


JERUSALEM CROSS

ORDINIS EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

 @granmagistero.oessh

www.oessh.va

 @GM_oessh

Reflections of the Grand Master

LENTEN MESSAGE

Lent, as a forty day preparation for Easter is first mentioned as an established practice in the decrees of the Council of Nice, 325. The sacred season calls us to fast, prayer and almsgiving. Since the Second Vatican Council the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults serves as a liturgical and catechetical preparation for those entering into full communion with the Church. For all believers it is a period offering extraordinary opportunities for spiritual growth.

There is, of course the popular association of Lent with personal sacrifice or "giving up" of something good and ordinarily attractive. There is also a growing emphasis on increasing our works of charity and good deeds.

The Mass prayers of Lent are especially rich and date back to the earliest days of the Season. Might we turn to them, therefore as a prayerful opportunity to seek from God that which Lent should mean for us.

For example: Grant, O Lord:

- ... that as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint
- ... look with compassion on our weakness and ensure us your protection
- ... that we may grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ.

The petitions each day are many and profound. In making a special effort to arrive for Mass a little earlier during Lent, we might open the missalette to the Collect, the Prayer over the gifts or to the Prayer after Communion to enrich our personal prayer during that Mass and during the week that follows.



Lent allows us to spiritually prepare our hearts to receive the grace of Easter. It is a journey of interior conversion that is well symbolized by the Way of the Cross that the Knights and Dames of the Order walk on the streets of Jerusalem during the pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Edwin, Cardinal O'Brien

CONTENTS

The Order in Union with the Universal Church

RESPECTING THE STATUS QUO OF JERUSALEM	II
JERUSALEM IS A TREASURE FOR HUMANITY	V

Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

HOMAGE TO CARDINAL MONTEZEMOLO, ASSESSOR OF HONOR OF THE ORDER	VI
MSGR. GIUSEPPE LAZZAROTTO: "MY HEART IS ALWAYS IN JERUSALEM"	VII
THE GRAND MASTER'S AGENDA	IX
NEW LIEUTENANT OF THE ORDER FOR FRANCE IS INVESTED IN ROME	X
THE VISIT OF THE FORMER COLLABORATORS OF THE NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL	XI

The Order and the Holy Land

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CUSTODY, THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE AND THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE	XII
---	-----

SPOTLIGHT ON TWO INITIATIVES FUNDED BY THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE THANKS TO THE REGULAR MONTHLY AID OF THE ORDER XIV

BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND EASTER IN THE HOLY LAND XV

MSGR. GIRELLI, NEW APOSTOLIC DELEGATE FOR JERUSALEM AND PALESTINE AND NUNCIO IN ISRAEL XVI

EDUCATION, KEY TO HOPE IN THE HOLY LAND XVII

The Life of the Lieutenancies

TWO INITIATIVES OF THE LIEUTENANCY FOR SWITZERLAND XVIII

KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF BRAZIL IN THE HOLY LAND XIX

50 YEARS OF THE LIEUTENANCY FOR NORTHERN ITALY XX



IMPRESSUM GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM
00120 VATICAN CITY
E-mail: comunicazione@oessh.va

The Order in Union with the Universal Church

RESPECTING THE STATUS QUO OF JERUSALEM

On Wednesday December 6, Pope Francis launched an appeal during the general audience, "that everyone's effort respect the status quo of the city, in conformity with the pertinent United Nations Resolutions", stating that "Jerusalem is a unique city, sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, in which the Holy Places are venerated by the respective religions, and which has a special vocation for peace".

The following day, in a press release, the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – Cardinal Edwin O'Brien – shared "the deep concern

expressed by the Holy Father and countless other religious and civic leaders for the possible consequences of any unilateral decision that might alter the equilibrium of the Holy City". He also recalled "the necessity that all initiatives within the Land that contains the places of worship of the three major monotheistic religions, the Holy Sepulchre, the Wailing Wall and the Mosque of Omar be the result of a peaceful dialogue among all the interested parties".

Any action that violates the status of Jerusalem has global repercussions, affecting in particular the Arab-Muslim universe,



closely linked to one of the oldest Islamic sanctuaries, the Dome of the Rock. Therefore, on Friday December 8, demonstrations were held on all the continents, and already it seems that new strategic alliances are being drawn up on the global scene. The big European countries have insisted on respect for the UN Security Council resolutions, warning the US federal administration about the risk of dangerous destabilization.

The UN General Assembly has reaffirmed the principle of the internationalization of Jerusalem since 1948 and – taking into account historical reality – the Security Council emphasizes that it will not recognize any changes to the 1967 borders, including East Jerusalem, where the Old City is located, inhabited by 300,000 Palestinians but annexed by Israel.

The Palestinians received the support of a large majority of the UN General Assembly Member States on Thursday December 21, with the approval of a resolution declaring the American decision on Jerusalem “null and void”. Fourteen of the fifteen member states of the UN Security Council had already tried to condemn the US choice on

A HEARTFELT APPEAL

Excerpt from Pope Francis' address to the Diplomatic Corps - January 8, 2018

“ I think in particular of Israelis and Palestinians, in the wake of the tensions of recent weeks. The Holy See, while expressing sorrow for the loss of life in recent clashes, renews its pressing appeal that every initiative be carefully weighed so as to avoid exacerbating hostilities, and calls for a common commitment to respect, in conformity with the relevant United Nations Resolutions, the status quo of Jerusalem, a city sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims. Seventy years of confrontation make more urgent than ever the need for a political solution that allows the presence in the region of two independent states within internationally recognized borders. Despite the difficulties, a willingness to engage in dialogue and to resume negotiations remains the clearest way to achieving at last a peaceful coexistence between the two peoples.”

Monday, December 18, then blocked by a Washington veto.

“While winds of war blow on the world”,



The Communications Office of the Grand Magisterium was honored to be represented on December 19, 2017 at the audience granted by the Pope to the King of Jordan. The fraternal and serene atmosphere during the meeting between Francis and Abdallah, who exchanged like two friends, touched those who were there. The Hashemite sovereign gave the Holy Father a beautiful painting representing the holy places in Jerusalem that he traditionally protects. They both care for favouring a wise consultation about the Holy City, a treasure for humanity and world heritage of which no one can claim ownership. May our fervent prayer continue supporting the diplomatic action of the successor of Peter at the service of peace and interreligious dialogue in the Middle East.



Pope Francis transmitted in his own way – in his 2017 Christmas message – an appeal to the international community in favour of a concerted effort in the Holy Land. He indicated “the sign of the Child”, which leads us to “recognize him in the faces of children”, alluding to those for whom – just as for Jesus – “there is no place in the Inn” (*Luke 2,7*). “We see Jesus in the children of the Middle East who continue to suffer because of growing tensions between Israelis and Palestinians” he said. “On this festive day, let us ask the Lord for peace for Jerusalem and for all the Holy Land. Let us pray that the will to resume dialogue may prevail between the parties and that a negotiated solution can finally be reached, one that would allow the peaceful coexistence of two States within mutually agreed and internationally recognized borders. May the Lord also sustain the efforts of all those in the international community inspired by good will to help that afflicted land to find, despite grave obstacles the harmony, justice and security that it has long awaited”.

For our part, let us join in the prayer of the successor of Peter, meditating as often as possible on the psalms that enhance the “

“A SPECIAL STATUS”

Excerpt from the Holy Father’s letter to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar on the occasion of the Al-Azhar International Conference in support of Jerusalem

“The Holy See, for its part, will not cease to call urgently for a resumption of dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians for a negotiated solution, aimed at the peaceful coexistence of two states within the borders agreed between them and internationally recognized, with full respect for the special nature of Jerusalem, whose meaning goes beyond any consideration of territorial issues. Only a special status, also internationally guaranteed, can preserve its identity, the unique vocation of the place of peace the sacred places recall, and its universal value, allowing a future of reconciliation and hope for the entire region.”

Vatican City State, January 2018

city that is bound firmly together “. Let us invoke joy for Jerusalem: “May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your ramparts.” (*Psalms 122*).



GUCCIONE

SINCE 1975

DECORATIONS OF KNIGHTLY ORDERS



Order of the Holy Sepulchre
 Papal Equestrian Orders
 Order of Malta

Italian Dynastic Orders and Orders of the Italian Republic

Via dell'Orso, 17 - 00186 Roma - Italia

Tel/Fax: (+39) 06 68307839

gianluca.guccione@gmail.com

JERUSALEM IS A TREASURE FOR HUMANITY

Following the declarations of the US President regarding the city of Jerusalem, the Church in the Holy Land did not hesitate to express its concern about a situation of which it has first hand experience. Here is an excerpt from the communiques issued by the leaders of the local Churches of Jerusalem and of the Latin Patriarchate.



Our land is called to be a land of peace. Jerusalem, the city of God, is a city of peace for us and for the world. Unfortunately, though, our holy land with Jerusalem the Holy city, is today a land of conflict. [...] Mr. President, we have been following, with concern, the reports about the possibility of changing how the United States understands and deals with the status of Jerusalem. We are certain that such steps will yield increased hatred, conflict, violence and suffering in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, moving us farther from the goal of unity and deeper toward destructive division. We ask from you Mr. President to help us all walk towards more love and a definitive peace, which cannot be reached without Jerusalem being for all. [...] The Holy City can be shared and fully enjoyed once a political process helps liberate the hearts of all people, that live within it, from the conditions of conflict and destructiveness that they are experiencing.

Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches in Jerusalem

Bearing in mind a situation of evident conflict and considering the rapid changes of the Holy City, we think that every unilateral solution cannot be considered a solution.

Indeed, Jerusalem is a treasure of all humanity. Any exclusive claim – be it political or religious – is contrary to the city's own logic. Every citizen of Jerusalem and every person who comes to it on a visit or pilgrimage should be placed in a position to perceive and appropriate in some way the message of dialogue, coexistence and respect that the Holy City recalls and that often we hurt by our behavior. Jerusalem is a city that must welcome, where spaces must be opened and not closed. For too long its inhabitants are hostage to these continuous tensions that distort the character of it.

Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem

THE VOICE OF YOUNG PALESTINIANS

From the University of Bethlehem there have been some reactions to the United States' unilateral recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel:

I am frustrated by the politics, but confident that the delicate balance the different faiths keep in the holy city will prevail. In this sacred place, God is protecting us all.

Ghadeer Khateeb (4th year Muslim student)

Watching a Christian president stand in front of a Christmas tree and announce that decision was probably the most saddening thing to see. We Christians are supposed to help nations rise and make a change [...] His decision affects everyone living in the West Bank, both Christians and Muslims.

Leen Hadweh (3rd year Christian student)

Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

HOMAGE TO CARDINAL MONTEZEMOLO, ASSESSOR OF HONOR OF THE ORDER

Son of Giuseppe Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, an Italian army colonel shot at the Fosse Ardeatine on March 24, 1944, by the Nazis; Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo was the first Apostolic Nuncio in Israel. He died on November 19 in Rome, at the age of 92.

On November 21, 2017 the funeral was celebrated in St. Peter's Basilica by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, vice dean of the College of Cardinals, in the presence of the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as an important delegation of Knights led by the Governor General and by the Lieutenant General. As per tradition, Pope Francis presided over the rite of the *Ultima Commendatio* and the *Valedictio* at the end of the celebration. On October 14, 2016, he had visited Cardinal Montezemolo at the "Villa Betania" nursing home, expressing his profound esteem. In a message of condolence, the Holy Father expressed "sincere admiration" for the cardinal, archpriest emeritus of the papal basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

The Pope recalled "with gratitude his generous work in the pontifical representations of various countries, especially in Papua New Guinea, Nicaragua, Honduras, Uruguay, Israel and Italy, where he dedicated himself to the good of the people". Appointed Apostolic Delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine in 1990, he was the author of negotiations to normalize relations between the Holy See and Israel, which led to the 1993 agreement, after which he became the first Apostolic Nuncio in Israel (1994-1998).

As the first archpriest of the papal basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls (2005-2009), he demonstrated a particularly intense and competent commitment to "restore spiritual vitality" to this place, reestablishing "a new impetus to its ecumenical vocation", emphasized Francis in his message.

With the same purpose, Cardinal Montezemolo suggested to Benedict XVI the celebration of the Pauline Year (June 2008-June 2009) and promoted a scientific inquiry into what tradition held was the tomb of the Apostle to the Gentiles, which confirmed the authenticity of the remains.



The dignitaries of the Order in the front row in St. Peter's Basilica at the funeral of the Assessor of Honor who was the first Apostolic Nuncio in Israel.



MSGR. GIUSEPPE LAZZAROTTO: “MY HEART IS ALWAYS IN JERUSALEM”

A great Church diplomat at the service of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

With Pope Francis' approval, Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien has appointed Msgr. Giuseppe Lazzarotto Assessor of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The position was previously held by Msgr. Antonio Franco, who had asked to be replaced having reached the age of retirement. The new Assessor – who can be called to replace the Grand Master should the latter suffer an impediment or pass away – served for five years as Apostolic Nuncio in Israel and Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine. His mandate ended in August 2017. Msgr. Lazzarotto knows the Order well, having been a member for about fifteen years.

“I have a visceral love for the Holy Land and its inhabitants,” confided the new Assessor of the Order, as he recalls his first experience in that land in 1982-1984, when he was secretary for the Apostolic Delegation in Jerusalem, after a period spent at the Nunciature in Cuba. “Then I worked for ten years in Rome, at the second section of the Secretariat of State, for foreign relations, where I met the future Cardinal Pietro Parolin,

who was still a young official” he points out. Like the current Holy See Secretary of State, Monsignor Lazzarotto is originally from the province of Vicenza and the birthplaces of both men, where the same dialect is spoken, are just a few kilometres distant from each other.

After Rome, this great Church diplomat was sent on mission by the Pope as Apostolic Nuncio to Iraq and also as the first Nuncio to Jordan after the famous Oslo agreements of 1993 defined relations between Israel and Jordan. “Since Jordan belonged to the territory of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, I had numerous contacts with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre,” he says affably. “The situation in Iraq was difficult, because of international sanctions, but Christians freely lived their faith in peace,” he adds. He was soon to witness of a series



Msgr. Giuseppe Lazzarotto and his predecessor, Msgr. Antonio Franco, greet the Holy Father, Pope Francis, during a special audience.



of tragic Western decisions that shook the Middle East and forced millions of refugees of diverse confessions to flee.

Six years later, Monsignor Lazzarotto left for Ireland, where the local Lieutenancy wanted him to enter the Order. The diploma was signed by Cardinal Carlo Furno – Grand Master of the time – who had been a Professor to the new member at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy. The then Archbishop of Armagh – future Cardinal Sean Brady – celebrated the Investiture.

During his seven years in Ireland, the new member of the Order established beautiful spiritual friendships with Knights and Dames. Then it was time to leave again, for Australia, where he continued to care for members of the Order, especially at the annual meeting organized in the federal capital Canberra on Palm Sunday.

He describes his great and joyful surprise to be recalled to Jerusalem

six years ago, and how he made his solemn entry into the Holy Sepulchre on November 25, 2012, the eve of the entry to the Holy Sepulchre also of Cardinal O'Brien, who had just been appointed to the office of Grand Master by Pope Benedict XVI. "I met the Grand Master of the Order on that occasion, without imagining that one day I would become his right-hand man in Rome", commented Msgr. Lazzarotto, now fully available to assume the role of Assessor. In fact, he lives in Rome, not far from the Grand Magisterium, in a house where several retired nuncios continue to offer their important contribution to the Holy See.

His episcopal motto, "In virtute Spiritus" – which can be translated "in the power of the Spirit" – evokes the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan, as well as the mission of the first disciples who followed the Lamb of God

with boldness and courage until gift of his life for all men, in Jerusalem.

"Today – in a complicated international context concerning the question of Jerusalem – apostolic courage consists in fostering a bilateral dialogue, with the participation of the international community", emphasizes the Assessor of the Order, an expert advocate of the position of the Holy See on this issue: "The two-state solution, respecting the status quo and 1967 borders." "Everything is linked to Jerusalem – the religious, social and political aspect – and therefore the utmost delicacy is required, in order to preserve the balance and the sacred character of the holy city for three great monotheistic religions."

When he was Nuncio in Israel, Monsignor Lazzarotto worked hard on the agreement between this country and the Holy See regarding the places of worship and the taxation of religious institutes that have a commercial activity, a planned continuation

of the fundamental agreement signed in 1993.

"This desired final agreement is almost concluded", the diplomat observes, "and will represent a fundamental guarantee for the local Church", as in Palestine, where such an agreement was already concluded in 2015.

More generally, Archbishop Lazzarotto feels that his heart always remains in Jerusalem, a city that exercises "an incredible attraction" on those who fall in love with it. "Our mission – as members of the Order – consists in helping the Christian communities everywhere to live this luminous appeal, this special spiritual bond with a land chosen by God for His plan of salvation which continues today and of which we are called to be joyful channels of compassion and unity".

François Vayne

“ Today – in a complicated international context concerning the question of Jerusalem – apostolic courage consists in fostering a bilateral dialogue, with the participation of the international community ”





The Knights and Dames of Mexico around the Grand Master on the occasion of the Investiture in their country last December.

THE GRAND MASTER'S AGENDA

During the month of November, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien visited the Lieutenancy of Gibraltar where he presided over an Investiture ceremony on November 18. A few days before his departure, the Grand Master had made one of his habitual visits to Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, Assessor of Honor of the Order, during which he celebrated Mass in his apartment. The same weekend Cardinal Montezemolo died and Cardinal O'Brien, together with the highest offices of the Order, full of recognition for the service rendered by the Assessor of Honor, attended the funeral on November 21.

On November 24, His Eminence celebrated the Investiture of Msgr. Andrew McLean Cummings and Father Michael Sedor at the Congregation for the Oriental Churches in the presence of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect, and of all the staff of the Congregation with whom the Order often interfaces and collaborates within the context of ROACO (Reunion of Aid Agencies for Oriental Churches).

At the beginning of December the Grand Master, accompanied by the Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo, the Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and the Vice Governor General Patrick Powers, went to Mexico to preside over the Investiture of 18 new members of the Order in this increasingly lively Lieutenancy.

During this Lent, Cardinal O'Brien has already planned to go to Investitures in Loreto (March 9-10) and Copenhagen (March 17).

The Grand Master is pleased to share in the joy of the Lieutenancies for the Investitures and to preside over these ceremonies. Lieutenancies wishing to invite him for this purpose are kindly asked to submit their request to Cardinal O'Brien's Secretariat (gm@oessh.va) with about a year and a half advance notice to allow for the necessary organization.



CONSULTA

November 13-16, 2018 - Rome

Every five years, all Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates gather around the Cardinal Grand Master and the Grand Magisterium to discuss the great questions of the Order's mission and life.

We already accompany the participants in this historic meeting with our prayer!

NEW LIEUTENANT OF THE ORDER FOR FRANCE IS INVESTED IN ROME

The Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, welcomed the proposal by the Archbishop of Tours and head ad interim of the Lieutenancy for France of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Monsignor Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin, to appoint a new Lieutenant in the person of General Jean-Marie Faugère. His Investiture took place during a solemn ceremony at the Palazzo della Rovere on January 15.

Born March 22, 1949, Jean-Marie Faugère, is a committed Christian, husband and father of five children. A military General (second section), the new Lieutenant of the Order for France was a student of the Military Academy of Saint-Cyr ("Général Gilles" class, 1969-1971). He served in troop corps (armored artillery, paratrooper, military intelligence services), as well as in the central staff in Paris, at operational and

regional levels. He obtained a license from the Military Academy, a diploma from ENSTA and undertook specialized courses in nuclear armaments.

General Faugère ended his officer's career as an Inspector general of the army. He was president of the G2S (think tank of experts made up of army officers, second section), president of the Federation of French army Catholic chaplain association, as well as counsellor for the defense of the THALES Group.

The responsibilities of leadership and command he has taken in the military – along with the human experience thus acquired – will help the new Lieutenant for France of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem guide the action of Knights and Dames, serving all the inhabitants of an area where world peace is largely decided.



Investiture in Rome of General Jean-Marie Faugère, officially named new Lieutenant of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for France. The ceremony – held at Palazzo della Rovere – was presided over by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, in the presence of the highest authorities of the Order, as well as an important delegation of the Lieutenancy for France, led by Msgr. Bernard-Nicolas Aubertin.



THE VISIT OF THE FORMER COLLABORATORS OF THE NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL

At the beginning of December, about one hundred people from the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers were welcomed to Palazzo della Rovere by Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.

The guests were his former collaborators, in particular for the organization of the G7 summit in Taormina, Sicily, in May 2017, before the Ambassador took office as the new Governor General of the Order. During this friendly reception, most of the young Italian State officials present, led by the minister plenipotentiary Alessandro Modiano, head of the delegation of the Italian presidency of the G7, were able to discover the mission and the action of the Order in the Holy Land, also expressing in some cases the desire to know more. Bonds created in this way undoubtedly foster better awareness of this pontifical institution.

Here we publish a testimony given on the occasion of the gathering.

"It was a real honor to be hosted by Ambassador Visconti di Modrone at Palazzo della Rovere, not only for the beauty of the venue that he generously wanted to share with us but also, and above all, because it gave us the opportunity to meet again. The Ambassador was a kind and attentive host, just as he had accustomed us during the G7 experience, when he was a mentor for all of us, always available and ready to advise and guide us. I hope that there will be other opportunities to see each other again, to remember the good times spent together and to create new ones. As a graduate in Oriental Languages and Civilizations, and given my particular interest in Arab-Muslim culture, it is a delight for me to learn about the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and what it does at the service of interreligious and intercultural dialogue. This meeting awakened in me the desire to go and visit the Holy Land. Following the example of the members of the Order, each of us can be a mediator in logic of peace."

Viola Giangiordano



The Governor General welcomed his former collaborators in organizing the G7, receiving a gift that represents the rich diversity of Italian culture.



The Order and the Holy Land

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE CUSTODY, THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE AND THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

*Interview with the Custos of the Holy Land, Father Francesco Patton
 published in full on our website www.oessh.va.*

Father Patton, what were the historical ties between the Custody and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre before the restoration of the Latin Patriarchate, and how would you now

consider the collaboration with the Knights and Dames who come on pilgrimage to the Holy Land?

The historical ties with the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre date back to 1474 when, by pontifical institution, the Custos of the Holy Land received the faculty to create the Knights. Since then, an institutional relationship has been developed down through the centuries with various forms of collaboration, especially in favour of the Holy Sites in general and of the Holy Sepulchre in particular. The last Knight invested by the Custos was Patriarch Valerga himself in 1848. From that moment on, more direct relations have been consolidated between the Order and the Latin Patriarchate.

Today, the relationship between the Custody and the Knights is inspired by a spirit of fraternal collaboration: whenever



Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone speaking in Jerusalem with Father Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land.

they make their solemn entrance into the Holy Sepulchre, or visit Jerusalem and ask to meet the Custos, or when they want to offer their help to support some projects in favour of the works of the Custody of the

Holy Land, also in memory of their origins and their original bond with the Custody and for the benefit of local Christians.

The Custody coordinated the pastoral activities of the Latin Church in the Holy Land for several centuries. After the restoration of the Latin Patriarchate in 1847, how did the relations between these two ecclesiastical institutions evolve?

Until the year 1516, the Custody could not undertake other forms of apostolate except presence in the Shrines, prayer, liturgical celebrations, welcoming and caring for the pilgrims hosted in its own sites. Following the change of the regime in the region, when the Mamluks were replaced by the Ottomans who were to a certain extent more tolerant, the friars of the Custody commenced pastoral activity with local Christian



populations. Beginning in 1555, the first steps were made in the return to the communion of the Catholic Church of local non-Catholic Christians, and hence the formation of the first "Latin" parish communities around the Sanctuaries. This growing activity over time enabled Blessed Pope Pius IX, in 1847, to create a Latin diocese in the Holy Land, which took the form of a "reestablishment" or "restoration" of the "Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem" (the title of the Patriarch existed from the Council of Chalcedon, and at the time of the Crusades it was resumed and survived after their defeat only in Europe as an episcopal title *in partibus infidelium*. In 1847 it was "returned to the See").

In 1627, the Congregation of Propaganda Fide considered the Custody of the Holy Land a true mission in *partibus infidelium*, declaring it directly subject to its jurisdiction and recognizing to the Friars Minor parish rights in all places where convents and hostels were founded.

Inevitably, the creation of the new Catholic territorial circumscriptions, especially those of the Latin rite, within the territory of the Custody's Mission, initially gave rise to some

uncertainty as to the precise relationship between the respective jurisdictions, which were dealt with in several successive decrees of the Holy See.

These issues have now been clarified: in the apostolate among the local faithful, the Friars of the Custody serve the Particular Churches, similar to the religious who exercise their apostolate everywhere in the Catholic orb; while the competence of the Custody of the Holy Places remains proper to the Custody who always safeguards these Sites on behalf of the whole of Catholicity. The Custody still carries out pastoral activities in 29 parishes and in numerous churches, chapels and institutions. Although, as with the creation of all Particular Churches, the pastoral care of those parishes entrusted to religious is subject to the government of the Ordinary of the ecclesiastical territory, according to canon law.

Today, after 170 years of experience and maturity, we can say that we live our mutual relation in a spirit of maximum respect for respective tasks and mutual cooperation, especially in the pastoral field.

TAILORING SUPPLIES



CAPES
 MEDALS
 ACCESSORIES

Barbiconi
 Sartoria ecclesiastica

SPOTLIGHT ON TWO INITIATIVES FUNDED BY THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE THANKS TO THE REGULAR MONTHLY AID OF THE ORDER

Sami El-Yousef, administrative director of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, responds to our question.

The Grand Magisterium of the Order sends monthly sums of money to the Latin Patriarchate for institutional expenses (on average € 600,000 per month) – in addition to what has been agreed for specific annual projects. Can you give us some concrete examples of this permanent funding, describing how this help contributes practically and every day to supporting the whole diocese of Jerusalem?

Since its restoration in the 19th century, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem benefits from the spiritual and financial support of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Today, most of the institutional expenses of this Diocese are mostly financed with the help of the Order. As samples, we can highlight the running cost of the 42 Latin schools, the clergy medical expenses and Our Lady of Peace Center in Jordan, which takes care of handicapped children and Iraqi refugees. I would also

like to underline the support given to two important institutes, among many others of which we will have the opportunity to speak again.

First of all, **the Taybeh retirement home for the elderly**. Created in 2002 in the Christian village of Taybeh, the Beit Afram House welcomes 26 old people from several places in Palestine. These people come from very poor or broken families, their arrival here is a real tear for them and their children. In this house, they find proper medical care, a warm environment and a spiritual accompaniment, thanks in particular to the Brazilian missionaries living there. The



A Christmas party with the children of Gaza, organized by the catechetical office of the Latin Patriarchate.



elderly house is a recognized and vital place. Thanks to the Order, the running cost of this center as well as the care expenses and the accommodation of the missionaries are not a burden for the House, which is therefore able to focus on the health and spiritual care.

Furthermore, **the catechetical office of the Latin Patriarchate**. Led by a Rosary sister, this office was created in 1994 in order to provide the Latin schools and catechetical centers throughout the Diocese with diverse pedagogical and spiritual supports. We could

mention here the yearly retreat for the catechists of West Bank and Jerusalem, the recently printed new edition of catechumenal books for youth (written by a comity of clerks and laypersons), the organization of Holy sites of the Diocese for youth groups, and the design of educational tools such as a pedagogical presentation of the history of the Latin Patriarchate. The cost of all these activities is mainly supported by the Order, which therefore directly helps the Church in its spiritual mission.

BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND EASTER IN THE HOLY LAND

The highpoints of the life of the Church carry all of us, even more than usual, with our hearts and minds to the Holy Land, to the precise places where the events of the history of salvation took place. During Advent and Lent and during the days of Christmas and Easter, first Bethlehem then Jerusalem come to life in a very special way. First of all it is good to remember that not all Christians celebrate, for example, Christmas on the same day and so, in the richness of diversity, they "take advantage" of this to prolong the joyous atmosphere of Christmas time.

This Christmas, the Middle East Council of Churches proposed a series of 12 mini documentaries entitled "Bridges for Bethlehem" (<http://mecc.org/bridges-to-bethlehem/>) to show how Christmas is celebrated in the various Churches (Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant) in the Middle East. Following [this link](#)

you will find the documentary produced with the help of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Now, as we enter the Lenten season, we can feel particularly close to all local Christians and pilgrims who every Friday at 3pm join the Franciscan friars who walk the Via Dolorosa remembering and meditating moments from Christ's Way of the Cross to Golgotha. The last stations (from the 10th to the 14th) of the Way are located inside the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, so dear to the members of the Order. Another tradition of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem during the weeks leading up to

Easter is to conduct a solemn procession every Saturday inside the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, dwelling on the emblematic places of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



If you are in the Holy Land in these days, we would invite you to share your photos by sending them to comunicazione@oessh.va



MSGR. GIRELLI, NEW APOSTOLIC DELEGATE FOR JERUSALEM AND PALESTINE AND NUNCIO IN ISRAEL

Last September Msgr. Leopoldo Girelli was appointed to succeed Msgr. Giuseppe Lazzarotto who served as a Nuncio in the Holy Land from 2012 to 2017. The new Apostolic Delegate for Jerusalem and Palestine and Apostolic Nuncio for Israel and Cyprus made his solemn entrance in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on December 14, 2017. Msgr. Girelli, 64, has previously held senior diplomatic positions as a representative of the Holy See in several Asian countries, particularly in Indonesia, East Timor, Singapore, Malaysia and in Vietnam.

It was at Jaffa Gate where the various bishops, priests, religious men and women, General Consuls and the faithful welcomed Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, the new Pontifical representative to the Holy Land. After some brief greetings, the procession towards the Holy Sepulchre started with rhythmic tapping of the Kawas' staffs.

Once in the Holy Sepulchre, the Custos of the Holy Land Fr. Francesco Patton welcomed the Nuncio. Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate, on

the other hand reflected on the significance of such an entry to the Holy Sepulchre before the assuming of any office. "We come here to make clear to ourselves who we are – said the Archbishop – to see the empty Tomb and to believe, in order to give testimony and proclaim that Jesus is the Lord". He added, "we come here also to ask the Lord to inspire us and protect our mission and to bring to Him our unresolved demands...especially in these days, when violence and misunderstandings seem to prevail again, where communities and peoples apparently refuse to acknowledge the rights of the other and where the sanctity of the Places of the Scriptures become source of division and not places of prayer for all the peoples."

The Nuncio then, standing before the renovated Edicule, thanked the bishops, vicars, the different Christian communities, the General Consuls and he also expressed his warm sentiments to the "brothers and sisters of Muslim and Jewish faiths in the Holy Land, wishing for and with them an increase of mutual understanding, dialogue and fraternity".

(Source: Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem)

The new Apostolic Delegate for Jerusalem and Palestine, Nuncio in Israel and Cyprus, on the day of his solemn entry into the Holy Sepulchre.



EDUCATION, KEY TO HOPE IN THE HOLY LAND

2018 visit of the Holy Land Coordination.

"We have come to the Holy Land to meet its youth, listen to their voices, and pray for justice and peace. Despite the continuing destructive conflict and the divisive approach of so many in power, our faith in God gives hope for the better future sought by young people here. [...] It is young people who are daring to pursue justice and challenge the divisions that have been forced upon them. It is schools and youth projects that are breaking down barriers and equipping people to build tolerance. It is young volunteers, such as those working with The Arche in Bethlehem, Beit Emmaus in Qubeibeh, and religious orders in Gaza, who are demonstrating humanity in this wounded society."

These words are part of the final statement by the Holy Land Coordination at the end of its 2018 visit which took place from January 13 to 18. The Holy Land Coordination was established at the end of the twentieth century at the invitation of the Holy See with the aim of visiting and supporting the local Christian communities of the Holy Land and consists of bishops from all over Europe, North America and South Africa.

The theme of education and its contribution to building a peaceful future was the guiding thread that led the delegation meetings. On January 14, the group went to Gaza to see the situation in this territory particularly affected by the conflict for themselves.

The schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem were chief among the structures visited by the delegation. The Director General of the schools of

the Latin Patriarchate in Palestine and Israel, Father Iyad Twal, demonstrated the importance of these institutions as instruments of peace and justice thanks to their role in fostering coexistence and interaction within society. Other visits led the delegation to meet the students of the Mor Jewish High School and a group of students of the law faculty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem who study the issue of multiculturalism and deal with cases related to discrimination. The Coordination also wanted to see realities in which young people are involved as volunteers (in a home for the elderly in Qubeibeh) and projects that promote youth employment (like the one carried out by the University of Bethlehem).

The bishops end their communiqué with an appeal to their communities to act in solidarity with the young people of the Holy Land "through supporting organizations that help to create jobs, provide housing, and facilitate dialogue; through prayer and making pilgrimages which encounter and support local people; and through standing resolutely against all those who seek to create further division, especially among our own political leadership."

Established at the invitation of the Holy See with the aim of visiting and supporting the local Christian communities of the Holy Land, the Holy Land Coordination consists of bishops from all over Europe, North America and South Africa.



The Life of the Lieutenancies

TWO INITIATIVES OF THE LIEUTENANCY FOR SWITZERLAND

The Lieutenancy for Switzerland has launched two original initiatives which boost awareness of the Order: an App for smartphones and tablets for the members and the creation of Polo shirts with the Order's logo, which will help promote the institution even among people who are still not very familiar with it.

The new "OESSH" App not only makes the Swiss Lieutenancy list of members readily available but also makes sure it is always up-to-date with all of the important information concerning the Order. Already many members of the Lieutenancy regularly use this App - available in German, French and Italian - that provides personal data, addresses, telephone numbers and emails of members as well as indicating their role, category and Delegation. A search field and numerous filters make it easier to find the people in question. You can even call the phone number directly with the application, write a text message or an email or include the member in your personal contacts.

In addition to facilitating contact and communication, the App contains updated news about the Order and the Universal Church and several documents in PDF format: invitations and information regarding events, statutes and guidelines, prayers etc. The calendar section contains a list of all the appointments of interest to members with indication of the date, place and time and with the possibility to add them directly to one's own personal phone agenda.

Another initiative launched by the Lieutenancy for Switzerland this year is the sale of Polo shirts with the Order logo for Knights, Dames and friends who are sensitive to our mission to further support our brothers



The polo shirts of the Lieutenancy for Switzerland donated to the Grand Master and to the Governor General of the Order by the Vice Governor for Europe, Giorgio Moroni Stampa, and by his daughter Paola, author of the initiative.

and sisters of the Holy Land with the proceeds from sales. Since joining the Order in 2016, Paola Moroni Stampa asked herself how she could concretely work within the Lieutenancy and in March 2017 presented the project of the "branded" Polo shirts to the Lieutenancy Council who approved it.

"This is the aim of the Polo shirts, to visibly show the wearers belonging to the Order or their support for it. I thought, for example, that it would be nice for all the pilgrims to wear the red and white shirt that makes us immediately recognizable as a group, for the motto written on the back of the collar "*Deus lo vult*"», says Paola Moroni Stampa then



recalling the first sales of the Order: "For the Austrian-Swiss Investiture in Salzburg, we inaugurated our sales: our small boutique was stormed. Swiss, Austrian and German Knights and Dames, as well as the large Belgian delegation, and the many guests of honor couldn't resist and bought the beautiful polo shirts, made in Switzerland with excellent quality materials".

Two fraternal moments at the end of October saw the delivery of the Polo shirts in Rome to the Cardinal Grand Master, to the Governor General and to the Lieutenant General and in November to Msgr. Pizzaballa during the Holy Land pilgrimage of the Knights and Dames of the Italian Swiss Section.

KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF BRAZIL IN THE HOLY LAND

"When you come back from a pilgrimage you are no longer the same"

"I want to tell all the Lieutenants of the world to organize a pilgrimage with their Lieutenancies to the Holy Land. Members who experience a pilgrimage will no longer be the same and their way of being Knights and Dames will also change. The experience of the pilgrimage profoundly touches your heart". Returning from the first official pilgrimage of the Order's Lieutenancy for Brazil - Rio de Janeiro (one of the two present in the country) to the Holy Land and Rome, Lieutenant Isis Penido speaks of an experience that "more than a journey, is an encounter

with God".

Led by Msgr. André Sampaio, Prior of the Order, the 28 pilgrims spent 13 days of discovery, listening, prayer and sharing. The



The pilgrimage of the Brazilian Lieutenancy of Rio de Janeiro brought its members to the Holy Land and then to Rome where they had the joy of being able to greet the Grand Master personally.



choice to leave on pilgrimage is not always obvious, as testified by Angela Graell who does not belong to the Order but decided to join the group: "Nothing in life happens by chance. I received an invitation from Isis Penido to take part in the pilgrimage; at first I refused the invitation but then I felt a force calling me and I became part of the group."

On September 11 the group had the opportunity to live a wonderful experience: the Investiture of two Dames, Isabelle Lessa and Luiza Gazola, at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. Isabelle comments: "They say that those who know the Holy Land later are no longer the same. And it's true. The energy and presence of God felt in each of the places we visited completely transformed me. But, even more than that, the blessing of receiving the Investiture in Jerusalem was something indescribable and unforgettable and a great honor. To confirm my Catholic faith and my Christian intentions, renew the baptismal promises in the river Jordan and attend a unique ceremony at the vespers of my Investiture in the chapel of Golgotha inside

the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre: all of this was a blessing and reason for thanksgiving to God for giving me the opportunity to feel Him ever more present in my life".

The group continued its journey to Rome where it participated in an audience with Pope Francis and where it was then received at the headquarters of the Grand Magisterium of the Order by the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. This meeting "filled us with joy and strengthened the certainty that the Lieutenancy for Brazil - Rio de Janeiro is walking on the right path, respecting the Constitution of the Order and the hierarchy of our Church", said the Lieutenant.

After the pilgrimage, one returns to one's own home but it is precisely there that the fruits of the pilgrimage mature and benefit the life of the Lieutenancy, of the ecclesial community and of the society in which one lives.

You can find an interview with Lieutenant Isis Penido about the life of the Lieutenancy for Brazil - Rio de Janeiro on our website www.oessh.va.

50 YEARS OF THE LIEUTENANCY FOR NORTHERN ITALY

50 years have passed since the institution of the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy and the Knights and Dames marked this anniversary on November 11 at the Church of Our Lady of Peace in Milan, headquarter of the Lieutenancy, with a classical music concert held by the Ars Cantus symphonic ensemble with more than 200 people composing the choir and symphony orchestra. Lieutenant Roberto Giuliano Protto wanted to remember and thank the Knights and Dames who started this peripheral structure of the Order 50 years ago.

Celebrating this recurrence the words St. John Paul II addressed to the representatives of the Lieutenancies for Central and Northern Italy in December 1983 should be recalled: "I intend to be close to you with my word of encouragement. Again with Saint Paul I say to you: "Never tire of doing good" (2 Thess. 3, 13). I rely heavily on your presence, on the generous and completely disinterested dedication to such a noble cause, on the enthusiasm that comes from serving the Church, providing for the most urgent needs of a chosen portion of her children. In this Christian witness and in such a valid charitable activity I desire that you continue to distinguish yourselves, and I pray that the Lord may sustain you and His Spirit enlighten you in the choices of every day".

The concert, which was also a way to express the presence of the Order in the territory, was attended by over 400 people.

