

# News Letter



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## Reflections of the Grand Master

### IN SUPPORT OF OUR LATIN PATRIARCHATE

It was my pleasure to attend the Installation of Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa as Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate in September. Having spent twelve years as Custos of the Franciscans in the Holy Land he is so very well versed on the challenges facing Christians there as he is experienced in dealing, with trust and respect, with the many religious and political communities that claim that Land as their own.

The Supreme Pontiffs gave our Order the mission of helping the Church in the Holy Land, and particularly the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. In all these years, in addition to the fulfillment of the needs of the latter, we made significant efforts to support the Catholic institutions that do not depend on the Patriarchate as well as to help many initiatives of the Eastern Catholic Churches. However, in this particular moment, I want from now on to publicly guarantee our availability and our total support to Archbishop Pizzaballa in the delicate service which Pope Francis has decided to assign him.



*During the installation of the new Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem on 21 September 2016, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, assured Mgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa of his support and that of all the Knights and Dames.*

The Archbishop, as he declared in his speech given on September 21<sup>st</sup>, gave himself the task of "acceptance, listening, discernment and orientation of the path of the Church in the next years." During his episcopal consecration, in Bergamo on September 10<sup>th</sup>, he had already expressed the auspice that "the ability to meet and accept each other starts



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**IMPRESSUM** GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM  
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again in Jerusalem, building bridges, roads and not walls, for us and for all the Church."

This exacting agenda encompasses broad horizons that compel us to demonstrate our spiritual proximity to the new Apostolic Administrator through our most efficacious means, prayer. Material tools must also be made available to realize it and, as an Order, we have a particular responsibility to provide him with all the necessary resources.

Therefore, I appeal urgently to our members to make further efforts with their usual generosity in order to make the necessary means available to Archbishop Pizzaballa.

I am sure – and for this I thank them – that Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates will know how to satisfy these expectations, with conscience and loyalty. I, together with

my closest collaborators and the whole Grand Magisterium, commit to remain in contact with the Patriarchate and coordinate our combined effort to the best of our abilities. On the other hand, I am certain

that our new Archbishop knows very well the importance of his own duties and is aware that our attentive management of the donations from Knights and Dames is necessary for the efficient fulfillment of the mission given by the Holy See.

I know that I can depend on all of you and, therefore, express my highest gratitude. I also restate our spiritual and material proximity to Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, wishing full success upon the challenging path he has started to tread.

**Edwin Cardinal O'Brien**

**“ Therefore, I appeal urgently to our members to make the necessary means available to Archbishop Pizzaballa ”**



## The Order in Union with the Universal Church

# THE SPIRIT OF ASSISI ALSO BLOWS IN THE HOLY LAND

**E**ach year, September 21 is celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Peace. The United Nations General Assembly has declared that this day will be devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within countries and between peoples. The day before, in Assisi, Pope Francis attended the 30th anniversary of the inter-religious meeting of prayer for peace held for

the first time on October 27, 1986 on the initiative of St. John Paul II.

"We are called to be "trees of life" that absorb the contamination of indifference and restore the pure air of love to the world," the Pope said during his meditation in the Lower Basilica of Saint Francis. Commenting on the theme "A thirst for peace, religions and cultures in dialogue", he recalled that "from



*From the city of Saint Francis, religious leaders addressed to the world a call to peace, thirty years after the first interreligious meeting in Assisi was organised, at the initiative of Saint John-Paul II.*

OSSERVATORE ROMANO



the side of Christ on the Cross water flowed, that symbol of the Spirit who gives life (cf. *Jn* 19:34); so that from us, his faithful, compassion may flow forth for all who thirst today". Thus side by side, almost 500 religious leaders from nine different faiths came together to pray for three days, thanks to the Community of Sant'Egidio, together with the Diocese of Assisi and the Franciscan religious family.

At the opening of these days for peace, on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Italian President Sergio Mattarella, a fervent Catholic and member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, stressed that the culture of dialogue may prevail over obscurantism. Many of the interventions were followed by intense moments of prayer. The Grand Mufti of Lebanon pointed out, for example, how terrorism kills Islam.

There were references to the situation in the Middle East. One of the panels held on September was dedicated to "Living together among religions in Israel." The auxiliary bishop of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for Israel, Msgr. Giacinto Boulos Marcuzzo spoke on behalf of the Catholic Church. In his intervention, he outlined three levels of dialogue that are particular to the Holy Land. First, dialogue around the Word of God that if, on the one hand, shows how the very idea of dialogue comes from Revelation, from the dialogue between God and man, on the other hand rarely enters into issues related to justice given the problematic nature and sensitivity of the situation between the various communities. Second, dialogue in this Land is connected to the Holy Places which represent a unique opportunity for man and God to draw close

to each other. Finally, we must not forget the dialogue of the pilgrims who, belonging to a particular religious tradition, treasure the experience of being in a land that is also holy for other communities.

During the Christian ecumenical prayer that took place before the closing ceremony, a candle was lit for the various countries whose populations are living in situations of conflict. One was lit for the Holy Land, so dear to the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre.

"Peace alone is holy, not war" the Pope insisted in his address in the late afternoon in the Basilica Square, affirming, as had Benedict XVI, "that violence in all its forms

does not represent "the true nature of religion. It is the antithesis of religion and contributes to its destruction". "We do not have weapons. We believe, however, in the meek and humble strength of prayer" continued Francis, adding that "the clear waters of peace for which humanity thirsts: these waters do not flow from

**D**uring the Second Vatican Council, with *Gaudium and Spes* documents and *Nostra Aetate*, Pope Paul VI opened the way for dialogue with our brothers and sisters of other religions. To implement this dialogue, John Paul II, Benedict XVI – who was present in Assisi for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first meeting – and of course Pope Francis have charted the same course. The course of a Church renewed by the council.

the deserts of pride and personal interests, from the dry earth of profit at any cost and the arms trade".

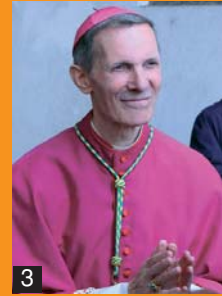
During the closing ceremony, Andrea Riccardi, founder of the Sant'Egidio community, likened the religions to "fountains of hope" for those who thirst for peace. Each religious leader lit a candle, a sign of the light that dispels darkness, while a "call for peace" was entrusted to children around the world so they can in turn transmit it to all the rulers of the planet. "May a new season finally begin, in which the globalized world can become a family of peoples", was the hope, with a particular emphasis on the fact that "we can all be peacemakers."



## THREE NEW CARDINALS ARE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

Three members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre have emerged from amongst the new cardinals whose names were announced this Sunday 9 October by Pope Francis. We offer our congratulations to Mgr. Blase J. CUPICH (1), archbishop of Chicago and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy USA North Central, Mgr. Carlos Osoro SIERRA (2), archbishop of Madrid, and Mgr. Renato CORTI (3), archbishop emeritus of Novara.

We assure them of our spiritual union with them, something which the Grand Master will convey to them personally during the Mass presided on by the Holy Father, next 20 November in Rome, the day after the Consistory. This celebration will gather them together with the other Cardinals for the closure of the Year of Mercy.



## THE CHARISMA OF MOTHER TERESA IN THE HOLY LAND

The presence of the charisma of Mother Teresa, proclaimed a saint by the Holy Father Sunday, September 4 in St. Peter's Square, illuminates the streets of the Holy Land in the joy of a smile and in service.

The Missionary Sisters of Charity arrived in the Diocese of Jerusalem in 1970 and today have active communities in Gaza, Jerusalem, Nablus, and Bethlehem and, in Jordan, in Amman, Ermaimim and Rusaifeh. Some are active in reception centers, caring for the elderly or those with disabilities and giving support to poor families. In other realities they are a roving presence visiting families in their homes, and even enlivening catechism.

Moreover, in Nazareth, there is a community of the Contemplative Missionary Brothers of Charity. Besides the three classic vows – obedience, poverty, and chastity – the brothers profess a fourth official vow: to freely and wholeheartedly serve the poorest

of the poor. On June 15, 2013, on the occasion of the solemn profession of five members of the congregation, the patriarchal vicar for Israel, Msgr. Giacinto Boulos Marcuzzo blessed their new chapel dedicated to the Holy Family of Nazareth, like all the chapels of the Contemplative Missionaries of Charity. The altar contains the relics of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Saint Mariam Baouardy, Saint Marie Alphonsine Ghattas and Blessed Charles de Foucauld.

Mother Teresa made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1982 and, on that occasion, visited the Houses of Peace (Dar al-Salam) of her congregation in Amman (Tla el-Ali), Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nablus and Gaza. She also visited the seminary of the Latin Patriarchate in Beit Jala where she wrote on the guestbook that love is the foundation of a priest's life.

The Missionaries of Charity have several active centers across the Middle East. We remember, with deep emotion, the





*The Saint from Calcutta during her visit of the seminary in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem at Beit Jala, in November 1982. Today the Missionaries of Charity, the women's religious institute founded by Mother Teresa, who was canonised last 4 September, have seven communities in the territory of the Patriarchate.*

community in Yemen which recently witnessed the violent loss of four sisters killed on March 4, one of which, Sister Anselm, had lived for some time at one of the houses in Jordan.

During the press conference for the canonization of Mother Teresa on September 2 at the Vatican Press Office, Sister Mary Prema Pierick, superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, responded to a journalist's question asking what the future saint of Calcutta would have said

about the current situation in the Middle East: "Dear brothers, love one another, take care of each other and come to each other's aid because we are all children of the same heavenly Father and are created to love and be loved. The evil that we commit in conflict is to no one's advantage but God wants to see us united".

We join in prayer and thanksgiving for this woman of God whose life has brought many fruits to the Holy Land and throughout the world.

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## Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

# HUNDREDS OF KNIGHTS AND DAMES FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF BLESSED BARTOLO LONGO

*At the decision of Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, there was a jubilee pilgrimage of Knights and Dames from all over Italy to the Marian shrine in Pompeii, during the month of the Rosary on Saturday 15 October 2016, for the Year of Mercy which comes to a close on 20 November*

"We were more than 800 pilgrims, 550 of which were Knights and Dames from all over Italy and also from Switzerland", said the Lieutenant for Italy South Tyrrhenian,

Knight Grand Cross Giovanni Napolitano, who, incidentally, was highly congratulated by the Grand Master for the perfect organisation of this event which will go down in history.



*During the beautiful and moving Mass at Pompeii presided on by Cardinal O'Brien, Grand Master, Mgr. Antonio Franco, Assessor of the Order, reminded us in his homily that, "in Bartolo Longo we have the model of a Christian who experienced the Mercy of the Father, and who felt compelled to be a living witness of this love, which expressed itself through works of charity". He concluded with a prayer in which the pilgrims united: "May Mary touch our heart and make us merciful, attentive, sensitive, and striving ourselves to be instruments of merciful love".*





Order of the Holy Sepulchre beatified to this day.

Model of Christian life, of humility and selflessness for all Knights and Dames, they had the chance to personally invoke him, notably through the prayer for his canonisation (see next page).

After that, leaving on procession through the streets of the Marian city, the pilgrims of the Order passed through the Holy Door of the shrine, before attending midmorning Mass. The reliquary containing the body of Blessed Bartolo Longo had, exceptionally, been placed close to the altar underneath the well-known image of the Blessed

During a morning conference on the Pompeian charism, which used Bartolo Longo's testimony of a Christian life, the participants of the pilgrimage learnt about all the works of charity which were built from nothing, on just 'a penny a month', also realising the truth of the message of God's love, given through the mediation of Our Lady, to the only lay member of the

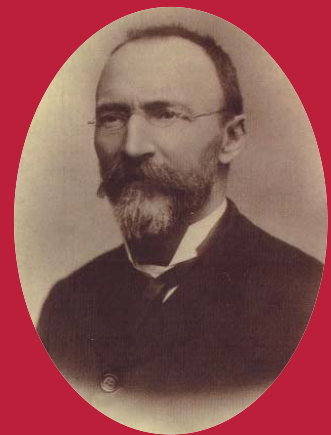
Virgin of Pompeii. Welcoming the congregation at the beginning of the Eucharistic celebration Msgr. Tommaso Caputo, the archbishop prelate and pontifical delegate for Pompeii – himself a member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – strongly underlined that, "through the intercession of the Blessed, the Knights and Dames today entrust their fervent desire to



## 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE «DIES NATALIS» OF BARTOLO LONGO

**B**artolo Longo died on 5 October 1926, exactly 90 years ago, and he was proclaimed Blessed by Saint John-Paul II on 26 October 1980. In the homily for his beatification, the Holy Father said of him; "through his love for Mary, he became author, apostle of the Gospel, promoter of the Holy Rosary, founder of the famous shrine despite enormous difficulties and challenges; through love for Mary, he created institutions of love, he became a beggar for the children of the poor, he transformed Pompeii into a lively city of human and Christian goodwill; through love for Mary, he silently carried trials and tribulations, going by way of a long Gethsemane, always confident in Providence, always obedient to the Pope and to the Church."

Pope Pius X made the Good Samaritan of Pompeii a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre in recognition of his action in service of the most disadvantaged, in which he saw the suffering Christ. His humanitarian and spiritual works attest to the grace of God triumphing over the ruin of sin, and show the greatness of God's mercy.





live a Christian life of charity, and to increase the works of moral and material support helping those Christians of the Holy Land and the Middle East." In his homily Msgr. Antonio Franco, Assessor of the Order, encouraged the Knights and Dames to experience deeply the grace of forgiveness in the final days of the Jubilee of Mercy.

After sharing a joyful meal as a family – raising the idea even then of a future international pilgrimage of the Order to Pompeii, perhaps after the canonisation of Bartolo Longo – the pilgrims came back to the shrine at the beginning of the afternoon for a time of Eucharistic Adoration and the Holy Rosary, honouring also their patron saint just a few days from the feast of Our Lady of Palestine, liturgically celebrated on 25 October.

**Contact:**

**Sanctuary of Pompeii**  
**Piazza Bartolo Longo, 1**  
**80045 Pompei (NA) - Italy**

**PRAYER FOR THE CANONISATION  
 OF BLESSED BARTOLO LONGO**

*God, Father of Mercy,  
 we praise you for having given to the history of  
 mankind Blessed Bartolo Longo,  
 ardent apostle of the rosary  
 and luminous example of layman committed  
 to the evangelical testimony of Faith and Charity.*

*We thank you for his extraordinary spiritual path,  
 his prophetic intuitions,  
 his untiring attentiveness towards the least and the  
 marginalised,  
 the devotion with which he served your Church  
 as a true son and constructed the new town of love  
 in Pompeii.*

*We ask of you, to grant that  
 Blessed Bartolo Longo may soon be counted  
 amongst the saints of the Universal Church,  
 so that all might follow him as a model and  
 benefit from his intercession.  
 Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.  
 Amen.*

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## THE GRAND MASTER GOES OUT TO MEET MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

September and October were full of appointments for the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. On September 3, His Eminence was in Madaba, Jordan, for the awarding of diplomas to new University graduates. From September 5 to 18, the Grand Master travelled to the Pacific region where he presided over Investiture ceremonies in Guam, Taiwan and the Philippines (see details). September 21, Cardinal O'Brien was again in the Holy Land in order to welcome the new Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, on the occasion of his solemn entry into Jerusalem. The next port of call, on September 24, was France where His Eminence celebrated the investiture ceremony of about thirty new Knights and Dames in Paris.

The month of October began with a visit overseas for the inauguration of the new US Western Lieutenancy Grand Prior on October 1, followed by an Investiture in Tucson, Arizona, the next day. On October 4, Cardinal O'Brien received the Adelia Prize, awarded by the Saint Pius Foundation in Tuckahoe, New York. On October 8, the Grand Master was in Barcelona for Mass for the Investiture of the Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain. Another important moment this Month of the Rosary was the Jubilee pilgrimage of the Italian Lieutenancies - strongly desired by Cardinal O'Brien - to Pompeii, the spiritual home of Blessed Bartolo Longo, to date the only lay member of the Order who has been beatified.

After presiding over the ceremony of investiture of the new Hungarian members in Budapest on October 22, the month ended with the usual fall meeting of the Grand Magisterium at the headquarters of the Palazzo della Rovere in Rome. This year the meeting was held on October 25 and 26 allowing members to celebrate together, on the very feast day October 25, the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine.

Upcoming appointments for the Grand Master include a trip to the US in November, where he will be the main speaker at the Eucharistic Congress in North Dakota with a lecture titled "And Mercy became flesh and continues to become flesh today." In addition to this important event, Cardinal O'Brien will visit Northeastern USA and Eastern USA Lieutenancies celebrating investiture ceremonies in Boston and New York. **E.D.**



## IN ASIA A WARM WELCOME TO THE GRAND MASTER

**F**rom September 5 to 18, the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien traveled to the Pacific and East Asia for two weeks of visits during which he celebrated three Investiture ceremonies: in Guam, Taiwan and the Philippines, where the Order is growing.

In Guam, the Grand Master, who was Military Ordinary Archbishop for the United States of America for 10 years, celebrated Mass in the navy and air force military bases. After the Investiture, held on September 8, His Eminence received a gift from the Magistral Delegation: a copy of the statue of the patron saint of Guam, Saint Marian Kamalen. The statue dates to 1700 but its origin is shrouded in mystery. Nonetheless, it has a rich cultural history that stretches back to 1941, during World War II when Japan bombed Guam on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December



8. The statue of Saint Marian Kamalen was placed in safe and guarded by a girl who is now member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Cardinal O'Brien's tour continued to Taiwan where, in addition to the joy of another Investiture, celebrated on September 11, the Grand Master was able to meet the new vice president Chen Chien-jen, a member of the Order, who had recently visited Rome and the Vatican.

The last leg of this transatlantic trip was in the Philippines, a majority Catholic Asian country. The Grand Master was welcomed by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for the Philippines, Metropolitan Archbishop of Manila and President of Caritas Internationalis, who concelebrated the ceremony of Investiture of new Knights and Dames of the Order held September 15. While in Manila, His Eminence had the opportunity to visit the shrine of San Antonio, the oldest church in the city. In addition, Cardinal O'Brien was warmly welcomed at the Catholic University of St. Thomas where a lunch was held in his honor. On that occasion the Grand Master gave a speech on supporting the Holy Land.

The Lieutenancy for the Philippines, informed of the difficult situation which many of their compatriots face in Israel as migrant workers, has decided to send a priest to support this growing foreign community from a pastoral point of view.

*Previous page: top left, Cardinal O'Brien welcomed by the president of the Padre Pio Foundation, Luciano Lamorcarca, on the occasion of the Adelia prize giving last 4 October. At the bottom, a photo of the Knights and Dames gathered together after the ceremony of Investitures in the Philippines and Mass concelebrated by Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, himself a member of the Order.*

*On this page: top, the statue of Saint Maria Kamalen, patron saint of Guam, and, on the right, the feminine presence well represented amongst the new members of the Order in Taiwan.*



## THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM'S AUTUMN MEETING

**I**t was in the presence and with the active participation of the new Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, that the members of the Grand Magisterium were gathered together, with the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, on October 25 and 26, in Rome. During the second day of the session, Mass in honour of *Our Lady of Palestine* was presided by Msgr. Pizzaballa in the church of Santo Spirito in Sassia, Roman shrine of the Divine Mercy, before the annual reception in the Palazzo della Rovere, seat of the Order, where Cardinal Edwin O'Brien received his guests, of whom Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State for His Holiness Pope Francis, was at the top of the list.

At the beginning of the meeting, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien warmly welcomed Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, whom he had accompanied just one month before during his solemn entrance into Jerusalem. The Grand Master equally greeted Msgr. Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin, Archbishop of Tours and Consultor of the Grand Magisterium, future head of the Order in France, as well as the ambassador Alfredo Bastianelli, new Chancellor of the Order.

The Governor General Agostino Borromeo thanked the cardinal for his travels which had already led him to meet 90% of the Lieutenancies, reinforcing the dynamism and renewing the enthusiasm of members everywhere, but particularly in countries far from Europe. He also announced that Msgr. Pizzaballa had joined the Order, and is nominated for Pro Grand Prior. He praised



the expansion of the Order, notably in Northern Europe, with the creation of the Sweden-Denmark Lieutenancy, and its continuing development in Asia and the Pacific region, for which Paul Bartley is becoming Vice Governor General.

Msgr. Pizzaballa then described the situation in the Holy Land, expressing his wish to personally meet all the priests of the Patriarchate, and to create councils planned by canon law. An 'audit' managed by an outside organisation should allow a decisive step in financial reorganisation. The young archbishop, who enjoys the complete confidence of the Holy Father, has launched a call to the members of the Order, to not hesitate in participating in this joint reflexion, according to their competencies, showing availability and openness to dialogue, and willing transparent communication between the two institutions. He further asked that the Order participates in the current restoration works, even just symbolically, for





*The time of the Grand Magisterium's meeting always starts with a Eucharistic celebration. In commenting on the Gospel (Lk. 13: 18-21) Cardinal O'Brien held in high esteem the greatness of the vocation of the members of the Order, reminding us that, "God sees all the potential of our life, even in the darkest times and when we see ourselves as unworthy, it is that which we can only imagine". The following day, Msgr. Pizzaballa emphasized the gratuity of Salvation, taking as reference Luke who gives us the image of the narrow door (Lk. 13: 22-30): only those who have experienced being saved as something independent to their good works, can pass through this door. "Accepting the fact that Salvation is free, is truly to take the 'narrow' path, because for us it would be easier to buy it through our works thus not owing anything to anyone." But God invites us to enter into the "inverted" logic of his Kingdom.*

the aedicule of the Holy Sepulchre, the Basilica which has forever been considered the cathedral of the Catholic Church.

The meeting was followed by Fr Imad Twal's (responsible for the economical questions of the Patriarchate) presentation shining a light on the specific expenditures of the seminary, where numerous future priests are studying, and taking stock of the aid brought by the Order to the parish and the three Catholic schools in Gaza (936,000 dollars).

The Holy Land Commission of the Grand Magisterium then presented their report following the site visit conducted last summer by Bartholomew McGettrick and Heinrich Dickmann. Solidarity and subsidiarity characterise the action of the Commission serving the projects of the Patriarchate assumed by the Grand Magisterium, especially in the social and educational domains, which remains attentive to people in a dynamic of accountability and empowerment.

The preliminary report of the Grand Magisterium's accounts, put together by the Engineer Piercarlo Visconti, appears to be very positive; the expenditures have dropped and the members' donations do not cease to increase in proportion to the international

development of the Order.

The work of the Grand Magisterium has also helped the schools of the Patriarchate, which concern nearly 20,000 students whose future is threatened by financial difficulties, especially with respect to the need for a rise in teachers' salaries. In accordance with suggestions of the Grand Magisterium, which have been expressed many times in the past, Msgr. Pizzaballa plans to unite forces progressively through bringing all the Christian schools together, including those beyond the Patriarchate, with the aim of defending their common interests.

In concluding the meeting, amongst other subjects dealt with in-depth, Chancellor Bastianelli highlighted the remarkable increase of members between 1 October 2015 and 30 September 2016 (1457 admissions, being nearly 50% more than the year before). The next meeting of the Grand Magisterium will be held 3 and 4 May 2017.

**François Vayne**

**Editor's note:**

A more complete report of the meeting will be published in the *Annals 2016*, the Grand Magisterium's annual review.



## THE SOCIAL NETWORKS OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM



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At the beginning of last summer, parallel to the creation of a new website in five languages ([www.oessh.va](http://www.oessh.va)), the Grand Magisterium created a Facebook page and a Twitter account to increase the daily communication between all members of the Order. The 30,000 Dames and Knights of the Order in the world and their friends, are therefore invited to join us on these social networks in order to testify to the dynamism of the life of the Lieutenancies in service of the culture of encounter in the Holy Land.

### The Order and the Holy Land

## “GUIDING THE JOURNEY OF THE CHURCH FOR THE COMING YEARS”

*A retrospective on the events of recent months in the Holy Land  
in light of the horizon indicated by the new Apostolic  
Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem*

On September 10, the new Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, received episcopal ordination from the hands of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, in Bergamo. On September 21, he made his

solemn entry as Apostolic Administrator into Jerusalem. Among the first to welcome him, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order, who warmly greeted Msgr. Pizzaballa on behalf of all the Knights and Dames of the Order. After entering the Old City through Jaffa Gate, the procession accompanied the new Apostolic



Administrator to the Co-Cathedral of the Latin Patriarchate where the community prayed vespers with him. In the next pages we publish excerpts from the moving speech given by Msgr. Pizzaballa on this occasion and during which he reiterated his desire to "welcome, listen, discern and, together, guide the journey of the Church for the coming years."

September also saw changes in Israeli public life with the death of former Israeli President Shimon Peres, who had completed his term in 2014, shortly after attending the meeting of prayer for peace in the Holy Land inside the Vatican Gardens at the invitation of Pope Francis, along with the Palestinian President Abu Mazen and the Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I.

### A YOUTHFUL SUMMER

When the holidays arrive, the young people of the Holy Land have the opportunity to undertake a variety of extracurricular activities. The Saint James Vicariate for Hebrew-speaking Catholics organized a six-week summer camp in Jerusalem and one in Tel Aviv, for about 65 children, with many sports, artistic, recreational and spiritual activities. The camp was preceded by ten days at Deir Rafat Sanctuary. When similar initiatives are organized, the experience is not just for the

children involved but also for the young volunteers who come from all four corners of the globe: from those who live closest to Tel Aviv, to Carol who came from Brazil.

This summer, 700 adolescents of the diocese of Jerusalem, were also able to take part in World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. The group left on July 18 from Jerusalem. On the website of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, one young man recounts his experience, grateful for all he received from God and from the young Poles who have welcomed his group with open arms. He also points out that the cornerstones of WYDs are prayer and fraternity. "It's important to talk to God often to avoid spiritual aridity. Prayers and the liturgy of the hours, the Mass itself, are not sufficient for those seeking intimacy with God. That's why, even during the holidays (especially during the days of World Youth Day), the Christian must look for a moment in his day to gather in silence and carry out an examination of conscience, to internalize what is given to him in order to live, to understand in depth the meaning of the experience, and this, despite the temptations that can distract a person from these precious moments. The magnificent landscapes of this country that has suffered many occupations, favor this exercise, the movement of the soul toward God and what is at its depths".



*The youth of the Diocese of Jerusalem, in Krakow for World Youth Day, in July: an unforgettable experience.*





*During restoration of the Basilica of the Nativity, at Bethlehem, a seventh angel was discovered, a mosaic nearly three metres tall, which prompted Pope Francis say, addressing the representatives of the Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches: "Your work should always be guided by the certitude that, under the material and moral incrustations (...) is found a shining face like that of the angel of the mosaic. (...) You contribute to this 'restoration' so that the face of the Church may visibly reflect the light of Christ, the Word made flesh."*

## **THE BASILICA OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN JERUSALEM AND OF THE NATIVITY IN BETHLEHEM**

The two basilicas which are so central to the Christian faith and prayer life of the local community and the pilgrims simply cannot remain closed. So, in recent months during restoration work, access to the faithful has always been allowed. The restoration of the Basilica of the Nativity – in which it was possible to save about 200 out of 2000 square meters of original mosaics – also provided a surprise: through a technique called thermography, the figure of a seventh angel has been brought to light, a mosaic almost 3 meters high.

## **THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS**

During the summer, the Patriarchate was shaken by the sad news of the death of Father Faysal Hijazeen, 55, director of the Latin Patriarchate schools in Palestine and Israel. In August, before the reopening of schools, the Apostolic Administrator of the Patriarchate, Archbishop Pizzaballa, appointed as his successor Father Iyad Twal. We wish him well in his new assignment.

In early September, the situation of the 47 Christian schools enrolling 33,000 students in Israel is once again one of financial gravity. The patriarchal vicar for Israel, Msgr. Giacinto Boulos Marcuzzo spoke to the French section of Vatican Radio, recalling the agreement that was

reached last year with the Israeli government. There were two main points of the agreement: the payment of 50 million shekels from the state to Christian schools and the formation of a bilateral commission to study the basic issues concerning the Christian schools compared to those of State schools.

Msgr. Marcuzzo confirms that to date, no payment was made by the authorities. "The last proposal advanced by the ministry was to present projects for the future that would be funded but we said no because we're not talking about the future but to offset some of the subsidies that we were not given in the past". As for the bilateral commission, the works were completed in March 2016, and a list of recommendations was delivered but even on that front, there have been no concrete steps forward.

Christians represent 2% of the population and 4% of the school-capacity yet, in universities, 30% of students were educated in a Christian school. "The state of Israel should be proud of the quality of these schools, and should help to continue to bring forth these fruits in abundance," says the patriarchal vicar.

There was a positive initiative to promote the co-existence before the start of school in Jerusalem, where about 400 Arab and Jewish children together with their parents gathered at the YMCA center. "We gather around what we have in common," said one of the organizers. One of the activities offered to children, was to write blessings





for each other on a huge billboard in the center of which stands the inscription "love kindness" in Hebrew, Arabic and English. "It will hang outside of the YMCA on King David Street but then we'll take it and we'll make a cover for the scrolls of the Torah in our synagogue," said Dasee Berkowitz, manager of educational programs at Kehillat Zion synagogue.

Lessons are also recommencing at Bethlehem University, a center of excellence for higher studies in Palestine, in which young people can choose to attend classes in five faculties (Nursing, Education, Economics, Sciences and Fine Arts) and in the Institute of Hospitality and Tourism. During the summer, the Order's Commission for the Holy Land undertook one of its two annual visits to the Holy Land. One of the scheduled meetings included a meeting with Peter Bray, Vice Chancellor of this university run by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, a congregation founded by John Baptist De La Salle. In an interview he granted us, Bray shares what most motivates him in his mission: "I find it motivating to sit and listen a student who speaks of the fact that his house was demolished for the second time and hear his reflections about the fact that the Israelis have taken his home, his land, his freedom, but they cannot take his education! This is the resilience that I see in so many students who have to reckon with the restrictions related to employment and that despite this live a full life. "[Read the full interview with Peter Bray](#)" We are deeply grateful to the Knights and Dames who are from different parts of the world for their help – said the Vice Chancellor Bray – since 1995, the Order has donated more than \$ 6.6 million to the University of Bethlehem".

*The Rachel centre is a new structure for welcoming new-borns and infants – up to three years old – of immigrants in Jerusalem. In the holy city there is also a space open to meetings on an interreligious dimension, the House of prayer known as "Amen", a word common to the prayer of Jews, Christians and Muslims.*



## NEW CENTERS IN JERUSALEM

In September two new centers were also opened in Jerusalem. The Vicariate of St. James opened a new reception center for infants and young children – up to 3 years – for migrants: the Rachel center ([see article](#)). In addition, after a year and a half of meetings and discussions between religious leaders of Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities, September 5 the doors of the "Amen" House of Prayer opened. The initiative began as the vision of wanting to create a physical space but above all a spiritual space for those among us who, regardless of their faith, want to share our love for Jerusalem and meet at a place of prayer. Christian promoters include Father Rafic, responsible for the Hebrew speaking community in Jerusalem, Sister Esther, a Coptic Orthodox nun, and Father Alberto Pari, a Franciscan.

**Elena Dini**

*For more information about the many news items we receive from the land of Jesus, visit the Holy Land section of [www.oessh.va](http://www.oessh.va).*



## A MOTTO FOR THE CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND: "TO BE A WITNESS OF UNITY"

**T**he new Apostolic Administrator for the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa made his solemn entrance into Jerusalem last 21 September, accompanied notably by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The historic speech which the Apostolic Administrator gave on this occasion, in the co-cathedral, outlines his missionary programme for the years to come. Essential extracts upon which to meditate and to go deeper:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
I thank you for having come here from many different parts of the Holy Land. I greet in particular  
His Eminence Edwin Cardinal O'Brien,  
The Heads of Catholic Churches,  
The Heads of the Christian Churches,  
The Consuls General,  
The Palestinian Delegation,  
Priests and Religious,  
The Seminarians from Beit Jala and Domus Galilaeae,  
The Magnificat Choir,  
All Priests and Parishes,  
And Friends,

[...] I began my service on the day when the Church commemorates the birth of John the Baptist. And inspired by his character, I have considered the beginning of my ministry as a "Prepare the Way... open, straight ways, free from all that hinders the encounter with Him and between us." And I added: "I want for us and for the whole Church the ability to meet and greet one another, building roads and bridges and not walls would go out again from Jerusalem."

I can only repeat this wish. Welcoming, listening, discerning and together, guiding



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*Msgr. Pizzaballa during his official entrance into Jerusalem, accompanied notably by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.*

the path of the Church for the coming years.

I know it will not be easy. I am not naive. After the joy of the transfiguration, there is the descent from the Mount, in ordinary and everyday life, with its share of joys certainly, but also of problems, sufferings and divisions. And in Jerusalem, and more generally in the Holy Land, the divisions are not lacking. They are rough, and in our daily lives they cause harm. We see it all the time: in political and social life, in a political conflict that ruins life for all, in dignity offended, in the lack of respect for the basic rights of people; we also see it in inter-religious relations, between our churches and also often within our respective churches. The devil, who is the origin of the divisions, seems to have taken up residence in Jerusalem.



Well then, precisely in such a difficult context and one that does not allow us to create illusions, we are called to be Church, that is, to give our witness of unity. Here, in a word, in this torn and divided environment, the first announcement to be made is unity, which begins with us, within our house.

[...] Jerusalem recalls Easter. In the Holy Sepulchre it is always Easter. Easter signifies passing: from death to life, from darkness to light, from the distrust of the disciples of Emmaus to the excitement of the apostles at Pentecost. We must, we want, then, to become experts in a life that comes from the Cross, a life that is not resigned to death, but one that conquers with love.

### **“I want to be bishop of all and for all”**

I want to carry out therefore my service as a bishop, in the light of Easter. Faced with the many signs of death in and around us, I would like to accompany this our church in going over again its own history, as Jesus did with the disciples of Emmaus, to discover a Presence that never abandoned us and that is the source of eternal life. And to ask ourselves if we really believe this. If we truly believe that Christ is the source of strength and life.

In fact, our human strategies, often conceived hastily and superficially, cannot save the Church and its institutions. Our greatness is not measured in the number of undertakings that we can make and not even in the degree of consensus that we will reach. All this passes quickly. And perhaps we should ask ourselves if we have spent too much energy and attention to what instead is secondary. *“Sufficit tibi gratia mea”*. First of all, seek and accept the grace of God.

We must start from the awareness of the presence of Christ among us. It is this awareness that must be at the origin of our choices and our projects. Everything else

comes after. I ask all of you to help me in this service.

[...] I desire that the different souls that make up our church, one but very diverse, might collaborate ever more and better. In this regard, I wrote a few days ago to the priests of the Patriarchate:

“The Church of Jerusalem, is rich in initiatives, even in prestigious institutions (I think of the theological and biblical institutes, the Universities of Bethlehem and Madaba), institutes of religious men and women, of movements, of many schools that play an important service and which are a much-desired pastoral determinant; we have unique and special relations with other Christian Churches, not to mention the necessity of coordination with the Eastern Catholic Churches; inter-relationship with Muslims and Jews is our daily bread, though never easy; the arrival of foreign workers and refugees both in Jordan and the Holy Land has brought new dynamics to our Church; in all our territories it becomes difficult to care for and to keep abreast of families, who increasingly move away from the Church; the presence of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world puts us in contact then with the universal Church that in Jerusalem, as on the day of Pentecost, continues to gather together; nor can we, moreover, ignore that we are in the Land where God’s Word was written and was fulfilled.”

Well, for me, being Church means that all these feel part of a single body, and participants with each other. I hope that this feeling is shared by you. I want to be bishop of all and for all. And I hope for the full cooperation of all.

May God sustain our path towards Him, open our eyes to the suffering of this Land and its inhabitants, and make us capable of consolation and comfort.

And to all of you goes my prayer and blessing.

+ **Pierbattista**



## The Life of the Lieutenancies

# THE FRENCH LIEUTENANCY GATHERED TOGETHER WITH THE GRAND MASTER

**A**bout thirty new Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre were knighted in the Cathedral of Saint-Louis des Invalides in Paris, last September 24, after the night vigil in the capitulary church of the French Lieutenancy. The Grand Master who presided over the ceremonies thanked His Excellency Pierre Murret-Labarthe, "who, at the head of the Lieutenancy, carried out a faithful and dynamic service under sometimes very difficult conditions," welcoming His Excellency Msgr. Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin, Archbishop of Tours, who

himself, from December 8 will temporarily assume the post of responsibility for the Lieutenancy. The homily during the Mass of Investitures was preached by Msgr. Luc Ravel, Bishop for the diocese of the French Armed Forces, on the theme of the mission of the Knights and Dames of the XXIst century. Extracts:

"I would say it is war that makes the knight, just as the abbey makes the monk, the marriage makes the husband and wife, poverty makes beggars, the Eucharist priests.



*Cardinal O'Brien, surrounded by the bishops and prelates, having concelebrated during the Investitures in Paris in the presence of those holding the highest offices in the Order, namely the Assessor, Msgr. Antonio Franco, and the Governor General Agostino Borromeo.*





And we are doubly at war: because the devil will never give up and because today this timeless struggle takes the form of a new concrete war, in which terror is the path and barbarism the explicit goal. Referring to the assassination of Father Jacques Hamel, Pope Francis did not hesitate to speak of the Devil quoting Father Jacques himself, "Begone, Satan!"

Each Knight is preparing for this war, for this difficulty, to walk in the face of the storm, for this conflict between the Kingdom and the world, to live it every day, as a battle. Violence. Battle. War. The Knight accepts them as part of his history, since it is part of the Church. He understands the frightening encounter, the dramatic mix of love and pain. He does not try to ignore injustice or close his eyes to flowing blood. He opens his eyes so that the blind see, he keeps watch while the others sleep, a lifetime is required to acquire the physical, psychological and spiritual skills to take his place in the front line, on the city walls, on the forefronts of thought. That's why he exists: To prepare before the battle and to face it without fear when it presents itself.

It is nothing new to speak of Christian life

in terms of front lines and rear guards. St. Paul explicitly calls Epaphroditus (*Phil 2: 25*) and Archippus (*Philemon 1, 1*) my "comrade in arms." The apostle has an acute awareness of being in the field to address "our war" (*2 Cor 10: 3-4*). He exhorts Timothy to fight "the good fight" (*1 Tim 1, 18*) and to be "a good soldier of Christ" (*2 Tim 2: 3*).

God offers love, the world imposes war. God invites to grace. The world raises its weapons. God calls to unity, the world destroys trust.

The Knight feels the call of God to stand firm in the breach, at the precise point of failure, the exact limit where, more than anywhere else, man lives terrible moments of terror, massive traumas of war. Where tectonic plates collide against each other, where the divine energies collide with the forces of death.

I am too familiar with the world of the soldier to speak of any other to you."

## FROM WYD IN POLAND TO "OLYMPIC GAMES" IN RAMALLAH: THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE'S SUMMER SERVICE FOR THE CHURCH

*During the months when normally activities wind down  
in anticipation of vacation, there are many possibilities to  
be at the service of young people around the world*

Just days after the end of the intense and moving World Youth Day experience in Krakow, a Knight of the Polish Lieutenancy, Janusz Kamiński, comments: "In 1984 I was 22 and I was in Rome when

John Paul II invited young people from all over the world by giving them the Jubilee Cross". That was the beginning of the World Youth Days and Janusz remembers "the warmth and care that I received in Rome





*Between the Olympic Games at Ramallah in Palestine, and WYD in Krakow, the members of the Order – of all generations – dedicated a lot in service of the Church last summer.*

from the organizers and the people who had hosted us. It was then that I decided I wanted to welcome young people in the future and this year finally I finally had the opportunity to do so".

Thus Janusz's home became an intercontinental guest house during the World Youth Day with three priests from Japan. "I think the most memorable and touching moment was when Japanese priests were leaving from our house, and they said "ittekimasu", which in Japan is used when someone is leaving one's own home and to which you respond "itterashai" which means "go and come back again". That was the best sign that they felt right at home".

Several other members of the Order opened the doors of their homes to welcome the young people who flocked to Krakow last July. Knight Jacek Antoni Rutkowski says: "Many have offered hospitality to pilgrims, prayed with them, and told them something about our nation and its history, including over 850 years of the Order in Poland", as well as having participated in the organization of the event itself. In particular, the Adoration Altar in Brzegi was created by the renowned Polish artist Mariusz Drapikowski, Knight Commander of the Order. Now that the celebrations are over, the altar will be brought to the Shrine of Our Lady, Mother of the Word, in Rwanda.

Meanwhile, a group of young French volunteers has left for the Holy Land where from July 20 to 30 they ran a summer camp in the Latin parish of Ramallah, offering ten-day of games, songs, discovery, learning



French and encounter on the theme "Olympic Games". The project was proposed by Charles-Edouard Roed-Guilbert, squire of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, who had already organised a first camp in Ramallah in 2015. From 30 children last year, this year the camp welcomed 70.

Claire de Puybaudet and Guillaume Malnoy, two volunteers, shared their experience with us: "Among the many things that we observed and which amazed us, was the closeness between the Christian and Muslim communities. They all live in harmony and undertake certain public initiatives to organize activities that involves the different actors of the their community. If the joy of children and communities were not enough to win our hearts, then the hospitality, of the community in which we lived and those who assisted us, the gratitude of parents, really made us feel fortunate to have been of this budding adventure". They conclude: " Today we are certain of one thing: this summer camp transforms us more and more each day."



# STRENGTHENING THE SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

*Echoes of a reflection of the Grand Master by Cardinal Mahony*

In the Newsletter of July 2016, the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, had invited the priests who belong to the Order to reflect on their role, certain that "the great majority of our clergy will accept the pastoral challenge of serving members at every level and in every field in which our Lieutenancies need pastoral care."

On the day when the Church celebrates the Assumption of Mary into heaven, August 15, Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop emeritus of Los Angeles and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy of Western USA, sent a letter to the priests' members of his Lieutenancy echoing the words of the Grand Master and inserting them into the local context. First, Cardinal Mahony said that the role of church members is "unique and essential."

The Grand Prior - who recently became emeritus - then emphasized how the Knights and Dames of the Order are called to strengthen the practice of Christian life and how on this journey, priests consequently have the duty to support them through a series of concrete actions which the Cardinal went on to list: spiritual direction, administration of the sacrament of Reconciliation during liturgies, presence at the praying of the rosary and the celebration of the feasts of the Order (see article on the Order's Feasts), sending short e-mails or

printed meditations, sharing of relevant texts concerning the Holy Land, for example, taken from the speeches of Pope Francis.

Another area that directly concerns the ecclesiastical members of the Lieutenancy is the possibility of identifying good candidates, above all, stresses the Archbishop Emeritus of Los Angeles, "the young members representing the diversity of the ethnic groups in our diocese". In fact, despite the significant numbers of Hispanic groups or those from the Asia-Pacific region, these communities are insufficiently represented in the Western USA Lieutenancy.

Finally Cardinal Mahony underscored the importance of the annual contribution to be paid like the other members of the Order, as well as the decision to support a specific project, for example, those relating to the seminarians in the Holy Land.

Priests who belong to the Order are a great resource and represent an important potential for the integral development of each Lieutenancy.

Cardinal Mahony was recently replaced in his role as Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy USA Western by the Archbishop of Los Angeles, Msgr. José Gomez. The Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, celebrated the inauguration of the new Grand Prior last October 1.

*To share your experiences contact us at:*  
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