOR THE HOLY LAND AND EGYPT

They involve the construction of a new church and the restoration of two others along with the restoration of a home for the handicapped, a school, a day-care and the furnishings for a new secondary school and a computer laboratory for the Ephpheta-Paul VI Institute

The Grand Magisterium of the Order has assured financing for the eight projects benefiting Catholic institutions in the Holy Land and Egypt presented by ROACO (from the Italian for "Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches") to which it belongs, on the occasion of its latest meeting, the 86th, which took place from 17-20 June in the Vatican. Once again the institution, presided by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, particularly examined the situation of Christians in the Near and Middle East, for whom the Holy Father Pope Francis has expressed great concern. In an audience granted to the participants in the ROACO session he asked them to do everything possible to alleviate the grave needs of the afflicted populations, in particular those in Syria, and to put an end to the violence, insecurity and religious, cultural and social discrimination.

The construction of a new church has begun with the Order's contribution of almost 40,000 Euro toward a total of approximately 63,000. The church is being constructed in the mountains of Upper Egypt, not far from the Aswan Dam, in the village of Abu-Hemar. The town is without potable water, schools, health-care, commercial activities, but was 500 inhabitants, all of them Christian (250 Catholics, and an equal number of Orthodox). It is 65 kilometres from the city of Sohag (See of the Coptic Catholic Bishop Youssef Aboul El Kher), but the closest inhabited area is the town of Kom Gharib, and a priest comes from there once a week (on foot or on a beast of burden). The

church building will include a centre for pastoral activities, catechesis and literacy training, an emergency-care clinic, and the priest's residence. The building costs are contained because the parishioners are involved in the construction work.

Also in Egypt – but in the capital of Cairo – the Order has financed the restoration of the Latin rite church of St. Mark with more than 91,000 Euros, the entire estimated cost. St. Mark is located in the Muslim quarter of Shoubra where it bears witness to an ancient Christian presence. The work involves the foundation, the roof which threatens to collapse, and the walls and facade that are damaged by humidity.

There are three projects financed by the Order in the Palestinian Territories. With a contribution of 16,000 Euros, work will be done on restoring the Greek-Melkite Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist at Rafidia, a small city near Nablus. The most recent edifice (built in 1959) needs repairs to the pavement, the elimination of humidity in the ceiling and walls, and improvements to the electrical system. The parish community has assured its willingness to provide the estimated 4,000 Euros to cover the labour costs.

Financing of 27,000 (of an estimated 29,500 Euros with, local financing having guaranteed to cover the rest) has been granted for urgent repair work on the school of the Rosary Sisters in Bethlehem. Founded in 1893, it accompanied the growth of the city and today welcomes 267 students, both Christian and Muslim. The work will aim to eliminate water



leaks, repair external and internal walls, as well as those in the central courtyard, which have become very dangerous because of a collapse. Old and damaged school furnishings will also be replaced.

Again in Bethlehem, thanks to the Order's financing of 12,000 Euros, the computer laboratory of the Ephpheta-Paul VI School was upgraded. The school, founded in 1971 at the Pontiff's wishes, trains 160 hearing-impaired Palestinian young people. It is a well-deserving work of great charity and specialization assured by the "Teaching Sisters of Saint Dorothy, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts". Fifteen new computers were purchased for the students and a laptop for the teacher, while the old equipment, with some repairs, will now be used for the elementary school children.

Near Jerusalem, in the village of Ain Karen (the village of Mary's Visitation to Saint Elizabeth and of the birth of St. John the Baptist), the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul have been caring for severely disabled children and youth since 1964. At present there are 58 of them. The Order's contribution of 63,000 Euros has made it possible to begin the urgent reconstruction of the severely leaning wall surrounding the building, which had

been damaged by heavy rains. The estimated cost of the work is more than 121,000 Euros, but 58,500 Euros will be covered by local financing.

In Israel, in the city of Haifa, thanks to the Order's contribution of 40,000 dollars, it has been possible to begin the restoration of the bathrooms and the facade of the crèche of the sisters, Daughters of St. Anne. This institution currently welcomes 300 children from ages six months to five years, not only Christians, but also Muslims and Druze. The bathrooms had been seriously damaged because of the deteriorated condition of the pipes and water leakage. Rains had damaged the external balconies and facade of the building. The total cost of the work is estimated at 70,000 Euros, 30,000 of which will be covered by local financing.

Last of all, in the capital of Amman, Jordan, the Order's financing of 70,000 Euros will cover almost the total purchase price (78,000 Euros) of the didactic equipment for the new gymnasium of the large St. Joseph's scholastic institute. The pride and joy of the Catholic educational works in the nation and of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who built and administer it, it is located in the Wadi al Seer section and educates 800 students, half of whom are Christians.

PISA DEDICATES A MONUMENT AND A TRAFFIC CIRCLE TO OUR ORDER

In Pisa on 14 May, in the presence of major religious, civil and military authorities of the city and of the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, an important roundabout and street were dedicated to our Order. The marble monument in the traffic circle depicts the emblem of the Order, the cross potent of Jerusalem. The city of Pisa can boast of historic relations with the Holy Land since the Middle Ages.

The ceremonies in a central area of the city near the railroad station began with Mass celebrated in the nearby Church of Saint Anthony the Abbot. Presiding at the Mass was Archbishop Giovanni Paolo Benotto and concelebrants included Bishop Luciano Giovannetti, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Apennine Central Italy and other ecclesiastics who are members of the Order. A procession of Knights and Ladies, led by Delegate Antonio Giampieri, went to the traffic circle that was renamed for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem by the Vice-Mayor, Paolo Ghezzi, and it was blessed by the Archbishop. Surrounded by a green lawn, the botticino marble shield, (320x340 cm) bears the inlaid cross of Jerusalem in red marble. The project was designed by Architect Marco Malloggi; the work was contributed by the Braccianti firm.



THE CARDINAL GRAND MASTER'S CONFERENCE TO THE DIPLOMATS OF THE "CIRCOLO DI ROMA"

Concerning the history and goals of the Order, as well as the new challenges on the horizon for the Holy Land, speaking about a system of aid inspired by solidarity with a methodology based on the principle of subsidiarity

The living and dynamic reality of our Order and the genuine spiritual and charitable commitment of its members – which are behind the often perceived externals of the "Equestrian Orders" – were illustrated by the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien in a conference given in Palazzo della Rovere on 24 April to the members of the "Circolo di Roma", which gathers the foreign diplomats accredited to the Holy See. Among those present was the Assessor of Honour, Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo.

Developing the topic of *"The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow"*, the Grand Master described its origins and history, its restructuring at the hand of Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1847 and subsequent statutes promulgated by the Holy See. He then turned to its main goals, its pyramid structure and its organization present in 35 countries in 62 substructures (lieutenancies and magistral delegations) and the commitments the Knights and Ladies take on in their practice of Christian life and in support of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. In order to give them some idea of the financial commitment of the Order, he noted that from 2001 to the beginning of 2010 more than 78 million dollars had been sent there.

He then described the new challenges on the horizon. In particular he addressed the challenge of maintaining dignified living conditions for the Christian community, which is declining in number because of the general atmosphere of violence and uncertainty about the future. "It is necessary to work", he said, "in other sectors and think of other ways of intervening", mentioning hypothetically the construction of low-cost housing, especially for young couples; the creation of medical clinics in areas far from hospitals; the granting of microcredit to family enterprises and artisans; a system of micro health insurance; the teaching of processes of production by large Western firms. "In other words", he added, "it is necessary to combine a system of aid inspired by solidarity (one person giving and the other receiving) with a methodology founded on the principle of subsidiarity (one person providing the other with the technology and the tools for earning a living)".

FATHER ERNEST CIBELLI NAMED AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO CARDINAL O'BRIEN

Father Ernest W. Cibelli is the new special assistant of the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien. He succeeds Msgr. Adam J. Parker, who was recalled to the Archdiocese of Baltimore by the new Archbishop, William Lori, who has appointed him its Vice Chancellor.

Father Cibelli was born in Columbia

(Maryland) in 1981 of an Italian father and a Polish descent mother, and speaks fluent Italian. He studied philosophy in Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He was in Rome at the Pontifical North American College while studying theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, from which he obtained a bachelor's degree in the-



ology in 2007. He then studied at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross where he obtained a licentiate in theology in 2010. In the interim, he was ordained a priest on 13 June 2009 by the Ordinary of Baltimore at that time, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien and assigned to St. Joseph's Parish in Cockeysville. At Cardinal O'Brien's request, Archbishop Lori, has transferred Father Cibelli to Rome where he began working in the Grand Magisterium in the month of June, and has asked him to pursue a doctorate in theology as well.

Msgr. Parker, 41 years old, a Knight of the Order and Chaplain of His Holiness, has been a close aide of the then Archbishop O'Brien since 2007 when he served as Vice Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and personal secretary. He move to Rome with Archbishop O'Brien in the role of special assistant in the Order's headquarters. Born in Cleveland (Ohio), he was ordained a priest in Baltimore in the year 2000 and, obtained his licentiate in theology from the Pontifical University Gregorianum in 2001.

HONORARY DOCTORATES CONFERRED ON CARDINAL EDWIN F. O'BRIEN

Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien was recently honoured with two doctorates *honoris causa* from two different American Universities with campuses in Rome.

On 13 May John Cabot University, founded in 1972 with an international outreach, honoured the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem with a doctorate in Humane Letters during an academic ceremony at Villa Aurelia. At the same ceremony a similar degree was conferred on Ms. Wilhelmina Cole Holloday, foundress and president of the National Museum of Women in Art. Diplomas were given to approximately 100 students from about twenty nations. The motivation for the honorary doctorate was read by the President and Rector of the institution, Prof. Franco Pavoncello.

On 9 June it was St. John's University of New York that conferred on Cardinal O'Brien an honorary doctorate in Law. St. John's University was founded in 1870, and defines itself as "Catholic, Vincentian (because it is inspired by the figure of St. Vincent de Paul) and metropolitan". Its president Rev. Donald J. Harrington C.M. (Congregation of the Mission). Its Rome campus joins St. John's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Peter J. Tobin College of Business. The motivation for the doctorate given to the Grand Master was read by Dr. Martha K. Hirst, the University's Vice-President, while the diploma was conferred by President Harrington who, in the course of the same ceremony, conferred diplomas of Master of Arts and Master of Business Administration to the many students.

NEW LIEUTENANT FOR HOLLAND

Our confrere Michael Louis Maria Breninkmeijer, 58 years old, is the new Lieutenant for the Netherlands. The Grand Master appointed him by a decree dated 20 June. He succeeds Knight Grand Cross Godfried Jean Marie Prieckaerts, who has led the Lieutenancy since 2005.

A member of an illustrious and wealthy Dutch family that has always supported

Catholic works in the Holy Land, he has continued this commitment through the Porticus Foundation, of which he has been senior member of the staff for the Middle East and Africa. Admitted into the Order in 1998 and Knight Commander since 2005, he has served with distinction on the following Committees of the Lieutenancy: Small Projects, Jubilee 2004 and Caritas, as President of the Projects Working Group.



CELEBRATIONS COMMENCE MARKING THE CENTENARY OF SAINT PIUS X

Celebrations marking the centenary of the death of Pope St. Pius X, former Grand Master of our Order, began on 12 June in the Cathedral of Treviso, a city in Italy's Veneto Region, the diocese in which he was born. They will conclude in September of next year with a pilgrimage to his tomb in Saint Peter's Basilica. It was Cardinal Angelo Comastri, Archpriest of St. Peter's Basilica and Vicar General of His Holiness for Vatican City, who opened the celebrations, presiding at a solemn Mass.

Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto was born in the town of Riese on 2 June 1835, was ordained a priest in 1858 and named Bishop of Mantua in 1884. He was transferred to the Patriarchal See of Venice and created a Cardinal in 1893; ten years later, on 4 August 1903, he was elected Pope. He died in Rome on 20 August 1914. At this time he is the first and only 20th century pope to be canonized (on 29 May 1954 by Pope Pius XII, who had beatified him on 3 June 1951). With the Apostolic Letter *Quam multa* of 3 May 1907 he arrogated to himself the Grand Magisterium of our Order (and thus, by direct *collatio*, became its *pontifex* in the strict sense of the word). He determined that the military trophy would adorn its insignia, and introduced the term "lieutenancies". A bronze statue of him is located in Palazzo Della Rovere, Headquarters of the Grand Magisterium.

Many initiatives will accompany the celebrations, organized in Treviso by the *Centro Studi San Pio X*, founded by Archbishop Gianfranco Agostino Gardin (www.centenariopi-ox.it) and in Mantua by a Commission appointed by Bishop Roberto Busti (www.diocesidimantova.it).

P. PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA CONFIRMED AS FRANCISCAN CUSTOS OF THE HOLY LAND

On 29 June Pope Francis confirmed the election of Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa OFM, 48 years old, as Custos of the Holy Land and Guardian of Mount Sion for another three-year period. He has served in this role since 2004, when he was elected for a six-year term. In May of 2010 he was confirmed for another three years by the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor. He is the 167th Franciscan friar elected to head the Custody and one of very few who have led it for such a long time.

Father Pizzaballa was born in Italy in the Diocese and Province of Bergamo in 1965 and was ordained in 1990, the year in which

he was assigned to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. He studied theology in Rome, earning his bachelor's degree at the Pontifical Athenaeum *Antonianum*. In Jerusalem he earned his licentiate in Biblical theology at the *Studium Biblicum Franciscanum* and earned a Master's Degree at the Hebrew University. Ministering in Jerusalem, he has been a docent of modern Hebrew, guardian of the Convent of Saints Simeon and Anna, and has collaborated with the Latin Patriarchate in the pastoral care of Catholic faithful of Jewish expression, whose patriarchal vicar he was named in 2005, remaining in that office until 2008.



DEATH OF COUNT WOLF-METTERNICH, LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF THE ORDER

The Order is in mourning for the death of its Lieutenant General of Honour, Count Peter Wolff-Metternich zur Gracht, Knight with Collar, which occurred on 26 May in Germany in the castle of Adelebsen, near the city of Hildesheim. The previous day he had presided at a solemn investiture of Knights and Ladies in Cologne, participating also in the evening gala. In an emotional tribute, the Lieutenant for Germany Heinrich Dickmann wrote that "he was the backbone of the community of the Order and his wise counsel, capable of relieving tension in difficult moments with his cordial and joyous nature", Dickmann also recall that the death of his wife, Countess Marie Christine, was felt by him as "a great loss, but his family, in continuous growth, gave him emotional security".

"He never failed", Dickmann continued, "in his commitment to the Christians of the Holy Land, in reflecting on how to improve their living conditions, giving advice to the international community of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem". He was invested as a Knight on 5 December 1959 in Cologne and was promoted to Commander in 1960, Commander with Star in 1970, Knight of the Grand Cross in 1976 and - a great privilege - Knight with Collar on 5 October 1982. From 1962 to 1996 he led the *Ordenprovinz* of Northern Germany; from 5 November 1969 to 11 April 2006, that is, for 37 years without interruption, he served as Vice Governor General of the Order; he continued serving on the Grand Magisterium as Lieutenant General until 1 January 2011 when he was named Lieutenant General of Honour.

The Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien expressed the Order's condolences in a message to the deceased's family, with a necrology in the Holy See's daily newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*. The Dignitary of Honour, Prof. Aldo Maria Arena, a friend of the deceased for 50 years, represented the Grand Master and Grand Magisterium at the funeral services. He commemorated the deceased in a prayer at the services in the Church of St. Marien Steinheim celebrated on 5 June by the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Germany, Cardinal Reinhard Marx.

THE ORDER ALSO RECALLS THE DEATH OF TWO LIEUTENANTS AND HON. GIULIO ANDREOTTI, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF ITALY

Two lieutenants have been called to the Father's House, creating a great loss, but leaving behind the memory of their devoted service to the Order and their witness of an exemplary religious life.

The death of the Lieutenant for Mexico, José Maria Carracedo Bolinaga, occurred on 25 May during a visit to the Marian shrine of Guadalupe by the Lieutenants of South and

Central America, together with their guests, the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin F. O'Brien and Governor General Agostino Borromeo, on the occasion of their annual meeting. A sudden heart attack struck him just as he was preparing to enter the Church. With a doctorate in architecture, he was 77 years old and was admitted into the Order as a Knight in November of 1992, was made a Knight Comman-



der in 2003 and Knight Commander with Star in 2006. He was lieutenant since 15 May 2006.

The Lieutenant for the USA - Middle Atlantic, Ronald George Precup, died in Arlington on 18 May 2013. Born in Aurora (Illinois), he died less than a month before his 71st birthday on 11 June. A lawyer and lover of music, he and his wife, a Lady of our Order, were members of the Chorus of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. He was a close aide to our Grand Master during the years in which the latter served as Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy. Admitted to the Order in 1994, he was promoted to Knight Commander in 2001, Commander with Star in 2005 and Knight Grand Cross on 20 September

2011. He served as Lieutenant since 1 November 2010.

Another loss has affected the Order through the death of the Hon. Giulio Andreotti Knight Grand Cross, in Rome on 6 May, at the age of 94. He was a leading figure in the political life of Italy for the entire second half of the 20th century, present since 1945 in the legislative assemblies and, among other roles, served seven times as President of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister), eight times as Minister of Defense and five as Minister of Foreign Affairs. A member of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy, he has held that rank since 3 February 1964. His wife is also a Lady of the Order.

ECHOES FROM THE HOLY LAND

■ The Pope has the Holy Land at heart: The Holy Father, Pope Francis, said to the Patriarch of Jerusalem Fouad Twal, Grand Prior of our Order, whom he received on 15 April together with a delegation consisting of his Episcopal Vicars, the New Archbishop of Tunis and some priests.

■ The percentage of Christians in the Palestinian Territories was cut in half in 13 years, declining from 2% to 1% between 2000 and 2013. Today there are 47 thousand, while there are 110 thousand living in the areas in which the State of Israel was established in 1948. In Jerusalem the number of Christians has fallen from 27 thousand in 1948 to 5 thousand today. These data were included in a recent study by Prof. Hanna Issa, a Palestinian Christian and an instructor in international law.

■ From 16 April to 14 July in the Royal Palace of Versailles, France, there was an exhibition entitled "Treasures of the Holy Sepulchre. Gifts from the royal courts of Europe to Jerusalem", given to the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land over the course of recent centuries.

■ The Lieutenancy for England and Wales, continuing its program of brief (one extended weekend) pilgrimages to the Holy Land has published an illustrated album explaining and illustrating the initiative.

■ The dedication of a forest to honour Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini was sponsored in Galilee on a hill not far from Lake Tiberias, an initiative of the Keren Kayemeth Le Israel Agency. A Jesuit and illustrious Biblical scholar, Archbishop of Milan from 1980 to 2002, he spent some of his last years in Jerusalem. He died in Italy on 31 August 2012.

■ The International Family Centre in Nazareth, sponsored by the Holy See and the "Renewal in the Spirit" movement will have a 500-seat auditorium, a pastoral centre, a church and a hotel. The project, which will cost 12 million Euros, was presented on 16 April in the Vatican Press Office. The work is expected to be done in two and a half years.

