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REFLECTIONS OF THE GRAND MASTER

By this time the news has made the rounds. And what good news it is: Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone has become the new Governor General of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. We are very blessed and grateful to the Ambassador for accepting this challenging call.

Not that our new Governor General is a stranger to challenge! An accompanying biographical summary in this issue will detail his long and distinguished diplomatic career in service to Italy. Indeed, he took up these new responsibilities soon after serving as principal consultant on behalf of the host nation for the G7 Summit which took place in Taormina the end of last May.

Interestingly, the Visconti and Borromeo families have been close friends for many generations of strong Milanese Catholic bonds. The Ambassador's ancestors number 7 Archbishops of Milan and one Pontiff, Pope Gregory X (Tebaldo Visconti), from 1272 to 1276. More to the point, he now enters office with impressive experience in areas where the majority of our Lieutenancies are located: Europe, the Americas, the Middle East and Asia. (There's hardly a modern language he does not speak!)

He begins duties humbly aware of the "learning curve" ahead and with the competent assistance of Governor General Emeritus Borromeo will navigate the months



The new Governor General, Ambassador Visconti di Modrone, welcomed by his predecessor, Professor Borromeo.

ahead, most anxious to listen and to meet as many of our Lieutenancies as his energies and schedule allow.

The blessings that have come to us under the extraordinary leadership of Professor Agostino Borromeo will continue, in God's Providence, under Ambassador Leonardo Visconti. We gladly and gratefully welcome him, his wife Anna into our family, along with their three daughters and six grandchildren.

I know how encouraged he is and will continue to be by the many expressions of support he is receiving. (Hopefully, our readers will view a short video on His Excellency's accession, Renewal in Continuity, on YouTube).

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien

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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

"WE MUST SHOW EASTERN CHRISTIANS OUR CLOSENESS"

*An interview with Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect
of the Congregation for Oriental Churches.*

Eminence, in your role in charge of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, what would you see as the priorities in providing support to Christians living in the vast biblical territories?

I often receive groups of Catholics led by their bishops, eager to express their generosity to their brothers and sisters of the East. Benefactors want to know our priorities. Promoting the fullness of religious

freedom of Christians is part of the issues at stake, especially in Muslim majority countries. Eastern bishops work with us, so that governments legislate in this direction and so that all citizens are treated in the same way. I also insist on the importance of Catholic schools in the Holy Land, for example, as they are a source of dialogue and peace in society. Without the economic support of the universal Church, these schools would not survive: the competition





During his recent visit to Jordan, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri met with some Middle Eastern refugees supported by the local Caritas.

is very strong and many teachers prefer private institutes that are able to pay them better. Another challenge is emigration from the Middle East. Christians leave the area because of insecurity, so their absence unbalances the countries. We must work to restore trust and this happens every time we build bridges of friendship where we live. Finally, we need to show Eastern Christians our closeness and to support them morally, as do the Knights and Dames of the Order by going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and meeting the local communities that form part of the "Mother Church".

Each year, you coordinate the Good Friday collection, which involves the whole Church. How are the fruits of this action of solidarity shared?

All the dioceses in the world deliver the outcome of these collections to Rome: 65% goes to the Franciscan Custody for the maintenance of the holy places; 35% is assigned to our Congregation for Oriental Churches Projects, which – we can say – extend from Ukraine to Iraq, from Eastern Europe to Mesopotamia ... This is certainly not enough, but fortunately some Institutions are dedicated throughout the year to supporting these Christians who are often in difficult economic situations because of the various conflicts that wound the world. Some good news is that of the progressive return of Christians in the

Nineveh Plain: many are returning to their liberated villages and there is the effort of helping reconstruct their homes and their churches.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem occupies a special place in the heart of the universal Church. How is the pastoral care of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, partly coordinated by the Franciscan Custody, articulated?

Christians throughout the whole world go on a pilgrimage to "see Jesus" by retracing his steps in the Holy Land, where he lived and gave his life. The popes entrusted these holy sites to the Franciscans, through the Custody, whose mission extends far beyond the territory of the Latin diocese of Jerusalem. This patriarchal diocese – reconstituted at the end of the 19th century – today expresses the identity of a local church gathered around its bishop, without losing that universal openness that has always characterized the vocation of the holy city of Jerusalem. It is the former Franciscan Custos Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa who leads the patriarchal diocese, that stretches from Cyprus to Jordan, passing through Palestine and Israel. The Mother Church of Jerusalem is at the center of our concerns in Rome, and I would like to thank the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, for without its help the life of the Latin



Patriarchate would be impossible, especially with regard to the seminary, Catholic schools and all the pastoral activities of evangelization. It is also important to emphasize the importance of the work done by the Order for Hebrew-speaking Catholics, also present in Israel. In the areas of education, assistance and protection of the Christian presence in the Holy Land there is an effective collaboration between the Patriarchal Diocese and the Custody of the Holy Land, while maintaining the shrines and serving the pilgrims is almost entirely entrusted to the Franciscans.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre collaborates with you through the Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches known as "Roaco", which you preside over. What is this committee's role?

Indeed, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is part of Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches, a coordinating body established in 1968. It brings together several Catholic agencies and institutions operating alongside the Catholic Churches, Oriental and Latin, in the territories followed by the Congregation. Every year we gather to reflect together on some particular themes or to focus on precise geographic areas - even though the Holy Land is usually always among them. And it is also an opportunity to verify the willingness to support various aid projects in pastoral outreach, education, health care or emergencies, as we have unfortunately seen in recent years in Syria, Iraq, and Ukraine. The Holy Father wants the help given to the Holy Land be understood in a broad sense, integrating all of the biblical territories. We are especially grateful to the Order, who also during the last meeting - its 90th to be accurate - expressed its support for several projects, in addition to the truly extraordinary and praiseworthy commitment to the life of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This year we wanted to reflect on

the formation of priests in the Middle East in particular, to foster the preservation of their respective cultures and traditions in full unity with the universal Church. Since the birth of the Congregation for Oriental Churches, established by Pope Benedict XV one hundred years ago, the formation of the clergy has always been a priority, because the people of God needs shepherds. That was the theme of our last Roaco meeting.

How would you envision the evolution of relations between the Congregation for Oriental Churches and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre?

There is an existential connection between our Congregation and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Relations have been strengthened thanks to Cardinal Edwin O'Brien - Grand Master of the Order - and the outgoing Governor General Agostino Borromeo, two personalities who have encouraged aid to the Oriental Churches, also in the name of the Order's commitment to serving the Holy Land. I would like to express our profound gratitude to the Knights and Dames of the Order for this effort: they are witnesses to the resurrection and joy of the Lord, especially in today's times when we face the problem of refugees in the Middle East, trying to support families fleeing from the areas of war and to fuel their hope of returning to the lands of their ancestors. I would like to express my greetings and my warm wishes to Prof. Borromeo's successor, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti of Modrone.

Interview by François Vayne

You can access the full interview on our partner website [Vatican Insider](#), by following [this link](#).

EDITORIAL NOTE

On May 31, Archbishop Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, was appointed by Pope Francis as a member of the Congregation for Oriental Churches.



SHEPHERDS AND MEMBERS OF THE ORDER, HONORED BY THE POPE'S TRUST

On the occasion of the Consistory last June, Pope Francis appointed the Bishop of Stockholm, His Eminence Anders Arborelius, Knight Grand Cross and Grand Prior of Honor of the Lieutenancy for Sweden and Denmark, a cardinal. The Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, was able to congratulate the first Scandinavian Cardinal personally, expressing his joy in seeing the growing development of the Order in Scandinavia.

Among the recent highlights announced by the Holy Father, two other eminent members of the Order were honored by his trust: the new president of the Italian Bishops' Conference in the person of Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti - Archbishop of Perugia, Knight Grand Cross and Prior of Umbria section - as well as the new Vicar of the Pope for the Diocese of Rome, Msgr. Angelo De Donatis, a member of the Order for thirty years. We entrust the mission of these shepherds to the intercession of the



The new Cardinal Anders Arborelius, a Swedish member of the Order, in the company of the Grand Master during the Consistory in Rome, June last.

Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Palestine, Patron of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

IN ROME THE EXHIBITION "MENORAH: WORSHIP, HISTORY AND MYTH"

Jerusalem and Rome. There are so many elements linking these two cities. An exhibition hosted in the Charlemagne Wing in the Vatican and in the Jewish Museum of Rome from May 16 to July 23 - the first born of a collaboration between the Vatican City State and the Jewish community of Rome - is emphasizing one: the Menorah.

A seven-armed candelabrum made of pure gold by Moses following the detailed instructions received from the Lord, the Menorah was then placed in the first Temple

of Jerusalem. Over the centuries this object, whose pilgrimage has accompanied those of the people of Israel, has become a strong symbol of Jewish culture and religion.

The Menorah metaphorically conjures up the light of the Lord, who through the Torah leads man to spiritual fullness, and the number seven of arms has led many to see a clear link with the biblical Shabbat, the seventh day of the week.

Historian Flavio Giuseppe recounts Tito's triumphal entry to Rome after the victory in Israel, culminating in the destruction of the



second Temple of Jerusalem in 70 AD, and among the objects brought to Rome, he also describes the famous seven-armed candelabrum. It is also carved into the Triumphal Arch erected at the foot of the Palatine Hill, the Arch of Titus (81-82 AD). It was then placed in the Temple of Peace built by Vespasian at the Forum. In the 5th century with the sack of Rome by the Vandals, all traces of the Menorah were lost and all the hypotheses of where it was brought became the stuff of legend.

What remains, however, is the value associated with this symbol, sometimes even in the Christian world, especially in the medieval age, in the liturgical context, but above all in the Jewish one where it is a carrier of spiritual significance and identity to the point that it was chosen as the main element in the coat of arms for the State of Israel. In addition to the vicissitudes of history, the



The seven-armed candelabrum, forged on the basis of the divine indications given to Moses, was taken by Roman troops from the Temple of Jerusalem. All traces of this object were definitively lost with the sack of Rome by the vandals led by Genseric.

Menorah remains for us all an invitation to be bearers of the light of the living God.

Elena Dini

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Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

“I WANT TO SERVE THE ORDER IN CONTINUITY WITH MY PREDECESSOR”

*Exclusive interview with Ambassador Leonardo Visconti of Modrone,
the new Governor General of the Equestrian Order of the Holy
Sepulchre of Jerusalem.*

Excellency, as you settle into the role of Governor General of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, what are you innermost sentiments?

I have some trepidation, being well aware that this is a very important office within the Church in the service of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Professor Agostino Borromeo has devoted his professional life to the history of the Church and has always viewed his commitment to the Order as an ecclesial mission, so he was very well suited to taking on the responsibility of the Governorship for two terms. We must pay homage to him as he leaves a healthy legacy: we have never had so many members and so many donations. My experience is very different, as I have served my country in the diplomatic service as an ambassador and this has allowed me to establish many important international relations. I trust that this will be useful to our pontifical institution which is universal in dimension. However, I still have a lot to learn from my consœurs and my confrères, Dames and Knights all over the world, and I count on Agostino Borromeo to accompany me, especially in the first phase of my four-year term. I want to serve the Order in continuity with my predecessor.

You mentioned your diplomatic

experience. In what way would you see it as being valuable to exercising your new role, alongside the Grand Master, at the head of the Order?

Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations that structure the life of the Order on all continents are somewhat equivalent to embassies for a government. Looking at the map of our peripheral structures, in many countries, I think of my work that has been, for over forty years, in dialogue with a multilateral diplomatic network. I can therefore make this dialogue experience available to promote cooperation, exchange, coherence in action and a dynamic of communion between all and everyone. I will have to visit the Lieutenants, keep in touch with our local leaders in continuity with what Professor Borromeo accomplished and in accordance with the directives of our Grand Master appointed by the Holy Father, His Eminence Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. He himself sets the example by frequently traveling to meet our members and to encourage their spiritual life and their mission of service to the Mother Church which is in the Holy Land. His visits, in recent years, have revitalized the Order in a truly exceptional way.

Your right-hand-man in all of this, Ambassador Alfredo Bastianelli, who has been Chancellor of the Order for





The new Governor General in his office at Palazzo della Rovere.

about a year, is also a close former colleague from the diplomatic service. How will your collaboration work?

I am pleased to find my colleague and friend Ambassador Alfredo Bastianelli. We worked together with the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in close collaboration for many years. As Chancellor of the Order, his in-depth knowledge of the current situation will be of great help, especially as I take my first steps as Governor General. We will continue to work in close proximity and complementarity, as we did earlier in our shared diplomatic career.

In your opinion, what is the current situation of the Order and what are the challenges that lie ahead in the coming years?

The Order is important for the Church and for society, but it deserves greater consideration because it is too often unknown to the public and even to the political world. For example, we are honored that the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, is a member of the Order. His engagement could inspire other

authorities who, by approaching our pontifical institution, could contribute to developing a synergy at the service of the people of the Middle East who suffer so much in this time of "piecemeal world war" as the Pope has called it. Our action in the Holy Land is in fact fundamental, especially through the educational works we sustain in Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Cyprus, on the vast territory of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. We will have to boost our communications to participate in initiatives in favor of justice and peace in these regions of the world where people aspire to fraternity and serenity in a dialogue of cultures and respect for different religious traditions.

The Pope counts on the Order of the Holy Sepulchre to continue to support Christians in the Middle East whose role as mediators is fundamental: they constitute a great bridge between communities, as witnesses of openness to others and actors of dialogue in fidelity to the Gospel of Christ. In your view, what can be



improved within the Order to help boost this mission?

The Holy Father invites us to evangelical consistency. His directives call out to us: we must give less importance to the external aspect of our belonging to the Order and emphasize our inner, spiritual commitment to deepen our struggle for dialogue and social justice in the Holy Land. My concept of the Church is in full agreement with that of Pope Francis, and I hope that the members of the Order will be increasingly focused on the living Gospel, abandoning everything that can, from a distance or from close up, evoke vanity, pride, and "worldliness." This is the expression of the Catholic faith that my wife and I have tried to convey to our three children and that is what we now witness to our six grandchildren. Humility is the only path that radiates the joy of the Kingdom of God already in this world.

What is the first message you want to send to the members of the Order as you take up office?

I invite all the members of the Order to unity and ask them to strengthen their effective participation in resolving problems in the Holy Land, especially by going on pilgrimage and being in contact with people

on the ground as often as possible. I have been deeply affected by my pilgrimages to the Holy Land, which began in my adolescence. At 13 I had the opportunity to live for some weeks in a kibbutz with other pilgrims and the priest of my parish, and I believe that we must do everything to educate young people to love this land, where God-made-man gave his life to teach us to live as brothers and sisters. In this sense, we should take care not to superimpose our liturgical celebrations with respect to our mission of solidarity: their meaning is to spiritually nourish our commitment to serving the Church's works on biblical territories that the Pope entrusts to our care. That is why we must create local synergies with all the political, social and economic forces, eager to promote peace and justice in these lands of suffering and hope.

Let's prepare for the 2018 Consulta, which will bring together the leaders of the Order in order to welcome our new statutes to adapt our whole course of action to the challenges that await us. The urgency is consistency.

**Interview by the Communication
Office of the Grand Magisterium of the
Order of the Holy Sepulchre**

BRIEF CURRICULUM VITAE OF AMBASSADOR LEONARDO VISCONTI DI MODRONE

Leonardo Visconti di Modrone was born in Milan in 1947 and graduated in Economics and Commerce in 1970.

He entered the Italian Diplomatic Corps in 1971 and served in diplomatic representations in New York (United Nations), Cairo, London, Vienna and Madrid. He has also carried out foreign missions in various European nations, North and South America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

He has served as an advisor to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers with ten different heads of government.

From 2005 to 2010, he was the Head of the Diplomatic Ceremonial of the Republic. He finished his career in 2012 as Ambassador of Italy to Spain.

Later he held positions for the Italian Government, among which he was recently consultant in the organization of the G7 Summit in Taormina.

He is a member of the Grand Magisterium of Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem since 2014.

Married in 1971 with Anna Sanfelice di Monteforte, he has three daughters and six grandchildren.



June 1-3, 2017

NORTH AMERICAN LIEUTENANTS' MEETING: A CHANCE TO GET TOGETHER AND SHARE

In early June, the 16 North American Lieutenants gathered for their annual meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, USA. Situated on the banks of the Missouri River, Omaha is the heartland of America ... a stop on the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail; it is known for its pioneer history, agriculture, beef industries, and a crossroad of railroads and commerce. His Excellency, P. Thomas Pogge, Lieutenant of the Northern USA Lieutenancy, and his wife, Anne, hosted the meetings.

His Eminence, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, and the then Governor General Agostino Borromeo, travelled from Rome to attend the meeting. Vice Governor General Powers and three members of the Grand Magisterium attended two days of meetings along with Monsignor John E. Kozar, Secretary General of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), and Monsignor Robert Stern, Secretary General Emeritus of CNEWA and consultant to the Order.

On Thursday evening, June 1, the Most Reverend George J. Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha, presided at Vespers in the presence of the Grand Master, at the recently renovated Jesuit Church of Saint John, located on the campus of Creighton University. It has recently been the practice of the Lieutenants to commence their meetings with Vespers. This year the Lieutenants and their wives had the unique opportunity to chant Vespers with over 180 seminarians from across the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries. The seminarians were participating in the

Summer Spiritual Formation Program offered by The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF), based in Omaha. Following Vespers, a reception was held at the Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, hosted by the Section Councilors for Omaha, Sir Robert and Dame Betsy Reed.

On Friday morning the meetings commenced with the Grand Master giving an opening address in which he emphasized the importance of the annual meeting, and asked that the Lieutenants continue their efforts in renewing the spiritual lives of the Knights and Dames.

Governor General Borromeo also addressed the group announcing the end of his mandate as Governor General of the Order. Professor Borromeo reflected on his years of service, provided updates on the Saint John the Baptist Foundation and Columbus Hotel, and the appointment of the Order's new Governor General, Ambassador Count Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.

Following the morning session, the Lieutenants and their wives returned to the Church of Saint John where Cardinal O'Brien celebrated Holy Mass and gave a moving and poignant homily for the IPF Community and seminarians.

On Friday afternoon, Vice Governor General Powers gave a detailed presentation on the finances of the Order, provided an update on the status of the revised Statutes of the Order, and announced the dates of the 2018 Consulta in Rome. On Friday evening, all of the Lieutenants were invited to the home of the Pogge's for a wonderful, grilled Omaha steak dinner.





A group photo taken at the Church of St. John of Creighton University in Omaha during the annual meeting of the North American Lieutenants.

The two days of meetings included a wide variety of topics and exchange of ideas ranging from the operations of a Lieutenancy, finances, liturgy, pilgrimages, and candidate formation.

Several newly appointed Lieutenants attended and the meeting provided them the opportunity to observe and participate in various discussions.

On Saturday morning, Professor Thomas McKiernan, President of the Holy Land Commission, gave an update on the construction projects currently underway in the Patriarchate and insight into the planned 2017 programs. Additionally, Monsignor John E. Kozar, President of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), having recently returned from the Holy Land, provided first-hand insight into the on-going refugee crisis facing Christians in Syria and Iraq.

The final day of meetings included discussions about the Speakers Bureau, a Squires Program, the Legacy Program, recruitment efforts, and activities planned for the 2018 Consulta. The Lieutenants also enjoyed time allocated to open discussion of whatever was on their minds, and a robust exchange of best practices and a sharing of ideas. Late Saturday afternoon, the Lieutenants and their spouses attended the Vigil Mass of Pentecost where Monsignor



Lieutenant Thomas Pogge while presenting Professor Agostino Borromeo, on behalf of all the American Lieutenants, a beautiful picture of Our Lady of Palestine in the presence of Cardinal Edwin O'Brien.

Kozar was the principal celebrant and homilist.

The meetings officially concluded on Saturday with an evening dinner honoring the Grand Master and the Governor General. H.E. Thomas Pogge presented on behalf of the North American Lieutenants a beautiful framed image of Our Lady of Palestine to the Governor General in thanksgiving and appreciation for all he has done for the Order during his various mandates.

John Carmen Piunno
Member of the Grand Magisterium



June 27-28, 2017

ANNUAL MEETING OF EUROPEAN LIEUTENANTS AND THE WELCOME OF THE NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

The Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, warmly thanked Professor Borrromeo who received a lengthy and warm applause from participants at the meeting of European Lieutenants. The new Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, was then presented, declaring that he hoped

to focus his attention on the needs of all the members of the Order and to work in continuity with his predecessor, who has left an exceptional legacy.

Consultor Pier Carlo Visconti accompanied by Professor Pierre Blanchard – member of the Grand Magisterium – presented the financial report, revealing an



GENNARI

During the meeting of the European Lieutenants in Rome, Cardinal Pietro Parolin – Secretary of State of the Holy See – delivered the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Gregory the Great on behalf of Pope Francis to Governor General Agostino Borrromeo, at the end of his second and last four-year mandate. The Order of St. Gregory was founded by Pope Gregory XVI in honor of Pope St. Gregorio (590-604). The Grand Cross expresses the highest appreciation of the Holy Father for the services rendered to the Holy See and the Church.



unparalleled growth in donations to the Holy Land (over 16 million euros), made possible above all through the activity of the Grand Master who systematically visits the Lieutenancies throughout the world, giving impulse and vitality to their local life and encouraging international communications within the Order. "In this way, a climate of trust and fraternity has been created, bringing the center closer to the peripheries," Professor Borromeo noted.

The Order continues to see new communities of Knights and Dames bloom: for example, new Magistral Delegations are planned in Chile and Peru. Chancellor Alfredo Bastianelli illustrated this continuous growth with statistics: about 30,000 members on all continents, a third of which women. Attraction to the Order in Asia and the Pacific is particularly revealing.

Regarding support provided to the Church in the Holy Land, the Assessor, Archbishop Antonio Franco, stressed that the St. John the Baptist Vatican Foundation,

wanted by the Pope, has succeeded in restoring the situation of the University of Madaba, favoring best practices and transparent management on the path towards full autonomy. In a broader sense, the Foundation's vocation is to promote culture and education in the Middle East.

Professor Thomas McKiernan, President of the Holy Land Commission – in charge of managing the Grand Magisterium projects at the request of the Latin Patriarchate – presented the current state of the projects concerning the church of Jubeiha, the school in Naour, as well as the pay increase for teachers in schools belonging to the the patriarchal archdiocese of Jerusalem, which includes Cyprus, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. These schools – which welcome many Muslims – are key places for building bridges of friendship and mutual understanding, which are key elements and guarantees for a future peace.

The Lieutenants have expressed the desire to be more active in Palestine where



A working session of the meeting of the European Lieutenants in one of the halls of Palazzo della Rovere, headquarters of the Order in Rome.



despair reigns, when at the instance of the Latin Patriarchate most of the Grand Magisterium projects are carried out in Jordan. It is true – as Professor Borromeo pointed out – that the proportion of Catholics in Palestine is very small (2% of Christians), however a future meeting with Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator, will take place on this subject.

Vice Governor General for North America, Patrick Powers, recalled that over two thirds of the expenses of the Latin Patriarchate are covered by the Order, including, for example, 100% of formation costs for priests in the Beit Jala seminary, located near Bethlehem, Palestine.

The United States, along with Germany, lead in donations, thanks to substantial legacies due to the particularly intense and participatory information activities among members (over \$ 2 million in legacies last year).

Subsequently, the issue of the Consulta, scheduled for 12 to 16 November 2018, was

discussed. The main agenda items will include the adoption of new Statutes for the Order; the preparation of Lieutenants to carry out their functions, as well as the place occupied by the ecclesiastics in the Lieutenancies. The Grand Master hopes that clergy will not exceed 10% of the members and that priests or religious be explicitly destined for a specifically spiritual service. Their role must therefore be better defined in this essentially secular Order, as opposed to that of Malta, which is instead a religious order.

The meeting ended with the welcome of the new Governor General, who called for a common prayer to coordinate all the Lieutenants "in a spirit of concrete, open and sincere dialogue."

F.V.

DATES OF THE CONSULTA

The Consulta, a five-year meeting of the leaders of the Order, will be held from November 12 to 16, 2018.





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NEW APPOINTMENTS BY THE GRAND MASTER

Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, has accepted the resignation of Professor Giuseppe Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, Lieutenant General, entrusting this position to Professor Agostino Borromeo as of July 27, 2017.

The Lieutenant General, who is part of the Grand Magisterium, exercises those special functions entrusted to him by the Grand Master and represents him in events involving the Order as his delegate when necessary.

Professor DALLA TORRE has been a member of the Order since 1991. He was born in 1943, is a graduate in law and is president of the Vatican State Tribunal and rector emeritus of the Lumsa University (Libera Università di Maria Ss. Assunta). Recently he

was appointed by the Holy Father to the Board of Directors of the Roman Pediatric Hospital Bambino Gesù, which belongs to the Vatican.

Governor General of the Order until June 29 last, and a historian by profession, **Professor BORROMEO**, is Secretary General and member of the Board of Directors of the St. John the Baptist Vatican Foundation, in support of education and culture in the Middle East. He is also a member of the Holy See's Historical Science Committee.

Also in July, the Grand Master appointed three new members of the Grand Magisterium – an Italian, a German and an Irish man – who will attend the meetings of the Order's advisory body of government.

Dr. Saverio PETRILLO, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, was born in Rome on October 7, 1939, and holds a Law degree. To date he has held the role of Lieutenant for



Central Italy, and is currently acting interim. A married family man, he was the director of the Pontifical Villas of Castel Gandolfo and has always occupied certain functions at the service of the Church, in particular as a Gentleman of His Holiness, Vice President General of the Circle of St. Peter and also as a member of the Permanent Delegation of

Holy See at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organizations. In July he was also nominated as a member of the Nomination and Promotion Committee of the Grand Magisterium of the Order.

Dr. Heinrich DICKMANN, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, was born in Kevelaer, Germany, on February 24, 1941. He completed his studies in mathematics and physics, then served as director of a company. Married, he is Lieutenant of Honor for Germany since 2015, after two very fruitful terms as leader



of the Order in his country. He is also a member of the Holy Land Commission of the Grand Magisterium.

Nicholas McKENNA was born in Ballymena, Ireland, in the diocese of Down and Connor on July 9, 1947. Married and father of family, he was active in the financial sector. A



Knight Grand Cross, he has been the Lieutenant of Honor for Ireland since 2014.

* * *

Professor Pierre BLANCHARD, who completed his two terms on the Grand Magisterium, was greatly thanked by the Grand Master who conferred upon him the Golden Palm of Jerusalem, the highest reward according to the Order's Statutes. Professor Blanchard remains a member of the Nomination and Promotion Committee.

THE GRAND MASTER'S CALENDAR

After having celebrated Investitures for the month of May in Viterbo (Lieutenancy for Central Italy) and Zagreb, the first Investiture and erection of the Magisterial Delegation for Croatia, and those of June in Halifax (Lieutenancy for Atlantic Canada) and Salzburg (Lieutenancy for Austria), the Grand Master presided over the two regional meetings of the American (June 1-3 in Omaha, USA) and European (June 27-28 at the headquarters of the Grand Magisterium in Rome) Lieutenants. During these meetings His Eminence formally welcomed the new Governor General of the Order, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.

From July 15 to 18, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien went to Amman where he met Prince Hassan of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, particularly engaged in the Christian-Muslim dialogue and the issue of refugees. On the same occasion, he attended the graduation ceremony at the University of Madaba which the Cardinal follows through the St. John the Baptist Vatican Foundation, of whom he is President.

For the month of September, the Grand Master is scheduled to visit the Lieutenancies for Malta and France on the occasion of their respective Investiture ceremonies (September 22-23 and September 30 to October 1).



This summer, the Grand Master delivered diplomas to students from the University of Madaba, Jordan.



The Order and the Holy Land

NEW APPOINTMENTS FOR THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

After a year of careful listening, analysis and evaluation, the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has announced new appointments for the diocese entrusted to his governance by Pope Francis. Some changes had already been announced and put into effect, for example, the appointment of Msgr. William Shomali as vicar for Jordan. In a letter published on June 14 on the Patriarchate website, Archbishop Pizzaballa also notes the other appointments.

First of all, as he himself states, "I believe that the presence of a bishop in Jerusalem is important, given all the different public commitments of the Latin Patriarchate. Bishop G. Boulos-Marcuzzo, after more than twenty years, has expressed his readiness to leave Nazareth and to come to Jerusalem, while Abouna Hanna Kaldani leaves Jordan for the first time in his life, to face a completely new adventure: Vicar in Nazareth."

With regards the Financial Administration, Archbishop Pizzaballa took the opportunity to thank Abouna Imad Twal for his service over the years as General Administrator and announce that "as Administrator I will take the direct

responsibility of the office, with a layperson who will help me in its management. Mr. Sami al-Yousef, who is currently the director of the Pontifical Mission to Palestine, expressed his readiness to help us in this period of assessment."

Changes are also envisaged for the Patriarchal Seminary. Abouna Jamal Khader who served for many years will be replaced as rector by Abouna Yakoub Rafidi who spent some years in Rome where he recently represented the Patriarchate at the 90th ROACO Plenary Meeting which dealt with the theme of the initial formation of seminarians and the ongoing formation of priests.

Finally, Abouna George Ayoub, Chancellor, will leave his post to continue his studies in Moral Theology in Rome and will be replaced by Abouna Ibrahim Shomali who will also take up the role of deputy director of the new Pastoral Office that will be chaired by Abouna Rafiq Khoury.

Msgr. Pizzaballa ends his letter thanking everyone for their ready obedience and announcing that the new posts are effective from August 15, 2017.

New appointments to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem include Sami al-Yousef, who for several years served as regional director of CNEWA - Pontifical Mission for Palestine and with whom the Order has collaborated on several occasions, especially for projects Supported by the Order through ROACO. In [this interview](#) given a year ago Sami al-Yousef spoke of interventions and projects in Gaza.



A MOSAIC LABORATORY SERVING REFUGEES IN JORDAN

The Order currently supports this beautiful initiative of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem through the Lieutenancy for Germany.

In order to support Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has launched a new project called "Living Mosaic". This project consists of forming some refugees so that they can create mosaics, from design to production, using various traditional techniques and instruments such as the hammer. Given the rich craft history of Byzantine and Umayyad mosaics, the project is being carried out in the city of Madaba.

The workshop is a positive element for refugees in many ways. On the one hand, employment will allow them to earn 10 Jordanian dinars each day, and to ensure daily subsistence, as well as the opportunity to sell works to various institutions. On the other hand, the workshop is an opportunity for them to take advantage of their idle time, learning new skills and acquiring professional knowledge. More generally, this project enriches refugees in Jordan by giving them an occupation as well as helping them better prepare for transfer to another country.

The Latin Patriarchate finances materials such as stone, pincers, mortar and wood fibers. The first month of training allowed ten families to venture into the field, and in the following two months, another ten families joined the project. Following some traditional motifs, these refugee families

make mosaics on different wooden supports, with stones mainly from Jordan. For the parish of Al-Huson, they created a large mosaic that resembles the eastern motifs of the Dutch painter Piet Gerrits, depicting the creation with twigs, angels, doves, trees and rivers. The laboratory currently produces numerous mosaic models and awaits buyers in order to support the activity of these households.

This project for refugees aims to help them stabilize and start again, thanks to this activity in the mosaics sector. In the spring of 2017, twenty-one Iraqis were engaged in the Madaba atelier daily. In addition to enhancing individual technical skills, they found a community of belonging and especially a meaning to give to their days.

Charles-Edouard Guilbert



The Mosaics Laboratory offered by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in Jordan, with the help of the Order, allows refugees to work.



THE "THANK YOU" OF THE CHILDREN OF BETHLEHEM TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

A Children's Reception Center in Bethlehem, administered by the Daughters of Charity, received the support of the Order: the Grand Magisterium forwarded the aid destined for them specifically by the Lieutenancy for Germany. We are happy to publish the moving letter that the children of this center, The Holy Family Children's Home, wrote to their benefactors of the Order before the start of summer holidays.

Dear friends and benefactors,

We have come to the end of the school year once again which closes, as always, with a small party enriched by the presence the families and parents of outside children who participated in our playful performances, full of joy, amused and we were very excited to receive our report cards!!!

As always it was a lot of fun, but beneath it all there remains a little bit of sadness for those who will leave us to begin a new path of growth and learning in primary school.

We too have to prepare to say goodbye carrying with us beautiful memories that we will jealously and carefully guard in our hearts.

Many of us have never had the fortune to know a family and this makes us feel even more alone and forgotten.

After the Crèche experience our future remains unknown even though other doors will open and welcome us to prepare for our future.

You know dear friends, these are always the sad moments of our story: Lives that continue with chapters that are more or less joyful, but which gift us the strength to continue and to go on despite everything.

We know we are very fragile but also very sensitive to gestures of affection, care, human warmth and tenderness.

We are, like all the other children, in need of gestures of humanity, fraternity, and friendship that have been unfairly denied since we were born.

Dear friends, your desire to help us and your concern for us, move us... We are very grateful to you.

It is all of you who are our strength and our support... Do not forget us, do not abandon us! We carry the experience of abandonment within us from birth... It's a very harsh and frustrating experience not to be repeated.

Thank you for all that you have always done with great love and that you continue to do with the same generosity that we know will not fall into a void.

We love you so much.

The little ones of the Bethlehem Crèche

The children of Holy Family Children's Home in Bethlehem wrote to the members of the Order to thank them for their help to the Daughters of Charity who care for this educational institution.



THE THOUSAND FACES OF THE HOLY LAND: SUMMER 2017

Summer in the Holy Land is always a hot period. This year, in July, we unfortunately witnessed some clashes involving the area of the al-Aqsa Mosque, leading at first to the choice of the state of Israel to impose restrictive measures on access to the third holy place of Islam including the obligation to pass through metal detectors. In protest of what has been considered a violation of the freedom of movement of the faithful and of the Status Quo, hundreds of Muslim faithful preferred to pray outside Temple Mount on Friday, July 21. Patriarchs and heads of local Churches in Jerusalem issued a statement on July 19, in which they expressed their concern over the escalation of violence in force, recalling that "any threat to continuity and integrity [of the Status Quo] could easily lead to serious and unpredictable consequences that would be particularly unwelcome in the current climate of tension between religions." Even Pope Francis in the Angelus on Sunday, July 23, recalled Jerusalem and invited to prayer: "Dear

brothers and sisters, I am in trepidation over the grave tensions and violence of these days in Jerusalem. I feel the need to express a heartfelt appeal to moderation and dialogue. I invite you to join me in prayer so that the Lord will inspire in all the purpose of reconciliation and peace." Some restrictions were later lifted but the situation is still tense.

But summer in the Holy Land is not just this: it is summer camps for young people - such as the two camps at Deir Rafat on "peace" and "respect" in July that involved about 200 children, young people and adults of Hebrew speaking Catholics and many other parish-organized camps; or international activities and meetings, such as the *Schola Occurrentes* Congress in Jerusalem that brought together professors and students from 41 universities in the world to discuss the theme "Universities and schools, Building peace through the culture of encounter"; and it is pilgrimage and spiritual refreshment for all those who choose to travel to the Land of Jesus and follow in his footsteps.



CABIDOCHÉ



PRAYING FOR PEACE IN THE HOLY LAND

The following prayer was written for us by Father David Neuhaus, to help us prepare our hearts for the upcoming Feast of Our Lady of Palestine, patron saint of the Order, marked each year on October 25.

Our Lady, Queen of Palestine, extend your hand over the Holy Land and over all who live there: Jews, Muslims, Druze and Christians, Palestinians, Israelis, migrant workers and refugees.

Our Lady, intercede for us all and especially for the Church, the Body of your Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord. We have been sent to preach Good News to all in the land that is yours and His, the land of the patriarchs, kings, prophets, apostles and of the first community formed to walk in the way of your Son, the Mother Church of Jerusalem. This mission needs the courage and the perseverance, the wisdom and the faith that were yours, pray for us.

On your knees He, who was your Lord and Master, learnt to speak and to pray, to act and to obey. We ask you to teach us to speak and to pray, to act and to obey today in the land called to be holy. In the midst of war and hatred, walls, occupation and discrimination, fear and rejection, instruct us how to be instruments of justice and peace, pardon and reconciliation. We affirm with you that he is our peace.

Show us the way to incarnate in our life as Church both fidelity to your Son and an embracing love for all in this land, especially for those who are the poorest and the most excluded, the homeless, the refugees, the prisoners, those who are maltreated, oppressed and are victims of injustice.

Our Lady, Queen of Palestine, you are our mother, given to us by your Son on the Cross. With you, we are called to be witnesses to the Resurrection that already heralds His Kingdom. Modeling ourselves on you, we ask Him to anoint us as Spirit filled proclaimers of the Good News that He has vanquished death by His death on the Cross and has given life to those in the tombs. May we, members of His Body the Church, be living

signs that point to the Kingdom that is already among us. Amen.

Mother Mary, Queen of Palestine, pray for us.

Father David Neuhaus, sj

Vicar of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for Migrants and Hebrew-speaking Catholics



The Life of the Lieutenancies

THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN THE AMERICAN CONTINENT

Excerpts of an interview with Vice Governor General Patrick Powers who describes the action of the Order in North America and tells more about his recent visit to Mexico, a Lieutenancy in his geographic area of responsibility.

What does it mean to be a Vice Governor General? How would you define the relationship between North America and the Holy Land?

The responsibility of Vice Governors General is to oversee the Lieutenancies and the Magistral Delegations within the geographic area assigned to them. In North America, for which I am responsible, there are five Lieutenancies in Canada, nine Lieutenancies in United States and one Lieutenancy each in Puerto Rico and in Mexico. All together those Lieutenancies in North America account for about 50% of the membership worldwide. They also account for about 65% of the financial contributions raised for the Order worldwide.

Would you like to tell us an experience of one of your recent trips around America?

In April, my wife and I were in Mexico where we are trying to rejuvenate and re-energize the Lieutenancy because until recently the members were without a Lieutenant for a number of years.

The first night we met with the members of the Order in Mexico City. After vespers with them, Deb and I went to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe with its rector, Monsignor Enrique Glennie. After 9 pm the



Vice Governor General for North America, Patrick Powers.

tilma or image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that is stamped or fused onto the apron of Saint Juan Diego is retracted into the vault where it is locked and kept all night. Monsignor Glennie opened the vault, allowed us to go into it, and we spent half an hour in front of the *tilma*.

It was such a spiritual and moving experience. I sincerely felt I was standing, kneeling and praying in the presence of Our Lady. It was like she was physically present with me. I was so excited about having this opportunity and during mass the Sunday before I was think about what I would pray for when I was in front of Our Lady. A



friend of mine with cancer came to my mind and I prayed for him. It was a wonderful time and I feel very grateful to have had that experience.

The devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe is amazing. In 1531 she appeared to Juan Diego. At that time the priests in Latin America were converting maybe 30,000 indigenous people a year. In the 10 years after the apparition, 9 million people converted to Christianity. It was so inspiring to go there and experience their devotion.

Then we went to Morelia where we met with Cardinal Alberto Suárez Inda, archbishop of Morelia. We shared news of the Order with him and invited him to join



the Order. Then, we went to Guadalajara and met with the members of the Order there who received us very warmly. We had vespers and then dinner together and they celebrated Saint Patrick's Day, my feast day, with me. They invited my wife and me to come back on October 12 and participate with them in the procession from the cathedral to the Basilica de Zapopan. We accepted their invitation with honor.

It is a seven mile procession involving over one million people!

Interview by Mercedes de la Torre
(click [here](#) to read the full article)

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