

JERUSALEM CROSS

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Reflections of the Grand Master A GRATEFUL FAREWELL

Fittingly, on the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul, this June 29, our Governor General, Professor Agostino Borromeo, will officially complete his second mandate, stepping down from the office which he has served with such distinction these last 8 years.

It has been my privilege to have served with him since my arrival in Rome in 2011. He has been a good personal friend. A man of solid Catholic Faith, of singular integrity and selfless generosity, his prudent counsel has offered sure guidance to me and to leadership throughout the Order. His service to the universal Church has added to his fulltime duties as our Governor General, both in his collaboration with diverse offices of the Holy See, and in his leadership role in UNITALSI, coordinating pilgrimages to Lourdes for people with special needs throughout Italy.

At last, he can now devote appropriate time to Beatrice and the Borromeo family. In addition, he will undoubtedly immerse himself in the scholarly research and writing which he



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has sacrificed for our benefit over all these years.

Prayerfully, we wish him well, as we are happily reassured that his generous expertise will still be "on call" when needed.

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien

A NEW TITLE FOR THE ORDER'S NEWSLETTER

As announced by the Grand Master in his editorial in the recently published annual magazine, formerly called *Annales*, "our magazine, published in five languages, has taken the title *Jerusalem Cross*, referring to the banner that we carry." Cardinal Edwin O'Brien points out that "the new title will also be used for the quarterly Newsletter to identify ourselves more clearly." The Grand Master invites all the Order's Lieutenants throughout the world to enthusiastically distribute *Jerusalem Cross*, "not only among our 30,000 members, but also among people who want to discover the Order and perhaps be part of it in the future."

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IMPRESSUM GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM
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The Order in Union with the Universal Church

THE HOLY LAND AND THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE POPE'S HEART

Before carrying out his historic trip to Egypt in late April, during his Easter message, *Urbi et Orbi*, the Pope spoke about the importance of this country in the history of the salvation of God's people, also recalling that "the ancient Easter celebration, memorial of the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery" reached its fulfillment with the resurrection of Jesus, opening "the passage to eternal life." After the Easter Mass celebrated in St. Peter's

Square, at which Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, was present, the Holy Father cited the five wounds of Christ, "the wounds of his merciful love", the "marks of the passion" with which the Risen Lord "draws us to follow him on his way". "The Risen Shepherd walks beside all those forced to leave their homelands as a result of armed conflicts, terrorist attacks, famine and oppressive regimes. Everywhere he



helps these forced migrants to encounter brothers and sisters, with whom they can share bread and hope on their journey", emphasized Peter's successor, especially by extending his prayer to Syria, "beloved Syria, so greatly suffering from a war that continues to sow horror and death." Let us join our voice to that of the Pope, alongside Christians of every confession who this year celebrated Easter together, continuing to invoke the Risen Lord, asking him to "grant peace to the entire Middle East, beginning with the Holy Land". ■

OSSERVATORE ROMANO



Cardinal Edwin O'Brien presents Easter greetings to Pope Francis at the end of Easter Sunday Mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

AMBASSADOR TO THE HOLY SEE AND DAME OF THE ORDER

Maria Alessandra Albertini, member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, is Ambassador of the Republic of San Marino to the Holy See. She agreed to reflect on her mission for readers of the Grand Magisterium Newsletter.

"Our state is geographically small, but rich in an extraordinary heritage of values," says Maria Alessandra Albertini, Ambassador of the Republic of San Marino to the Holy See. The ambassador believes in particular that her membership of the Order in service to the populations of the Holy Land is an expression of the great opening of San Marino to spiritual and human causes. As a Dame of the Order, she is inspired by "the example of the first women who followed Jesus, witnessing the empty tomb and the power of the resurrection."

Although the Order has only been present in this small territory since 2004, it

is developing harmoniously by sharing the generous ideals of "the oldest Republic in the world" founded in the Diocletian era, around the year 300, by a group of persecuted Christians. These early Christians from Dalmatia had found shelter on Mount Titan, not far from Rimini, south of Ravenna. The leader of their community, a deacon named Marinus, gave his name to the Republic of San Marino, fiercely independent from the very first days of its existence. "I leave you free from other men," were the last words of Marinus, who died in 366, leaving his legacy and a program.

"We continue to work with this spirit to





OSSERVATORE ROMANO

a beacon, especially for those responsible for diplomacy, which encourages us to take care of the most vulnerable in the world," adds Mrs. Albertini, recounting that a Syrian refugee family has been welcomed in San Marino, thanks to a humanitarian corridor created after the visit of the Holy Father to the island of Lesbos.

San Marino also plays an essential mediation role rooted in Christian tradition linked to the history of its founding. "Our Republic, taking part in important

Ambassador Albertini with her family in the company of Pope Francis.

promote freedom, everywhere in the world, especially the freedom of worship, through the international organizations to which we belong," says the ambassador. This was what she remarked upon to Pope Francis when presenting her credentials. "The Holy See is

meetings in Europe or the United Nations, offers its voice – which weighs as much as that of the great states – to all initiatives in favor of global solidarity based on respect for the inalienable rights of all human beings".

F.V.

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Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

THE GRAND MASTER'S VISITS TO THE LIEUTENANCIES

At the beginning of 2017, on February 10 and 11, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien visited the Lieutenancy which in October 2016 was officially named Sweden and Denmark for an Investiture in Stockholm. A few days later, on February 18, the Grand Master celebrated an Investiture for Italy Sicily Lieutenancy in Palermo.

During the month of March, Cardinal O'Brien covered many miles for Investitures first in South Africa, Cape Town, and then in the Russian Federation, in Moscow. In

April, the Grand Master was in Rome for Holy Week solemnities and the Easter celebrations.

After the spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium, held at the headquarters in Rome from May 2 to 4, Cardinal O'Brien celebrated an Investiture in Viterbo and then he went to Zagreb for the first Investiture of the Magistral Delegation for Croatia. His next appointments will take him to the United States for the meeting of the American Lieutenants, and then to Canada and Austria. ■



The Grand Master has made several visits in recent months. Here we see him together with the members of the Order in Russia and in Southern Africa.



TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CARDINAL KEELER A "WISE AND GENTLE PASTOR"

A Knight Grand Cross and Grand Prior of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for US Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy, Cardinal William Henry Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of Baltimore, died on March 23, at the age of 86. Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order, attended the funerals celebrated in Baltimore in the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. In his message of condolences sent to the archdiocese of Baltimore, Pope Francis recalled the long-standing commitment of this "wise and gentle pastor" in the service of ecumenical and interreligious understanding. Cardinal Keeler counted greatly in the life of Cardinal O'Brien who was his successor to the Archdiocese of Baltimore before being called to Rome by Pope Benedict XVI to lead the pontifical institution that coordinates the activities of Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre at the service of the Mother Church in Jerusalem.

We entrust Cardinal Keeler's soul to divine mercy and, in the communion of the saints, ask him to intercede for the Order and the Holy Land. ■



The Cardinals Keeler and O'Brien around the current Archbishop of Baltimore, Msgr. William Lori, both of whom were his predecessors.





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THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM SPRING MEETING

The members of the Grand Magisterium met on May 3 and 4 in Rome, gathered around Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, and in the presence of the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa. This meeting, a time of prayer and work, gave the Grand Master the opportunity to thank the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, whose mandate expires at the end of June, and officially welcome his successor, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone (already a member of the Grand Magisterium), whose term commences on June 29, 2017¹. The participants in the meeting, moved by the announcement, stood for a long ovation in honor of Professor Borromeo at the end of the speech in which the Cardinal praised his qualities of integrity and faith, asking him to continue to make his experience available to the Grand Magisterium, especially in view of the next world assembly of the Order's leaders, the Consulta, which is held every five years.

The Spring meeting started with the summary presentation of the budget of the previous year, which had the outstanding result of 16.3 million: this demonstrates the unrivaled generosity of members of the Order, unprecedented in the history of the Institution, after three years of steady growth of donations sent by the Lieutenancies to the Holy Land.

The enthusiasm and dynamism of Knights and Ladies throughout the world have undoubtedly strengthened, on the one hand, thanks to the pastoral activity of the Grand Master who responds positively to the invitations from the Lieutenancies but also because of the urgent needs of the Church in



The current Governor General, Agostino Borromeo, is fully dedicated to the service of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, favoring an unprecedented growth in the number of Knights and Dames and the proportion of donations sent to the Holy Land.

Jerusalem, as expressed by Msgr. Pizzaballa. The Apostolic Administrator outlined the situation in the Patriarchate territories, ranging from Jordan to Cyprus, passing through Palestine and Israel, underscoring the importance of the ecumenical approach experienced at the inauguration of the renovated sanctuary of the Holy Sepulchre. The second phase of this restoration project will strengthen the links between the Christian Churches, particularly the Catholic and Orthodox Churches.

Msgr. Pizzaballa, addressing several other topical issues, spoke in positive terms about the ongoing meetings to bring about the signing of a bilateral agreement allowing Israel and the Holy See to consolidate their relations, especially with regard to the *status quo* for Christian Holy Sites. He also shared his priority concern for the Christian identity of Jerusalem. In fact, Christians count for little more than a few thousand, including just 5,000 Catholic faithful in the Holy City. Regarding the internal organization of the Patriarchate, the Apostolic Administrator will





The Grand Magisterium sessions, presided over by Cardinal O'Brien, take place in the Vatican usually lasting two days.

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make some important decisions at the end of June, based on his discussions with the priests of his diocese and the results of a financial audit conducted by an external advisory firm.

Father Imad Twal, Head of the Patriarchate's Administrative and Accounting Services, subsequently presented the budget of the Patriarchal Diocese, insisting in particular on expenditure on refugees for whom the Catholic Church creates jobs, for example in the manufacture of hand-made Rosaries sold to pilgrims (aid to refugees through parishes amounts to \$ 550,000). Overall, in 2016, institutional expenses as well as those for the seminary showed a surplus that partially compensates for the large overall deficit, valued at \$ 5 million without counting the debts of the University of Madaba. A five-year plan, led by a commission appointed by Msgr. Pizzaballa, should soon favor school management, which is the essential and strategic work of the Church in the Holy Land, but which is still suffering from a lack of coordination.

The President of the Holy Land Commission, Thomas McKiernan, intervened to present the current status of the Grand Magisterium's projects for 2017: the economic support for teachers' wages, as has been the case for some years (more than \$ 500,000), the construction of Jubeiha church (about one million dollars) and work on the Naour School (about \$ 200,000).

The accounts of the Grand Magisterium were also on the agenda. Engineer Pier Carlo Visconti and Professor Pierre Blanchard expressed their satisfaction with the result achieved in 2016, more than 17 million also accounting for bank interests and income

from property rental (four million more than in the previous year) while spending is declining and represented 7,64% of the budget. This all lends to a more effective

aid to the Holy Land which is immersed in the effects of the Middle East crisis.

Chancellor Alfredo Bastianelli then took the floor to outline the stability in the Order's statistics based on the currently available data, with about 15,000 Knights, 9,000 Dames and 4,000 ecclesiastics, divided among all five continents, but half in America. The Chancellor also shared his will to create a graphic code at an international level to coordinate the universal image of the Order in a unified way. Communication activities, which Bastianelli also supervises, are in development thanks to the new website in five languages, as well as to the annual magazine and the quarterly bulletin (Newsletter), which have now been named *Jerusalem Cross*. A spiritual booklet produced by the Grand Magisterium Communication Office in coordination with Order's Master of Ceremonies, Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, this year will help members of the Order to experience an hour of adoration on the Via Dolorosa for the Patriarchate's intentions and peace in the Holy Land.

The session concluded with some general news from Australia, Brazil and the Scandinavian countries and a discussion on the forthcoming Consulta, the assembly of those responsible for the Order that will be held in Rome in November 2018.

F.V.

¹ We will have the pleasure of presenting the profile of the future General Governor in the Summer 2017 Newsletter.



THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM'S HOLY LAND PROJECTS FOR 2017

The church of Jubeiha, Jordan, is under construction in a peripheral district of Amman where over the past few years many faithful Catholic have decided to move.



In late January 2017, the Holy Land Commission of the Grand Magisterium of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, together with the Governor General Agostino Borromeo, agreed the projects to be carried out with the support of the Order in 2017 with General Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Father Imad Twal. As in 2016, part of the funds will be allocated to the salary increase of teachers in Patriarchate schools, an important measure to allow us to continue offering excellent education to our students.

In addition, the Grand Magisterium has pledged to support Phase 1 and 2 of the completion of the construction of St. Paul's Church in Jubeiha, Jordan, with \$ 907,000. Jubeiha is a village which is located near Amman and where the first parish was founded in 1991 when there were few homes in a predominantly agricultural area. Over the years, the population has increased

and, thanks to the initiative of some parishioners and benefactors, the construction of a church that could accommodate about 1,000 Latin faithful has begun. Unfortunately, the lack of funds made it impossible to complete the project. Now work will resume in the hope that it will soon give parishioners, who currently gather in a nearby school room, an appropriate place to celebrate religious functions.

Another project that the Order will contribute to in 2017 with \$ 261,000 is the construction of the second floor of the school in Naour, a Jordanian town west of the capital Amman that has a small Catholic community. The school has a growing number of students and with new classrooms available on the second floor it would be able to accommodate them adequately by dividing them into smaller classes, thus fostering better learning. ■



UNFORGETTABLE VISITS TO THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

Personalities or groups are often welcomed to the Palazzo della Rovere, home of the Grand Magisterium, next to St. Peter's Square. These offer important occasions to make the Order, its mission and its activities better known. This was the case, for example, with Rabbi Josh Ahrens

from Germany, who is very involved in dialogue. He came with a Slovak interreligious delegation to meet the Pope and, on that occasion, was received by the Governor General, Agostino Borromeo. A few days before, it was the turn of the Imam of Trieste, Nader Akkad, to visit the Palazzo

della Rovere. He declared that he was deeply touched by the discovery of the icon of the Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, patron of the Order, who holds Jerusalem in her hands "as a sign and promise of welcome and protection, and as an exhortation to love and respect for all religious sites." "The culture of encounter must radiate in each of us. Peace can only flow from pacified hearts," he added in an interview given to the Grand Magisterium Communications Office and published in Italian on our partner website, Vatican Insider.

Other groups that came to the Grand Magisterium include members of the Thomas More Leadership Institute in Paris, among which there are members and supporters of the



Groups of children visiting Palazzo della Rovere, discover the Order and its mission.





Order. The group devoted an afternoon to deepening their knowledge of projects for the benefit of Christian communities in the Holy Land as well as the paths of spiritual growth offered to Knights and Dames throughout the world. This association aims to help leaders direct their contribution, in their professional field, to the benefit of the community, especially in the light of the lives of the saints. Following their visit the participants wrote: "The example offered by the first blessed lay member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Bartolo Longo, resounds in us as an invitation to reflect on the Lord's action in our lives: to become aware of our vocation as laity and baptized, to better convert our existence to His will and to make His message of love grow more and more."

Finally, the Grand Magisterium welcomed more than 200 children and adolescents on pilgrimage to Rome, led by two young French Squires of the Order, who visited Palazzo della Rovere in four groups and discovered all of the actions carried out at the service of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. ■



Imam Nader Akkad (left), Rabbi Josh Ahrens (below), and members of the Thomas More Leadership Institute were received at the Grand Magisterium, eager to learn more about the activities of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in the Holy Land.



The Order and the Holy Land

A PROPOSAL FOR MEMBERS OF THE ORDER: AN HOUR OF ADORATION DURING PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM

A pilgrimage to the Holy Land allows you to carve out a space in your life to rediscover the beauty of being with the Lord by following in his footsteps. In Jerusalem, in the streets full of voices and colors of the old city, we can choose to walk the Via Dolorosa and follow Jesus on the path to Calvary, sure of his victory over death. Often we are caught up in the momentum, the chaos, the many things that happen around us and within us, and it becomes difficult to live this experience in full.

Marking the release of our annual magazine, *Jerusalem Cross*, we announced the publication of a spiritual booklet for 2017, inviting the Knights and Dames of the Order fortunate to experience a pilgrimage to the land of Jesus to stop and be with the Lord along Via Dolorosa, to indulge in the joy of a moment of Eucharistic adoration, to take a pause for their soul, carrying a special intention in their heart for peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East. Prayer allows us to fulfill our mission of supporting the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, not only materially but spiritually.

The guide (available on the Grand Magisterium site, www.oessh.va, in the Media section) was designed to lead pilgrims in the experience of Eucharistic adoration in Jerusalem, at the Armenian-Catholic Church of Our Lady of Spasm, at the Fourth station of the Via Dolorosa, commemorating the pain of Mary who meets her Son who carries the Cross or, in communion of intent and prayer, wherever you may be. ■



CYPRUS AND THE HOLY LAND

Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa - Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem - went to Cyprus to visit the parishes, priests and Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The small island of the diocese of Jerusalem has three parishes operated by the Franciscans (Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol) as well as a parish belonging to the Institute of the Incarnate Word, in Paphos. This visit - lasting two days, last March - was marked by moments of fraternity and encounter, but also ecumenical sharing. During a Mass in Nicosia the Apostolic Administrator underscored that "the Patriarchate includes different realities, such as Jordan and Cyprus, but Jerusalem unites us, Jerusalem represents the symbol of our unity." His meeting with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Cyprus was of great importance. The Archbishop thanked the seven Knights who work on the island, stressing how they are a bridge between Europe and the Holy Land, and encouraged them to increase their number and go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Msgr. Pizzaballa was accompanied by Charles-Edouard Guilbert, a French Squire of the Order and volunteer who is currently responsible for coordinating the Patriarchate projects and who briefly outlined the religious history of this great Mediterranean island characterized by immense cultural richness with Byzantine churches and monasteries, as well as beautiful medieval and gothic cathedrals.



Cyprus, where Christianity has been rooted since its origins, is part of the territories of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The third island of the Mediterranean for its territorial surface, Cyprus represents a crossroads of civilization, a meeting point between Europe, Africa and Asia. Saint Paul evangelized the inhabitants of the island, with the help of Saint Barnabas. According to Eastern tradition, Lazarus joined them, becoming the first bishop of Cyprus.

Disciples of the monk Saint Maron, a group of Maronite Christians settled in such places from the 7th century, escaping from Saracen hordes in Syria and Lebanon, after which their presence was consolidated, especially in the north of the island.

The story of the Latin Catholic Church in Cyprus begins later, during the third crusade conducted by Richard the Lion Heart, who settled there in 1191, supported by Maronite Christians, his allies in faith, given that the great schism occurred in 1054, separating Catholics and Orthodox.

Later, the Lusignano - the Latin dynasty





Archbishop Pizzaballa, Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, along with some representatives of the local Catholic clergy.

of the Kingdom of Cyprus – reduced the number of Orthodox bishops, forcing them to take refuge in the mountains together with their faithful.

In 1248, St. Louis permanence in Cyprus represents a major event in local history.

Until 1489, Lusignano reigned: Caterina Cornaro – widow of King James II – was the last Latin sovereign of Cyprus, and was exiled by the Venetians in 1489.

In 1571, after besieging the city of Nicosia, the Turkish victors allowed the Orthodox to retain their places of worship, but Latin churches were seized for war reparations. Two minarets were then added to the cathedral, which became the Aya Sofya mosque and was renamed Selim II mosque in 1954, after the sultan, under whose reign from 1566 to 1574 the island of Cyprus was conquered.

This is also a Holy Land for Muslims: in fact, near Larnaca, the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque is located where is the tomb of Umm Harâm, Muhammad's nurse. Above this grave, there is a block of stone that is believed to have miraculously arrived from Jerusalem flying out of the sky. The fourth holy place of Islam, is a very important pilgrimage for many Muslims.

After Ottoman domination, Cyprus was administered by the British since 1878. It became a colony of the United Kingdom after the First World War and then gained independence on August 16, 1960.

A serious crisis was caused by the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974,

leading to its subdivision. UN soldiers are deployed between the Republic of Cyprus and the north of the island, subject to control of Turkey.

Today the Orthodox Church is a majority confession and has an exceptional religious heritage, which is largely included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Catholic Church also retains its heritage, with two different rite communities, the Latin and the Maronite.

As far as the Latin Catholic Church is concerned, Cyprus has a small number of parishes, some administered by the friars of the Franciscan Custody, who were the only representatives of the Catholic clergy tolerated by the Ottoman Empire.

Apart from the presence of the Maronite Archdiocese – whose archbishop represents the highest Catholic authority resident in the island – the faithful of the Latin rite meet in the church of the Holy Cross, built at the beginning of the 20th century: this building is located in the part of the island under UN administration on the border with the area occupied by the Turkish army. The parish entrusted to the Franciscans also has a church dedicated to St. Elizabeth of Hungary, in Kyrenia, on the north coast. This is where the only mass in the occupied territory is celebrated weekly. The Saint Joseph Center – operated by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart – offers assistance and education to foreign immigrants. In Nicosia – the capital of the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern



Cyprus, but not internationally recognized – the Custody owns the “Holy Land College”: its foundation year (1646) makes it the oldest school on the island.

In Limassol, on the southern coast, the parish – with a church built in the 19th century – is also entrusted to the Franciscans. The Sisters of the Sacred Heart run another Catholic school, Saint Mary’s. This is a very prestigious institute, which guarantees a high level education to over a thousand students.

In Larnaca, on the western coast of the island, the parish of Saint Mary of the Graces dates back to 1843, although the Franciscan presence in the city is much older. The same town is also home to the Holy Land Rest House, run by the Custody

of the Holy Land in collaboration with the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Finally, in Paphos, on the east coast of the island, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has a parish entrusted to the priests of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, as well as the Saint Michael’s hospice, palliative care home. The property of the Orthodox Church, the church of Chryssopolitissa – which houses the column to which Saint Paul was tied and flogged – has the peculiarity of being shared by Anglicans and Latin Catholics for celebrations, in a reassuring ecumenical impetus.

This extraordinary religious and historical heritage makes Cyprus a true spiritual place of the Holy Land.

Charles-Edouard Guilbert

THE INAUGURATION OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE AEDICULE

We welcome a new spirit in ecumenical relations.

The eyes of Christians throughout the world turned to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre during the Easter celebrations on April 15 and 16: this year it was a special occasion given the wonderful coincidence of Easter celebrations for both Catholic and Orthodox. In this way, the ecumenism experienced through the closeness and spiritual communion of the Easter period was the continuation of that experienced in the practical action of collaboration for the restoration work of the aedicule of the Holy Sepulchre.

On March 22, a crowded Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre celebrated with contagious joy the reopening of the aedicule. The three communities that guard the Holy Sepulchre (Greek Orthodox, Latin Catholic and Armenian) collaborated fraternally for about a year to allow for the necessary redevelopment work, drawing closer to each other. “We all read the same Gospel and

profess the one and only Jesus Christ,” said the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Nourhan Manoogian, who intervened after Theophilus III, present Primates of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem, and Father Francesco Patton, Custos of Holy Land. “The teaching of Jesus,” he continued, “is beyond our theological, cultural, or liturgical differences.”

After listening to the joyous words, full of hope and gratitude to all the benefactors who have made the restoration possible, most notably King Abdullah II of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, the Apostolic Administrator the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew, the Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem Msgr. Giuseppe Lazzarotto and, through a message, Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians also intervened.





The aedicule guarding the tomb of Christ in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre has been restored thanks to an ecumenical collaboration of the various Christian Churches, united by the same faith in the Resurrection.

Msgr. Pizzaballa, in the Holy Land for many years, began by saying that many had not believed it possible to reach such a moment but, as he recalled through the words of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary, "Nothing is impossible with God when we allow God to enlighten our thoughts, our eyes and our relationships. Things do not change by themselves but if we are here today - he continued - it is because the different churches have been able to change their vision by listening to the word of God." The Apostolic Administrator finished his speech with a comparison that helps us reflect on the importance of the places where we pray and celebrate God's mercy, especially this place so dear to us Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre: "The restoration of this physical building puts oil and balm on the body of Christ which is the Church."

Also in March, the Holy See announced it would contribute to the restoration of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, setting aside a sum of \$ 500,000 for the new phase of the work that will affect the area around the Aedicule of the Holy Sepulchre. ■

THE WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE OF TWO MEMBERS OF THE ORDER SERVING THE HOLY LAND

Henrique and Carola Abreu, Knight and Dame of the Holy Sepulchre, served in the Holy Land for three years. In this interview by Myriam Ambroselli of the Communications Office of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, they witness to their engagement. The interview is available in full on the website www.lpj.org.

Why did you decide to dedicate this time of your life to the Church in the Holy Land?

We arrived in Jerusalem in January of 2014. Following the visit and spiritual message of the Holy Father given in Brazil in

2013, we both felt inspired by his homily of charity and love. We knew the Holy Land through our previous yearly visits to the Patriarchate and to the Christian communities.

That call marked the time to make the



necessary preparations and plan for three sabbatical years to serve as volunteers. We placed our personal and professional experiences in God's hands and our desire to serve the needs of the Mother Church and the local communities.

What was the main purpose of your mission?

In the beginning, we lived in the village of Taybeh. There, we were very involved in supporting the parish activities, the school, summer camps, the youth programs, pilgrimage groups and some rehabilitation projects for the parish. Carola was more involved in serving at Beit Afram Home for the Elderly with daily needs and care for the residents.

We only realized later, that this period was in fact, a preparation for a much larger mission for the Church. Taybeh was a school for us. To learn how a parish works from the inside, to see first-hand the real needs of our Christians living in Palestine, to listen to their stories, difficulties, struggles and simply to be a part of their lives.

After one year, we moved to Jerusalem and began a new mission. The challenge was to support the General Administrator with restructuring the projects department in the Patriarchate. The Taybeh experience

served us well, as now we had to care for 55 parishes spread in the four territories of our Diocese.

My mission was to focus on setting up the department, gathering the right team to support the office, visit all the parishes to understand their needs, and serve as best as I could, our internal and external staff, as well as our benefactors. On the other side, Carola was translating for the media office, supporting our project development work, and helping the chancellery and general administration with administrative matters. We felt that Our Lord was working side by side with us, and we had several tangible signs and affirmations of that during those three years.

Which projects did you consider most challenging?

It is hard to say, this one or that one. All of them were important. Every project was the most important project for every parish, and we tried to make our pastors and communities feel that way.

Perhaps where help was most needed at the time was in Gaza, and with the Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan. At the time of our arrival, these two groups were the most vulnerable: Gaza was at the end of the conflict in 2014, and the Iraqi Christian refugees were living in containers or

In this photo, Henrique and Carola Abreu – members of the Order and volunteer couple at the service of the Church in the Holy Land – amidst the children of one of the schools of the Latin Patriarchate.



improvised parish halls. We knew that we had to respond to these needs immediately and humanitarian assistance was critical.

How was your mission closely related to your affiliation with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre?

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem has walked side by side with the Latin Patriarchate, as a lifetime companion and supporter of the Mother Church in the Holy Land. As members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, we were clearly aware of our mission and responsibilities towards the Latin Patriarchate and the Christians in the Holy Land. What we did not know, was that

our lives would be changed forever.

With this spirit, we came to this Land in search of how we could improve the lives of others, how we could bring comfort and more dignity to those who suffer the most, whether they are Christian refugees in Jordan, a poor family in Gaza, or children with special needs living in one of our homes.

Our faith and belief tell us that love for one another should be the driving force in our common mission, with the Order and the Latin Patriarchate. We should provide for others, we should live to serve others and to protect those who cannot protect themselves. ■

THE WORK OF THE HOLY CHILD PROGRAM IN BEIT SAHOUR

“Through each child we can work to change the world”.

The relationship between the Holy Child Program and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre began several years ago. The Mother General of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, Mother Shaun Vergauwen, would meet periodically with the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, who took an interest in the activities of the community, and in particular, their work in the Holy Land. This relationship took on new impetus when a grant was submitted to the Order, for sustainability of the Holy Child Program. In 2016, the Holy Child Program became the beneficiary of an endowment fund of Rev. Dr. William W. Hamischfeger, through the generosity of the USA Western Lieutenancy, and a contribution from the USA Middle Atlantic Lieutenancy. Thanks to this generous endowment, the Holy Child Program has been able to be more self-sustaining and has had greater financial stability as it endeavors to support its local Christian staff, provide

continuing education and training, and offer its vital service to the community. Grants such as this give increased hope to the staff and parents while they look at their and children’s future.

Founded in 1995, by the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist, the Holy Child Program is one of the very few centers in the Bethlehem area serving children with severe behavioral and emotional problems in a therapeutic day treatment setting. Located in Beit Sahour (the place of the Shepherds’ Field), it was founded at the request of parents whose children were suffering from psychological distress, resulting from the

VIVIAN MOUSSALEM

(Teacher)

“ I like to work with children who have problems because I feel like if we do not take care of them, who will? ”



first Intifada, or military incursion into the West Bank by Israeli forces. The Program began with four children and currently serves 35 children and their families. It provides additional outreach programs in the West Bank, including being a training center for local universities and other agencies serving children and families in the region.

The teachings of the Roman Catholic Church provide the framework for the services the Holy Child Program offers. Franciscan spirituality calls all who work with the Program to care for some of the most vulnerable and often alienated populations. The mission is much like St. Francis "kissing the leper". It is the everyday experiences of the children learning, working, playing and celebrating together in a school atmosphere that transform alienation and vulnerability into strength and joy. The students begin each day together in this Catholic milieu, with a time of prayer, co-facilitated by a Catholic and a Muslim teacher, where they learn the Catholic faith and the precepts of Islam that agree and support the message of love and of peace. Schools registered under the Palestinian Authority are required to teach



The Holy Child Program welcomes children from Bethlehem with psychological or behavioral problems.

MIREAM & DAVID ABU GHARBI
 (Parents)

“ *The Holy Child Program taught us how we should be with our children. The whole atmosphere was learning and kindness. Through that I saw my child develop and I was very happy to attend the meetings* ”

Islam to their Muslim students. The HCP decided that instead of continuing the growing separation between the faiths, they would focus on unity and what is shared between the two faiths. The student population of the Holy Child Program is currently 50% Muslim and 50% Christian.

Students enrolled in this unique program attend regular classes in a therapeutic classroom environment, while participating in a variety of therapies, aimed at helping them to master their psychological and behavioral problems. In addition to providing each student with an individualized curriculum based on their strengths and needs, the Holy Child Program also offers the *Incredible Years Program*, which teaches problem solving skills, increases emotional and social competence as well as reducing aggressive and disruptive behaviors. The Holy Child Program is the first in the Middle East to implement this internationally renowned, evidence-based treatment program and takes pride that 92.5% of its graduates are engaged in productive community based programs such as attending



educational/vocational programs or financially supporting their families through work. These graduates are productive, contributing members of their local community.

Iskander Khoury, the program director, comments: "In each child that comes here you see something; you see potential. You see a holy child. That is why we named the Holy Child Program as it is. We can see in this child, a dancer; in this child, a musician. But sometimes it is covered up. These children are a part of the Holy Land. They are a part of children all over the world. In each child, we should plant a seed of hope

and peace. In each child, we can promote change for all the world." ■

For more information about the Holy Child Program or to visit, please contact the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist USA: Mother Shaun Vergauwen, Mother General, FSE msv@fsecommunity.org
 JERUSALEM: Sister Naomi Zimmermann, FSE jerusalem@fsecommunity.org
 Visit the HCP on
 @ HolyChildProgramBethlehem

THE CHALLENGES OF WELCOMING REFUGEES IN JORDAN

An interview with Wael Suleiman, director of Caritas Jordan.

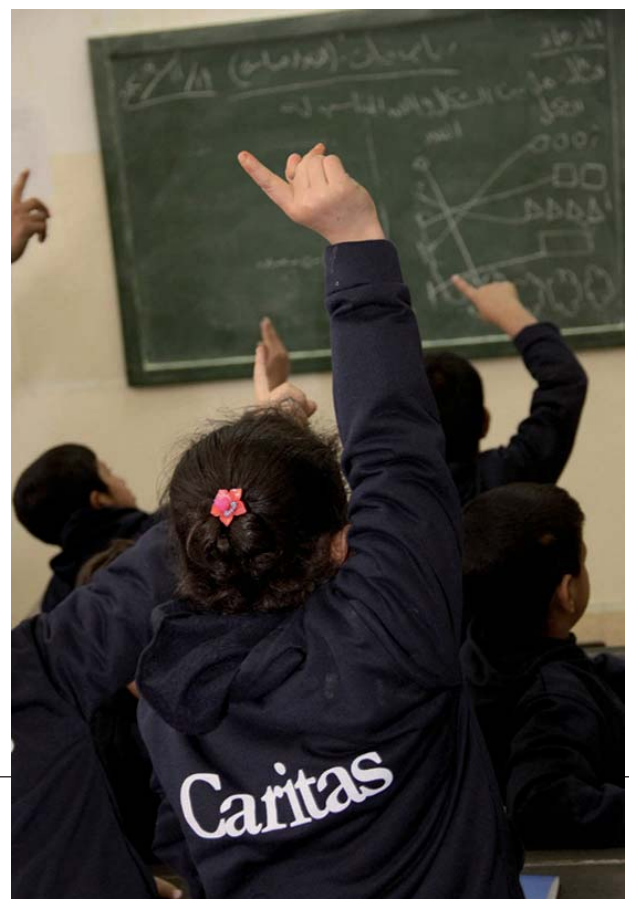
In recent months the Order has contributed to the reception of refugees in Jordan, alongside other ecclesial institutions, such as the Italian Episcopal Conference. The director of Caritas Jordan kindly responded to our questions on emergency aid for families who are fleeing the conflict in the Middle East.

What exactly does Caritas Jordan do for the refugees' children on the Jordanian territory (which is part of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem)? Can you give us some concrete examples, particularly with regards the children's schooling?

Caritas provides portions of tuition fees for children whose parents, for many reasons such as unemployment and poverty, are incapable of paying costly tuition fees in Jordan. We also provide remedial classes for children, who fall behind in their academic learning in a bid to improve their performance at school. These children

consequently obtain higher grades and achieve better academic results.

Furthermore, we organize extra tuition classes, which entitle children who have missed school years because of war in their



The Caritas team in Jordan works hard for the refugees. In this photo, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, who came to encourage its work.



home country, to enroll in afternoon non-formal education classes, enabling them to catch up on their learning and be prepared to be re-enrolled in the formal education system, get formal degrees and resume their higher education.

Finally, part of Caritas learning process is to sustain extra-curricular activities where children and their parents are enrolled in recreational activities, sporting and art events that aim to stimulate their mental capacities and enhance their resilience and co-existence, solidarity and capacity to work together with peers from different nationalities.

How is Caritas Jordan funded to support this service of welcoming refugees and do you have enough resources to answer their needs right now?

Caritas work is based on volunteerism and solidarity which suggests utilizing holistic services and approaches in responding to refugees' needs, in a sense that volunteers, from different nationalities, are considered an integral part of Caritas

dynamic power in its structure. Caritas secures funding from different donors in an aim to cover all vital sectors and services offered by its centers that are spread in a number of governorates.

Caritas Jordan seeks funds from philanthropic benefactors both nationally and internationally in response to its specific project proposals; or through its membership and affiliation to local partnerships as well as contributions from sister organizations all around the world.

As needs mount due to hosting large refugee population from 49 countries with dwindling resources and extreme poverty, Caritas feels that resources are needed as long as there are no imminent solutions to the wars and repercussions that are happening in the neighboring countries.

Caritas does its utmost not to cut or reduce any assistance as long the need is high, therefore it does not stop advocating for refugees rights to live in peace and be provided with protection and basic necessities, arranging fund raising campaigns and speaking on behalf of refugees locally and internationally. ■



The Life of the Lieutenancies

A JOURNEY OF UNITY IN SCANDINAVIA

In this interview, Bo Theutenberg, a member of the Grand Magisterium and former Regent ad Interim of the Lieutenancy for Sweden and Denmark, talks about the new stage for the Order in these two countries where Catholics form an active minority.

What position does the Order of the Holy Sepulchre occupy in Sweden and Denmark where the Catholic Church is a tiny minority? How do the Knights and Dames carry forward their Christian mission to be leaven in the Scandinavian countries?

Catholics are a minority in the Nordic countries. In Sweden, out of a population of about 10 million inhabitants, there are only 150,000 registered Catholics. These countries have been Protestant since days of the Reformation, that is since 1527 when the king broke off all relations with the Catholic Church. Generally it can be said that Lutheranism prevailed until the twentieth century. The Religious Freedom Act was promulgated in 1951 and the Swedish National Church existed until 2000 when it was then equated to all other religious communities operating in the country.

Only two Catholic Orders of Chivalry are active in the Scandinavian countries – the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Order of Malta – which are often viewed with suspicion, curiosity and even criticism. We are therefore called to be very open about our activities, to explain and inform about the origins and purpose of the Order, as well as to present Catholicism clearly, inviting everyone, especially the press, to follow our initiatives.

As for the participation of Catholics in

my period of regency of Lieutenancy I made a decision to reduce the contribution for membership for young people under the age of 35 years in order to foster their presence. There are many ways to encourage general interest in the Holy Land from the increased publicity of our activities. Even the ecclesiastical members of the Order can contribute through their witness in the daily life of the Diocese they belong to.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is united in Sweden and Denmark, beyond national borders. How was this beautiful experience of being Church born and what message might it convey to the whole Order?

In a region of the world in which religious issues are set aside, an excellent way to achieve our goals is to join forces with the Catholics of the neighboring countries, as has been done by Sweden and Denmark via the decree of last October 2016 by which the Lieutenancy for Sweden-Denmark was created. Due to the geographical shape of Sweden, for example, it is easier for Catholics residing in the southern part of the country to meet with the Bishop of Copenhagen (thirty minutes by train) than to go to Stockholm, Sweden's capital, which is an hour by plane.

Currently in the new Lieutenancy, the Lieutenant is Swedish and the Grand Prior Danish. The basis of the Nordic Catholic cooperation is particularly supported by the





The Investiture of new Order Members in Sweden and Denmark was celebrated by the Grand Master in Stockholm on February 11, 2017.

presence of the Scandinavian Bishops' Conference. When the Lieutenancy for Sweden was established in 2003, the idea was to bring together all the Nordic

countries except Finland, especially for the strong language difference, and the integration of Sweden and Denmark moves in this direction. ■

THE INVESTITURE IN STOCKHOLM

Last winter, the Lieutenancy for Sweden and Denmark welcomed the visit of the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, who celebrated the Investiture of seven new Knights, Dames and ecclesiastical members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Stockholm.

The visit began with an appointment on February 10 at the Royal Castle, where the Grand Master met with the highest Swedish state authorities for the Royal Orders of Chivalry. It was an important signal of friendship, mutual trust and mutual recognition between our Catholic Order and the (Lutheran) Kingdom of Sweden. Cardinal O'Brien was welcomed by the Honor Guard and escorted to the Halls of the Royal Orders of Chivalry, where the Chancellor of the Royal Orders, Mr. Ingemar Eliasson, delivered a welcome address to which the Grand Master then responded. This was followed by lunch, during which Mr. Eliasson was awarded the Cross with Gold Star of Merit, a sign of gratitude and friendship between the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Kingdom of Sweden. The same afternoon there was a Vigil in preparation for the Investiture of the next day.

The Investiture ceremony was held on February 11 at the cathedral of Saint Erik and was, as always, a great moment of communion and fraternity. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by a dinner in honor of the Grand Master during which Bo Theutenberg resigned as *Regent ad Interim* of the Lieutenancy and Cardinal O'Brien presented the decrees appointing Tommy Thulin the new Lieutenant and new Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, the bishop of Copenhagen, Msgr. Czeslaw Kozon, who will be joined by the Swedish Grand Prior coadjutor, Msgr. Stejpan Biletic. In fact, last autumn, Sweden and Denmark merged into a single Lieutenancy and both are well represented in the organization of this peripheral structure of the Order.



LIEUTENANCY FOR FRANCE GATHERS IN LOURDES

From March 31 to April 2, 2017, Lourdes welcomed the national retreat of the Lieutenancy for France of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. This meeting brought together 160 participants in Cité Saint-Pierre of Caritas, including 126 Knights and Dames of the Order. The retreat was preached by Monsignor Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin, archbishop of Tours, Consultor of the Grand Magisterium, responsible for the Lieutenancy for France.

During his catechesis, Msgr. Aubertin referred to the example of Christ to propose words of peace and reconciliation in the heart of the Lenten season. He particularly insisted upon the need to foster listening among members. The encounter took place in a beautiful atmosphere of prayer and reflection, framed by the buttresses that dominate the sanctuary.

Father André Cabes, rector of the Notre Dame sanctuary in Lourdes, held a deeply insightful lecture on Lourdes, the apparitions and Bernadette Soubirous, which

touched the heart of the audience. At the end of the conference, Father Cabes received the Investiture as an ecclesiastical Knight from Archbishop Aubertin, during compline prayer, with *Motu Proprio* of the Grand Master of the Order, cardinal Edwin O'Brien.

The Sainte Bernadette Soubirous Delegation presented the "Rosary of the Shrine" initiative which in 2012 officially gave production rights of the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine rosary to a Christian family in the Holy Land in Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem. 20,000 are manufactured every year and sold exclusively in the Shrine bookshop. It is a good example of solidarity and also of sustainable development.

Sunday Mass at the Basilica of the Rosary was followed by the Angelus at the Grotto of Massabielle before the end of the retreat with a historical group picture.

Philippe Cabidoche
Responsible of the Delegation "Sainte Bernadette Soubirous"
(Gers and Hautes-Pyrénées)

The Lieutenancy for France symbolically reunited in the Grotto of Lourdes.

