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Easter message from the Grand Master

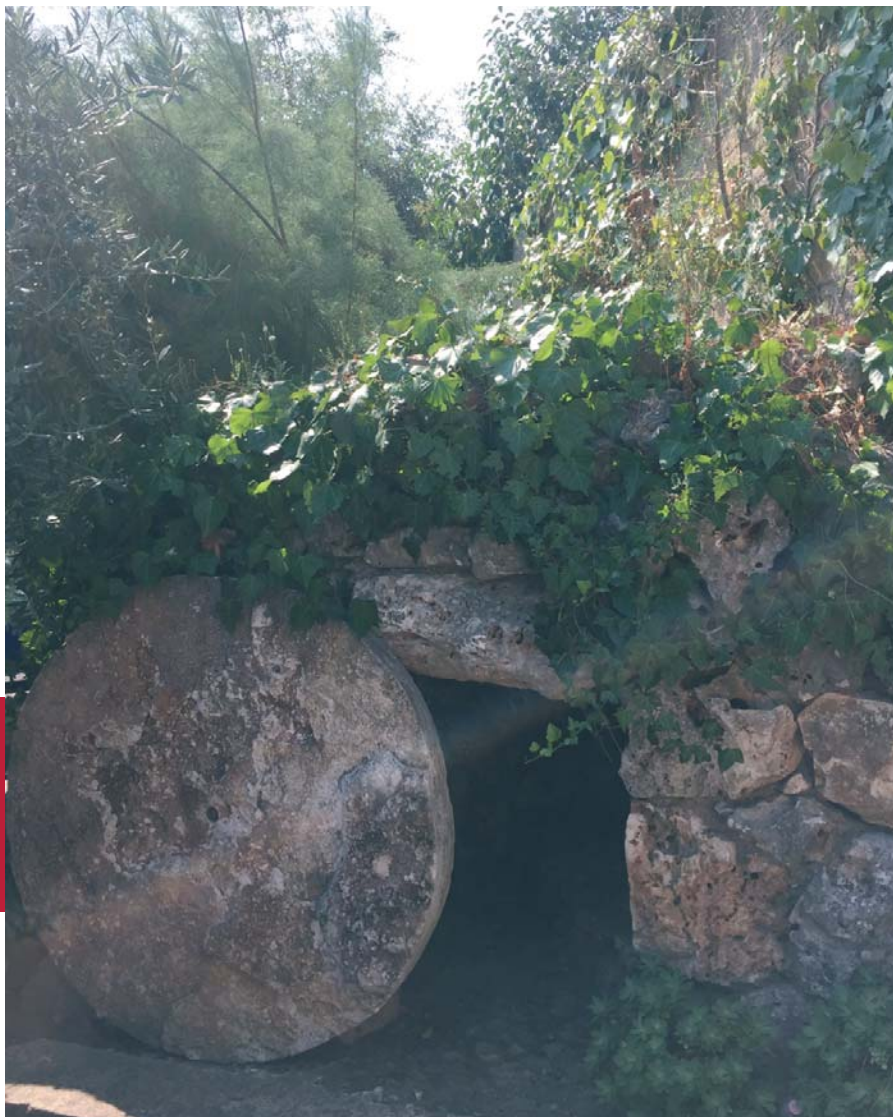
“HOW DOES THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE?”

Easily overlooked, even by life-long Catholics, is the appreciation of truths of our Faith. For example:

- The Seven Sacraments and the centrality of Mass;
- The Real Presence in the Eucharist and the great privilege of Eucharistic Adoration;
- The role of the Magisterium under the guidance of the Bishop of Rome and those bishops in communion with him;
- The role of the Blessed Mother in the Church;
- The spiritual value of suffering;
- Our part in the Communion of



We are called – each one of us – to ask ourselves what the death and resurrection of Jesus changes in our lives (this photo represents the empty Sepulchre reproduced in the Roman parish of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ).



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Saints: the intercession of the saints and the value of our prayers for one another and for the souls in purgatory.

It is to these and to so many other dogmas of our Faith to which we give implicit assent in the Nicene Creed we recite each Sunday. One commentator puts it this way:

"Dogma is the record of the absolutely unchangeable love of God for us. It is the crystallization of all truths of divine love so far revealed to us – a burning vision of truth sent by the Holy Spirit to prophets, disciples, evangelists and saints, finally reaching verbal form in the words of pope and councils." [Ronda Cherwin]

Clearly the truths of our Faith are providential gifts to us on our way to eternal goal. We must never be apologetic about Catholic dogmas, but rather with the insights of the Catechism of the Catholic Church at hand, explore them for our own spiritual and intellectual growth.

Important as they are, however, they pale in the significance of our response to the ultimate question for eternal life. "How does the death and Resurrection of Jesus make a difference in my life?"

As a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, how clear and convincing would my answer be?

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien



The Order in Union with the Universal Church

THE COURAGE OF ENCOUNTER AND AN OUTSTRETCHED HAND

The Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre was in the Holy Land with his team in early February, while Pope Francis made a trip to the United Arab Emirates, a country where eight of the nine million inhabitants are immigrants in a rather precarious position, among which many Christians of South-East Asia.

Speaking to Cardinal O'Brien and the Grand Magisterium about this first pontifical visit to the Arabian Peninsula, Msgr. Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo – Patriarchal Vicar for Jerusalem and Palestine – expressed the profound joy of the Christians of the Middle East regarding the Document on Human Fraternity. The text was signed in Abu Dhabi by the Holy Father and by the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, leading Sunni University based in Cairo. It affirms the need for religious freedom and "to establish in our societies the concept of *full citizenship* and reject the discriminatory use of the term minorities which engenders feelings of isolation and inferiority."

This document opens a new page in the history of relations between religions, 800 years after the friendly meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan of Egypt al-Malik al-Kamil, nephew of the great Saladin, during the Fifth Crusade, at Damietta. The Document on Human Fraternity – signed February 4 in Abu Dhabi – is destined to become "a guide for the new generations in understanding the great



The Document on Human Fraternity – signed by the Pope and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar in Abu Dhabi – is destined to become "a guide for future generations to advance a culture of mutual respect in the awareness of the great divine grace that makes all human beings brothers and sisters."

divine grace that makes all human beings brothers."

Muslims from the East and of the West, with the Catholics of the East and of the West, declare that they will adopt "the culture of dialogue as a way" and "mutual knowledge as a method," to foster the values of peace, justice, goodness, beauty, human brotherhood and shared coexistence, which they consider as "an anchor of salvation" for all.

"The West can discover in the East remedies for those spiritual and religious maladies that are caused by a prevailing materialism. And the East can find in the West many elements that can help free it from weakness, division, conflict and scientific, technical and cultural decline,"





During the private meeting at the Royal Palace of Rabat, Mohammed VI and Pope Francis signed a common appeal aimed at recognizing the uniqueness and sacredness of Jerusalem.

recalling again the eight hundred years that had elapsed since the historic meeting between St. Francis of Assisi and the Sultan al-Malik al-Kamil. "That prophetic event shows that the courage of encounter and of the outstretched hand is a way of peace and harmony for humanity, where extremism and hatred are factors of division and destruction," he pointed out before King Mohammed VI who welcomed him.

During the private meeting at the Royal Palace of Rabat, Mohammed VI

states the Document, "a sign of the closeness between East and West, between North and South, and between all who believe that God has created us to understand one another, cooperate with one another and live as brothers and sisters who love one another."

This text is the result of a friendly collaboration between the two signatories, who have met several times, especially during the papal visit to Egypt in April 2017. Pope Francis sees there - for the Catholic Church - the development of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, in the wake of the journey of Saint John Paul II in Casablanca (August 1985) and of the interreligious meeting in Assisi (October 1986). "Processes must mature, like flowers, like fruit," he commented on the plane that took him back from Abu Dhabi to Rome.

In the footsteps of the visit to Abu Dhabi, as well as the Document on Human Fraternity signed on that occasion, Pope Francis went to Morocco the last two days of March. He wanted to promote interreligious dialogue in this country that constitutes a natural bridge between Africa and Europe,

and Francis shared a common appeal that sanctions the uniqueness and sacredness of Jerusalem. "We consider it important to preserve the Holy City of Jerusalem / Al-Quds Acharif as the common patrimony of humanity and especially the followers of the three monotheistic religions, as a place of encounter and as a symbol of peaceful coexistence, where mutual respect and dialogue can be cultivated. It is our hope, therefore, that in the Holy City, full freedom of access to the followers of the three monotheistic religions and their right to worship will be guaranteed".

Brother Jean-Pierre - the sole surviving Trappist monk of the Tibhirine community, is a symbol of this tenacious commitment to interreligious dialogue at the service of hope. He now lives in the monastery Notre-Dame de l'Atlas, in Midelt, Morocco. On Sunday, March 31, the Pope bowed before this very elderly religious, kissing his hand in a sign of profound respect. It was an indication to us all on how we can renew the Church: by living the Gospel simply, by giving one's life for love.

François Vayne



“THE CHURCH I KNOW”

Some high-ranking members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre participated in the organization of the historic meeting convoked by the Pope regarding “The Protection of Minors in the Church” held in the Vatican from February 21 to 24. In particular, Cardinal Séan Patrick O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Blase Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago and Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta. The assembly listened to moving testimonies of victims of sexual abuse, seeking solutions to the crisis in dialectic of exchange and prayer. Following the event, which was widely reported in the press, president of the Grand Magisterium’s Holy Land Commission, Bartholomew McGettrick, shared this text in which – conscious of the challenges and in no way justifying the horrible actions carried out by some clergy – he wanted to point to something we often forget or take for granted: the beauty of what we live at the heart of the church and the presence of God through the generosity and self-giving of so many people who form the Body of Christ. This is also the Church we know, we love and we should not forget!

Recent weeks and months have highlighted for the Catholic Church some of the difficulties and even atrocities which have taken place within the Church. The media have been vociferous in their condemnation of what has been happening over a period of years. There has been justifiable anger at what has been done, and what has not been done.

All members of the Catholic Church must feel emotional about this – shame, embarrassment, being perplexed, angry, cheated, and all the negative emotions that are possible. For many to be associated with such an institution is painful.

The secular media in particular have not spared any detail of some of the atrocities which have taken place. I am left to ask the question, “*Is this the Church that I know?*”

As a rhetorical question I am inclined to the view that this is not the Church that I know. Nor do I see myself as having any part of an institution which can shelter the misdemeanours and the shocking activities of members of the Church in whose name

crimes and indiscretions have been committed.

The Church that I know, however, is a Church of generosity, of care, and of love. I know people in religious life and laity who devote themselves to the betterment of society and to accompanying and serving those in need. Many give their lives to the Church – either as ordained religious, or as people who serve through vows that they have taken, or through vocational calling. They do so freely and with integrity and with the simple mission of wishing to help others.

I am especially aware in the Holy Land that the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is devoting its attention to education, humanitarian aid, and pastoral care. These lie at the heart of the work of the Order, and indeed of the Church, and it supports many people who wish to make the world a better place by their activities and actions. It is one example of how the Catholic Church gathers resources and puts them at the service of those in need.





Bartholomew McGettrick and the members of the Grand Magisterium Holy Land Commission during a recent visit to the people involved in the pastoral service of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In season and out of season members in every continent donate funds to the Order. These funds go to supporting Christian communities. Of course it is not newsworthy to proclaim that the Church supports schools, hospices for the dying and homes for the elderly and infirm, hospitals for babies, clinics, orphanages, places of refuge for abused women, shelter for refugees and the tortured, and so on. That is the Church that I know.

Globally the Catholic Church works in the field of education to promote humanitarian values and to do what it can to ensure that there is a deep sense of justice in society. Catholic education tries to bring hope and achievement through the relationships that are created within the Catholic schools. It is the constant work of teachers who are motivated by the love of their students that makes the world a better place; of doctors and nurses who attend to those who suffer in the most miserable living conditions; and of so many others who simply serve others.

Amid the constant pressure for change is the fact that children still need to love and be loved. The Church has a duty to ensure this is a love that is pure and based on right relationships. Is it too much to think that this may indeed be a human right? This remains as perhaps the one area we still need to conquer – in the depths of the heart. The Catholic Church can lead in this,

because that is the essence of the nature of Catholic social action and is integral to the work of the Church that I know. Of course the Church still needs to seek guidance of the Spirit to more fully celebrate the place of women in its social action and leadership.

In terms of humanitarian aid the Catholic Church is at the forefront of support for refugees, displaced peoples, and those who find themselves at the margins of society. One only has to look at those organisations which work with

the most needy in our society to find that the Catholic Church is present. There is persecution of peoples for their beliefs and the Church is there. Indeed it is the role of the Church to accompany those most in need, and to walk with them on their various journeys.

Increasingly in our world there is a need for pastoral care of all God's children. Support for the spiritual and social well-being of everyone is increasingly important in a complex world. In addition there is clearly a growing need for supporting people who struggle in a world which increasingly disregards the human needs of so many in society. Increased suicide rates across many "advanced countries" are simply one indicator of the pressure under which many people find themselves.

The Church that I know is a Church that is generous with the people who serve others. To be a Christian is to be a person for others; to be a Christian in the present world is to be a person of undying service; and to be a Christian in the present world is to walk along with our neighbours – and especially those who most need help and support. Many, many people are on those journeys – and they should not be forgotten.

It is the Church of the pilgrim. It is the Church of the servant. It is the Church of generosity, of justice, of hope and of love. That is the Church that I know.

Bartholomew McGettrick



Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

“THE HOLY LAND IS WITHIN US”

The pilgrimage of the Grand Magisterium staff

From February 1 to 5, the management and staff from the Roman headquarters of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre spent five unforgettable days on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, at the express invitation of Cardinal Edwin O’ Brien.

It was the Grand Master desire that the Grand Magisterium’s staff visit some institutions that benefit from the Order’s support and meet the people who coordinate the aid in the offices of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The group went to Jaffa of Nazareth, to a parish school that has about 500 students and which has expanded: It is just one of the great projects that Knights and Dames have generously contributed to in recent years.

On the same day, following Mass presided by the Grand Master on the shores of Lake Tiberias, the pilgrims gathered in prayer in the place of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes and visited the Mount of Beatitudes, as well as the Basilica of the Annunciation, trying to internalize the beautiful expression shared in the morning by Msgr. Fortunato Frezza, the Order’s Master of Ceremonies: “The Holy Land is within us”.

This affirmation became increasingly true for each of the participants, as the pilgrimage continued on to Jerusalem the following day. There Mass was celebrated at Calvary followed by a moment of meditation in the Upper Room and a procession to the Western Wall of the Temple.

One of the important moments of

this journey was marked by a visit to Saint-Louis Hospital in Jerusalem. This structure welcomes the terminally ill – Jews, Muslims and Christians – and can do so thanks to the financial support of the Order. “We do not add days to life but life to the days”, explained Sr. Monika, director of this institute, showing to what extent a commitment to the dignity of the human person can concretely reinforce interreligious dialogue.

On the eve of our departure, we gathered before dawn at the Holy Sepulchre, inside the empty tomb, for a Mass during which, side by side, the staff of the Grand Magisterium breathed profound spiritual



During an extraordinary pilgrimage to the Holy Land last winter, the Grand Master wanted the Grand Magisterium staff to visit the institutes that benefit from the support of the Order, meeting the people who coordinate aid in the services of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.



solidarity, strengthening the awareness of being one family, while carrying the prayer intentions of the 30,000 members of the Order in their hearts.

The day continued with a visit to the Mount of Olives, at Gethsemane, before going to Bethlehem University, a vital education centre that works in large part thanks to the generosity of the Order and that since its opening in 1973 has become a bearer of true hope for the young Palestinians tested by the complicated situation in which they live.

Lunch with some representatives of the University's 3000 students helped to clearly show the difficult conditions that the Palestinians face due to the sinister Separation Barrier and the colonization of their lands.

After praying in the Grotto of the Nativity, the group spent the afternoon at the Hogar Niño Dios - to which the Order is a major contributor - together with the disabled and abandoned children whom the nuns of the institute of the Incarnate Word care for with tenderness and love.

On the last day, during a Mass at the Little Cenacle, in Jerusalem, the preacher

invited each pilgrim to ask the Lord for help to carry out his or her mission here on earth for which He has desired us from eternity. He recalled that God only waits for a definitive "yes" to His will to work miracles.

The delegation also went to the Basilica of the Dormition and then to the church of St Peter in Gallicantu, next to the steps of the ancient road that connected the city to Gethsemane, surely travelled by Jesus.

Before leaving, in the absence of the Apostolic Administrator who was with the Pope in Abu Dhabi, Msgr Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo, Patriarchal Vicar in Jerusalem, warmly received the staff of the Grand Magisterium and hosted a lunch for them together with the staff of the Latin Patriarchate, directed by Sami el-Yousef.

This historic pilgrimage has allowed to create new bonds of collaboration between Rome and Jerusalem. The discovery for the first time of the holy places for some employees of the Grand Magisterium has strengthened the motivation that sustains their work. Moreover, everyone was able to renew their enthusiasm in serving the Church through the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

François Vayne

GUCCIONE
SINCE 1975
DECORATIONS OF KNIGHTLY ORDERS

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Order of Malta
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5000 PEOPLE AT PALAZZO DELLA ROVERE: TWO INTENSE AND EXCITING DAYS

The Palazzo della Rovere, the international headquarters of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, opened its doors to more than 5000 visitors on March 23 and 24, 2019, during the Spring Days organized by the FAI (Italian Environment Fund) dedicated to the discovery of Italian heritage. This year the theme of the Days was the bridge between cultures.

This exceptional event was an occasion to boost awareness of the Order's mission to Christians and to all the inhabitants of the Holy Land.

Joining the President of the FAI, Andrea Carandini, and the Vice President, Marco Magnifico, the Governor General of the Order, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone - who had taken the bold initiative of opening Palazzo della Rovere to visitors on these days with the agreement of Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien - answered the questions of the Italian television stations

covering the event. In particular, Italian national TV dedicated a program broadcast live from Palazzo della Rovere on Sunday morning.

Marco Magnifico commented on the happy union between the theme of this year's FAI Spring Days and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre: "The idea of dedicating the FAI Days to the bridge between cultures was born from the fact that Italian culture is amplified in Italy. However, Italian culture has been nourished by all the Mediterranean cultures and stems from continuous influences. For example, here in the Sala dei Semidei, there are sphinxes that clearly come from other cultures. Through recounting these facts, the visitor's horizon widens. Moreover, the Palazzo della Rovere is today the headquarters of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre that helps Christianity in the Holy Land, which is a melting pot of religions. Together, and not in opposition to each other, these religions try to collaborate



During the FAI days organized for more than 5000 visitors at the headquarters of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the media present contributed greatly to boosting awareness of the activities of Knights and Dames (here the Governor General interviewed live on the Italian national television channel RAI).





A stand run by the Grand Magisterium staff allowed thousands of visitors to discover the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, during the two FAI days last March. Many people subscribed to our publications.

and grow."

During the visit, each group – consisting of about thirty people and guided by FAI volunteers – was able to watch a three-minute video with images filmed during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in which the activities of the Knights and Dames were presented, in addition to meeting members of the Order who have witnessed their vocation at a special stand organized by the staff of the Grand Magisterium and some representatives of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy. "For us Knights it was the chance to tell people about our mission and illustrate the Order's main activities. Through the distributed material and stories

we shared from the Holy Land, visitors were able to touch our work in benefit of our brothers and sisters in the Land of Jesus. This is magnificent," commented Giancarlo Imbrighi, Secretary of the Rome Section of the Lieutenancy, who welcomed visitors to Palazzo della Rovere throughout Saturday and Sunday.

About 2200 art and history enthusiasts, on the first day, and 2900 on the second were enthralled by the artistic treasures of the Palace, decorated in the 15th century by Pinturicchio.

These enthusiastic visitors were moved to discover the generosity of the 30,000 members of the Order in the world and left



PRESIDENT CARANDINI AT PALAZZO DELLA ROVERE

Archaeologist and academic, Andrea Carandini – president of the Italian Environmental Fund since 2013 – honoured us with his presence at Palazzo della Rovere during these exceptional days.

Known for his lifelong passion for heritage conservation, this eminent scholar points out that about 800,000 visitors were received at 1100 sites in the 430 cities of Italy during the weekend of March 23 and 24.

"The central state cannot do everything on its own and so it helps the associations or foundations dedicated to the public good so that, in this way, civil society acts alongside institutions. This is the case for FAI, which has existed for 44 years, a rare reality in Europe that was inspired by a similar reality in Great Britain and the Commonwealth", he declared.

The FAI has about 300 employees but relies on a large group of volunteers who work in a familial spirit and it boasts more than 200,000 members. "Italy is the mother of Europe and this soul remains. It fascinates the world on an artistic level and we are at the service of this precious heritage", the president continued. He also confided that he was deeply moved to be at the headquarters of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, a reality he first encountered as a child through the then Grand Master, Cardinal Tisserant. **F.V.**



their contacts to receive more information about the Order. Some expressed the desire to materially help the Church in the Holy Land and also to join the Order.

Barbara, a Journalism student at the Faculty of Communication Sciences at nearby LUMSA University shares: "It was interesting to know the history of this Palace and of the Order that has its headquarters here. Every time I passed in front of this door to go to the University I always wondered who was here and this was the

occasion to find out!"

Among the visitors there are also some fans of the Holy Land, such as Corrado who entered with one of the last Sunday groups after "a long wait - he comments - but it was worth it! I lived in the Holy Land for two years and came to visit the headquarters of the Grand Magisterium of the Order where the contributions of the Knights and Dames - then sent to the Holy Land - converge from all over the world; it was a bit like returning to Jerusalem."

IN MEMORIAM

Kaspar Elm, historian of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre (1929 - 2019)

On the eve of ninety years on February 5 last, Prof. Kaspar Elm, born in Xanten on September 23, 1929 ended his engaged earthly pilgrimage in Berlin. He was, undoubtedly, one of the most distinguished historians of religious movements and currents of spirituality in the European Middle Ages.

We are beholden to remember him here, given his contribution to the history of our Order, critically re-proposing the question of origins, the ideal motifs that characterized its spirituality, the institutional evolution that from the Middle Ages to the modern times marked the organizational advances and internal reorganizations that took stock of the most far-reaching events which modified the political scenarios of the Holy Land and of the entire Mediterranean basin.

While reserving the right to provide a more in-depth profile of Elm's historiographical commitment, we cannot fail to highlight his involvement in an initiative, desired by the then Grand Master

of our Order, His Eminence Cardinal Carlo Furno, which saw us engaged in the search for the *Idea and the Institutions of the Militia Sancti Sepulchri*.

Numerous specialists from the various disciplinary fields were called upon to discuss this issue in an international Colloquium held in the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Lateran University from April 10 to 12, 1996. Elm was entrusted with the opening speech of the session and myself with its concluding speech.

Cardinal Furno chose this occasion for the conferral of the honors of the Order and the *Commenda* was bestowed on Elm.

The Berlin native historian has always been proud of this and, quite rightly, in the note with which the family announced his departure, they placed the cross of the Order and the incipit of the famous rule attributed to Saint Augustine, which constituted the spiritual codex of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

Msgr. Cosimo Damiano Fonseca
Academician of the Lincei



THE NEW HOLY LAND COMMISSION

In January, the new members of the Grand Magisterium's Holy Land Commission took office. Scottish professor Bartholomew McGettrick replaced the American Thomas McKiernan at the head of this Commission, also constituted by the Lieutenant emeritus for Germany, Detlef Brümmer and Cynthia Monahan, belonging to the northeastern US Lieutenancy, of which Cardinal Sean O'Malley is Grand Prior. We wish to thank Thomas McKiernan, on behalf of the Grand Magisterium, for the leadership work carried out with competence and passion, as well as for his role as consultant in the new team. Recently, in March, the Commission went to the Holy Land to follow the ongoing programs and meet the leaders of the Latin Patriarchate, as well as the representatives of pastoral, scholastic and health life. On the website of the Patriarchate, Rula Shomali informs that – welcomed by Mr. Sami El-Yousef, Chief

Executive Officer of the Latin Patriarchate – the members firstly visited the Latin Patriarchate, met with representatives from the Project Development, Financial, and Technical teams along with the catechism office before they left to inspect the on-going and finished projects that the Order funded. During their meeting at the Patriarchate, they discussed the proposed projects for the coming years, which will focus on youth, scouts, pastoral work, educational projects, humanitarian and infrastructure needs.

Moreover, the HLC visited Jaffa of Nazareth and visited St. Rachel Center in Jerusalem before visiting four families receiving support from the Order. After a short stop at St. Louis Hospital, they had an audience with Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa.

The Commission had quality time with students at Bethlehem University, the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Beit Jala, and the

youth in Beit Sahour. They visited the Home of the Elderly in Ramallah and met with Fr. Iyad Twal, Director of the Latin Patriarchate Schools in Palestine and Israel and other school directors. They ended their visit celebrating the Sunday Mass with parishioners in Our Lady of Fatima parish in Beit Sahour. Finally, the Commission was received by the Apostolic Nuncio, Msgr. Leopoldo Girelli.



The Grand Magisterium Holy Land Commission welcomed by Sami El-Yousef and the staff of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which he expertly directs.



The Order and the Holy Land

THE ORDER'S COMMITMENT TO DISABLED CHILDREN IN BETHLEHEM

The Hogar Niño Dios is a home that mainly welcomes disabled children in the Bethlehem area. Starting from 2016, the North Central USA Lieutenancy, who sent us this article, decided to dedicate 10% of the contributions collected by members to help this structure carry out its mission of welcoming and helping disadvantaged and often abandoned children. In addition to the North Central USA Lieutenancy – which annually sends around \$ 15,000 – in 2018 the Western USA and Central Italy Lieutenancies also decided to support the Hogar thus enhancing the Order's action in terms of presence and effectiveness.

Hogar Niño Dios, located just down the hill from the Church of the Nativity, is a home for severely disabled Palestinian children and some

adults. Many of the children have cerebral palsy and other serious neurological conditions that necessitate use of wheelchairs. Some children have

microcephaly, autism, Down's syndrome, and genetic defects. Some have poor vision or hearing. Most do not speak. Half of the home's residents cannot feed themselves, and most require considerable assistance in the activities of daily living.

Four sisters of the Religious Family of the Incarnate Word reside in the home, which was founded by their superior, Mother Maria Pia, thirteen years ago. The sisters are the primary caregivers, assisted by lay staff who provide night time



Glen Heinzl, Knight of the Order, a volunteer with disabled children at the Hogar Niño Dios in Bethlehem.





Mother Maria Pia, of the religious Family of the Incarnate Word, superior at the community that animates the Hogar Niño Dios, flanked by the Heinzl couple, representatives of the North Central USA Lieutenancy.

Hogar Niño Dios is one of those charities. In 2016 Deacon Glen Heinzl, a Knight, and his wife Dame Commander Christine Heinzl, travelled to Bethlehem as ambassadors to Hogar Niño Dios. They spent

supervision, meal preparation, cleaning, and playground supervision. Teachers, physical therapists, and a speech therapist provide full time services right in the home because most of the children are unable to attend school outside the home. Priests of the Religious Family of the Incarnate Word celebrate Mass in the home's chapel, provide spiritual direction for the sisters, and interact regularly with the children. A local physician provides medical services weekly. Seminarians from the Latin Patriarchal seminary visit regularly. Italian volunteers from Unitalsi and Misericordie assist several times per year. They participate in cleaning and painting projects and assist the sisters in feeding and playing with the children. Project Bethlehem from Great Britain provides volunteer teachers and therapists who work with the local teachers and therapists to upgrade skills.

In 2016 the North Central USA Lieutenancy selected five Holy Land charities to which its members provide additional voluntary contributions. Ambassadors were appointed to learn more about these institutions and to be champions for these causes.

six to nine hours for eight days at the home. They assisted the children with meals, cleaned them up afterward, changed diapers, pushed wheelchairs, soothed the children when distressed, sat alongside them, held them in their arms, and helped them exercise. In September, 2018, the Heinzls returned to Hogar Niño Dios for an additional twelve days of assisting in the care of the children.

Mother Maria Pia is most grateful for the funding which has gone toward general operating expenses. During the past two years an additional teacher and physical therapist have been hired. The number of residents has increased from twenty five to thirty one. Work is underway to move the now adolescent boys to a nearby home to be run by the same religious community; this will require additional expense.

Joy, peace, and love are evident within the home as well as rambunctious behavior typical of most children. The needs of the children are great, and the sisters would like to accommodate still more children as need arises

Matthew Bunson
North Central USA Lieutenancy



“GIVE GOD A CHANCE AND HE WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE”

A young Palestinian at the WYD in Panama

In early 2019, young Catholics from around the world gathered in Panama for World Youth Day. Among them was also a group from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Nirmeen Odeh, a 26-year-old Palestinian, shared her testimony in the presence of Pope Francis, which we reprint in full below:

“My name is Nirmeen Odeh. I have always been shy but curious. I finished my studies with an idea engraved in mind, that the most important thing to do in life is gain knowledge. Although I was born as a Christian in Palestine, I did not really care for that title nor for the Holy Sites that existed near to me. In 2016, I participated in World Youth Day in Krakow. During that trip, I made a decision and took a leap of faith. On July 23, 2016, I confessed and I received the body of Christ with faith in my heart for the first time in my life. On the plane back home, I was introduced to the first Christian book that I have ever read in my life; “the Confessions of Saint Augustine”. That book was followed by so many other books that talk about the mercy and love of God. Here I am three years later in Panama, praying excitedly for God to show me what my next journey will be, so my message to you my fellow youth of the



Palestinian Nirmeen Odeh was the voice of the Holy Land during the recent World Youth Day in Central America. (@CNS Paul Sharing)

world is to have faith in Him and let Him in your lives. Give Him a chance and He will change your life.”

Not only young people came from the Holy Land, with them arrived a million and a half rosaries made by the Christians of Bethlehem. This was the gift made to all the participants in WYD, indeed the triple gift because each young person was given three rosaries; one for themselves, one to deliver to another participant and one to give to someone in their own country. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre contributed generously to this project – AVEJMJ – launched by Pierre Bürcher, bishop emeritus of Reykjavik in Iceland, who carried the Holy Land through this Marian prayer all over the world!



The Life of the Lieutenancies

A COMPASS FOR KNIGHTS AND DAMES

The booklet "Praying with the Grand Master"

Thank you Eminence!

The Knights and Dames are grateful for such a useful instrument.

We have long felt the need to be more in communion with our brothers and sisters from all over the world and the Holy Spirit has provided.

The Lieutenancy for Italy Sicily has, since the beginning, distributed the prayer

booklet in its own Sections and Delegations. Some of them have printed and distributed a copy to each member of the Order.

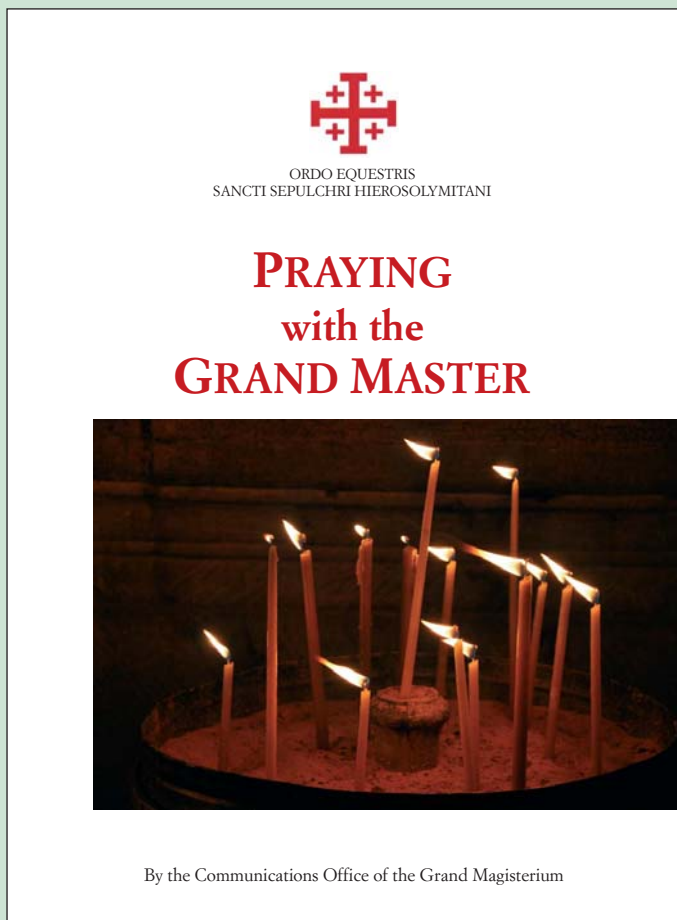
The simple and immediate structure – a reflection / meditation, further reading and a monthly commitment that becomes personal prayer – makes it immediately accessible and appreciated.

The Palermo Section, in addition to having printed and distributed the booklet, at the beginning of the month through the WhatsApp group sends everyone the introductory part of the chapter to remind members to meditate, deepen and implement their personal commitment.

The booklet was printed and distributed to all the Confreres and Consoeurs of the Catania Section and every month, after the monthly Mass and before a moment of fraternal agape, the President – alternating with the ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies – develops the first part in community. The second and third parts are left to personal prayer taking advantage of monthly Eucharistic adoration.

This new resource makes it possible for us to be pilgrims with Jesus on the journey "to Jerusalem".

Antonio Mirto
Lieutenancy for Italy Sicily



ORDO EQUESTRIS
 SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

**PRAYING
 with the
 GRAND MASTER**

By the Communications Office of the Grand Magisterium



COMMITMENT IN THE ORDER IS A PATH TOWARDS HOLINESS

The testimony of Claude Grbeša, Magistral Delegate for Croatia

I read Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* on the call to holiness in the contemporary world with great pleasure. The exhortation was published at the right time: now more than ever the lay faithful need to feel an integral part of the Catholic Church and to know that holiness is accessible to all.

Therefore, it is highly desirable that the Croatian Knights and Dames read this document, the content of which will now be included in the formation process of future members.

For a Christian, responding to the call to

holiness is inseparable from his or her faith. It is true that this spiritual journey appears long and full of obstacles. The Lord offers Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre various tools for the journey. Not just shield and sword, but love of God and neighbor, constant prayer, audacity and fervor to make the message of the Gospel triumph. Pope Francis invites us to follow the Beatitudes, the DNA of every Christian, in the manner of the saints. Living the Beatitudes requires a daily dynamic of conversion and it is possible only through the grace of the Holy Spirit that nourishes the Word of Christ.



Cardinal Edwin O'Brien in meditation in front of the reliquary of Blessed Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac, a member of the Order, during an Investiture ceremony in Croatia.



THE LIEUTENANCY FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND ITS MALAYSIAN DOMICILED MEMBERS

In February 2019, the Grand Master approved the establishment of a Malaysian Section of the Order belonging to the Lieutenancy for Western Australia. Lieutenant Jack Gardner tells us the story that led to the birth of this new presence of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Asia.

Western Australians, through familial, study, business and travel interact with South East Asians, particularly Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. You may be aware that Malaysia is a Muslim majority country. Most of its Christians do not live in Peninsular Malaysia – of which Penang Diocese is part and where Christians are a small minority, of mostly Chinese ethnicity – but in the States of Sabah and Sarawak, on the Island of Borneo.

Lieutenant of Honour for Western Australia Bob Peters, an Australian immigrant from Burma worked with Monsignor Michael Cheah of Penang to find a way that faithful Malaysian Catholics could join the Order. Their efforts were made in Penang Diocese, and we are not to date in touch with any Catholic jurisdictions outside of the Penang Diocese.

Early in 2014 the Bishop of Penang agreed

that Catholics from the Diocese could become members of the Order under certain conditions – they could only be members of the Australia – Western Lieutenancy and only if their parish priest agreed. There is a political balance in Malaysia that is wary of the Church and exposure to an Order of Knights should be discreet. We only have members from the Penang Diocese. We are careful to contain the wearing of Regalia to liturgical events.

With a suitable letter from the Diocese of Penang, the Grand Magisterium approved the arrangement, accepting the first Malaysians as non-domiciled members of the Western Australian Lieutenancy.

All of this developed before Vice Governor General, Paul Bartley, assumed responsibility for the Order's growth in the region.

In September 2014 an initial 13



The creation of a section of the Order in Malaysia – a country where Islam is the state religion – represents an important milestone: it is a transitional stage towards a Magistral Delegation and perhaps in the future a Malaysian Lieutenancy, as explained in this article by Australian Lieutenant Jack Gardner.



Candidates from the Diocese of Penang were invested in Perth. This included Monsignor Michael Cheah, KCHS. It also included Andrew Khoo, KHS who is now studying for the priesthood at "Our Lady of Sheshan" Major House of Formation, Institute of the Incarnate Word, at San Celestino, Lipa City in the Philippines.

After the Perth 2018 Investiture we have 26 Malaysian members of the Lieutenancy. Eleven are women. Each year since 2014, our Malaysian members, including Monsignor Michael, have been well represented in Perth at the annual Investiture, supporting their new members and sharing with the broader membership.

I was pleased to announce in February 2019 that His Eminence the Grand Master had approved our request for the formation of a Section for our Malaysian domiciled members. The Section has appointed its committee and has held its first formal meeting. Creation of this Section is an

important milestone, for our Malaysian domiciled members. It is for them, a precursor for transition in time to a Magistral Delegation, and eventually we hope to a Malaysian Lieutenancy.

Our Malaysian members impress with two virtues: charity to the poor and love of pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Government restraint on visas for Israel makes the Holy Land difficult for them to visit; they tend to organise their own short visits months ahead of departure.

We endeavour to visit Penang annually, where the Council conducts a retreat/workshop for members and prospective candidates. We have also attended the pilgrimage centre of St Anne's Church and Shrine in Bukit Mertajam, where a mass for 3,000 to 5,000 attendees is not unusual. This exposes us to Catholics from all of Peninsular Malaysia.

Jack Gardner
Lieutenant for Australia Western

THE JOY OF TOUCHING THE LAND OF CHRIST FOR MALAYSIAN DOMICILED MEMBERS

During the Investiture in Perth, Australia, celebrated by cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Malaysian members of the Lieutenancy for Western Australia spoke of how important their pilgrimage to the Holy Land was for them, not only as members of the Order, but as Catholics. They all spoke, first, of how difficult it is for them to even make the pilgrimage. The Malaysian government makes it difficult for them to get a visa to travel to Israel, as their country has no official diplomatic relations with the State of Israel. They are only allowed to be in Israel for 7 days (shorter than they all would like). So even to get permission to travel is the first obstacle – but no good pilgrimage is without its obstacles and the difficulties they experience makes their pilgrimage all the more meaningful, a "Pilgrimage of a lifetime".

"A pilgrimage to the Holy Land makes me holier" Anna said. "To go to the grounds where Jesus walked and where Mother Mary lived" is a remarkable experience. "The Bible comes alive," said Vincent. They all commented that visiting the Holy Land makes them all the more intent to work on their own lives of faith. Several mentioned that it was because of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land that they joined the Order.



AN INITIATIVE BY THE WESTERN USA LIEUTENANCY: THE MINISTRY FAIR

How to make our members more aware about our action in the Holy Land? This is an oft-asked question. In this article, the Western USA Lieutenancy tells more about the Ministry Fair they have organized during the Annual Meeting since 2015.

The Order supports so many important and life-giving ministries in the Holy Land. In 2015, under the aegis of Lieutenant Michael Scott Feeley, the Western USA Lieutenancy began an initiative at our Annual Meeting to raise

awareness among our membership of the myriad ministries that the Lieutenancy funds in the Holy Land. Spearheaded by Sir Steve and Lady Kristin Luchetta of Orange County, the purpose of our Ministry Fair is to showcase these efforts, provide

information to members about ongoing projects we support, and explain how these ministries help Christians in the Holy Land.

At each Annual Meeting, a dozen tables are set up in a central area through which members must pass to register and attend events. The Ministry Fair remains open all day Friday as well as Saturday afternoon during the Annual Meeting. Staffed by volunteer members who are familiar with the specific ministry, each table has a flat screen monitor where videos of the ministry and power point presentations continuously run. Trifold pamphlets explaining each ministry are given out at each table along with other written materials and pictures are displayed. The members running the table engage members in conversation and provide first hand perspectives on the particular work being



The Western USA Lieutenancy presents the projects carried out in the Holy Land on the annual Lieutenancy meeting, arousing great interest and generosity.



showcased. It is a convivial atmosphere with members mingling together and enjoying snacks and drinks.

The Western USA Lieutenancy Ministry Fair includes presentations on St. Vincent's Home, Hogar Niño Dios, Kerak Italian Hospital, Patriarchal Seminary at Beit Jala, Bethlehem University, the Holy Child Program, Society of St. Yves Center for Human Rights, the Holy Land Economic Development Program (microloans for Christian small businesses through Caritas Jerusalem), Our Lady of Peace Center in Amman, Beit Afram Home for the Elderly,

and the parochial schools in Zarqa, Jordan. In addition, we have tables dedicated to our Legacy Society, pilgrimage opportunities, and Justice & Peace efforts.

The Western USA Lieutenancy Ministry Fair is an effective and enjoyable way of informing our members of the ministries their contributions support and making the experience personal through member to member interaction. The initiative inspires zeal for the ministries and has resulted in greater appreciation for the projects and increased financial support. It draws us closer to the people of the Holy Land.

A SOLIDARITY EXPRESSED BEYOND THE HOLY LAND

*The Order acts in the local dioceses to support Christians
from the Middle East*

The Magistral Delegation of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in New Zealand has taken part in a successful project to resettle a Chaldean Catholic refugee family in New Zealand.

The project was initiated by two members of the Order, Pat and Suzie McCarthy who have led several pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Their desire to help Iraqi refugees arose from meetings in Jordan with refugees who had fled ISIS militants.

Back in New Zealand, the McCarthys made contact with the Iraqi Chaldean Catholic Community of St. Addai in Auckland, whose pastor, Fr. Douglas Al-Bazi, had been imprisoned and tortured by ISIS. After a series of meetings a partnership was formed between the Magistral Delegation of the Order in New Zealand and the St. Addai Community to explore options for refugee resettlement.

With the backing of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, the partnership was placed under the



Thanks to two members of the Order, Pat and Suzie McCarthy, the Magistral Delegation for New Zealand has committed itself to serving Iraqi refugees, particularly supporting a family now settled in the city of Hamilton.





A convivial moment organized in honour of the Iraqi refugees supported by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre received by Msgr. Steve Lowe, bishop of Hamilton.

leadership of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis.

A benefactor was attracted by the humanitarian nature of the project and provided the necessary guarantee of funding. Funding required the name of an organisation, not an individual and the benefactor allowed his funding to be in the name of the Order (New Zealand). Funding was also guaranteed by various groups within the Chaldean Catholic community.

At the beginning of 2018 there was a flurry of communications with contacts of the McCarthys and Fr. Al-Bazi in Jordan and Lebanon to find an Iraqi Chaldean Catholic family who met the New Zealand Government criteria and who wished to

resettle in New Zealand. Several families contacted did not meet the criteria. Just before the deadline, a refugee family was chosen – husband, wife and four-year-old daughter, with another child on the way.

The family was welcomed to New Zealand at the end of May 2018 and is now established in a fully-furnished, newly-built home in the city of Hamilton. The second child, a boy, was born in August.

The family is receiving support from the local Chaldean Catholic community and the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton. They also have all the social and financial benefits of New Zealand residents. The McCarthys keep in regular touch with the family and report on their progress to the members of the Magistral Delegation.





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