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Reflections of the Grand Master

“AN ENORMOUS TASK”

Two years ago, Pope Francis called for this October, 2019 to be an “Extraordinary

Missionary Month” with the aim both of fostering an increased awareness of the mission *ad gentes* (to non-believers) and of taking part with renewed fervor in the missionary transformation of the Church’s life and pastoral activity. This is simply an obedient response to Christ’s parting words to his disciples “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature” (*Mark* 16:15; cfr. *Matthew* 28:19).

Quoting extensively from Vatican II, the Pope calls this the “essential task” of the Church which is “missionary by nature” and is the responsibility of every believer. He suggests it remains an enormous one, quoting Pope Saint John Paul II that the

mission is far from completion and in fact is still only beginning.



To mark the missionary month of October 2019, decreed by our Holy Father Francis, the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is appealing for prayer in favor of all the persecuted Christians worldwide.

What might we say are today’s challenges to the evangelization of the world?

1. There is a growing, worldwide “Christianophobia.” The respected Pew Research Center (PRC) recently found Christians to be “the most widely targeted body of believers” with more than 80% of the world’s population (6.6 billion) living in religiously repressive countries—144 countries, in fact. This has created a tidal wave of refugees escaping torture and murder even in countries that are “allies” of Western democratic nations.

2. Moreover, as Pope Francis notes in his address

CONTENTS

The Order in Union with the Universal Church

"MAKING OURSELVES TRAVEL COMPANIONS
FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING" III

Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

MSGR. TOMMASO CAPUTO, NEW ASSESSOR
OF THE ORDER VI

STRENGTHENING THE PRESENCE
OF THE ORDER IN CENTRAL
AND LATIN AMERICA VIII

THE INVESTITURES PRESIDED OVER BY
THE GRAND MASTER XII

TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE GRAND
MAGISTERIUM XIII

THE GRATITUDE OF FATHER JOHN BATEMAN,
FORMER SECRETARY OF THE GRAND MASTER XIII

THE MISSIONARY CROSS OF THE EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS IN BUDAPEST CREATED
BY A MEMBER OF THE ORDER XVI

The Order and the Holy Land

A SOLIDARITY FUND: 600 FAMILIES HELPED
IN ONE YEAR XVII

The Life of the Lieutenancies

"OUR SPIRITUAL PROMISE MUST FILL ALL
OF OUR LIFE" XIX

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS AT THE SERVICE
OF HOPE IN THE HOLY LAND XXII



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

E-mail: comunicazione@oessh.va

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to us in the Vatican at the close of last year's Consulta: "In addition to this martyrdom of blood, there is also this 'white martyrdom', such as that which occurs in democratic countries where freedom of religion is limited." Increasing instances can be cited in which those who advocate Church teachings on marriage and family life are threatened with legal reprisal as hate speech.

3. Finally, this year's official Vatican Book of Statistics notes that the Church's growth is increasing in most of the world. From 2016 to 2018, there has been a loss of 240,000 Catholics in Europe. Other recent research shows that in North America 33% of those ages 21 - 29 (overwhelmingly Christian) consider themselves non-religious. A critical call for "re-evangelization."

This is a huge and discordant landscape. It might even be depressing were it not for the Lord's promise on departing, "I am with you always even to the ends of the earth." For members of our Order, our call to personal prayer, holiness, formation and our solemn commitment for the defense and promotion of our Faith in the Holy Land are sure steps in response to Pope Francis' final exhortation to all of us in his call at our Consulta's conclusion.

Citing our devotion to Mary under the titles Our Lady of Palestine and Our Lady of Persecuted Christians, he asked: "Together, let us invoke Mary's concern for the Church in the Holy Land and, more generally in the Middle East, along with her special intercession for those whose life and freedom are in danger."

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien



The Order in Union with the Universal Church

“MAKING OURSELVES TRAVEL COMPANIONS FOR EVERY HUMAN BEING”

Interview with the President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

During the summer the Communications Office of the Grand Magisterium of the Order had the privilege and the honour of meeting Msgr. Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, created Cardinal by Pope Francis during an Ordinary Consistory on October 5. We discussed various topics together with him and below share some abstracts of the full interview that will be available in our annual magazine.

What is the specificity of dialogue in the Holy Land?

The heart of this reality is the city of Jerusalem and Pope Francis on his trip to

Morocco wanted to sign a document together with King Mohammed VI for the protection and defence of the city of Jerusalem as a Holy City, centre of the three monotheistic religions. If the heart of this land, Jerusalem, lives the reality of dialogue, understanding and communion between Jews, Christians and Muslims, it can radiate light throughout the region. We know that the Middle East cannot be understood without Christians but neither is it possible to do so without interreligious dialogue.

The question of citizenship plays an important role in allowing the dialogue to flourish ...

The embryo of this discussion by the



Recently designated Cardinal by Pope Francis, Abp. Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot succeeds Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran as head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Here we see him in his offices, in Via della Conciliazione in Rome, in front of the painting that recalls the declaration of the Second Vatican Council on the relations of the Catholic Church with non-Christian religions.



Catholic Church comes from the appeal of the Synod of the Middle East which asked that Christians not be considered second-class citizens but full citizens. Full citizenship is a fundamental element for preserving identity.

It is therefore necessary to work with respect and friendship for the common good, as Pope Francis wishes, beyond religious differences and matters of majority and minority. This is a field which does not give precedence to the numerical superiority

of one or another community: every person must be respected in their individuality, clearly even those who do not belong to any religious tradition.

What paths does the recent document on the Human Fraternity signed by Pope Francis and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar al-Tayyeb open?

So often we talk about difficulties and problems but my experience as a missionary has taught me that ordinary people, on the

“THERE IS A HIDDEN OCEAN OF GOOD THAT GROWS”

The Pope welcomes birth of a High Committee for the Document on Human Fraternity

Pope Francis expressed his joy over the establishment of a Committee aimed at achieving the objectives contained in the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, signed in February 2019, in Abu Dhabi, with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar. The director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni, issued a declaration in late August. “The Holy Father has learned with joy the news of this initiative, pointing out that ‘although sadly evil, hatred and division often make news, there is a hidden sea of goodness that is growing and leads us to hope in dialogue, reciprocal knowledge and the possibility of building, together with the followers of other religions and all men and women of good will, a world of fraternity and peace’”. “The Holy Father – said Bruni – encourages the efforts of the Committee to spread knowledge of the Document; he thanks the United Arab Emirates for the concrete commitment shown on behalf of human fraternity and he expresses the hope that similar initiatives can spring up throughout the world.”

(Source: *Vatican News*)



The first meeting of the High Committee set up to implement the objectives of the Document on Human Fraternity was held in the Vatican, at Casa Santa Marta, on September 11 last.

other hand, often live a spirit of closeness and coexistence. Beyond the pessimistic version, every citizen and believer is called to work for the common good. The Abu Dhabi document has drawn a Road Map in this direction. Fraternity, peace and coexistence are the three essential elements through which to walk a path of integration to heal the wounds of the world. The only balm that can heal from populism passes through the human fraternity that unites us. The problems that create discomfort and hinder the climate of communion have a more political and ideological character.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre has about 30,000 members worldwide. What advice would you like to share with them?

I very much appreciate the work done and the action of your 30,000 members who support and help local communities in the Holy Land. In my experience of mission, I gave all my life and my youth to the service of the Church and now I realize that what I received is much more than anything I ever

gave. So I want to remind these 30,000 benefactors that what they do is very generous and I invite them to discover more and more how much they receive from the testimony of those whom they support with their help because those who give always receive.

The word "dialogue" is often used in many different contexts and ways. What does it mean for you?

Dialogue is not a betrayal of the Church's mission or a new method of conversion to Christianity. Dialogue is an existential attitude that opens us to the reality of the other. I remember the message that Pope Francis sent us on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of our Dicastery in which, among other things, he reminded us that we must make ourselves travel companions for every human being on our journey towards the truth. As Pope Benedict XVI said, it is not we who possess the truth, it is the truth that possesses us.

Interview by Elena Dini



Barbiconi
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Via Santa Caterina da Siena 58/60 00186 Roma
 www.barbiconi.it info@barbiconi.it

f @barbiconi



Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

MSGR. TOMMASO CAPUTO, NEW ASSESSOR OF THE ORDER

After the resignation of Msgr. Giuseppe Lazzarotto for health reasons, the Holy Father approved the Grand Master's appointment of Msgr. Tommaso Caputo as Assessor of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, starting from September 2019. The new Assessor kindly responded to some questions for the Jerusalem Cross.

Your Excellency, what has your reaction been to this appointment as Assessor of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre?

I welcome this appointment with deep gratitude to the Holy Father Francis who approved it and to the Grand Master, His Eminence Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, who appointed me to the role of Assessor of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

What has your relationship with the Order been in recent years?

My bond with the Order dates back to about two decades ago and became even stronger when, in 2012, I was entrusted with the Prelature of Pompeii, a city particularly dear to the heart and spirituality of all the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre. Pompeii was born to new life from the faith and the works of charity of Bartolo Longo, the only lay person among



A highly experienced diplomat, Archbishop Tommaso Caputo, Prelate and Pontifical Delegate for the Shrine of Pompeii, is the new Assessor of the Order who assists the Grand Master especially with regard to relations with the Roman Curia.



the Knights of the Order to have been beatified. The founder of Pompeii recalls the Christological heart of Marian devotion, so intensely practiced by every member of the Order.

Recently you also accompanied a delegation from your Lieutenancy to the Holy Land to mark a special occasion ...

A recent initiative involved our church of Pompeii and the Order in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, during which, in the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth – the place

where the Word became man in the womb of the Virgin Mary – a stained glass window dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary of Pompeii was inaugurated, a gift from the Lieutenancy for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

It was a simple sign, but since this office has also been entrusted to me, each element takes on a deeper meaning, taking into account the tasks to which each member of the Order is called, in relation to the very nature of this historic Pontifical institution, placed under the protection of the Holy See.



Msg. **Tommaso Caputo** was born in Afragola (NA) on 17 October 1950. He attended the Archiepiscopal Seminary of Naples and obtained a Licentiate in Sacred Theology at the Theological Faculty of Southern Italy, section "San Tommaso d'Aquino" (Naples).

He was ordained a priest on April 10, 1974 for the Archdiocese of Naples, where he worked as a formator for high school seminarians (1973-1974), as vice-parish priest of the Parish of San Benedetto at the Arco Mirelli in Naples (1974-1976) and religion teacher in State Schools (1973-1976).

A student of the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy since October 1976, he has simultaneously attended courses in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University and obtained a Doctorate. At the service of the Holy See since March 25, 1980, he was Secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature in Rwanda (1980-1984) and Assessor at the Nunciature in the Philippines (1984-1987) and in Venezuela (1987-1989).

Called to the Vatican, he was responsible for the Secretariat of the Substitute to the Secretary of State until June 19, 1993, when Pope John Paul II appointed him Head of the Protocol of the Secretariat of State.

On September 3, 2007, His Holiness Benedict XVI appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Malta and Libya, elevating him to the archiepiscopal dignity and conferring episcopal consecration on him on September 29, 2007 in the Papal Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican. On November 10, 2012 Pope Benedict XVI named him Prelate of Pompeii and Pontifical Delegate for the Sanctuary of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Rosary of Pompeii.



What do you consider to be the Order's contribution to the Universal Church and to the inhabitants of the Holy Land that you hope to help advance?

A little less than a year ago, the Holy Father Pope Francis received members of the Consulta and praising the assistance initiatives in the Holy Land towards everyone, beyond the various faith affiliations, he recognized that the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem helps "pave the way to make Christian values known, to the promotion of interreligious dialogue, mutual respect and mutual understanding."

These are the main indications for

arriving at the great goal of achieving peace throughout the Holy Land. Significantly, the Pope underlined this commitment as primary, recalling that the Order is "not a philanthropic entity committed to promoting the material and social improvement of recipients"; the Dames and the Knights are called "to place the evangelical love of neighbour as the central and final aim of your works, to bear witness everywhere to the goodness and care with which God loves everyone."

On this path, and with the help and protection of the Virgin Mary, I am counting on also fulfilling this service within the great family of the Order.

Interview by François Vayne

STRENGTHENING THE PRESENCE OF THE ORDER IN CENTRAL AND LATIN AMERICA

Central and Latin America form an immense continent with strong Christian roots that deserves every effort for greater development and an authentic enhancement of the presence of our Order. Unlike other geographical areas, such as North America, Europe and Asia-Oceania, so far the South American continent has not benefitted from the coordination of a dedicated director in the Grand Magisterium. The Cardinal Grand Master favorably welcomed the idea of creating the office of Vice Governor for Latin America, entrusting it to Enric Mas, former Lieutenant for Eastern Spain, to promote the potential of this huge basin.

The new Vice Governor was able to immediately place his vast experience and international knowledge at the disposal of the confreres of the Latin American continent, developing an action plan together with the Governor General

Leonardo Visconti di Modrone during visits to Mexico, Argentina and Brazil in July and August.

■ MEXICO

In Mexico the Lieutenancy had been labouring for some time under a seemingly irreversible crisis. In December 2017, the visit of the Cardinal Grand Master, the Lieutenant General and the Governor General and the appointment of Gustavo Rincón Hernandez as regent, laid the foundations for a process of rebirth. From that moment on and with great determination, a process of renewal of the Council began coupled with the search for new forces, drawing on the experience of many confreres also active in the Order of Malta. Indeed, it was found that the objective of developing charitable activities





In Mexico, the Governor General Visconti di Modrone was able to spend time with Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, Grand Prior of the local Lieutenancy, together with the Regent, Gustavo Rincón Hernandez.

in favour of the Holy Land, specific to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, is perfectly compatible, and in fact complementary, with that strongly felt in the Order of Malta to boost active assistance to the local population.

On July 29, and despite an injured arm, the Governor General accepted the invitation of the Lieutenant-Regent and went on a lightning visit to Mexico City. There together with the Grand Prior, Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera, they evaluated what had been accomplished to date and discussed the next steps to be taken. Considering the advanced age of Gustavo Rincón, particular attention was given to the modality of alternating his responsibilities with a younger but experienced Lieutenant, capable of carrying on the great project of reconstruction and ensure its continuity. The choice fell on Guillermo Macías Graue – a polyglot professor, with international experience gained in prestigious universities such as, the Gregorian in Rome, Salamanca and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem –



The Governor General at a meeting in Buenos Aires attended by Msgr. Héctor Aguer, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Argentina (seated to the right of the Governor General), along with two ecclesiastics, Lieutenant Juan Francisco Ramos Mejía (standing next to the Grand Prior) and Vice Governor Enric Mas (seated on the right).



who will take the lead in November at the Investiture ceremony of the Lieutenancy, while Gustavo Rincón, in recognition of the meritorious work performed, will be appointed Lieutenant of Honour. In commenting on the meeting with the Governor General, Cardinal Rivera defined the process thus started as an authentic "resurrection" of the Lieutenancy.

■ ARGENTINA

On August 20-21 the Governor General, accompanied by the Vice Governor General Enric Mas, paid a visit to Argentina where he attended the Investiture ceremony in Buenos Aires officiated by the Grand Prior

Msgr. Héctor Aguer and met with Lieutenant Juan Francisco Ramos Mejía and the leaders of the Lieutenancy in that city. One of the objectives of this second journey was to place the leaders of the Order in full harmony with the guidelines of the Grand Magisterium in Rome and with the local episcopate, following the directives of the Holy Father. Communication difficulties did not help in the recent past in the life of the Order in Argentina, but in a conversation with the leaders of the local hierarchy, the premises were hopefully set for starting a more constructive dialogue. In Argentina, 90% of the inhabitants claim to be Catholic, but the percentage of practicing Catholics is much lower. Speaking with members of the Lieutenancy, following his meeting with



The Investiture of new members of the Order in Argentina, the country of origin of Pope Francis, was one of the central moments of the visit of the Governor General to Latin America during the summer. The Knights and Dames of Argentina wish to engage more and more in the life of the local Church.



local Church leaders, the Governor General urged them to support greater participation in diocesan activities by the whole Catholic community, given the moment of difficulty that the nation is currently experiencing. He then recalled that the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is an institution of the Church with a precise mandate to maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land, strongly encouraged by Pope Francis.

■ BRAZIL

The Governor and the Vice Governor were in Brazil from August 22 to 24, where they met the Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro Cardinal Orani João Tempesta, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy. Together with him they examined in detail the issues relating to



In Brazil, the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Brazil-Rio de Janeiro, Cardinal Orani João Tempesta welcomed the Governor General to talk together about the testimony offered by members of the Order in the largest Catholic country in the world according to the number of baptized.

what is unquestionably the country with the greatest number of Catholics in the world, and therefore deserving of special attention.

The program then included a meeting with the Lieutenant of Rio de Janeiro, Isis Cunha Penido, and with the heads of the Lieutenancy in the offices hosted at the splendid Old Cathedral of Our Lady of Carmel, to review the various charitable activities undertaken by the Lieutenancy, addressed to the needs of the country as well as to the Holy Land.

Finally, the Governor and the Vice Governor met the Lieutenant of São Paulo, Manuel Tavares de Almeida Filho, discussing the prospects of opening new peripheral structures of the Order in the country after those of Rio and São Paulo, in order to achieve the aims of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, through a widespread and capillary presence. The opportunity to organize a first meeting of all Latin American Lieutenants in São Paulo was also evaluated. Before leaving, the Governor General and the Vice Governor granted an interview to a local television station.

■ A UNITARY STRATEGY

In addition to a strengthening of the presence of the Order in Brazil, the program of the Governor General and the Vice Governor General for Latin America envisions visits to other countries in the area in view of a concrete enlargement. The Latin American continent must in fact be placed in a situation of absolute parity of importance with the other three geographical areas in which the Order is active. An exchange of experiences between the respective four Vice Governors (three recently appointed) is hoped for. For reasons of cultural and linguistic affinity, it was decided that the Lieutenancy for Mexico, previously included in the North American area, will become part of the new Latin American formation, while continuing for



now to participate as a guest in the meetings of the North American Lieutenants, also in order to ensure a connection and greater sharing. One of the most interesting aspects that emerged in the various sectoral geographical meetings – and always emphasized by the Governor General – is the need to foster the sharing of experiences between Lieutenancies of different areas and therefore – by analogy – between the four Vice Governors.

“The Order is one and it is right that the strategy be unitary – said Governor General Visconti di Modrone in one of his recent interventions – but in implementing it we must also carefully consider local customs and traditions and above all the different experiences. We must unite in feeling we are working to maintain the Christian presence in the Holy Land, despite the difficulties the Church faces today, treasuring at the same time the wealth of ideas and proposals that come to us from different corners of the earth.”

One strong suggestion that emerged from the meeting of the North American Lieutenants in Houston last May regarded

the importance of the pastoral component and of the participation of families in spiritual activities. The European Lieutenants who met in Rome emphasised the charitable commitment and the realization of projects for the formation of young people in the Holy Land. Asian confreres gathered in Brisbane concluded that distance does not constitute a hindrance to collective participation in the Order’s charitable activities (and the Cardinal Grand Master’s planned visit to these countries in January, following on from his trip to Australia last year, is a visible confirmation of this). The Grand Magisterium’s active focus on Latin America is part of this unifying context.

“Our Order is inspired by the image of the Sepulchre from which Our Lord was resurrected,” the Governor General recalled. “Therefore it is not a funeral monument but the symbol of the unity of our Faith. The principles we are inspired by are those of charity, humility and obedience: they bring us closer and make us brothers and sisters in every corner of the world.”

THE INVESTITURES PRESIDED OVER BY THE GRAND MASTER

Always present alongside the Knights and Dames throughout the world, the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Cardinal Edwin O’Brien, presided over the Investiture ceremonies in Luxembourg (September 14 and 15), in Innsbruck, Austria (September 20 to 22) and in Montreal, Canada (September 27 to 29).

In October (from 4 to 6), he is expected in New York for the Investiture of the US Eastern Lieutenancy and in Copenhagen (18 and 19) for the official welcome to the new members of Denmark and Sweden.

Furthermore, on October, 23 for the annual feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, Patroness of the Order, he will welcome guests to the Palazzo della Rovere in Rome. He will then travel to Toledo (October 25 and 26) for the Investiture of the Lieutenancy for Western Spain.

Recently, Cardinal O’Brien was confirmed by the Holy Father as a member of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.



TWO NEW MEMBERS OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

By decision of Cardinal O'Brien, two new members have been appointed part of the Grand Magisterium, the Grand Master's international council, which meets twice a year in Rome to discuss current affairs relating to the Order.

Italian Leopoldo Torlonia dei Duchi di Poli e Guadagnolo is president of the "Circolo San Pietro" – an association of solidarity with the poorest, founded in Rome in 1869.

Dominique Neckebroek is the Chancellor emeritus of the Lieutenancy for France and is very involved in the Order's projects in the Holy Land.

We wish them a fruitful activity, alongside Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and all those in charge of the Order.

THE GRATITUDE OF FATHER JOHN BATEMAN, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE GRAND MASTER

Father John Bateman, an American priest who was secretary to Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, shares witness with gratitude to the service he carried out in the Order. He expresses his personal gratefulness to our Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, whose humility, spirituality and love have helped him and continue to form his priestly heart. We welcome his successor, Father Maxim Baz, a young Lebanese priest of the Maronite Catholic Church, who took office in early summer 2019.

In a recent article I mentioned how coming to Rome and becoming a member of the Order truly was led by God. The blessings that God has showered upon me over these past 37 years are clear evidence of the Lord's presence and direction. Now that I completed my time of service to the Grand Master as his priest-secretary and to the Order, it is an opportune moment to share my reflections on the wonderful experiences in which God has deigned to allow me to participate.

The Universal Church. One of the

wonderful things about our Grand Master is that he is always "out there" among the Lieutenancies and members of the Order. Because of his desire to personally visit as many Lieutenancies as possible, travel has been a normal part of life. But it is not tourist trips but always pastoral and spiritual journeys that have allowed me to gain a tremendous experience of the world-wide Church. Visiting the Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations throughout Italy and Europe, in South Africa and South America, in Australia, Asia and North America has enabled me to see the One, Holy, Catholic





Father John Bateman, secretary of the Grand Master for several years, received two statues representing the apostles Peter and Paul as a present for his departure. Here we see him together with Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, the main authorities of the Grand Magisterium, the staff and his successor, Father Maxim Baz (to his right in the photo).

Church as her Faithful live the Faith in their particular cultural and historical situations. Yet, through it all, despite differences of culture and language, we are One Body in Christ (cf. *1 Cor 12:12-27*).

Fraternal Love and support. We all know how difficult it can be to be a stranger in a strange land. But for us, as members of the Order, this is never the case. Amongst our Knights and Ladies there is an immediate connection that unites us with one another. Certainly that is first and foremost the Holy Eucharist (as the Eucharist unites all Catholics). But as members of the Order that Eucharistic union is further enriched by our common purpose and mission: personal holiness and love for the people of Jesus' Holy Land.

Being with others who take their faith seriously and ever strive for greater personal sanctity encourages *me* to strive even harder. I have had the unique and special opportunity to meet so many of *YOU* who have, unknowingly, given me wonderful and encouraging examples of the constant quest for holiness (the true vocation of every Christian). Seeing the sacrifices that our members make for others, without any thought of self, has helped me to grow in love for our brothers and sisters who live in difficult circumstances in the Holy Land.

Pilgrimage. Every journey these past years has truly been a pilgrimage. Celebrating the Investiture and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in every continent has made every trip a spiritual one. But of



course, as the Equestrian Order, one of our greatest joys (and responsibilities) is also to make pilgrimage to the Holy Land. How, after seeing the parishes and meeting her people, after comforting the sick and elderly, after talking with the students of Bethlehem University and the Patriarchate schools, after visiting the Holy Stones and the Living Stones... after all of this, how could our lives not be changed? My pilgrimages to the Holy Land, both those with the Cardinal and Grand Magisterium staff and my own personal pilgrimages, have opened my eyes and my heart to a greater Faith and deeper love and concern for the Christians of the Holy Land.

The Institutional Church. Living in Rome is a unique experience in itself. To be so close to our Holy Father and the tombs of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul (my confirmation patron) and to so many saints who lived, worked and died in Rome has helped me to better love the Church. It can seem to many to be a bureaucratic structure, and certainly that exists because we are human beings in need of a structure. But what most are not able to see or experience is the humanity of the Church: so many men and women, priests and religious, who work diligently and faithfully to build up and provide for the needs of the Church. Certainly this applies to our staff at the Grand Magisterium, whose tireless labors make possible all that our Order is able to do to support our Christian brothers and sisters. But it also applies to everyone who works for the Church and the Curia. My experiences here in Rome have

allowed me to see the love and sincere concern to help provide for the needs of God's people from every part of the world.

Resolve. Completing my assignment with the Order and returning to my Diocese as a member of the Order, I could not be more committed to the work of the Order. As a priest, I have heard and understand our Grand Master's insistence that we priest-members not just wear a mozzetta and signs of dignity, but that we take on an additional responsibility to provide for the spiritual needs of the members of our Lieutenancies, Magistral Delegations and Sections. I can't wait to get involved in my own Lieutenancy (USA Eastern) when I return home.

Gratitude. Through it all, is a profound sense of gratitude: First, gratitude to God for having called me to this task and responsibility; gratitude for all of you whom I have been privileged to meet and to serve and to be inspired by your love and commitment; personal gratitude to our Grand Master, Cardinal O'Brien, whose humility, spirituality and love have helped to continue forming my priestly-heart.

If you have ever wondered if our Order makes a difference, I can assure you that it can and it does—if we fully engage in the activities and projects of our local Lieutenancies and when we gather together, as fellow pilgrims, at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord. It is there, either here on earth or in the blessedness of heaven, that I look forward to meeting you all once again.

Father John Bateman



The Grand Master thanked Father Bateman and promoted him to Commander of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.



THE MISSIONARY CROSS OF THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN BUDAPEST CREATED BY A MEMBER OF THE ORDER

The Missionary Cross of the Budapest International Eucharistic Congress is the work of a member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Csaba Ozsvári, who died suddenly in 2009 at the age of 46. The Cross was presented for the first time during the 2007

Budapest city mission. In 2017 Pope Francis welcomed it to Rome and blessed it. This marvellous work of art is adorned in archaic Hungarian style and contains ornamental cases: one in silver in the centre with a relic of the Holy Cross, surrounded by smaller ones that contain relics of Hungarian saints, including five new saints and blessed: St. Martin, the blessed Gisella and the blessed Tódor Romzsa, Vilmos Apor and Zoltán Meszlényi.



The Knight Csaba Ozsvári is the artist who made the cross for the next International Eucharistic Congress, in which the Grand Master hopes members of the Order will show a lively participation.

his artistic talent as a goldsmith expert in sacred art, and for his exemplar Christian life. Also a member of the Hungarian Schönstatt Movement, Ozsvári created tabernacles, crosses, bishop's rings, chalices and

sacred furnishings that are present in almost all the Hungarian dioceses and many also abroad. In 1991 the Hungarian Episcopal Conference donated a magnificent ornamental cover for the Book of the Gospels to Saint John Paul II, the work of the Knight of the Order, and still today, it is often used during the Easter Vigil in the Vatican.

Let us therefore approach with greater joy the International Eucharistic Congress next year, strengthened by this further bond as members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Csaba Ozsvári, a devoted family man, was known both for



The Grand Master wishes the Order's Lieutenancies to organize themselves to send delegates to the International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest, Hungary, which will be held from September 13 to 20, 2020. For all of the information on how to register visit www.iec2020.hu



The Order and the Holy Land

A SOLIDARITY FUND: 600 FAMILIES HELPED IN ONE YEAR

Solidarity with the most needy is one of the areas that the Order of the Holy Sepulchre has most at heart and it is expressed through various projects supported in the Holy Land. "Through this program we are not only offering economic assistance, but we bring hope to many and allow them to live a dignified life," notes Sami El-Yousef, CEO of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

In 2018, the contributions sent by the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre allowed, among other things, 600 people to be helped through scholarships, family aid, healthcare support and support for the purchase of medicines, without counting the beneficiaries of a specific project in East Jerusalem for legal assistance and the program for Iraqi Christian refugees in Jordan.

Reading the parameters to be included among those entitled to help, goes some way to helping us understand the gravity of the situation. Those who receive help are part of a family whose income does not allow them to respond to the primary needs of family members or a family where the primary breadwinner is sick or recently deceased. There are also families who cannot afford treatment for a sick member, who do not have health insurance or who are elderly without a pension.

Even the smallest contribution given to one of these families hides a story of daily



The new president of the Grand Magisterium Holy Land Commission, Bart McGettrick, is particularly concerned about solidarity with those most in need of help in the Holy Land: this is one of the great priorities of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and its main international supporter, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

challenges and difficulties. For example, S.A. is a 35-year-old woman, married and with four children who works as a cleaner. She lives on the Mount of Olives in a rented house and is the primary provider for her family, but her salary does not cover basic needs such as rent, food, utilities and school fees. Through the solidarity fund, the Latin Patriarchate succeeded in helping S.A. to pay part of her daughters' school fees and, together with the Custody of the Holy Land, to cover part of the debt contracted with the company that supplies the electricity in the family apartment.

W. A. is also 35 and lives in Gaza with his family of five. He worked as a police officer but was forced into early retirement on a



very low salary, the only income in the family, and which does not allow them to survive from month to month. W. A. asked for help when, due to debts with the landlord, he had run the risk of being evicted from the rented apartment in which the family lives. The Latin Patriarchate, thanks to the contributions sent by the Knights and the Dames present in the various continents, managed to pay a part of the debt thus allowing the family of W.A. to continue living in their home.

The medical aid program helped 124 patients in 2018. Among them, a 15-year-old boy from Zababdeh (Jenin governorate, in Palestine) who suffered a traffic accident and had to face various neurological operations, only partially covered by the public health system, and K., 72, of Aboud (Ramallah governorate, in Palestine), who for 5

years has been fighting a bowel cancer that involves numerous operations and chemotherapy sessions. These cases, besides the difficulties and suffering they involve from a medical and human point of view, also represent a great challenge for the sick and for their families who cannot cover the cost they partly incur for the operations, treatment or medicines.

Our thoughts turn to the 600 needy families who have received help that allows them to move onwards – by continuing their studies, by living in their own homes or by receiving the necessary medical care – and

we thank the Latin Patriarchate and the social workers who work on this project and who ensure that the people most at risk are not left alone and that the contributions of the Knights and Dames go to those who need them most.

“ **These cases represent a great challenge for the sick and for their families who cannot cover the cost they partly incur for the operations, treatment or medicines** ”

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Order of the Holy Sepulchre
 Papal Equestrian Orders
 Order of Malta
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Via dell'Orso, 17 - 00186 Roma - Italia
 Tel/Fax: (+39) 06 68307839 gianluca.guccione@gmail.com



The Life of the Lieutenancies

“OUR SPIRITUAL PROMISE MUST FILL ALL OF OUR LIFE”

Two Knights of the Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain – Jordi, 26 and Juan-Gualberto, 86 – bear witness to their love for the Order, telling of the “inseparable bond” that unites them to the Holy Land.

Juan-Gualberto de Balanzó y de Solá – Knight Grand Cross, 86 years – passionately recalls his commitment. Born in a family belonging to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for over a century, he himself served the Order in Spain as an Assessor, Master of Ceremonies and Chancellor.

When did you enter the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem and what were the reasons for doing so?

I joined the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre on January 26, 1957, sixty-two years ago! The reasons were many, but the personal one – the most important – is my love for Jesus. I love his land, and I love the living Holy Sepulchre, a testimony of Resurrection, where I also served Mass. I can describe this place as the homeland of all Christians, although often forgotten: the Order wants to act as an intermediary between those enemy brothers who fight over it. For me the Order expresses the love of the Good Samaritan towards the local populations.

Furthermore, I have family reasons, because in my case, being part of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre represents a tradition. I have “drawn” on family sources...

Of all the commitments of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, what is the most important work for you?



Juan-Gualberto de Balanzó y de Solá testifies with joy the spiritual support he has received within the Order of the Holy Sepulchre over the years that has nourished his Christian life.

I believe that the most important rule for the Order is “Ora et labora”: we must be both Martha and Mary. Our motto is summed up in serving everyone without religious or ethnic distinctions, but first we must support the Christians of the Holy Land, since without us they would unfortunately become extinct.

In your opinion, what does the Order need to improve to make itself better known and help the Christians of the



Holy Land?

The Order is proceeding very well; nowadays it has made its mission current with the true and fundamental nobility of soul that characterizes the members. I would even say that we are and belong to the vanguard of the Church. We must prefer holiness to quantity ... I think it is essential to pay particular attention when an aspiring candidate comes to our doors. It is essential that the Lieutenancy requests the candidate's presentation folder from his parish priest. It is also necessary that those who present the future Knight or Dame prove himself or herself responsible for the morality of this aspirant...

It would be desirable to avoid those people who do not feel deeply called to holiness, based on the example of Jesus. We must preach by example! There is nothing worse than salt that becomes tasteless ... The Knight and the Dame must perceive the difference between the before and after entering our beloved Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Here I am living with humble pride my inner journey towards the Kingdom of God. The Knight's Cross – that of the first rank – must honour our dark coat, impeding evil like a shield. Our spiritual promise must fill all of our life.

Jordi Tomás – a 26 year-old Knight – tells us about his journey in the Order, expressing the joy of serving the Mother Church in the Holy Land.

"I was lucky enough to encounter the Order at the beginning of my university studies, thanks to some people in my group. I think this is the most natural way to enter the Order: the white garments worn by the Knights attract glances and awakens sensitivities; therefore, we ask ourselves questions such as: Who are they? Why are they dressed like that? What are they doing? That is how I started the great journey that led me to the origins of the Order's millennial history. The curiosity that the members of the Holy Sepulchre aroused in me – when I was so young – prompted me to read everything I could find about their history, I looked for various documentation and I really found joy in discovering how the Holy Land has always been linked to our



Like Jordi Tomás, more and more young people are finding a path to holiness through regular prayer, especially community prayer, and concrete solidarity towards our brothers and sisters of the Holy Land, in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.



faith.

Nowadays, the mission consists in making the presence of Catholic Christians in the Holy Land possible, assisting them in their material and spiritual needs. I am convinced that the greatness of mind of the Knights of my Lieutenancy – whether they are ecclesiastics or lay people – represents one of the main reasons that have made me grow in my determination to enter the Order. On the other hand, it is obvious that a considerable effort is required: to ensure that our testimony of life becomes a source of inspiration for others. I believe that the duty of all Knights and Dames of the Order is to try and fulfil in us the words of

Matthew's Gospel: "By their fruits you shall know them" (*Mt 7:16*). I am sure that we must always act as an example, trying to offer the most appropriate help to the Holy Land.

It is a great honour to belong to the Order, but this must never make us forget the responsibilities we assume on our

Investiture: not only an economic commitment but also, and above all, a line of conduct in conformity with the Gospel of Christ, which arouses curiosity in others, pushing them to want to know and learn what we are doing.

We care about the Holy Land: it is a strategic point on the globe, where East and West converge, and has been a privileged witness of the evolution of three cultures for a thousand years! This is the place where the Catholic faith took root. From Nazareth to Jerusalem, passing through Cana, the Sea of Galilee, the Lake of Tiberias, the Jordan River, Mount Tabor, Capernaum ... walking on that land offers a unique emotion, knowing that Jesus saw and lived in the same places about two thousand years ago! I believe we can also

say that our baptism binds us in a particular way to the place where Christ was baptized.

Collaborating with the Holy Land is not an exclusive mission of the Order, but as Knights, we must act as major representatives in the task entrusted to us. Through our activities we highlight the needs of the Holy Land in today's society, trying to arouse the interest of all those who can help us, each according to their possibilities.

We all, Knights and Dames, have something in common: on the day of our Investiture, we decided to make a huge commitment to the Catholic Church, belonging to one of its Chivalric Orders. I

am deeply convinced that the Catholic Church – despite the difficulties existing in our globalized society – offers the answer to that human desire to find meaning in our lives, filling the need for transcendence. In an interconnected and increasingly

digitalized world, where everything is expected immediately, the path that Jesus of Nazareth defines in the Beatitudes continues to be a current example for a full and happy existence.

As one of the youngest members of the Order, I believe that the greatest challenge that modern times asks of all of us is to make ourselves worthy of the trust placed in us on the day we entered the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. Prayer assists us in this, without it, we would be as empty as false witnesses would!

Our support for the Holy Land always comes in a way that is appropriate and appropriate to the changing material and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in that land, where our Lord lived over two thousand years ago."

“ It is a great honour to belong to the Order, but this must never make us forget the responsibilities we assume on our Investiture: a line of conduct in conformity with the Gospel of Christ ”



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS AT THE SERVICE OF HOPE IN THE HOLY LAND

"**T**wo years ago the Lieutenancy made its pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the new Lieutenant José Carlos Sanjuán y Monforte and part of his family, including his son Lucas, and three other boys, sons of a future Knight who would soon enter the Order. During the journey the idea was born to organize a pilgrimage geared towards an experience of volunteering that would allow the youngest to learn first-hand about the Holy Land and the work of the diocesan church and the religious organizations that are present in the Holy Places supporting Christians and the neediest among the population." These are the words of María José Fernández y Martín, Dame of the Lieutenancy for Western Spain, describing how the foundations were laid for the magnificent experience shared this year by 13 young people (4 boys and 9 girls)

whom she accompanied to the Holy Land for two weeks of pilgrimage and volunteering from June 30 to July 14.

"We had to prepare a program that would combine work and pilgrimage. For most of the young people it was their first contact with the Holy Land. As a first experience, it was clear for the Lieutenancy that it had to be a special moment that would allow us to open a promising path for the future from a human and spiritual point of view, uniting Christian values with putting them into practice in a real and active way," commented María José.

Close to the children of Bethlehem

Of the 13 volunteers, the 5 youngest girls volunteered at La Crèche, an orphanage in Bethlehem run by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul while the remaining 8 young people offered their service to the Hogar Niño Dios, an institute of the Religious Family of the Incarnate Word that welcomes children with disabilities. Both institutions are long standing beneficiaries of the support of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

There are about 60 children between 0 and 5 years old at La Crèche. "When we arrived, a baby born in the 7th month and abandoned was just entering the orphanage. His lungs, still unable to breathe on their own, needed oxygen and, in his cradle at the crèche, his little body battled to open up to life. Together with this new-born, another dozen children were under 6 months old ... everyone was waiting for a caress, a gesture of affection that made them feel loved ...", said María José, adding that at the end of the volunteer period, the 5 volunteer girls had been affectionately nicknamed "Crèche Ladies".



A group of volunteers organized by the Lieutenancy for Western Spain spent two weeks of service during the Summer in the Holy Land.



The other destination for our volunteers lies a short walk from the Basilica of the Nativity: the Hogar Niño Dios. The sisters immediately suggested the best attitude to have to really experience the time spent at the Hogar: "an open heart, a smile on your lips and a great desire to action". The children of the Hogar need a lot of attention and the boys have helped both with the children as well as with the daily activities of managing the house: cleaning, washing, organising, helping in the kitchen and in the pantry. Among the many special moments, Maria José points to the party celebrated on the final day.

"When the volunteers finish their time at the Hogar there is a big party. Then Sister Nives attaches her cell phone to an amplifier and puts a compilation of happy songs that children really love. Each child chooses a volunteer, entrusts himself/herself to him/her arms and dances. Even those who can move on their own choose a volunteer to join hands and make their own fun and tender choreographies. How can we truly give a value to moments such as these? How can you describe the laughter of a child or baby whose limitations are so great that they can barely move alone? How can you describe witnessing the joy of a child whose deformation is a permanent risk to his life? After you have danced with one of these little ones, everything changes. In that embrace all distances are erased. There is a

perfect fusion of hearts and unconditional love. That child will be your friend forever. You will remember them in your prayers and you will know that, for them, God blesses you in every prayer."

Fernando Elías Perez Esteban Picazo, one of the young volunteers, says: "This experience was a gift from the Lord. It was especially wonderful to be able to be with the children that the sisters take care of. Although many could not speak, they said everything with their eyes. Theirs is a look of love, joy, simplicity. A look that thanks you for every little detail. Their eyes look just like how God looks at us in this world: loving and hoping to be loved. There are so many things to learn from them."

Pilgrims in the footsteps of Jesus

Besides being volunteers, these young people also had the joy of being pilgrims. The first three days in the Holy Land were days of pilgrimage in Galilee based in Nazareth, a few meters from the Basilica of the Annunciation, in one of the houses of the Sisters of the Rosary. We turn again to Fernando who describes his experience in the basilica: "This was the most special place for me. Sitting there was like being present at the time of the annunciation. I caught myself thinking how God had entrusted a task of such great importance to Nazareth, to a girl who lived in such a modest house. But it is



Voluntary activities with children in one of the structures supported by the Order in the Holy Land.





Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Abp. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, wished to express his gratitude to the young Spanish and Portuguese volunteers, officially receiving them at the headquarters of his diocese.

precisely in this that we see the greatness of God: he looks at the heart. And in the heart of Mary found a joyful yes, a total abandonment to His love."

On arriving in Bethlehem, which was their base for the remaining days of volunteering, some afternoons and evenings were dedicated to visiting the holy places in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. In particular, the night between July 8 and 9, a group of 5 volunteers accompanied by Maria José remained in prayer inside the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. "From 10 to midnight we were able to stay and pray inside the aedicule. The rest of the night we were in various holy places. We have prayed together and devoted time to personal prayer," said Maria José. A few hours later, the group was preparing for another unique experience: to celebrate the Eucharist inside the aedicule of the Holy Sepulchre. "It is not easy to describe the emotion they each experienced while we were in the place of the resurrection celebrating the Eucharist. They were 25 intense and emotion-filled minutes and everyone gave thanks to God for having had this opportunity," explained Maria José with joy.

At the end of the pilgrimage, the group of volunteers of the Lieutenancy for Western Spain, together with a group of volunteers organized by the Lieutenancy for Portugal (that is running the volunteer initiative for the third year) had the opportunity to visit the Latin Patriarchate and spend time with

Archbishop Pizzaballa who wanted to hear about the experience that these young people had lived and who also told them about the Christian presence in the Holy Land and about the Order's activities.

"A before and after in my life"

Nuria Garcia had already been in the Holy Land but "through the needs of others I felt very close to Jesus. It was an unforgettable pilgrimage that undoubtedly marked a before and after in my life. Now I understand much better why they call this Earth the Fifth Gospel."

Sergio Hallado initially did not want to go when the volunteer pilgrimage was first proposed to him. He had various reasons, including the economic aspect. But a solution was found thanks to the generosity of many. At the end of the experience he commented: "I can only say three words about the trip: unique, unforgettable and emotional. And this not only for the experience itself but for the other people in the group whom I already miss tremendously. I would like to take this journey again, it changed my way of seeing things and, even more than that, it changed my life. Now I am more patient and more helpful. This is why I wish to say to all those who have lived this experience with me and to those who organized it: THANK YOU EVERYONE, FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!"

E.D.

