


# JERUSALEM CROSS

ORDINIS EQUESTRIS SANCTI SEPULCHRI HIEROSOLYMITANI

 @granmagistero.oessh

[www.oessh.va](http://www.oessh.va)

 @GM\_oessh

## Message from the Grand Master

### CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS

**R**enewed by the rich graces of the Easter Season and Pentecost, the liturgy of the Church returns to "Ordinary Time" as we return from Jerusalem to Galilee and listen to His invitation to discipleship.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to live the life He lived. Read along in Matthew, chapters 5 through 7, for a portrait of Christ, a portrait indeed that through grace, He would like to paint in each of us! Beginning with the Beatitudes, the DNA of the Christian life, the Sermon challenges us with teachings and standards, which only the saints would find practical, and achievable only through the daily graces of God.

Investiture celebrations and regional lieutenancy gatherings have offered me reassuring evidence of our Order's rich devotion to God and to good works on behalf of Christians in the Holy Land. Hopefully, our pace slackens a bit during these summer days, perhaps offering some moments of interior spiritual renewal.

Might we add to our summer reading list a daily few minutes with the New Testament and a prayerful meditation on the Sermon on the Mount?

**Edwin Cardinal O'Brien**



*The photo of this altar on the edge of Lake Tiberias reminds us that the members of the Order, together with all baptized, are called to witness to Christ's Resurrection and to manifest his presence of love in the world today.*

# CONTENTS

## The Order in Union with the Universal Church

POPE ENCOURAGES ROACO TO INTENSIFY ITS COMMITMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE	II
"CHRIST'S WOUNDS ARE OUR TREASURE FROM WHERE MERCY FLOWS"	III
DON'T FORGET TO CELEBRATE SAINT PIUS X THIS SUMMER!	IV

## Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

PREPARING A "PILGRIMAGE TO THE PEOPLE" OF THE HOLY LAND	V
CONTINENTAL MEETINGS OF THE LIEUTENANTS	VIII-X
ENRIC MAS APPOINTED VICE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR IBERO AMERICA	XI
CARDINAL O'BRIEN MEETS THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER	XII

## The Order and the Holy Land

OPEN DOORS AT THE BEIT JALA SEMINARY	XIII
THE ORDER'S SUPPORT FOR IRAQI REFUGEES IN JORDAN	XVI
NEW WORK ON THE HOLY SEPULCHRE RECEIVES MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE KING OF JORDAN	XVII
AN INVITATION TO EQUALITY FROM THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC ORDINARIES OF THE HOLY LAND	XVIII
LIVING A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AS A YOUNG CHRISTIAN	XVIII

## The Life of the Lieutenancies

JEAN-MARC FOURNIER, THE HERO OF NOTRE DAME	XX
A STAINED GLASS WINDOW OF POMPEII IN NAZARETH	XXII
AN APP GATHERING MEMBERS IN PRAYER	XXIII

## Culture

JERUSALEM REFLECTS THE MYSTERY OF GOD	XXIV
---------------------------------------	------



GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM  
00120 VATICAN CITY

E-mail: [comunicazione@oessh.va](mailto:comunicazione@oessh.va)

Printed in June 2019

## The Order in Union with the Universal Church

# POPE ENCOURAGES ROACO TO INTENSIFY ITS COMMITMENT TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Plenary Assembly of the ROACO - Reunion of Aid Agencies for Oriental Churches, of which the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is part - was held in Rome from June 10 to 12. During an audience with participants, the Pope recalled the great day of prayer for peace in the Middle East, held in Bari a year ago, also expressing his desire to go to Iraq next year.

Putting aside his prepared text, the Holy Father recalled "the wrath of God that will be unleashed against those responsible for

countries that speak of peace but sell weapons to make these wars" considering that "this hypocrisy is a sin".

Recalling his meeting of the beginning of the year in Abu Dhabi with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, Francis invited ROACO to boost the diffusion and awareness of the document on fraternity signed on that occasion, especially among young people in search of hope and fraternity.

Francis further encouraged ROACO to intensify its commitment to serving new



generations in the education sector, so that "young people can grow in humanity, free from ideological colonization, with open hearts and minds, appreciating their national and ecclesial roots and desiring a future of peace and prosperity, which leaves no one

behind and discriminates against no-one."

At the end of the audience, the Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo, who represented the Order during the meeting, asked the Holy Father to bring his blessing to all the Knights and Dames in the world.

## "CHRIST'S WOUNDS ARE OUR TREASURE FROM WHERE MERCY FLOWS"

**T**he insignia of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – consisting of a large Greek cross surrounded by four small crosses – symbolically represent the five wounds of Christ, which are like "the Doors of Heaven". This emblem is not a decoration, but a mission, the spiritual sense of which is clarified by the teachings of Pope Francis.

Since his election, six years ago, the Holy Father has constantly urged us to touch the wounds of Christ, in the same way as the Apostle Thomas after the resurrection, to welcome the mercy they radiate as a source of peace. "Perhaps together we can touch those wounds, confess that Jesus is risen, and proclaim him our Lord and our God.

Perhaps together we can recognize our failings and immerse ourselves in his wounds of love. And in this way, we can discover the joy of forgiveness and enjoy a foretaste of the day when, with God's help, we can celebrate the Paschal mystery at one altar", the Pope underlined in an ecumenical perspective last May in Sofia, before the Orthodox Patriarch Neophyte.

"A saint used to say that Jesus' crucified body

is like a bundle of mercy, which reaches each of us through his wounds," he had explained a few days before, in St. Peter's Square in Rome, during the Sunday of Divine Mercy. "All of us need mercy, as we know. Let us draw near to Jesus and touch his wounds in our suffering brothers and sisters. Jesus' wounds are a treasure: mercy issues from them. Let us be courageous and touch Jesus' wounds. With these wounds he stands before the Father; he reveals them to the Father, as if to say: 'Father, this is the price; these wounds are what I paid for my brothers and sisters'. With his wounds, Jesus intercedes before the Father. He gives us

mercy if we draw near, and he intercedes for us. Do not forget Jesus' wounds." (Regina Coeli, April 28, 2019).

Each member of the Order is therefore called to let the symbols of the insignia sewn onto their cloak enter their heart and to spread the veneration of the Holy Wounds of Christ, source of forgiveness and mercy. They purify and heal. If we embrace and understand them, they can truly change our lives.

*Members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre carry the Jerusalem cross on their cloaks. It is a symbol of the five wounds of Christ. Knights and Dames try to internalize this emblem to be artisans of divine mercy in their daily life.*



F.V.

## DON'T FORGET TO CELEBRATE SAINT PIUS X THIS SUMMER!

*August 21 is the feast of St. Pius X, the only canonized member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of which he was Grand Master.*

**G**iuseppe Sarto, who became the "parish priest to the world", was born in Riese, in the diocese of Treviso, on June 2, 1835. Ordained a priest in 1858, the year of the apparitions of the Virgin in Lourdes, Giuseppe Sarto was a man of prayer, humble, a worker, "just and righteous to the highest degree", according to those who knew him. Having become bishop of Mantua first and then Patriarch of Venice, he fought with courage and determination against "the crime of the modern era" which he defined as: "Wanting to substitute Man for God". Though he had a return ticket for the conclave of 1903, he did not, in fact, return to Venice but became Pope under the name of Pius X, "because the Popes who have suffered the most in this century have borne the name of Pius", he explained. His work - along with his young Secretary of State, Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val, appointed at the age of 38 -, allowed the Church to resist the forces that sought to bring it into subjection or under supervision, because he said, "better sacrifice wealth than freedom". He died on

August 20, 1914, a few days after the start of the First World War. He is currently the only canonized saint who belonged to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, of which he was Grand Master. To consolidate the position of the Order in the Holy Land, Pius X reserved for himself and his successors the office of Grand Master by the Apostolic Letter *Quam multa* dated October 13, 1908, and gave the Knights a place in the papal chapels, whilst the Latin Patriarch was appointed Rector and Perpetual Administrator of the Order.



*The statue of Saint Pius X presides over the great continental and international meetings organized by the Grand Magisterium, at Palazzo della Rovere, a few meters from St. Peter's Square.*



## Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

# PREPARING A “PILGRIMAGE TO THE PEOPLE” OF THE HOLY LAND

*The Grand Magisterium Spring meeting (April 9-10, 2019).*

Opening the Grand Magisterium Spring Meeting on April 9, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien joyfully announced that – despite his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrated the day before – he would continue in his mission as Grand Master of the Order. Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin confirmed this personally to him. The Grand Master will also preside over a dozen Investiture ceremonies in the coming months.

Subsequently, the Governor General Visconti di Modrone provided important information to the participants, including the appointment of a fourth Vice Governor General in the person of Enric Mas,

Lieutenant of Honour for Eastern Spain, who will be responsible for coordinating the Order in Latin and Central America. The Governor also illustrated the role of the new support commissions he created: the economic and financial commission, directed by Saverio Petrillo; the commission for the revision of the protocol standards, managed by Alfredo Bastianelli; the spiritual commission, led by Msgr. Fortunato Frezza and the legal commission entrusted to Flavio Rondinini. During the meeting of the Grand Magisterium, the heads of these four commissions were able to describe their role and mandate in detail.

Turning to relations with the Latin



*Members of the Grand Magisterium meeting together with Cardinal Edwin O'Brien.*





*The support offered by the Order to the parishes of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem also translates into the construction of churches – for example in Jubeiha, Jordan – where Engineer Adolfo Rinaldi recently visited, on behalf of the Grand Magisterium. Thanks to these works, the communities are clearly strengthened, allowing young people in particular to grow in faith (in the photo on the left, children in the Holy Land on the day of their First Communion).*

Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone welcomed the excellent collaboration with the Apostolic Administrator, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who is also Pro Grand Prior of the Order. The latter – present at the two-day meeting – presented an overview of the activities undertaken during the three years since his appointment as head of the Patriarchate. Eager to consolidate the existence of the Catholic Church in the Holy City, he particularly underlined the creation of a new parish in Jerusalem. In a broader sense, he believes that the “small projects” on a human scale – supported by the Order – have a greater impact on the life of the parishes, in a difficult context that does not favor families (in five years the number of sacraments celebrated have been reduced by a third, especially weddings and baptisms). Finally, Archbishop Pizzaballa was keen to warmly thank the Grand Magisterium, recalling that – not counting the forty schools run by the Patriarchate – almost 90% of the Patriarchate’s budget comes from aid provided by the Order.

The meeting continued with its focus on financial matters, delineated in a report by Saverio Petrillo: donations decreased in

2018, with 13 million euros from the Lieutenancies, compared to 14 million the previous year, the year in which the Order had benefited from substantial bequests. Sami El-Yousef – the Patriarchate’s chief executive officer – reported on financial management of the Latin Catholic Church in the Holy Land, pointing out that now transparency is total, thanks to a special council established by Msgr. Pizzaballa, as well as to very rigorous internal audits. The centralized management of schools – which alone represent 70% of the budget – contributes largely to greater clarity in accounts. Notwithstanding, a deficit was registered in Palestine and Jordan, while the considerable state aid revealed a surplus in Israel.

On the evening of the first day, the members of the Grand Magisterium gathered around Cardinal O’Brien to celebrate his recent birthday and wish him many more fruitful years leading the Order.

The following day, space was given to examining the ongoing projects, with the report from the President of the Holy Land Commission, Bart McGettrick, who insisted on three priorities: education, humanitarian aid and pastoral actions. The new strategy of



the Grand Magisterium – in agreement with Archbishop Pizzaballa – consists in privileging small projects, with greater attention to the situations of poverty and fragility that afflict the most vulnerable people. In this sense, the Order intends to save some Christian schools in difficulty that risk closure said Bart McGettrick. In the same spirit, he suggested that Knights and Dames progressively move towards a “pilgrimage towards people”, mentioning in particular the very poor Catholic families of Jerusalem.

Vice Governor of Honour and consultant to the Grand Magisterium, Adolfo Rinaldi, then took stock of the three major projects underway (the expansion of the parish of Jaffa of Nazareth, in Israel, as well as the Hashimi kindergarten and the new church in Jubeiha, Jordan), Sami El-Yousef – CEO of the Patriarchate – returned in detail to the list of small projects that the Lieutenants can consult in detail on the restricted access area of their website. He reported receiving several requests for help weekly, insisting on the worrying situation in Gaza. In the future, he hopes for greater solidarity of the various Christian Churches and in an

ecumenical partnership, especially with regard to educational activity.

The meeting continued with the intervention of Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo on the prospects for expansion of the Order in Slovakia and Chile. Vice Governor General Paul Bartley – responsible for Asia and Oceania – highlighted that the Order is developing particularly in the Philippines, then Chancellor Bastianelli provided very encouraging statistical elements (30,000 members, of which a third were women), specifying that in local churches Knights and Dames are aware of being symbolically “ambassadors” of the Holy Land.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Grand Master noted a growing “family spirit”, undoubtedly supported by the internal and external communication efforts that the November five-yearly Consulta consolidated. He also encouraged the organization of events at the Palazzo della Rovere, headquarters of the Grand Magisterium, following the historic success of the Italian Environment Fund (FAI) days, which allowed 5000 visitors to discover the Order and its mission. **F.V.**

**GUCCIONE**  
SINCE 1975  
DECORATIONS OF KNIGHTLY ORDERS

Order of the Holy Sepulchre  
Papal Equestrian Orders  
Order of Malta  
Italian Dynastic Orders and Orders of the Italian Republic

Via dell'Orso, 17 - 00186 Roma - Italia  
Tel/Fax: (+39) 06 68307839      gianluca.guccione@gmail.com

## SPIRITUALITY AT THE HEART OF THE ORDER'S NORTH AMERICAN LIEUTENANTS' MEETING

**T**he annual North American Lieutenants' meeting took place in Houston (Texas) from May 30 to June 2 led by the Grand Master of the Order, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. The Governor General Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, Vice Governor General Thomas Pogge and fourteen Lieutenants (10 US, 3 Canadians and one Mexican) took part. The annual encounter is a significant moment in the life of the Order since the North American component constitutes 51% of its members and contributes 41% to the resources collected globally.

In a new addition to the agenda, the opening session of the first day was dedicated exclusively to the themes of spirituality, with the Lieutenants' spouses

also invited to take part in an effort to emphasize the familial dimension of the Order's commitment. In his opening address, the Cardinal Grand Master gave a profound reflection on the various spiritual themes, which were later taken up by Rev. Father Scott Traynor.

The remaining sessions addressed the different aspects of the Order's activities, previously outlined in the introductory report presented of the Governor General. This report highlighted the collegiality that currently prevails within the Grand Magisterium, thanks to the creation of Consultative Commissions that support the Governor General in the areas of economic management, spirituality, protocol reviews and disciplinary and legal matters. The



*Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (center), president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Grand Prior of the Southwestern US Lieutenancy, in the company of the Grand Master of the Order, Lieutenant Thompson Faller, and Mary O'Brien, member of the Grand Magisterium, and her husband.*







*Participants in the meeting of North American Lieutenants in Houston.*

subsequent discussions paid particular attention to financial management, administration and communications.

On the second day of the meeting, there was an extensive presentation by the Holy Land Commission on the situation of the projects started by the Grand Magisterium at the recommendation of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) President Msgr. John Kozar also participated in the debate. On the sidelines of the meetings, the Governor General had a series of in-depth bilateral talks with each Lieutenant, in particular, Mrs. Margareth Romano, who will take up office in September as Lieutenant for USA Western.

An extremely constructive atmosphere characterized the meeting, reflecting the agenda's ability to perfectly balance spiritual themes and updates on the Order's activities. The harmony between the North American Lieutenancies and the Grand

Magisterium Presidency was further underscored by the shared awareness of existing problems in the Holy Land and the need for a profound commitment to charity and prayer in endeavors to resolve them.

The group bid a fond farewell to Mexican Lieutenant Gustavo Rincon whose Lieutenancy from July 1 will be part of the Iberian-American region. The Governor General has announced his visit to Mexico to meet his designated successor.

The Lieutenant for USA Southwestern Tom Standish curated the faultless organization of the event. The celebration of Holy Mass in the Sacred Heart Cathedral concluded the meeting. This was followed by a dinner with the participation of Cardinal DiNardo, Grand Prior of the local Lieutenancy and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The North American Lieutenants then agreed to hold their next meeting on June 4-6, 2020 in Los Angeles.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF EUROPEAN LIEUTENANTS MEETING

**T**he European Lieutenants met at the Order's headquarters in Rome, the Palazzo della Rovere, on June 11 and 12, in the presence of the Grand Master Cardinal Edwin O'Brien.

Due to the unforeseen absence of the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, who was in hospital following a bad fall, the Vice Governor General for Europe, Jean-Pierre de Glutz, presided over the session, which took place in a fraternal atmosphere.

Over the course of the two days, Sami El-Yousef, CEO of the Latin Patriarchate of

Jerusalem, presented the general situation in the Holy Land and the ongoing projects in the three priority sectors of education, humanitarian aid and pastoral care.

In addition to the plenary sessions, the Lieutenants met in working groups organized according to the geographical areas to which they belong.

In their reports presented in plenary, the importance of regular contact with the Grand Magisterium for a better coordination of donations in favour of the Holy Land clearly emerged, in addition to the desire to favour the entry of young people into the Order, whose spiritual mission has been widely emphasized. The appointment of a Vice Governor General for Ibero America in the person of Enric Mas was also announced, Lieutenant of Honour for Eastern Spain.

The Lieutenants also warmly thanked Father John Bateman, secretary of the Grand Master who just finished his service, welcoming at the same time Father Maxim Baz, Lebanese, who has succeeded him since the beginning of July.

At the end of the meeting, after greeting the participants, the Grand Master expressed his wishes for a speedy recovery for the Governor General.

### The support of the Lieutenants to the Governor General

**D**uring their annual meeting, all the European Lieutenants wanted to express their closeness to the Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, in a hospital for a fracture. The greeting card they signed was delivered to him along with a letter from the Grand Master and a bouquet of flowers. The Governor General, who continued to work from the hospital bed, should be back at the office at the end of June.



*European Lieutenants in the courtyard of the Palazzo della Rovere, headquarters of the Order in Rome, during their annual meeting.*

## ENRIC MAS APPOINTED VICE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR IBERO AMERICA

**T**his was the last meeting of the European Lieutenants that Enric Mas attended in his position as Lieutenant for Eastern Spain. However, we will definitely continue hearing from him because the Cardinal Grand Master appointed him as new Vice Governor General for Ibero America, a newly created role. Mas feels that the keyword of his position is "service": "Where there are no Lieutenancies it is question of encouraging and where there are Lieutenancies it is question of being at their service providing support," Mas said. "Having been a Lieutenant beforehand helps me understand the needs and expectations because the issues Lieutenants deal with have been the same I myself experienced as a Lieutenant," he continued. The Vice Governor General for Ibero America is starting his mandate at the end of June 2019 and he sees many opportunities ahead. "Latin America is more than a continent and offers great



*The new Vice Governor General for Ibero-America, Enric Mas, together with the Vice-Governor General for Europe, Jean-Pierre de Glutz.*

opportunities of growth in all fields and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre can definitely go on developing there." We wish Enric Mas all the best in his new function.

**Barbiconi**  
 1825

**CAPES  
 MEDALS  
 ACCESSORIES**

Via Santa Caterina da Siena 58/60 00186 Roma  
[www.barbiconi.it](http://www.barbiconi.it) [info@barbiconi.it](mailto:info@barbiconi.it)

**f @barbiconi**

## CARDINAL O'BRIEN MEETS THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER

**A**fter accompanying the Grand Magisterium staff to the Holy Land at the beginning of February, the Grand Master went to Palermo for the Investiture of the Lieutenancy for Italy Sicily on February 23 and 24.

At the end of March, he was in Naples for the Investiture of the Lieutenancy for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy. From April 26 to 28, invited by the Magistral Delegation for Russia, Cardinal O'Brien celebrated the Investiture of the new members of the Order in Moscow.

In May the Lieutenancy for Italy Sardinia welcomed the Cardinal who presided at Investitures. He then presided at other Investitures in the Lieutenancy for Malta from May 10 to 12 and finally in Switzerland from May 15 to 19.

From May 30 to June 1 the meeting of the North American Lieutenants took place under his direction in the United States and in the following weeks the meeting of the European Lieutenants in Rome.

He presided over the first Investiture ceremonies in Brussels from June 14 to 16 with the Lieutenancy for Belgium, then he was in Liverpool from 21 to 23 of the same month with the Lieutenancy for England and Wales, and finally in Tarragona from June 28 to 30 with the Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain.



*Last May, the Grand Master presided over the Investitures in the Lieutenancy for Malta. In the picture we see him with the Grand Prior, Archbishop Charles Scicluna and Lieutenant Roberto Buontempo.*

### THE JERUSALEM CROSS AT THE VATICAN

**C**ardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order, periodically sends the Order's publications to the leaders of the Roman Curia to share the latest news and updates from the Holy Land. Among the various responses received, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, President of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for the US Northeastern, wrote: "Allow me to take this opportunity to assure you of my constant prayers for Your Eminence and for the whole Order, which in the constant work of mission and charity gives precious substance to the life of the Church in the Holy Land".



## The Order and the Holy Land

### OPEN DOORS AT THE BEIT JALA SEMINARY

*Father Yacoub Rafidi – Rector of the seminary of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, actively supported by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – spoke with the Grand Magisterium Communications Office to present the formation institute for future priests. “The members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre have been part of our family since the founding of the seminary. Every day we pray for them in a particular prayer that we recite for benefactors and friends of the seminary around the world”, writes the religious. This seminary – source of priestly formation for the Holy Land – is located in Beit Jala, near Bethlehem, in the State of Palestine.*

Every year, our seminary life is one of love, joy and devotion thanks to the spiritual help and financial support of our friends, the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre around the world.

The Beit Jala Seminary is the heart of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the place where the seed of vocation takes root and flourishes. The first historical institute of higher education continues today, by the grace of God, to form educated priests ready to face the 21st century. Despite the deplorable political situation, wars and poverty in the region, the seminary remains a beacon for the future of Christianity in the country of our Redemption. Since its creation in 1852, it has so far formed 288 priests, 14 bishops, 3 patriarchs and continues to work for the development of the Mother Church of Jerusalem.

Our family includes about 100 people, including 32 minor seminarians, 18 major seminarians, 7 priests and 3 nuns. Lay personnel (about forty people) also participate in the life of the seminary,

helping us in the teaching and management of the institute.

The student begins this journey at the minor seminary at the age of 13-14. An ordinary school offers all the subjects required by the Palestinian Ministry of Education. We also offer lessons in French and English. Minor seminarians are accompanied humanely and spiritually to discover their vocation.

A group of teachers and priests follows the academic life as well as the development of the student. The daily life of the minor seminary includes numerous programs that help this personal development, so that the child becomes a Christian aware of his vocation. At the end of these studies, at the age of 18-19, if he wishes he can enter the major seminary to undertake higher studies.

We have about 20 seminarians. Half come from the minor seminary.

The study program lasts nine years: a preparatory year, the two-year philosophy course, one year at the 'Saint Joseph' seminary in New York, three years of theology, a pastoral year and a final year for





*Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa with the seminarians of his diocese and their formators in the seminary of Beit Jala, in Palestine.*

diaconal and priestly ordination.

The faculty of philosophy and theology is affiliated to the Pontifical Lateran University of Rome since May 3, 1967. The lessons are taught in Arabic, but also French, English and sometimes Italian.

Our mission is to provide students – future priests – with the opportunity to receive a solid intellectual, human, spiritual and pastoral formation, starting from tradition and based on the vision of today's universal Church.

At the same time, we try to take into consideration the challenges, characteristics and local needs of the diocese of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. It is a minority Church that lives with two "majorities": Jews and Muslims.

The challenges are many: the discernment of vocation; the spiritual accompaniment of the seminarian; the political situation, of the local Church and of the universal Church; the formation of priests of the Land of Jesus. In the face of these challenges, three points are explored in the seminary, namely prayer, study and

transparency.

These three criteria are fundamental and indispensable for priestly discernment, as well as for having – according to the vision of the Church and especially of Pope Francis – a clergy serving the people, far from clericalism, power and money: "Every high priest, caught between men, is constituted for the good of men in things that concern God" (*Hebrews 5:1*). It is also important to be good shepherds who take care of their flock, without thinking of themselves: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flock?" (*Ezekiel 34:2*).

The Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre have been part of our family since the founding of the seminary. We pray every day for them in a particular prayer that we recite for benefactors and friends of the seminary across the world.

We are perfectly aware that thanks to the affection and support of the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre we can carry out our mission and would like to take advantage of this article on the seminary life to express our deep gratitude and sincere friendship, on behalf of the seminary family.



## THREE SEMINARIANS SHARE THEIR STORY WITH THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE



**FADI QANDAH**

**"M**y name is Fadi Qandah, I am 25 and I am a seminarian in my preparatory year. I started thinking about being a priest in the third year of secondary school. I asked myself these two questions: why do I not become a priest and do I have what is necessary to become a priest? Therefore, I asked a priest about it and he advised me first to finish my studies. Therefore, I did, but waiting, I became aware that nothing in this world is worth living, if not for Jesus. When I completed my studies, I decided to come to the seminary and test my vocation, finding an answer to the questions I had".



**JIRIES SAYEJ**

**"I** am Jiries Sayej, a Palestinian from Ramallah; I am 24 years old and have been studying theology for two years. I entered the seminary in 2009. From a very young age, I loved helping people and above all, I always wanted to attend Mass and the liturgy: this led me to come to the seminary. At the beginning, I read the lives of the saints and appreciated the story of St. Francis of Assisi and his spirituality, like that of St. Therese of Lisieux. I greatly admired the simplicity of their holiness and decided to take them as an example and guide in my journey. Day after day, my vocation grows and I love it. I am very happy to be able to serve the good Lord".



**NADEEM GIACAMAN**

**"M**y name is Nadeem Giacaman; I am in the third year of theology at the seminary of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Before entering, I studied administration at Bethlehem University and heard my call there. It is my sixth year in the seminary: my life here follows a rich and necessary path, which helps me to positively develop many aspects of my personality, thanks to both my studies and the pastoral experience I obtain. During these years, God has allowed me to understand how He leads me in all circumstances to Him and to the priesthood. The most important thing is that I am happy with God's call to serve others".



## THE ORDER'S SUPPORT FOR IRAQI REFUGEES IN JORDAN

Since the arrival of Iraqi Christians in Jordan in 2014, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has been committed to making their daily lives better. Thanks to the generosity of the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, of Caritas Jordan and of the Holy See, aid has been forthcoming in various fields, allowing them the opportunity to continue to practice their faith. In Jordan, Iraqi refugees fleeing the war are considered "guests", a statute that guarantees them to be safe and respected but in practice leaves them in a "grey area" from a legal standpoint. In the absence of a clear legal status defining and framing their livelihoods, and given the precarious economic situation of the country, a large number of Iraqis find themselves in an extremely difficult situation.

The commitment of volunteers and numerous Jordanian families who wanted to express their solidarity, has allowed us to organize various activities that lessens by a small degree the suffering of refugee families.

The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem committed itself to this generosity by financing housing solutions and giving access to services generally provided by the State (schooling expenses and costs for the purchase of books and uniforms for 1100 students, transport for 745 of them and access to training courses for work for 450 students).

In addition, the Latin Patriarchate hosted



*With the help of the Order, the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem has provided humanitarian aid to more than 11,000 displaced Iraqi families.*

the 220 Iraqi families who lived in the parishes and provided humanitarian aid to the 11,235 Iraqi refugee families, in particular with economic support, food, clothes, water, medicines, hospital and transport costs...

This aid project for refugees started in 2014 and it also aims to give refugees the opportunity to preserve their Christian identity by having the opportunity to go to mass, participate in spiritual retreats, celebrate Easter and Christmas and attend concerts of sacred music.

Despite the particularly delicate economic, social and political situation of the refugees, the help offered by the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the mobilization of various NGOs and the investment of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem allows refugees to look to the future with greater serenity and to keep the hope of a better future in the diaspora alive.

*(Source: Communications Office of the Latin Patriarchate)*





## NEW WORK ON THE HOLY SEPULCHRE RECEIVES MAJOR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM THE KING OF JORDAN

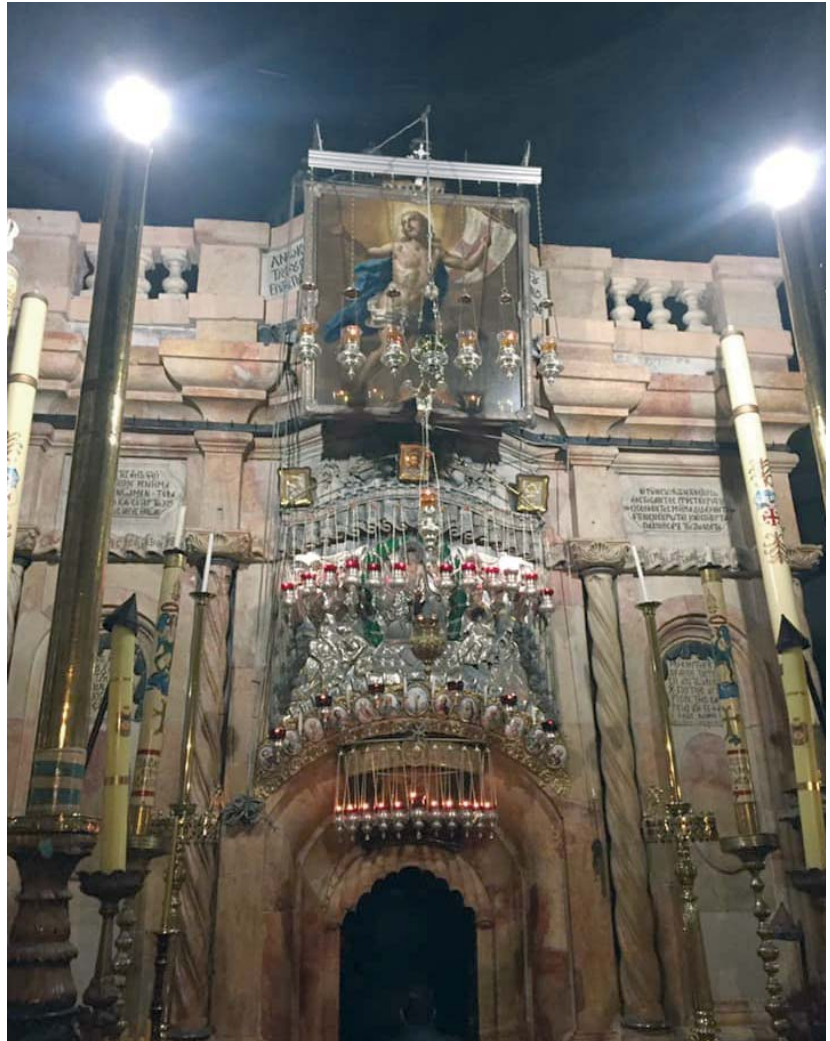
**O**n May 27, the Guardian Churches of the Holy Sepulchre signed an agreement to initiate a new phase of work around the tomb of Jesus. The Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilus III, the Custos of the Holy Land Francesco Patton and the Armenian Patriarch Nourhan Manougian agreed to jointly take on this project.

The first phase of restoration of the aedicule – carried out from May 2016 to March 2017, partly funded by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – had highlighted new risks related to the humidity of the basilica's soil, which corrodes its foundations. The second restoration campaign aims to eliminate the underlying causes of the humidity.

The current pink stone floor rests on a metal structure, which is being corroded by rust. The channels – dating respectively to the British Mandate and the Ottoman Empire – need to be changed.

The entire floor should be redone and this would allow for a thorough assessment of the entire site.

In 2017, the Holy See had indicated the allocation of an important sum for this second phase of the project. On May 6, Patriarch Theophilus mentioned the fact that King Abdallah II of Jordan intends to devolve part of the amount received with



*The Aedicule that custodies Christ's empty Sepulchre is located in the heart of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, which is currently being restructured.*

the Templeton Award to the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

"The second phase of restoration aims to conclude and crown the efforts of the Churches over the years in the restoration of the basilica, thus allowing it to regain its splendor", emphasized Patriarch Theophilus, commenting on the ecumenical initiative to the press.



## AN INVITATION TO EQUALITY FROM THE ASSEMBLY OF CATHOLIC ORDINARIES OF THE HOLY LAND

**C**lear and strong words are contained in the press release issued by the Assembly of Catholic Ordinaries of the Holy Land on May 20, dictated by the political situation that shows no sign of finding solutions in the Land so dear to us.

"Righteousness and Peace will embrace each other": this is the title of the communiqué, taken from Psalm 85, a psalm that sounds like a long-awaited announcement that turns our eyes upward towards the One who can really make "righteousness... look down from heaven" (Ps 85:11).

"Reflecting on the past few decades, during which we were promised peace and reconciliation but received more hatred and oppression, corruption and demagoguery, it is time for the Churches and spiritual leaders to point to another way, to insist that all, Israelis and Palestinians, are brothers and sisters in humanity. The Churches insist that we can love one another and live together in mutual respect and equality,

equal in rights and duties, in this same land," the Catholic Ordinaries affirm, certainly echoing the recent document signed by Pope Francis and the Great Imam of Al-Azhar on the Human Brotherhood.

The communiqué continues with a lucid political analysis and a proposal opens to discussion.

"The proposal for a two-state solution has gone nowhere and is repeated to no avail. In fact, all talk of political solution seems empty rhetoric in the present situation.

Therefore, we promote a vision according to which everyone in this Holy Land has full equality, the equality befitting all men and women created equal in God's own image and likeness. We believe that equality, whatever political solutions might be adopted, is a fundamental condition for a just and lasting peace.

We have lived together in this land in the past, why should we not live together in the future too?"

E.D.

## LIVING A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AS A YOUNG CHRISTIAN

"'God loves you', 'God died for you', 'You are the daughter of God' are all expressions I heard and learned when I was a child, but I never understood their deep meaning. Getting used to these phrases made me stop thinking of the message behind them. Although I grew up in faith, there were plenty of things I did not understand.

For example, if God frees us, then where is He to free us from the occupation? Or how does He heal all the wounds? Or even, I used to look around searching for Him because they said He is always with us.

The moment I joined the ministry, YJHP, I became more aware of myself and the world around me. I stopped listening about God and started living for Him; I started applying





faith in my daily life; I stopped reading the Bible just to know stories that occurred two thousand years ago and started reading it to know what God has to say to me today. YJHP has introduced me to the most important person in my life and accompanied me on this journey."

This is a short testimony by a young woman who joined the Christian Youth Ministry in Palestine. JEC (Jeunesse Etudiante Chrétienne) Palestine serves about 3000 Christian children and youth (from 7 to 35 years old) belonging to different Catholic parishes, schools and churches in five Palestinian governorates and divided into 58 active Christian youth groups. Different activities are offered to strengthen faith and values of youth and children so that they can live a transformative experience and encourage the youth's active involvement within community based services, social, political, and economic sectors in the Palestinian society.

In 2019, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is supporting four small projects to enable JEC Palestine and JEC Jordan to go on carrying their activities and reaching out to local youth. Funds in Jordan will be used mostly to hold four training sessions for youth leaders with workshops conducted by specialists in different topics and to organize seven moments of socialization, fests or

*The Order of the Holy Sepulchre supports some small projects that allow the Christian Student Youth (JEC) in Palestine, Israel and Jordan to carry out activities to serve the youth of the Holy Land.*

celebrations.

JEC Palestine as well is receiving a grant to allow Palestinian and Israeli youth to organize camps and retreats, run regular activities as well as participate in international meetings, workshops, conduct training, and awareness sessions for leaders. An additional help was asked to buy a 7-seat vehicle with an Israeli Licensed registration plate and a big cabin to serve the general interest of the youth ministry. The car will help in providing pastoral, animation and vocational support for the youth across Palestine and Israel. The current vehicle is small and has a Palestinian registration License which does not allow it to cross Israeli checkpoints and drive in the territories under Israeli governance and that hinders the youth to attend activities conducted in the Galilee areas.

The last project is a contribution for young people who attended the World Youth Day in Panama. However, most expenses were covered directly by the 45 youth from different parts of Palestine, Jordan and Israel who attended the meeting.

**Elena Dini**

## The Life of the Lieutenancies

# JEAN-MARC FOURNIER, THE ECCLESIASTICAL KNIGHT OF THE ORDER WHO BECAME THE HERO OF NOTRE DAME

*Father Jean-Marc Fournier entered the burning Notre-Dame Cathedral, together with a team of firefighters, to save the Crown of Thorns and the Holy Sacrament, sparking worldwide admiration. In this interview released one month after the Notre Dame fire, the chaplain to the firefighters of Paris and Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre evokes the exceptional meaning that the Relics of the Passion have for him and speaks of the role of the priest within the Order.*

Interview by Solène Tadié

**A**s the flames engulfed the cathedral of Notre-Dame, you went back in to recover the Holy Relics alongside the firefighters of Paris. What does the Crown of Thorns mean to you, as a member of the Order?

We sometimes mock Saint Thomas who wanted to touch Christ's wounds left by the nails, but in certain circumstances, we need tangible signs of faith.

All the relics related to the Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ have a fundamental importance for Christians like us. We are well known to be the only ones to venerate an empty Sepulchre ... Fortunately empty, because if Jesus had not risen from the dead - as St. Paul reminds us - our faith would be in vain.

This intimate resonance supports the Christian's faith. After that, we also enter into the Great History, which goes beyond the hunt for relics, covering the entire medieval period. The King Saint Louis redeemed the precious relics and had the

most beautiful Parisian monuments erected in their honour.

This initial momentum is still to be found in our Order in our Order. The Chivalric Orders represent a prophetic vision of the popes. I would say a sort of *ante litteram* Schengen Agreement, since the need for free movement of goods and people was part of the papal vision. When the Seljuks began to conquer the Holy Land, obstructing these movements of people and goods, they began to preach the first Crusade ... and then all the others, in order to restore that freedom. This gave rise to the aforementioned Orders, in particular the Order of the Canons of the Holy Sepulchre. I have been to the Holy Land once, I would like to return, God willing: I can say that such a journey transforms the way in which one lives one's faith. The fact of having visited the Holy Land allows us - in our meditations and readings of the Bible - to "imagine", to incarnate, since Salvation passes through the Incarnation of God, which is decisive.



**You have been inundated with media requests after the Notre Dame fire. How do you manage this sudden fame?**

Fortunately, I live in quite a protected and removed context, which is part of the military life and its statutes protect us. We are bound to confidentiality; therefore, we can speak very little. The communication staff manage everything, so everything is "contextualized". After the fire, we received requests from all over the globe. Our maxim with the firefighters is "Save or perish", which clearly highlights our commitment.

We also have another motto: "Selflessness, competence and discretion". Sometimes we also add the word humility. We always keep it in mind: when we are hesitant about how we should behave, the fact of being rooted in these three words helps us to face difficult times like this more serenely.

**You pointed out in a recent article that your membership within the Order of the Holy Sepulchre represents a service for souls and not a race for medals. What is the role of the priest in the Order in your opinion?**

The manner in which the French Lieutenancy is organized means that in every Delegation it is important to support the Latin Patriarchate, but also to work for one's own personal sanctification. In the order of grace, we must first be grace filled – like the Holy Virgin – and then have an effective benefit on our neighbours around us. The Knight or Dame – to prove himself or herself even more efficient in helping others – must work on his or her own sanctification. In France, we have monthly meetings during which a short time is always devoted to the small questions to be discussed and sharing. Afterwards, work is carried out on the theme of the year, with the documents prepared by the Grand Prior. The priest has the task of accompanying this reading by remaining in the *recto dictio*, in a



*Father Jean-Marc Fournier, Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, witnessed the Order's mission to the whole world by saving the relics of the crown of thorns during the fire that devastated the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.*

Catholic vision of things, inviting to prayer and works of piety ... The presence of the priest encourages a virtuous circle that draws everyone upwards. Modestly, this is what we try to do, especially in the Delegation of Saint-Rémy, Reims and Chalons, where I am Prior.

**How does this mission resonate with your mission as a military chaplain?**

The two missions are concomitant: in fact, I entered the Order because I was a military chaplain. A friend of mine was chancellor and member of the Order in the Delegation of Chalons, therefore of Reims. We got to know each other on military mission to Africa and we became friends. He proposed that I join the Order; so, after finding out more, I started attending their meetings. Members of the Order have the same desire to rediscover free commitment and self-denial, to contribute to the happiness of others. After two years, I decided to become a full member at the invitation of the head of the Delegation at the time.



## A STAINED GLASS WINDOW OF POMPEII IN NAZARETH

**M**arking the Holy Land pilgrimage of an important Delegation from the Lieutenancy for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy, a stained glass window depicting the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii together with Blessed Bartolo Longo was unveiled in the basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth. The ceremony, presided over by Archbishop Tommaso Caputo of Pompeii, took place on June 4, in the presence of Lieutenant Giovanni Battista Rossi and his team. Commissioned

by the Lieutenancy for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy, the work was designed by Don Battista Marelllo, priest and artist, and created in the workshop "Vetrare Artistiche Fiorentine". Among all the representations of the Virgin in the basilica of Nazareth, the Marian shrine of Pompeii is now also present together with its founder, the only beatified lay person of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and model of Christian life for all the members of our pontifical institution.

*Msgr. Tommaso Caputo, Archbishop of Pompeii, in Nazareth with some members of the Lieutenancy for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy in which he himself is an active member. They brought together a stained glass window at the Basilica of the Annunciation representing the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii and the blessed Bartolo Longo.*



## AN APP GATHERING MEMBERS IN PRAYER

*Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre have a deep love for the Holy Land that pushes them to actively support Christians in that land, so they may secure a livelihood, to pray for them and also to offer hope for a life of peace. There are many ways to join in prayer with this particular intention and the Lieutenancy for Austria under the leadership of Andreas Leiner, Lieutenant, has come up with one way to help members gather in prayer notwithstanding physical distances...*

In 2016 the Austrian Lieutenancy was looking for new ways to stimulate the spiritual life of our community. The aim was to create a "spiritual place", in which members could meet regularly to share the charisma of the Order in a collective prayer.

Every Friday at 3 pm, the hour of death of Our Lord, we want to strengthen our spiritual roots by praying together, each in his or her own place. We begin with paying tribute to the Saint or the feast of the day. We pray the psalm of the Mid-afternoon prayer or Evening prayer and thus connect to the Church in the whole world. A short reflection makes us stop. The following remembrance in prayer is dedicated to a special intention. We finish the "common time of prayer" with the prayer of our Order. Those who wish can also read God's Word in the readings of the day (the readings and the Gospel of that very day).

The varying texts (reflection and remembrance in prayer) are provided by the local Delegations in turn, so that the "Common Time of Prayer" indeed grows into a spiritual common act of the Lieutenancy.

As a reminder all members receive an email Friday morning, which invites them to the

"Collective Time of Prayer". In order to make the "Collective Time of Prayer" more easily available, a web app was created that the members can install on their smartphones. The "Collective Time of Prayer" can also be obtained via the website of the Lieutenancy [www.oessh.at](http://www.oessh.at).

The most important goal was reached in 2017: the members of the Order should actively take part in building this spiritual house and this happens because each month it is the task of a different Delegation of the Lieutenancy to produce the reflection and prayer intention of the "Collective Time of Prayer". A team of editors receive the original texts for the reflection and prayer intention from the assigned Delegation and takes care about the other regular text parts (the words of the Script, psalms and the prayer of the None and the Vespers as basis) and the feasts of Saints and upload that on the app so that everyone can easily find that for the Friday prayer.

The initiators hope that the "Collective Time of Prayer" will be the beginning of a shared "spiritual house" with many rooms.

**Ursula-Maria Fürst**  
 Adviser  
 Council of the Austrian  
 Lieutenancy



## Culture

# JERUSALEM REFLECTS THE MYSTERY OF GOD

*Msgr. Bruno Forte, Archbishop of Chieti-Vasto and Prior of the Abruzzo and Molise Section of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, recently published an important book entitled "Jerusalem - City of Peace, Crossroads of Conflict" for the Holy Land editions.*

**A**rchbishop Forte, why a book on Jerusalem, what novelty does it present?

This book is an act of love for the Holy City par excellence; for the people who live there; for the Lord Jesus who was crucified and died there, who rose again and ascended into heaven from there; for the Spirit who descended there at Pentecost and for the Church which, flooded by His light, started from there to bring the good news to the whole world. Jerusalem is beautiful and regal, all golden (Yerushalayim shelzahav), always new with its clear and very pure sky and its golden light, crossroads of passions, destinies, hopes ... Therefore it is always important to talk about Jerusalem ...

**What image of God can be discovered by going to Jerusalem today?**

Jerusalem is unique, because there is no other place throughout the world where pain and love, suffering and waiting mingle as they do here, in the city of the patriarchs and prophets, of Calvary and Anástasis, of the cross and resurrection. "Navel of the world", Jerusalem reflects the mystery of God the eternal love which has always brought with it the pain of man and in the Son who came among us he redeems it. A rabbinic saying states: "When God created the world of ten measures of beauty, He gave nine of them to Jerusalem and one to the rest of the world. Of ten measures of wisdom, He gave nine of them to Jerusalem and one to the rest of the world. Of ten measures of pain, He gave nine of them to Jerusalem and one to the rest of the world". An intersection of destinies, a crossroads of languages, faiths and cultures, Jerusalem is, therefore, the figure of the world, the place where we are all born and where we will all be reborn: "Indeed, of Zion it

will be said, "This one and that one were born in her, and the Most High himself will establish her." The Lord will write in the register of the peoples: "This one was born in Zion." As they make music they will sing, "All my fountains are in you." (Psalm 87:5-7)".

**How do you judge the extraordinary phenomenon of pilgrimages to Jerusalem, where all the hotels have been fully booked for two or three years? Is it the expression of a spiritual thirst in a secularized world at most, of a need to find Christ, the source, beyond ecclesiastical dogmas?**

We all carry in our hearts the nostalgia of the Totally Other, of a Beauty that saves from the pain of the world. And the future city to which we yearn cannot shine of another light than that of Jerusalem, as the Apocalypse makes us understand: "Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband." (Revelation 21:1-2). This future city of peace will not be the fruit of our labour: it will come from above, as a gift to be invoked and opened up to. And it is in Jerusalem, for its history and its millennial destiny, that the most effective prayer for peace rises to heaven, an appeal to the divine heart and to the conscience of all, without exception. Whoever goes to Jerusalem must go there as a pilgrim of obedience to God and acceptance for all, because the God of the Covenant has always asked Israel to respect the stranger who lived in her womb.

**Interview by François Vayne**

