


# JERUSALEM CROSS

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## Reflections of the Grand Master

### PERSONAL HOLINESS: A PRIORITY FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER



Every member is well aware that the first purpose of our Order is "to strengthen in its members the practice of Christian life" – that is, to grow in personal holiness.

I am invariably impressed by the seriousness with which our members acknowledge this "first principle" and are seeking holiness. Of course, none of us is ever "completely holy." We are all seeking to become more like Christ in every facet of our lives. St. Paul tells us that this is the special role of the Holy Spirit, for all of us

"...are being transformed into [Christ's]

likeness with ever increasing glory, through the power of the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Cor 3:18), and

"God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us" (Rom 5:5).

This is an ongoing interior transformation into Christ that we don't see directly but is gradually realized by regular prayer and sacramental participation, especially in the Eucharist and Penance. But that is not to say that our transformation into the likeness of Christ cannot be perceived. We know it can be perceived in our way of life and even in the countenance of the holy person each of us is called to be. Such has been the case in most canonized saints.

In his beautiful Apostolic Exhortation *Rejoice and be Glad*, Pope Francis suggests that "the measure of our holiness stems from the stature that Christ achieves in us... by the power of the Spirit." He suggests further:

"Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today's world" for each of us is "a message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world."

What, we might ask, are those unique,



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God-given talents and gifts that the Holy Spirit is forging in me to make me "a message which the Holy Spirit takes from the riches of Christ and gives to the world"? Do I pray for the Holy Spirit to do so?

I look forward to the Consulta to be held here in Rome, November 13-16. As we discuss the role of our Lieutenants - a most timely topic - I suggest the fostering of personal holiness in our every member will be high on the list of our priorities.

In that effort, the prayers of all will be helpful.

**Edwin Cardinal O'Brien**

*The logo of the Consulta 2018 of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre symbolically unites Rome and the Holy Land, as an invitation for the Universal Church to turn its gaze to Jerusalem, to draw closer to Christ, God's anointed One, who communicates His powerful victory over sin to each of us.*

## The Order in Union with the Universal Church

# HISTORICAL BARI MEETING BETWEEN POPE AND PATRIARCHS OF THE ORIENTAL CHURCHES

*Pilgrims in Bari, "this window open to the Near East", in the words of Pope Francis: The Patriarchs of the various Oriental Christian confessions gathered there with the bishop of Rome, last 7 July, in an ecumenical dynamic aimed at invoking peace for the peoples of the biblical territories. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre was represented by a delegation of the Lieutenancy for Southern Adriatic Italy – led by Lieutenant Ferdinando Parente – and by the Prior of the local section, Msgr. Luigi Renna, bishop of Cerignola-Ascoli Satriano, gathered in prayer around Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and Pro Grand Prior of the Order.*

The heads of the Churches first gathered in the crypt of the basilica, next to the relics of St. Nicholas – a witness of faith greatly revered in the East – where they lit the "one-flame lamp", a symbol of unity and hope. The Holy Father later commented on this moment, extolling the "sign of a light that continues to shine forth in the dark" and explaining that "when we lift up our hands to heaven in prayer, and we stretch out our hands to our brothers and sisters without seeking our own advantage, then the fire of the Spirit, the Spirit of unity and of peace, is kindled and leaps into flame".

Participants in this unique and historic meeting then travelled in a sort of 'ecumenical popemobile' to the seafront, where they implored "God of all consolation" (2 Cor 1,3) for all those who suffer in the Middle East, cradle of the great monotheistic religions. "In the Middle East there are the roots of our own souls", recalled the Successor of Peter, underlining that the Lord,

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*In the hour of the "ecumenism of blood" lived by the Christians of the East, the Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and Pope Francis spare no efforts to realize Christ's call: "that all may be one" (Jn 17:21).*

"the sun rising from above", came here to visit us. He denounced "the complicit silence of many" regarding war and violence, forced occupation and migration. The Pope also evoked the danger that "the presence of our brothers and sisters in the faith will disappear, disfiguring the very face of the region".





Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and Pro Grand Prior of the Order, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, welcomed to Bari by the Lieutenant for Southern Adriatic Italy (to the right of the archbishop in the photo) and two of his main collaborators.

"From the waters of the Nile to the Jordan Valley and beyond, through the Orontes to the Tigris and the Euphrates, may the plea of the Psalm resound: 'Peace be upon you!'", The Pope exclaimed intoning the prophets. He continued: "We want to be a voice that contrasts the murder of indifference. We want to give a voice to those who have none, to those who can only wipe away their tears". Then together with the other leaders of the various Churches including one woman - Souraya Bechealany - Secretary General of the Council of Churches of the Middle East - the pope retired for a closed door meeting.

This beautiful experience of synodality - introduced by Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Apostolic Administrator of Jerusalem - was characterized by a series of exchanges, during which everyone was able to intervene on fundamental topics such as justice, peace and respect for personal dignity. "We feel we must once again convert to the Gospel", the Holy Father later told those gathered before the basilica, revealing that "as the Middle East endures a night of agony... it will not be flight (cf. Mt 26:56) or the sword (cf. Mt 26:52) that will lead to the

radiant dawn of Easter. Instead, it will be our gift of self, in imitation of the Lord".

"No more occupying territories and thus tearing people apart! No more letting half-truths continue to frustrate people's aspirations! Let there be an end to using the Middle East for gains that have nothing to do with the Middle East!!", he said, recalling above all "the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki" and hoping "that the lands of the East, where the Word of Peace has arisen, do not turn into dark expanses of silence".

In his speech, the Holy Father also insisted on the need to respect the *status quo* of Jerusalem, "a city for all peoples, a unique and sacred city for Christians, Jews and Muslims the world over", pleading once again for a solution negotiated between Israelis and Palestinians that guarantees "the coexistence of two States for two peoples".

After recalling that "hope has the face of children", Francis has mentioned the eyes of those children who "have spent most of their lives looking at rubble instead of schools, hearing the deafening explosion of bombs rather than the happy din of playgrounds". Finally, the day ended with the release of doves, symbolizing the promise that "the tender twig of hope will return" (*Genesis 8:11*).

F.V.

## THE ONLY SOLUTION IN THE HOLY LAND: COEXISTENCE OF TWO STATES FOR TWO PEOPLES

"With deep anguish, but with constant hope, we turn our gaze to Jerusalem, a city for all peoples, a unique and sacred city for Christians, Jews and Muslims the world over. A city whose identity and vocation must be safeguarded apart from various disputes and tensions, and whose *status quo* demands to be respected, as decided by the international community and repeatedly requested by the Christian communities of the Holy Land. Only a negotiated solution between Israelis and Palestinians, firmly willed and promoted by the international community, will be able to lead to a stable and lasting peace, and guarantee the coexistence of two states for two peoples."

**Pope Francis in Bari. July 7, 2018**



Meeting of the members of the Reunion  
of Aid Agencies for Oriental Churches (ROACO)

# THE IMPORTANCE OF EASTERN CHRISTIANS' TESTIMONY FOR THE SECULARIZED WEST

**T**he Lieutenant General and the Governor General of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre participated in the 91<sup>st</sup> Plenary Assembly of the Reunion of Aid Agencies for Oriental Churches (ROACO), organized in Rome (19-22 June 2018) by the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

During his audience with ROACO, Pope Francis expressed his concern to see the number of Christians in the lands that were the cradle of Christianity decrease. "Today the

Middle East is a crossroads of difficult situations and there is a risk – I do not want to say the will of some – the risk of erasing Christians. A Middle East without Christians ... it would not be a Middle East," said the Holy Father, speaking spontaneously, without reading the prepared speech. He regretted the fact that many of those who have fled the fighting do not want to return "because of the profound suffering".

Realistically taking into account these difficulties, he wished to thank the Congregation for the Oriental Churches and the members of ROACO for work at the service of the Oriental Churches, their traditions, theology and liturgies.

"This is also the sap that comes from the

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*The Pope receives ROACO participants, led by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.*

roots to give life to our soul" in the West, teaching us the path of contemplation, of holiness, summarized the Successor of Peter, eager to value above all the hope that must be cultivated as an ideal in Middle East, "The Land of Jesus".

In his prepared speech – the text of which was delivered to participants – the Pope insisted on the testimony of Christians in Jerusalem, "the Holy City, whose identity and particular vocation needs to be safeguarded beyond different tensions and political disputes". He also stressed the importance of the care to be given to Christians in the Diaspora, "to carry forward their witness to the Gospel" "even in settings that are often even more secularized in the





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*Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone greeting the Holy Father on the occasion of the audience granted to ROACO in the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican.*

West, where they come as immigrants or refugees." They testify that "it is still worth living and suffering for the Gospel, even as a minority, or the object of persecution, for the Gospel is the joy and the life of men and women of every age", he explained, also considering that the testimony of Eastern Christians opens a path towards the visible unity of Christians in all the Churches.

This theme of the suffering and diaspora of Eastern Christians occupied the work of the ROACO members, who had the opportunity to hear from apostolic nuncios in Turkey, Israel, Syria and Iraq, as well as from Msgr. Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the

Holy See Secretariat of State. Their discussions helped raise awareness of the fact that the Christians of the East are essentially victims of the war and not of organized persecution, contrary to the erroneous news reports of some biased propaganda.

Participants at the meeting presided over by the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, concluded that now more than ever the spiritual response to the colossal human tragedy in the Middle East lies in Christian-Muslim dialogue to rebuild the social fabric.

After having long analyzed the mediating mission of Christians in the complex mosaic of the East and the urgency of continuing to support their return (5000 families have already returned to Qaraqosh, on the Nineveh Plains, following the defeat of terrorist groups), the members of ROACO have tried to understand how best to "surround" and fraternally support the faithful of the Diaspora. Regarding the contributions of the various actors in the pastoral care of refugees – such as Monsignor Silvano Maria Tomasi, of the dicastery for Integral Human Development – it has been found that the Christians of the East revitalize the local Churches of a secularized Europe, becoming true missionaries of the Gospel, converting their historical drama into an unexpected source of renewal.

**François Vayne**

## NEW ROACO PROJECTS FOR 2018

The aid projects for the Oriental Churches for the second half of 2018 were presented during the ROACO Plenary Assembly. For his part, the Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone – Governor General of the Order – committed himself on behalf of the Grand Magisterium in favor of five projects in Palestine and in Jerusalem, for a total amount of about 230,000 Euros. In Bethlehem, it will regard fire safety work at the Holy Family Hospital, the restoration of the Maronite house of San Charbel, and the renovation of the kitchen of the Franciscan Missionary Sisters in a refugee camp. The Order also supports the rebuilding of an atrium in the school of the Sisters of the Apparition in Ramallah, as well as air conditioning for the classrooms in Holy Mary kindergarten, in Bethany (Jerusalem).



## THE EXAMPLE AND LEGACY OF CARDINAL JEAN-LOUIS TAURAN, KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER

*We wish to pay tribute to a great man of the Church, a member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, who courageously bore the burden of his disease, working tirelessly for the advent of the Kingdom of God. Passed away on July 5, 2018, he left a mark in history both for his commitment to service of universal fraternity and for his testimony as a humble disciple of Christ.*

One thing is certain: the dedication and commitment of Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran have not gone unnoticed in these years in which we have seen him carry on his duties as Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church and president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue with strength and passion despite the illness left him increasingly frail in body. We cannot but recall the evident emotion with which he announced the election of Jorge Mario Bergoglio on March 13, 2013. Pope Francis himself on July 12 at the funeral did not just want to preside over the final rite of the "ultima commendatio" and "valedictio" - as per protocol for the deceased cardinals - but wanted to be present throughout the whole celebration, joining in profound prayer with the church full of friends, collaborators, faithful of

various religious traditions who came to pay a final tribute to this man of dialogue.

Born in Bordeaux in 1943, he was ordained a priest in 1969. Six years later he entered the diplomatic service of the Holy See, holding various positions in various nations. Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre since 1992, when he held the role of Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, Cardinal Tauran has always worked to support peace and a culture of encounter. It was St. John Paul II who first appointed him titular Archbishop of Telepte in 1990, granting him the fullness of the order in 1991, and then elevating him to the dignity of cardinal in 2003. The late Cardinal followed in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II in offering himself and his energies in a body that fought against disease until the end.

We recall that in April, only three months



*Meeting of Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran with King Salman of Saudi Arabia, last April in Ryad (Photo: Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Italy).*

before his death, Cardinal Tauran did not want to renounce his mission in Riyadh, a visit that represented an important step, as it was the first time that Saudi Arabia welcomed a head of the dicastery of the Holy See. In the meeting with Muhammad Abdul Karim Al-Issa, secretary of the World Muslim League, Tauran dealt with burning issues such as religious extremism, terrorism, freedom of faith and the possibility of building places of worship where there are religious communities that need them and full citizenship for all beyond religious differences. Let us recall some of his words of his last important public intervention:

*We believe that what the terrorists want to show is that it is not possible to live together. We believe the exact opposite! We must avoid aggression, ignorance and denigration of other religions. Religious pluralism is an invitation to reflect on faith, because every true interreligious dialogue begins with the proclamation of each one's faith. We do not say that all faiths are equal, but that all believers, all those who seek God and all people of good will without any religious affiliation, have equal dignity. Every person must be left free to embrace the religion*

*they prefer. What threatens us all is not the clash of civilizations, but the clash of ignorance and radicalism.*

Msgr. Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, remembers him with these words: "a gentleman, a priest, a zealous pastor to all, a brother to each of us. I never heard a complaint from him. Affable, courteous, always endowed with a great humor, a humble person". And he concluded by underlining how Cardinal Tauran was first and foremost "a person who believed in humanity" as evidenced by the last book he penned, which was just published. *Je crois en l'homme: les religions font partie de la solution, pas du problème* [I believe in man: religions are part of the solution, not of the problem].

Cardinal Tauran died in a year in which various great figures of dialogue have disappeared. This leaves on the shoulders of those who, like the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, operate in a context of religious diversity, in which the culture of the encounter sustained by Pope Francis is a real thrust of life, the responsibility of carrying forward his example and follow his teaching.

**Elena Dini**



**GUCCIONE**

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Order of the Holy Sepulchre

Papal Equestrian Orders

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## Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

Interview with Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master  
of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre

### “WE WANT TO DEVELOP THE ORDER”

**F**ollowing the meetings of South American, North American and European Lieutenants, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, reflects on

the common elements he noticed emerging from the various Lieutenancies; most especially the value of exchanging local experiences from members of our Order around the world.



*Cardinal O'Brien and the Governor General in front of the statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio, together with some leaders of the Order.*



**In June you were in Toronto where you took part in the meeting of North American Lieutenants who guide about half of the world members of the Order. A few days earlier you were in Buenos Aires to meet with the South American Lieutenants who represent a smaller component of our Order. How do you see the presence of the Order in that region of the world?**

The experiences that Lieutenancies live are varied and we hope, in time, to have a Vice Governor General for South America because there are cultural differences, not only between North and South America but also within the same region. We want to develop the Order more fully there and our recent visit was very helpful in planning that development. There is interest on the part of some bishops (in South America) to have the Order present there and we have to discern how we are going to proceed.

**After having concluded a third regional meeting, the one of the European Lieutenants here in Rome, do you see some points in common regarding the feedback you received from Lieutenants in these three regions of the world?**

Concerns have been expressed regarding membership and formation of members, not only as they are planning to enter the Order but ongoing formation. We have great expectations about clergy, we do have Knights chaplains and we are still not making the most of their presence. We also have great expertise among members, we are emphasising Lieutenants and their leadership but our Lieutenants should also work to bring forward that leadership among members.

When the mandate of a Lieutenant is coming to an end is not always easy to find a replacement for him/her. This tells us that maybe in our Lieutenancies we have to learn how to develop, encourage and discover leadership that is already there. Sometimes

we find Lieutenants who want to stay on, understandably, for another mandate and he/she has done a beautiful job - but this is not a sufficient reason to stay on. Every office should be rotated. There are definitely other people in the Lieutenancy who may contribute with their expertise and Christian commitment.

**You are also planning to visit the Australian Lieutenancy in September...**

Our visit will possibly encourage a greater attendance to the Consulta, the Order's five-year general assembly which will take place in Rome in November. To go to Australia is a great stretch and for the Australians to come to the Consulta is the same. There can be obstacles but I think that the more we get around to travel, the more we suggest that distances should not be obstacles.

**We talked about the common points joining the Lieutenancies around the world. Have you also learned during these meetings about specific local experiences which may inspire the whole of the Order?**

This is exactly what the meetings of Lieutenants are for. During these gatherings many Lieutenants take notes and the reason why we come together is to exchange ideas. This is not something we can plan but these meetings are intended to bring out what otherwise would not be known by the rest of the members and to encourage some new approaches and ongoing communication. It is also an important time for people to meet, socialize, pray together, and talk about the Order's businesses.

**The Order is increasingly reflecting on the presence of young members in its Lieutenancies. What message do you want to send about it?**

I think this is a challenge the Universal Church is facing everywhere. Individualism pervades Western culture: this affects any



organisation and we have to take note of that and to appeal to what is common to individuals such as companionship, social involvement, desire for knowledge, insights into problems and situations of the world. We have to listen and to get to know young people before we act and continue

to build the Order thanks to their presence. To enrich the Order by one's own involvement and attract new and young members is not only the role of the Lieutenants but of all Knights and Dames in the Lieutenancy.

**Interview by Elena Dini**

## “WE ARE AN INSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH IN WHICH THE VALUES OF HUMILITY, CHARITY AND OBEDIENCE ARE TO BE CULTIVATED”

### *First continental meetings of the Governor General Visconti di Modrone with the Lieutenants of the Order.*

The meeting of Latin American Lieutenants took place in Argentina, in Buenos Aires, coinciding with the Investiture presided over by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master. The Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone believes that this continental meeting was decisively important to help raise awareness among the inhabitants of the area towards the cause of the Holy Land. "Latin America is very far from the Middle East and the Order favors a mutual rapprochement, thanks to solidarity for our Christian brothers and sisters in the biblical territories," the Governor emphasized, adding that the South American Lieutenants appreciated being informed as directly as possible about the recent decisions taken by the Grand Magisterium.

"We communicated to the Lieutenants the new direction of our aid, especially with regards training and teaching, since education is the safest means of preparing the ground for a better future. What is really close to our hearts is the 'human building'," reports the Governor General after this trip, alongside the Grand Master.

In Argentina, the visit of the leaders of the Order rekindled interest in the Holy Land, helping local Lieutenancies to emerge from

the daily life and projecting them towards the new challenges facing the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The Lieutenants of the mother nations of the South American continent – Spain and Portugal – enriched the meeting with their presence, in a dynamic dialogue between Lusophone and Spanish-speaking countries.

"We are considering the appointment of a Vice Governor General for Latin America, to better coordinate the action of the Lieutenancies, namely Argentina, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil," states the Governor General, announcing that the Order plans to officially settle also in Chile, where many descendants of Christian Palestinian immigrants live. Mexico – which is part of North America – would be placed under the responsibility of the new Vice Governor for Ibero-America, especially for a reason of linguistic consistency.

All the initiatives of the Order and this project were presented in prayer, especially in front of the statue of Christ the Redeemer, in Rio de Janeiro, where the leaders of the Order later went. The Governor General also met the Archbishop of Rio – Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy – and the clergy committed to spiritually accompanying the members of the





*The Grand Master of the Order and the Governor General celebrated 130 years of the Lieutenancy for Argentina during an historic meeting in Buenos Aires that ended with the Investiture of new members.*

two current Lieutenancies of the Order in Brazil.

A few weeks later, alongside the Grand Master, the Governor General was in Toronto for the meeting of the Lieutenants of North America, where he took part for the first time. "I found time to listen to each one personally and I wanted to thank them for the considerable effort offered to our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land," he noted, paying special tribute to the action of Vice Governor Patrick Powers.

Interest in the Holy Land is very strong in the United States and Canada, manifested by immense generosity. Many people who have succeeded overseas from an economic point of view donate to the populations in difficulty, supported in this action by a favorable legislative framework.

The third major and important meeting last spring was the meeting with the European Lieutenants whom the Governor General already knew in some ways, having attended various Investitures since his entry into office a year ago.

"Contrary to what is experienced in North or South America, where there is a certain cultural homogeneity, the question of the

diversity of languages and cultures remains a problem in Europe, although the historical link with the Holy Land is very ancient and aggregating", he observed.

"I try to promote unity within the Order and at the same time freedom of initiative on a local level; these intercontinental meetings have also had the purpose of preparing the Consulta - which will take place in November in Rome - on the theme of the Lieutenant's mission," concluded the Governor General Visconti di Modrone, who has already suggested some appointments decided by the Grand Master, trying to valorize competent personalities, rooted in their dioceses, endowed with a spirit of service and capable of fostering unity at all levels.

"The Order will never be an NGO, we are an institution of the Church in which the values of humility, charity, and obedience are to be cultivated", he affirmed firmly. The action of the Order in this sense is increasingly oriented towards service to the human person, essentially through works of education in dialogue and coexistence, which constitute a great guarantee for long-term peace in the Holy Land and in the Middle East.



## THE ORDER'S NEW DIRECTION: INVESTING IN THE HOLY LAND'S "HUMAN CAPITAL"

*Three major continental meetings of Lieutenants took place this past spring around the Governor General of the Order and the Grand Master. We present below some brief extracts from the reports of each meeting that are available in full on our website [www.oessh.va](http://www.oessh.va)*

### **First meeting of the Lieutenants for South America, Spain and Portugal (May 16-18)**

Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master, and Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, Governor General of the Order met in Buenos Aires with the Lieutenants for Argentina, Eastern Spain, Colombia, Portugal, Western Spain, Brazil-Sao Paulo, and Brazil-Rio de Janeiro. The meeting also provided the occasion to celebrate the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Lieutenancy for Argentina.

"It is my intention to remain as close as possible to the Latin American Lieutenancies, as I endeavour to do for all other Lieutenancies throughout the world", proclaimed Governor General Visconti di Modrone. "This will enable us to express the unity of the Order, for there is no association of Orders as such. The unity of the Order is also consolidated primarily through these frequent contacts".

Speaking of the action of the Order in the Holy Land, the Governor reported that "at the latest meetings of the Grand Magisterium, and in keeping with the indications of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the decision was made to invest in human resources and indeed to place special emphasis on our educational work in schools rather than on building projects. We are at present

convinced that the best possible investment in these lands consists in educating young generations, who, if they are raised with the values of dialogue and tolerance that we hold dear, may grow up in a better world, even if theirs is not the same faith as our own".

The Grand Master asked all members of the Order to familiarise themselves with *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the apostolic exhortation of the Pope on the call to personal holiness. The Lieutenants were also asked to ensure that this document is read by candidates.

During the meeting, the possibility was mooted of creating a post of Vice-Governor General for Ibero-America within the Grand Magisterium.

The next meeting will be held in November 2020 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.



## Annual North American Lieutenants' Meeting (May 31 – June 2)

The 16 North American Lieutenants gathered for their annual meeting in Toronto, Ontario. It was their fourth time meeting in Canada, having previously met in Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City.

Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, and Lieutenant General Agostino Borrromeo travelled from Rome to attend the meeting. Additionally, Vice Governor General Patrick Powers and four members of the Grand Magisterium attended along with Monsignor John Kozar, President of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA), and Monsignor Robert Stern, President Emeritus of CNEWA and a consultant to the Order.

The Lieutenant General Borrromeo provided details for the upcoming Consulta, the status of the Constitution, the *Instrumentum Laboris* for the Consulta, and the establishment of three new Commissions addressing Protocol, Economics, and Spirituality.

Monsignor John E. Kozar, President of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association



(CNEWA), provided a poignant update on the refugee crisis in Syria, Iraq – changing from refugee-based to re-settlement needs – and the Kingdom of Jordan. Citing the importance of the CNEWA's presence, he shared with the group how millions of refugees are still displaced. He said that CNEWA is there on a humble scale and that the refugees' basic needs are being met with "Pastoral Accompaniment."

The Grand Master announced that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, had conferred upon Joseph Spinnato, member of the Grand Magisterium, the highest rank of the Order of Saint Sylvester. The Cardinal thanked Lieutenant of Honor Spinnato for his many years of service to the Order and the universal Church (pictured here above on the left). Following the presentation, time was dedicated to an "open forum", which allowed the Lieutenants the opportunity of discussing themes such as renewing the spiritual lives of the Knights and Dames, the legacy program, and the new Squires program being established in North America.

*(Excerpt from a report by John Carmen Piunno, member of the Grand Magisterium)*





## **The annual meeting of European Lieutenants in Rome (June 13-14)**

The European Lieutenants and the authorities of the Order gathered for their annual meeting at the Grand Magisterium headquarters in Palazzo della Rovere.

In welcoming the Lieutenants, the Grand Master insisted on two points, the place of ecclesiastics and youth in the Order, hoping for a broad sharing of experiences on these issues during the course of the two days.

Engineer Rinaldi detailed the projects of the Grand Magisterium, highlighting the success in the Lieutenancies of the new "small projects" – intended to improve the lives of people – proposed by the Latin Patriarchate in 2018. In the same direction, Professor McKiernan – president of the Holy Land Commission of the Grand Magisterium – confirmed the importance of enhancing the "human capital", underlining how much the Holy Land's educated youth are the bearers of hope.

The administration of the 45 schools is indeed a priority, as stated by Sami El-Yousef, chief executive officer of the Patriarchate, recalling that this vast school network involves about 19,000 students and 1500 employees. "The Apostolic Administrator Msgr. Pizzaballa wishes to emphasize education, humanitarian aid and pastoral works, abandoning all business activities that are not part of the Church's mission", Sami El-Yousef stated clearly during his presentation which was characterized by professionalism and transparency. The comparative analysis of the annual reports of the Lieutenancies and the resulting debate revealed the need to always pass through the Grand Magisterium for the transfer of donations, with a view to better global management.

The Lieutenants held a lengthy discussion regarding the role of priests in the Order and the integration of young people. The participants gave special attention to the experiences of new generations in France, Belgium and Portugal, with for example the planning of periods of service among the populations in the Holy Land.

Cardinal O'Brien – after listening to all these stories, full of experiences – asked the Lieutenants to give greater impetus to the role of the priests of the Order for the spiritual formation of members, especially through the organization of retreats. The recently established spiritual commission of the Grand Magisterium will have the mission to provoke initiatives in this area.



## AMBASSADOR ALFONS KLOSS, PRESIDENT OF THE “PRO ORIENTE” FOUNDATION, RECEIVES THE GRAND CROSS OF THE ORDER

**B**y a *motu proprio* decree signed by Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, Grand Master of the Order, Ambassador of Austria to the Holy See, Alfons Kloss, was appointed Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

On July 26 the Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, who has personally known Ambassador Kloss for many years because of their common diplomatic engagement, presided over the ceremony of conferral of the Grand Cross of the Order at the presence of his wife, Mrs. Anna Maria Kloss Gudenus, Chancellor Bastianelli, other members of the Grand Magisterium and the whole staff at Palazzo della Rovere, headquarters of the Grand Magisterium.

As Ambassador to the Italian Republic in Rome (2001-2007) and diplomatic counselor to the President of the Republic in Vienna (2007-2011), he has always acquired

particular merits and helped the cause of the Church.

Ambassador Kloss concluded his mandate in Rome at the end of July after seven years in that position. A devoted Catholic, he has now been offered by Cardinal Schönborn the presidency of the “Pro Oriente” Foundation created in Vienna by the late Cardinal Franz König to promote the dialogue between the Roman and the Oriental Churches.

After having mentioned his new engagement with the “Pro Oriente” Foundation with the task of reinforcing relationship with Orthodox and Oriental Churches, Ambassador Kloss stated: “I feel this appointment as a responsibility, a call to commit to these issues trying also to conceive common initiatives in the future.”

“I receive this honor with great emotion, and I commit to carrying forward the Order’s mission, with which I was entrusted today,” he concluded.



*During an important ceremony at the headquarters of the Grand Magisterium, the Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone conferred the new president of the “Pro Oriente” Foundation, the Austrian Ambassador Alfons Kloss, the insignia of a member of the Order of Holy Sepulchre, in the presence of Chancellor Alfredo Bastianelli and other dignitaries of the Order.*







## The Order and the Holy Land

### SO MUCH TO BE PROUD OF IN THE HOLY LAND

*Echoes of a letter by Sami El-Yousef,  
 Chief Executive Officer of the Latin  
 Patriarchate of Jerusalem.*

Looking back at the challenging past months in the Holy Land, Sami El-Yousef, Chief Executive Officer of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem cannot help but remember the tensions resulting mainly from the anniversaries of the six-day war and the declaration of independence of the State of Israel as well as the move of the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

However, there are also so many exciting things happening in this Land so dear to the heart of the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre. For Sami El-Yousef this would include a meeting with about ten Iraqi refugees who are benefitting from the humanitarian assistance program at Our Lady of Peace Center in Jordan, an institution supported by the Order. "Though they all shared their heartbreaking stories with us about the circumstances under which they left their homes in Iraq, it was heartwarming to hear what the assistance of the Church has done to their lives providing them with a dignified life and providing hope," he said.

Another visit the Chief Executive Officer paid was to the Beit Afram Elderly Home in Taybe, another center supported thanks to the regular monthly aid from the Order. The situation of elderly people is extremely challenging, as El-Yousef explains: "with the emigration of Christian families on the rise, and with the socio-economic status of our Christian families on the decline, these elderly are left with no one to care for them and offer them a dignified life." During one of their



*With the help of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem can support the hope of the children of Gaza who live in a war zone, in particular through the cheerful activities of a summer camp organized by the local parish of the Holy Family.*

latest visits, the Governor General Visconti di Modrone and the members of the Holy Land Commission enjoyed spending some time at the Beit Afram Elderly Home. Just like Sami El-Yousef, they were amazed at the good spirit and friendly environment they found. "The spirit of the elderly in residence is indeed something we are all proud of. They feel at home, members of an extended family in a caring and loving environment," the CEO concludes.

Finally we cannot forget about the many summer camps the Latin Patriarchate organizes during these hot months which are a real blessings for the children. Sami El-Yousef was profoundly struck by the experience of one of the Gaza camps at the very beginning of the summer season when tension was really high in Gaza and confrontations on the Gaza border resulted in the death of a number of



Palestinian youth. We share his thoughts in full below:

"Fr. Mario da Silva, the parish priest there [...] confirmed that the situation in Gaza is the worst he has ever seen" However, "he assured me that life goes on in Gaza and their youth summer camp is already in progress. That same night, I received a call from Sr. Nabila Saleh, the director of the Rosary Sisters School in Gaza asking that we forward the coordinates of the Catholic institutions in Gaza to the Israeli authorities (as was the case during the last war in July 2014), so that if large scale shelling starts, maybe our institutions can be spared!!! It was not easy for me going to bed with the prospects of a full-

scale war looming 90 kilometers away from home, and what impact it may have on Gaza. I woke up the following morning and found a WhatsApp message from Fr. Mario including a few photos of the children enjoying the summer camp activities at the Holy Family parish complex. Needless to say, that made me very proud of our presence and our work with the children who have to endure life in a war zone and still find a way to be hopeful and thankful. These children deserve our full respect and support! Indeed, life goes on in Gaza, and the work of the Church is what makes that a more "human" experience. We take our hats off to Fr. Mario, Sr. Nabila and many others for keeping that hope alive!"

## "WHERE THERE IS DISCRIMINATION, THERE IS NO DIGNITY"

*The new law on "Israel, the Nation-State of the Jewish People" is contested by the Church in the Holy Land.*

**"The recently enacted Basic Law: "Israel, the Nation-State of the Jewish People" is a cause of great concern," stated a press release of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem during the summer. We publish here some excerpts of that document:**

"Seemingly enacted for internal political reasons, while defining Israel as the nation state of the Jewish people, the law fails to provide any constitutional guarantees for the rights of the indigenous and other minorities living in the country. Palestinian citizens of Israel, constituting 20% are flagrantly excluded from the law.

It is beyond conception that a Law with constitutional effect ignores an entire segment of the population, as if its members never existed. The law might not have practical effects, yet it sends an unequivocal signal to the Palestinian citizens of Israel, to the effect that in this country they are not at home. The Arabic language has been downgraded from an official language to a language with "a

special status", and with the commitment to work on the development of Jewish settlement in the land, with no mention of the development of the country for the rest of its inhabitants." [...]

This discriminatory law directly contravenes the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181, as well as Israel's own Declaration of Independence. The first guaranteed the establishment of a Jewish State while ensuring full civil rights to the Arabs living therein and in the Second, the founders of the Country clearly and unequivocally committed to foster its development for the benefit of all its inhabitants and to ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all, irrespective of religion, race or sex.

Finally, this law contravenes and contradicts the Basic Law: "Human Dignity and Liberty" enacted in 1995 that guarantees the respect of the dignity of every person. Where there is discrimination, there is no dignity." [...]



## TWO PROJECTS WERE RECENTLY COMPLETED IN THE HOLY LAND

**T**hanks to a contribution from the Austrian Lieutenancy, the Latin Patriarchate school in Nablus was able to upgrade its IT equipment. The Saint Joseph school has 22 classrooms, one PC laboratory and one library for a total of 608 students. The PC laboratory was very old and needed immediate rehabilitation since nowadays computers are useful tools for different subjects across the

curriculum. The Latin Patriarchate therefore considered the upgrading of the IT equipment of this school a priority in order to improve the learning environment and provide students with good services. With new and high quality computers and projectors, the Saint Joseph school will continue its mission to shape new skills and prepare generations of students.

Another project that was recently completed was the purchase of a bus to help with transfers of young Syrian refugee students to the parish of Saint Joseph in Mafraq thanks also to a contribution from the Lieutenancy for Canada Montreal. Mafraq is a small city situated in northern Jordan, only 20 kilometres from the Syrian border. Its Latin parish supports the refugees daily by coordinating different activities with the aim of alleviating their situation. Some teachers and volunteers took the initiative of arranging educational activities and classes



*The IT tools in a school in Nablus and a bus for the activities of young Syrian refugees in Jordan: these two projects of the Latin Patriarchate have recently been accomplished thanks to the generosity of the Knights and Dames of the Order of Holy Sepulchre.*



for the Syrian kids in order to give them the opportunity to go on studying and learning before they can be officially enrolled within the Jordanian school system. Also some non curriculum activities like dancing, painting and playing are offered.

The parish priest, Father Francis Shahin takes responsibility every day of transferring the students from the refugee camps spread on the borders between Syria and Jordan to the parish of Mafraq for these classes. The school bus was used for this service but was definitely insufficient for 350 students and the parish had to rent many times buses and this became expensive. Thanks to some benefactors and mainly the Lieutenancy for Canada Montreal it was finally possible to purchase a new bus allowing these young Syrian students to reach the Saint Joseph parish more easily and enjoy all the activities organized there to bring some relief to their challenging situation.



## The Life of the Lieutenancies

# WHEN LOVE FOR THE HOLY SEPULCHRE LEADS TO STUDY

*Two members of the Lieutenancy USA Southeastern of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Fr. Peter B. Mangum, Rector of the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Dr. Cheryl White, of Louisiana State University, were granted access to the Vatican Secret Archives for primary research on the Shroud of Turin.*

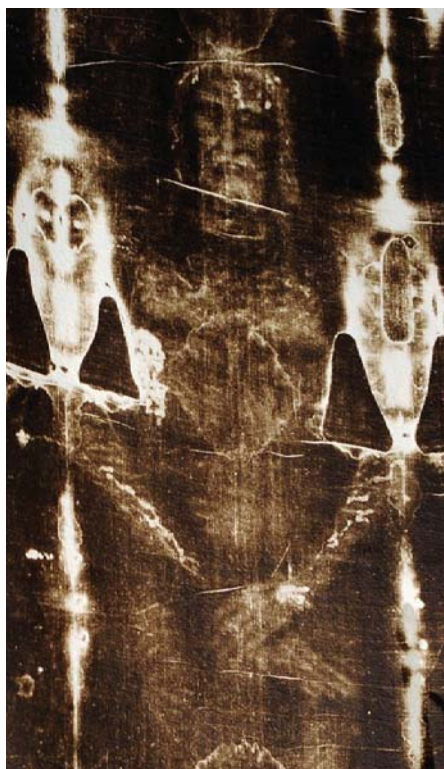
**T**his ancient strip of linen cloth, in the custody of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy, is believed by many faithful Christians to be the burial cloth of Jesus Christ taken from the Holy Sepulchre immediately following the Resurrection (cf. *John 20*). Fr. Mangum and Dr. White, both members in the U.S. Southeastern Lieutenancy, have pursued their academic interest in this holy relic because of their dedication to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and also because of their membership in the American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud, which is the only authorized affiliate of the Archconfraternity of Turin, the official custodians of the Shroud since 1592.

The focus of their research is what is known as the Shroud's "Missing Years," a period from 1204 to 1355 where the historical record has thus far been mostly silent. Scholars believe the *sindon* (burial shroud) was in Constantinople in 1204 when that city was sacked by knights of the Fourth

Crusade, after which time it disappeared from the direct historical record. Then, in 1355, the Shroud went on public display in Lirey, France, where it was recorded to be in the ownership of a French knight, Geoffrey de Charny. Fr. Mangum and Dr. White's research in the Vatican Secret Archives, which will be ongoing, seeks to find clues to the Shroud's location during this specific time period.

During the first three-day research visit

this April, they were able to investigate Vatican registers related to the canonization of King St. Louis IX, who is known to have owned many Passion relics. Additionally, they are examining the papers of Pope Innocent III (1198-1216), who ordered the Fourth Crusade and attempted to restore relations with Constantinople after the city's siege. Both Fr. Mangum and Dr. White believe their initial work holds great promise of providing more information about the "Missing Years" of the Shroud of Turin.



### 130 years of women's presence in the Order

# “MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORDER IS A GIFT TO LOOK AFTER, MAINTAIN AND FINALLY HAND ON TO OTHERS”

*Janet Gardner, Dame Commander from the Lieutenancy for Western Australia shares her experience in the Order: how she came to know and decided to join it and what changed in her life since then.*

**O**n August 3, 1888, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre received the good news of the Brief “Venerabilis Frater” by Pope Leo XIII in which he allowed the Patriarch of Jerusalem to concede the cross of the Order in three classes to Dames who had served the Church with particular merit. During these 130 years, Dames have proved to be a very active part of the life of our Pontifical Institution – which is mainly composed by lay people – and today they represent one third of the Order’s entire membership. The women’s presence, as well as the experience of married couples within the Order helped us offer a wider and more complete picture of the people of God willing to serve the Church in the Holy Land in particular. To celebrate this anniversary we asked Janet Gardner, DCHS, from the Lieutenancy for Western Australia, to share her experience:

“As a young Christian adult from an Anglican family, I was searching for my place in the world and found I was drawn to people with faith. Where was God in my life? I was impressed with my Catholic friends and how committed they were to their faith and their catholic community which I found very welcoming, alive and vibrant. This influenced my thinking and after meeting my future husband Jack, I became a Catholic. We were married in the Catholic Church in 1970. We have two



married daughters and 8 grandchildren. My search for God in my life continues to this day.

Over the years, I have worked in and always been interested in care and welfare areas. Both in the church and broader community. My work and volunteering has included childcare groups, handicapped groups, aged care, the sick and the lonely - much of this was with Catholic organisations.

I was invited to join the Order in 2007 and didn't think I was interested enough to consider it at first because of my existing community and parish activities. I thought it was too formal and too far beyond my parish life. I thought the Order was a bit of a mystery to most people. I also wondered about the wearing of the Regalia and its significance. However, since my husband had been a member since 1992, and was showing more interest in the Order as he



approached retirement, I began to think perhaps I could share the experience with my husband and this might involve us in a wider community and also might enrich our faith.

It was after my first pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Order, an overwhelming experience for me, that I started thinking more about the purpose of the Order. I was learning more about the Holy Land and its history, politics, the plight of the people. In 2014, my husband (Jack Gardner) became Lieutenant for Western Australia and that opened up a different and wider experience for both of us.

Since then, the bigger picture of the Catholic Church has revealed itself. Certainly something way beyond my comfortable little corner of the world encompassing family, friends, and parish life in Perth, Western Australia. I am now experiencing the church in action through

the Order and appreciate that we can be part of the action to support the Christian people of The Holy Land. Apart from that, as members of the Order we are playing a part to maintain the historical link, however small we might think that is.

We witness our faith in various ways of course but also by wearing Regalia for special celebrations and for historical reasons. Membership has been given to us like a gift to look after, maintain and finally hand on to others!

My husband and I have enjoyed meeting people from all walks of life through the Order and also through the other Lieutenancies in Australia and New Zealand. We have travelled within Australia and overseas especially to the Holy Land and Malaysia. Our pilgrimages have been significant highlights in our lives and have drawn us closer to our members, friends and our Chaplains: a wonderful opportunity."

## THE ORDER PRESENT AT WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN IRELAND

*"The comforting experience of many families committed to the evangelical journey of marriage and family life".*

The members of the Lieutenancy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for Ireland actively participated in the IX World Meeting of Families, organized at the end of August 2018 in Dublin, in the presence of Pope Francis who asked forgiveness for the scandal of abuses committed on minors by members of the clergy in this country, encouraging the bishops to continue their efforts to remedy past mistakes. A sort of WYD of the families, these world meetings created by Pope John Paul II in 1994 allow faithful to



*The Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem and some members of the Irish Lieutenancy of the Order with some couples who came especially from the Holy Land to attend the IX World Meeting of Families in Dublin.*



celebrate, pray and reflect on the central importance of marriage and the family for the Church.

116 countries were represented at the event where the Irish Lieutenant Peter Durnin and the local group of Knights and Dames welcomed the families who came from the Holy Land thanks to the help of the Order together with Msgr. Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo, Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem. The commitment of the Order was also highlighted by the Irish Catholic press in conjunction with this World Meeting of Families. Looking beyond the devastating media headlines that have overshadowed the message of hope of these days, the fact remains that more than 300,000 faithful prayed with the Holy Father during the final

mass at the Phoenix Park in Dublin. "It was a prophetic, comforting experience, shared by many families committed to the Gospel way of marriage and to family life; disciple and missionary families, leaven of goodness, holiness, justice and peace", the Pope commented on his return to Rome during the general audience on 29 August.

At various times, testimonies "have also shown us how faith takes place in everyday life, 'around the home table', and the importance of communication between generations," he underlined, adding that "the world needs a revolution of love, of tenderness! And this revolution begins in the heart of the family". The next World Meeting of Families will take place in Rome in three years.

## PRAYER TO MARY QUEEN OF PALESTINE, PATRONESS OF THE ORDER

**Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, asked several contemplative monastic communities of his diocese to write a prayer to Mary Queen of Palestine, patron of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, whose feast falls on October 25. Below we publish a summary of these texts in which the hope is expressed that with the Virgin Mary we place ourselves before the One for whom nothing is impossible. Faced with the difficult situation of the Holy Land, we strengthen our trust in the Mother of the Prince of Peace, confident of the power of her intercession in favor of justice.**



*To you, Virgin Mother Mary,  
Queen of the Land of Christ  
we come to praise you, to thank you  
and entrust to you all your children, inhabitants and pilgrims  
of this Land.  
Virgin, Daughter of Zion,  
teach us the love you have for everyone, without distinction.  
Show us your merciful heart,  
give us your clarity of vision.  
As in the days of Nazareth  
teach us to listen attentively to the voice of God  
and to his Word of life.  
Teach us fidelity in our daily work  
and silence capable of creating profound communion.  
Like in Cana  
watch over families,  
so that there is no lack of joy and unity.  
As on the streets of Galilee and Judea,  
precede us on the path of discipleship  
in the footsteps of your beloved Son  
to the supreme offering at the foot of Calvary.  
As in the Upper Room, intercede with the gift of the Spirit  
that cries in us: "Abbà".  
The One Father for Jews, Christians and Muslims,  
Help us all to walk  
on the paths of forgiveness and reconciliation  
so the walls that divide may fall.  
Mother of the Prince of Peace,  
also gift us the taste of Heaven  
that supports our hope,  
so that soon "justice and peace will kiss"  
this Holy Land and the entire earth.  
Amen.*

