

News Letter

ORDO EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

LET US PRAY FOR THE VISIT OF FRANCIS TO THE HOLY LAND

As this issue of the Newsletter was going to press, after the Christmas and New Year celebrations, the details of the Pope's trip to the Holy Land were officially announced: he will visit Amman, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem from 24 to 26 May 2014.

He will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting of Pope Paul VI with the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Athenagoras, in Jerusalem, marking a milestone in the long march towards Christian unity, especially between Catholics and Orthodox, painfully divided since the Great Schism of 1054.

It is precisely at the Holy Sepulchre that a prayer meeting will take place with all the representatives of the Christian Churches of Jerusalem, in the presence of Francis and Bartholomew I, the current Patriarch of Constantinople.

All members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem are therefore invited to join forces spiritually during the preparation of this event which will be "a pilgrimage of prayer" as Francis stated during the Angelus on 5 January in Saint Peter's Square. Our next Newsletter in the Spring, will report on the participation of the Order in this pontifical visit to the holy places in which our faith is rooted.

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IMPRESSUM

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THE ORDER IN UNION WITH THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

“WE CANNOT RESIGN OURSELVES TO THINK OF A MIDDLE EAST WITHOUT CHRISTIANS”

Francis met the Patriarchs of the Eastern Churches in Rome

On 21 November 2013 the Pope received, for the first time since his election, the Patriarchs and Major Archbishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches, including the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and Grand Prior of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Archbishop Fouad Twal. They participated for two days in the plenary assembly of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, under the presidency of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri.

“Our meeting gives me the opportunity to renew the high regard for the spiritual heritage of the Christian East,” said Francis, reminding these spiritual leaders that they are “the vigilant guardians of communion and the servants of the ecclesial unity” in “unwavering union with the Bishop of Rome” in accordance with that which his predecessor Benedict wrote in the post-synodal exhortation *Ecclesia in Medio Oriente*, following the Synod providentially organized in 2010, on the eve of the crisis that continues to worsen in these areas since 2011.

“For our testimony to be credible, we are called to a sober life in the image of Christ” the Holy Father declared, with particular emphasis on the importance of “transparency in the management of property” in the service of the weak and the needy, as well as “the most sincere application of this authentic synodal practice that distinguishes the Eastern Churches.”

The meeting in Rome gave rise to many discussions about the problems and hopes of

the Christians of the East, often tempted to leave their land and migrate. It was marked by intense moments of meditation and prayer for peace in the Holy Land, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and throughout the Middle East, especially during an emotional visit to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, on 23 November. For the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King, 24 November, on the steps of St. Peter’s Basilica, the Eastern Patriarchs were able to venerate the relics of the apostle Peter with the Pope, thereby concluding the Year of Faith commemorating the 50th anniversary of the opening of Vatican Council II.

A few weeks later, on 16 December, the Holy Father launched an appeal on his famous Twitter account @Pontifex: “We cannot resign ourselves to think of a Middle East without Christians. Let us pray every day for peace.” He reiterated his plans to visit the Holy Land next spring, marking the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting in Jerusalem between Paul VI and the Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople.

“ For our testimony
to be credible, we are
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OPENING OF THE CENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF POPE SAINT PIUS X, WHO WAS A GRAND MASTER OF THE ORDER

The opening of the centenary of the death of Pope Pius X, "parish priest to the world", took place on 12 June in the diocese of Treviso, in which Riese is located, the birthplace of Joseph Sarto. Cardinal Angelo Comastri, Archpriest of the Basilica of St. Peter, and Vicar General of His Holiness for the Vatican City, presiding over the celebrations, compared the evangelical simplicity of Pope Sarto to that of Pope Bergoglio. In Venice, of which Bishop Sarto was the patriarch, the Mass marking the opening of the centenary was presided over, on 23 November, by his successor in this prestigious see, Archbishop Francesco Moraglia. Ordained in 1858, the year of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes, Joseph Sarto was a man of prayer, humble, hardworking, "just and righteous to the highest degree", according to those who knew him. When he became bishop he fought with courage and determination against "the crime of the modern era" which he defined as: "Wanting to substitute Man for God." Though he had a return ticket for the conclave of 1903, he did not, in fact, return to Venice but became Pope under the name of Pius X, "because the Popes who have suffered the most in this century have borne the name of Pius", he explained. His work - along with his young Secretary of State, Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val, appointed at the age of 38, allowed the Church to resist the forces that sought to bring it into subjection or under supervision, because he said, "better sacrifice wealth than freedom." He died on 20 August 1914, a few days after the start of the First World War. He is currently the only canonized saint who belonged to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, of which he was Grand Master. To consolidate the position of the Order in the Holy Land, Pius X reserved for himself and his successors the office of Grand Master by the Apostolic Letter *Quam multa* dated 13 October 1908, and gave the Knights a place in the papal chapels, whilst the Latin Patriarch was appointed Rector and Perpetual Administrator of the Order.



INFORMATION RELATING TO THE CANONISATION OF POPES JOHN XXIII AND JOHN PAUL II

The Prefecture of the Papal Household communicates that for the canonisation of Blesseds John XXIII and John Paul II on Sunday 27 April 2014, participation is open to all those able to find space in St. Peter's Square, Piazza Pio XII and Via della Conciliazione, without any need for tickets. As on

other occasions, the faithful are warned against ticket touts or requests for money by agencies or tour operators in order to obtain tickets. Attendees are also reminded that the tickets to participate in audiences or celebrations presided by the Holy Father are entirely free.



PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

A RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, QUEEN OF PALESTINE

In the late-afternoon of 15 October 2013 His Eminence Cardinal Edwin O'Brien – Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – received his guests in the halls of the Grand Magisterium, the Della Rovere Palace, near St. Peter's Square. The Reception was organised, as every year, during the month of October in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine, Patron of the Order, the mission of which is to support the Christians of the Holy Land through the works of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. Among the eminent guests received by Cardinal O'Brien, accompanied by the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, were Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, Assessor of Honour of the Order and Archbishop Emeritus of the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul outside-the-Walls, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, Cardinal Antonio Maria Vegliò, President of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, Cardinal Francis Arinze, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, and Cardinal Bernard Law, Archbishop Emeritus of the Papal Basilica

of Saint Mary Major. Several Bishops and Archbishops were also present at this annual event, as well as two representatives of the Secretariat of State - Mgr Peter Brian Wells, Assessor for General Affairs, and Mgr José Avelino Bettencourt, Head of Protocol. Also present were several members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, dignitaries of the Order, and representatives of organizations such as UNITALSI which cooperated with the Order in the organization of its recent Pilgrimage to Rome during the Year of Faith.

The Sanctuary of the Patron of the Order is situated at Deir Rafat, to the west of Jerusalem, midway between the Holy City

and Tel-Aviv, in the valley of Soreq near the town of Beit Shemesh, which signifies "house of the sun" in Hebrew. Built in 1927 by the then Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Luigi Barlassina, the Sanctuary is today entrusted to the Community of the Little Sisters of Bethlehem. In 1933, 80 years ago, the Liturgical Feast of Our Lady of Palestine was approved by the Holy See, inviting the faithful to implore her to specially protect her native land through a special prayer. She was proclaimed the Patron of the Order by Pope John Paul II on 21 January 1994.



GRAND MASTER OF THE ORDER ON A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

From 7 to 29 November 2013, His Eminence Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, was on an official visit to the vast Australian continent and New Zealand, where there are approximately 450 Knights and Dames of the Order.

Important meetings were scheduled in the five local Lieutenancies of the Order.

On 7 November in St. Patrick's Cathedral he presided over the investiture of members of the Order of New Zealand nationality, this country being attached to the New South Wales Lieutenancy of the Order.

On 10 November in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, he presided over another investiture ceremony held at Saint Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.

On 13 November he presided over a further investiture ceremony at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane, Queensland, the second largest State in the whole country. Continuing this important journey, the Grand Master also presided over an investiture ceremony on 16 November in the church of St. Joseph in Subiaco, a small town close to

Perth, Western Australia, Australia's largest State. The Lieutenancy of this State celebrated its 25th anniversary at the same time.

On 20 November he presided over a further investiture ceremony at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral in the city of Adelaide the most populated city of the State, in the Lieutenancy of Southern Australia. Finally on Sunday 24 November another investiture ceremony took place at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, Victoria, the smallest State in Australia, which nonetheless covers an area the size of the United Kingdom...

The Australian press reported extensively on this trip during which the investiture into the Order of fifteen new Knights and Dames sparked a renewed interest in the Holy Land among Australian Catholics, whose numbers are on the increase because of immigration.

Further trips outside Italy are scheduled in 2014 by the Grand Master: Porto Rico in March, Florida and Hawaii in June, and Portugal in October.

THE AUTUMN MEETING OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

On 3 and 4 December 2013 one of two major annual meetings of the Grand Magisterium of the Order was held. It was presided over by Cardinal Edwin Frederick O'Brien, Grand Master, in the presence of the Grand Prior and Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Fouad Twal, the Lieutenant General, Giuseppe Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, and the Governor General, Agostino Borromeo. In one of the halls of the Pontifical Council for Culture, via della

Conciliazione, nearly thirty people discussed projects, already underway or completed, in the service of the Church in the Holy Land.

Introducing the works, the Grand Master recalled the major events such as the recent five-year Consulta which was envisaged as a process of revision of the Statutes of the Order, the International Pilgrimage organized for the Year of Faith, and his travels in Australia, New Zealand, and Asia. Cardinal



O'Brien also emphasized the need to rejuvenate the College in recruitment and openness to women, already well represented in some Lieutenancies. The Patriarch thanked the "great international family" of the Order for the continued assistance it brings Catholics in Palestine, Jordan and Israel. He recalled several events experienced by the Church in the Holy Land. For example he particularly emphasized his participation in the meeting of the Patriarchs and Archbishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches with Pope Francis, late November in Rome.

Financial reports were presented for the Latin Patriarchate and the Order, both in respect of the Final Accounts for 2013 and forecasts for 2014. President of the Commission of the Grand Magisterium to the Holy Land, Christa von Siemens, described and analyzed a report on the projects in 2013, particularly in the light of her travels there. The Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, welcomed the pastoral fruits, largely due to the financial efforts of the Order, since the amounts paid to the Patriarchate in 2013 had never reached such important proportions in the history of the institution.

The work of members of the Grand Magisterium of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre continued on Wednesday 4 December, and were especially focused on issues of Catholic education in the Holy Land. Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, said that Jordan is the "lung of the Patriarchate" in many areas, including academic, in the sense that it is a country where it is easily possible to come and study from other Arab countries. The particular case of the American University of Madaba, which is dependent on the Patriarchate, was discussed at this meeting, even though the Order is not currently able to provide substantial assistance to this Jordanian structure of higher education. Regarding schools, from kindergarten through to high school, the Patriarchate coordinates directly 40% of all Catholic schools in Israel, the Palestinian

Territories and Jordan; in all 42 school structures. The others are dependent mostly on religious congregations. Nearly 20,000 students (60% Christian and 40% Muslim and Druze) receive an education open to the values of encounter and dialogue, and also respect for women. In Gaza, where there is a permanent state of war, special efforts are made to help students maintain confidence in themselves and in the future, with music and dance workshops, for example. Examination results are excellent throughout the Patriarchate, as evidenced by the very good personal and published marks. The Grand Master and the Governor General welcomed this news on behalf of all members of the Order who contribute to the development of the school system in the Holy Land.

Chancellor Ivan Rebernik reported to the Grand Magisterium on the situation in particular regarding the admissions and promotions in 2013. He also detailed the success of the international pilgrimage to Rome in September, and then specified the decisions taken to strengthen communication activities in the case of internet, the Newsletter, and the journal "Annals".

Among other topics discussed at this meeting: the training of members of the Order – highlighted by the intervention of John C. Piunno – which particularly interested the Grand Magisterium, seeking to ensure that all Lieutenancies use the same materials or the same audio-visual media to present, in a consistent and coordinated manner, the history of the order, its organization, charitable work, and especially its spirituality. The experiment conducted in this regard by the Lieutenancy of Central Italy, in the early 2000s, could probably be highlighted and could serve as a worldwide model for new members of the Order (about a thousand per year on average), more numerous than ever, and spread over the five continents in sometimes very distant countries.



THE ORDER AND THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE ORDER IN THE HOLY LAND IN 2013

Among the various projects of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Grand Magisterium of the Order – with the support of Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations – has financed six projects, of which five are located in Jordan, a country of almost six million people including slightly more than 100,000 Catholics ...

★ ***The Bir Zeit infant school in the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank***

It accommodates 28 girls and 42 boys, assisted by four teachers. Nearly 80 families collaborate with educators so that children can grow and learn peacefully. Within the scope of the renovation of the entire school system of the university town – in which the Catholic parish of the Immaculate Conception is thriving – this project provides for the replacement of school furniture and the restoration of outdoor recreation areas.

★ ***“Our Lady of Peace” Centre in Amman in Jordan***

For the past ten years this Centre has accommodated 120 children and adults with special needs. Within five years the accommodation capacity is expected to double. It now needs to be equipped with facilities for physiotherapy and sport, especially by the redevelopment of the pool and huge garden. The kitchen should also be restructured.

★ ***A church in the north of Jordan***

In the town of Ajloun in the north of Jordan, known for its XIIth century Arab medieval castle, the parish church needs urgent work: roof insulation, painting, electrical installation...

★ ***The presbytery of a Jordanian parish***

The parish of the town of Fuheis in the centre of Jordan, about twenty kilometres from Amman, needs to refurbish the sanitary installations in the presbytery, and also the kitchen and dining room.

★ ***A residence for priests south of Amman***

At Naour, a small town south of Amman, a residence for priests must be fully brought up to standard, with thermal insulation in the interior for example, and also the replacement of solar panels and aerials outside.

★ ***A convent for Religious Sisters in Amman***

At the Patriarchal Vicariate of Amman, in a convent for Religious Sisters, the kitchen equipment needs to be repaired and the sanitary installations in the bathrooms need renewing.



A CONGRESS IN AMMAN ON THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE-EAST

On Thursday 24 October the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Fouad Twal, opened the International Congress in Fuheis of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, by a discourse on the role of women in the life of the Church and society in the Middle East. The conference, which took place in the house of the Sisters of the Rosary, was organized in cooperation with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the International Forum of Catholic Action. It was held under the patronage of Queen Rania of Jordan and its common theme was "Women believers at the service of Life, Dignity and the Common good". The rich programme facilitated numerous meetings with Arab Christian women involved in the political and social sphere, including the mayor of Bethlehem, Vera Baboun and the former Minister of Home and Immigration in Iraq, an Assyrian Christian, Pascale Warda. A session of the conference, dedicated to the figure of the Virgin Mary in the Bible and in the Koran, was held at the American University of Madaba. This conference was concluded on 27 October with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Maroun Laham, Patriarchal Vicar for Jordan.

THE GREAT PILGRIMAGE OF THE GERMAN LIEUTENANCY TO THE HOLY LAND

The Germany Lieutenancy led a group of 460 pilgrims, including 250 Dames and Knights of the Order, to the Holy Land last September. Twenty-five new members were invested on this occasion. This Lieutenancy is 80 years old, and is well known for its generosity. It comprises 1,400 members (17% are women and 12% priests). Its current Lieutenant, Heinrich Dickmann, indicates that the average age – 49 years – is decreasing; proof of the dynamism and importance of younger members who open new perspectives. The Patriarch, Archbishop Fouad Twal, noted: "Since the late nineteenth century, the Order has funded the construction of 44 patriarchal schools in Israel, Palestine and Jordan, with a commitment to funding operating costs". The Patri-

arch wished to acknowledge, in particular, the contribution of the German Lieutenancy to the Patriarchate, notably to the needs of the Patriarchal Seminary in Beit Jala, but also everything relating to medical, social, humanitarian needs (notably in Gaza), and schools (scholarships, studies, renovating schools) ... He also noted the participation of colleagues from Germany in renovations or constructions that the diocese has implemented: the church of Aqaba (Jordan), the annex to the Rameh school, the University of Bethlehem, the church and youth centre in Rafidia, the school and playground at Bir Zeit". The Patriarch also pointed out that the 68 parishes of the Diocese of the Holy Land are supported by the Order "thanks to the generosity of its members."

THE INAUGURATION OF THE PRINTING HOUSE OF THE PATRIARCHATE

On Saturday 19 October 2013 the Printing House of the Latin Patriarchate was inaugurated in the presence of Mgr Fouad Twal and an Italian delegation of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. It is the culmination of a series of upgrades and expansions enabling the Patriar-



chate to publish its documents quickly and in the best possible quality. The small team of the printing house of the Latin Patriarchate has been working since the year 2000 in the new buildings at Beit Jala, just beside the diocesan seminary. These new and vast premises enable printers to work in much better conditions. Before 2000, the printers were in a small room in the Latin Patriarchate. After the construction of the new buildings, it was necessary to renew the printing equipment to improve the quality and speed of printing of the quarterly newsletters and bulletins of the Latin Patriarchate, Liturgical ordo, pastoral letters and publications of the bishops and priests of the diocese.

The Latin Patriarch blessed the new equipment in the presence of the printing team, a delegation of Italian Knights, the Director General of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Father Humam Khzouz, and the Chancellor of the diocese, Father George Ayoub. This printing house is a sign of the ever-fruitful collaboration between the Latin Patriarchate and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre which is, more than ever, true to its mission of supporting the works of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.

NEWS OF THE ORDER AND ITS LIEUTENANCIES

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ORDER IN BRAZIL

During the international pilgrimage of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Rome in September 2013, an investiture ceremony was held in the Papal Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls for the ten Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy of São Paulo in Brazil, including its new Lieutenant, Manuel R. Tavares de Almeida Filho, and other members of the Order from France.

This historic celebration, which took place during the Year of Faith, gives us the opportunity to discover a little more about the presence of the Order in Brazil, the largest Catholic country in the world by number of baptized. There are close to 200 members, including some fifty Dames in the two Lieutenancies of Rio and São Paulo, and the Magisterial Delegation in São Salvador da Bahia.

The Order has found new life in this

country: both its recent renaissance in São Paulo and its foundation in São Salvador da Bahia reflect a wider dynamism which is taking place throughout South America. Currently a leading figure of the universal Church, Cardinal Odilo Pedro Scherer, Archbishop of São Paulo, is the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for his immense diocese, which was the first Lieutenancy of the Order to have a woman at its head, in the late 90s.

Editorial note: help us to develop this section by sending us your news and testimonies directly concerning the life of the Lieutenancies to the Communication Service of the Grand Magisterium: comunicazione@oessh.va

