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WELCOME TO THE NEW GRAND MASTER OF THE ORDER

By decision of the Holy Father, His Eminence Cardinal Fernando Filoni has been appointed Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre starting this December 8 2019, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

We publish below the official communiqué of His Eminence Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, Grand Master of the Order since 2012, who concludes his mandate a few months after reaching the age of 80.

"It is with complete acceptance and appreciation that I welcome the decision of Pope Francis to replace me as Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. I am especially pleased that His Holiness has appointed His Eminence Fernando Cardinal Filoni as my successor.

I have been privileged well beyond the time of my letter of resignation, submitted over five years ago. Throughout my more than eight years as Grand Master, my personal faith and love of our Church have deepened as I have witnessed our members' commitment to the goals of our Order, expressed in different cultures and languages, all profoundly Catholic!

I am most grateful to the

two Governors General with whom I have served, Their Excellencies, Professor Agostino Borromeo and Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone. Our collaborators in the Grand Magisterium and the daily, dedicated service of our office staff largely account for the steady growth of our Order. Their commitment to our lieutenancies and to the mission of the Latin Patriarchate has been unwavering.

Finally, I welcome His Eminence, Cardinal Filoni as Our Grand Master. His long and broad pastoral and administrative experience in service to the Universal Church will be precious assets as he leads our Order into the future. I offer him my full and fraternal support as I beg the continued intercession of Our Lady of Palestine."



Cardinal Fernando Filoni succeeds Cardinal Edwin O'Brien as leader of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

TO MY VENERABLE BROTHER CARDINAL EDWIN FREDERICK O'BRIEN

As I accept your resignation from the office of Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which you have presented in accordance with the canonical norms, I wish to express to you my heartfelt thanks for the love, competence and fidelity, with which you offered your collaboration in the solicitude of the Pastor of the Universal Church for the Christians of the Holy Land.

I remember your intense service to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, which began on August 29, 2011 under the pontificate of Benedict XVI, as Pro-Grand Master, and then from March 15, 2012, following your elevation to Cardinal, as Grand Master of the same Order.

May the awareness of your generous and tireless dedication in favour of the Christian presence in the Holy Land, as well as the collaboration that you, Cardinal, will continue to offer as a member of the College of Cardinals, be of comfort to you, instilling joy and serenity in your soul, just as mine is filled in the knowledge that I will still benefit from your experience.

Therefore, my dear Cardinal, I happily wish you all good and prosperity in Christ Jesus, invoking every desired grace on your ministry.

As I entrust you to the special protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the Saints, I impart to you from my heart, in the hope of abundant divine rewards and as a pledge of my fraternal closeness, my Apostolic Blessing, which I gladly extend to your near and dear ones.

Pope Francis

From the Vatican, 8 December 2019

MESSAGE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

It is with great joy that we welcome the new Grand Master appointed by the Pope on December 8 last. Cardinal Fernando Filoni will guide the members of the Order to live fully their baptism and to be missionary disciples in the light of the Risen Christ, in accordance with his episcopal motto *Lumen Gentium Christus* (Christ, light of peoples).

In fact, the Grand Master has a precious missionary experience, having been Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, after having served the Church in many high offices, particularly in Jordan and Iraq. He knows the Holy Land well and will be able to foster ever better the development

of our works at the service of the Mother Church in Jerusalem.

His nomination is a gift from God and we thank Him for this, and we put his ministry in the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine.

We also pray with gratitude for Cardinal Edwin O'Brien, who leaves his post but remains one of us, a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and whom we will always be happy to see again in the life and journey of our Order.

All together, with Cardinal Filoni, we continue our earthly pilgrimage in the faith, united in prayer with Pope Francis.

Leonardo Visconti di Modrone



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The appointment of the new Grand Master of the Order was announced when this issue of the Newsletter was ready for print. Thus, while we dedicated our opening pages to this news, we would ask you to read the rest of the edition in the context prior to this event.

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GUCCIONE

SINCE 1975

DECORATIONS OF KNIGHTLY ORDERS



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The Order in Union with the Universal Church

“THE MEMBERS OF THE ORDER ARE LIKE AMBASSADORS OF THE HOLY LAND”

*Exclusive interview with Holy See
 Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin*

Your Eminence, what does the Order of the Holy Sepulchre represent to you and what is its place in the universal Church? Given that the Pope appoints the Grand Master, could it be said that this is the only chivalric order intrinsically linked to the Holy See?

Since the dawn of Christianity, the Land where Our Lord was born, lived, died and rose again has had a special place in the hearts of believers and of the various ecclesial communities that have spread outside the Jewish world. Many faithful chose to live the Gospel both in a solitary form, as hermits, and gathering together, precisely in the places that had seen the earthly presence of Christ, in particular those linked to the stages of his public life, beginning with the Holy Sepulchre. The need is also felt to visit them. Thus, pilgrimages began, as a devotional and existential form of journey, which saw significant growth during the Middle Ages. The birth of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre dates back to that period, with explicit reference to the tomb that guarded the body of Jesus Christ devoid of life and from where he rose again. The need was felt to defend its integrity and that of those who went to visit it.

The Knights of the Holy Sepulchre were among those engaged in this noble enterprise. The earliest documents concerning them date back to 1336. From the 14th century onwards, the Popes sought to give them a juridical regulation and they gradually expanded their tasks to devote themselves to preserving the faith in the Holy Land, supporting charitable works and social services of the Church, in particular



The Pope's number one collaborator, Holy See Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, testifies to the importance of the mission of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for the Universal Church.



those promoted by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

The Order has always benefited from the protection of the Supreme Pontiffs. We could cite some passages, for example in 1496 Alexander VI decided that he would be the supreme Moderator, delegating to the Franciscans – who had been entrusted with the care of the Holy Sepulchre by Clement VI in 1342 – the power to confer the knighthood to nobles and gentlemen on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Leo X renewed the confirmation of this privilege to the Franciscans in 1516, Benedict XIV further renewed it in 1746, and finally, in 1847 Pius IX, who reconstituted the Order, did so too. In 1888, Leo XIII also granted the possibility to nominate Dames. In 1907, Pius X decided that the title of Grand Master of the Order would belong to the Pope himself. In 1932, Pius XI approved the new Constitution and granted that Knights and Dames could to receive their Investiture beyond Jerusalem. In 1940, Pius XII appointed a Cardinal Protector of the Order. After the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Saint Paul VI in 1977 proceeded to approve the new Constitution. Saint John Paul II granted the Order, legal personality under Vatican City State. The current Grand Master is the Cardinal Edwin Frederick O'Brien.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre is, together with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, one of the two chivalric orders recognized by the Holy See.

In the first, the Pope appoints the Grand Master, while in the second he is confirmed.

There are 30,000 Knights and Dames worldwide who are very active within their local Churches and strongly united with the bishops of the territory, who often act as Grand Priors of the Order's Lieutenancies. Would you say that the mission of the members of the Order consists in being ambassadors of the Holy Land in their respective dioceses?

It could be said in all truth that the members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, both the Knights and the Dames, are like "ambassadors" of the Holy Land. In fact, in addition to living their own Christian faith and manifesting adherence to the Catholic Church in the environments in which they live and work – in which sense all the baptized are called to be "ambassadors of Christ" (see 2 Cor 5:20) – they promote initiatives in favour of the Holy Places in the parishes and in the dioceses they belong to. Moreover, through their presence they also raise awareness among the faithful to meet the needs of the Christians who live in the Holy Land, often in difficult, if not dramatic, conditions. Today, the most pressing task is to create the political and socio-economic conditions that favour the permanence of Christians in the Holy Land, because it is in the interest of the whole Church that the Land of Jesus



Every year Cardinal Parolin honours the reception organized at the Grand Magisterium in Rome, for the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, patroness of the Order.



Pilgrimages to the Holy Land are essential for deepening the faith, as the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre testify with perseverance and enthusiasm.

respect, promoting a society founded on the values of universal justice and fraternity. If, on the one hand, the pilgrims transmit resources to the inhabitants of those lands, on the other they receive much more than they can ever give in return. In fact, the pilgrim has an experience of faith in the places of salvation history that have seen the passage of Jesus on this earth. A journey into

does not become a museum of archaeological finds and precious stones, but continue to be a Church built with "living stones" (1 Pt 2:5), Christians who for two thousand years have continued the uninterrupted tradition of the presence of Christ's disciples. Therefore, members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre are asked not only to promote the collection of funds for the ecclesial realities present in the Holy Land, but also to pray and work so that peace prevails over divisions and violence.

memory and, at the same time, a rediscovery of the Gospel that is embodied in all time and at all latitudes.

The Holy Land has been experiencing an exceptional increase in pilgrimages for some years. What is your analysis of this phenomenon concerning the Mother Church of Jerusalem?

Personally speaking, my visits to the Holy Land, beginning with my first visit in 1980 immediately after my ordination, have been unforgettable human and spiritual experiences. I am still greatly moved by the memory of one night in 2009, when on the eve of the apostolic journey of Pope Benedict XVI I was able to pray at length in the completely empty Basilica of the Agony in Gethsemane, until quite late. I also remember the Holy Mass celebrated in the aedicule of the Holy Sepulchre the following morning, at dawn. These were very intense moments, as were those with Pope Francis in 2014, which left an indelible mark on my heart and which I remember with a sense of nostalgia. The pilgrimages to the Holy Land have been a privileged way for me to know, love and follow the Lord Jesus more. Sometimes with a thrill of fear in the awareness that I am treading on the same land that he has walked. However, always with immense gratitude, knowing that all that he did, he did for me and for all my brothers and sisters in humanity, he did it for our love and for our salvation. I hope that everyone who is a pilgrim in the Holy Land can experience the same sentiments and return strengthened in faith and Christian witness.

Furthermore, could you perhaps share a personal spiritual moment you experienced at the Holy Sepulchre?

Pilgrimages are an important way to support the Christian presence in the Holy Land. It is also through these journeys of faith that Christians can help their brothers and sisters who live there. This allows the Christians of the Holy Land to work and support their families. Without this contribution of solidarity, the Holy Land would be poorer not only from the economic point of view, but above all from the human point of view. In fact, pilgrimages allow an exchange of cultures, languages, traditions, etc. which open to knowledge and mutual

Interview by François Vayne



Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM AUTUMN MEETING AND THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LADY OF PALESTINE

Our Lady of Palestine – Patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, celebrated on October 25 throughout the Church since 1994 – was honoured in Rome at a reception organized at Palazzo della Rovere, during the autumn meeting of the Grand Magisterium. On Wednesday October 23, around 300 guests – including various cardinals, led by Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin – gathered around Cardinal Edwin O’Brien and the highest officers of the Order.

The Grand Master of the Order of Malta, numerous ecclesiastics, ambassadors, representatives of civil society and journalists were able to express their

friendship to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and support for the cause of the Holy Land.

From the vigil until the morning itself, the members of the Grand Magisterium had worked on various current issues, under the presidency of Cardinal O’Brien and in the presence of Abp. Pierbattista Pizzaballa (Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem), Abp. Tommaso Caputo (Assessor of the Order), as well as the four continental Vice Governors.

After having welcomed the new members Leopoldo Torlonia and Dominique Neckebroek, the Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone described the



At the Grand Magisterium's autumn meeting the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Msgr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, outlined the situation in his vast diocese to the Order's main authorities in charge of coordinating aid sent to the Mother Church in the Holy Land.





The Grand Master of the Order of Malta (pictured right) was next to the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre during the reception organized at the Palazzo della Rovere, on the feast of Our Lady of Palestine.

activities of the Grand Magisterium. He underlined the efforts made by the Order to expand in Latin America, thanks to the joint efforts undertaken with the Vice Governor for this subcontinent, Enric Mas and he mentioned the successful conduct of meetings between the Lieutenancies in Rome, Houston, Montreal and Brisbane. He also observed that Asia and Oceania have considerable growth potential; indeed, the Grand Master will visit them next January. The Governor General also spoke about the restoration work underway at Palazzo della Rovere, with the aim of leasing part of the building to a new hotel management company.

Archbishop Pizzaballa subsequently presented the situation in the Holy Land, where improvements are slow in the political and economic sectors. He underscored the precariousness of 80,000 Catholics in Israel, among whom numerous migrants without protection, who risk being expelled. The Apostolic Administrator also outlined the new financial organization of the Patriarchate, with very strict rules of conduct to ensure greater transparency. Sami El-Yousef, CEO of the Patriarchate, then intervened, explaining in detail how these financial control systems operate, especially in the management of the forty or

so Patriarchate schools that have a large deficit, as well as the role of the new finance council created in July 2018.

Staying with finances, the treasurer Saverio Petrillo – president of the Financial Commission of the Grand Magisterium – presented the Order’s budget, with revenues that currently reach 9 million euros, but expressing appreciation for the 13 million euros foreseen by donations promised from the Lieutenancies by the year’s end. The small projects are of great interest to the Lieutenancies and are proving to be of great success, such as one of last year’s social projects, which focused on finding employment for around forty young unemployed people in Gaza. However, the Governor General insisted that the monthly institutional expenses (about 600,000 euros sent monthly to the Patriarchate) should not be neglected and, in this regard, he intends to write to the Lieutenants.

The resulting debate highlighted the need to better communicate the regular needs of the Patriarchate to the Lieutenancies, among the Grand Priors and through the diocesan network of parishes, as highlighted in particular by the Vice Governor for Europe, Jean-Pierre de Glutz.

On the second day of the meeting, Bart





Numerous diplomats who follow the work of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in favour of peace in the Middle East were present among authorities welcomed by Cardinal O'Brien for the feast of Our Lady of Palestine, such as Her Excellency Ambassador of Iraq to the Holy See, Ms. Amal Mussa Hussain Al-Rubaye.

McGettrick – president of the Holy Land Commission – spoke of the Commission members visit to Jordan, in particular to Jubeiha, where the parish church should be inaugurated next April, and to Hashimi,

where a kindergarten currently welcomes 300 children. He insisted on the question of the teachers' salaries that should be increased, as well as on the education of the children of Iraqi and Syrian refugees. Thirty small projects aimed at supporting those in need will reach the total sum of 900,000 euros in 2020, specified McGettrick.

Before the end of the meeting, Chancellor Bastianelli mentioned the increase in admissions and promotions, after which Abp. Caputo reassured those present about the development of the

Order's new Constitution, on which he is working together with a group of experts in the Order. The next meeting of the Grand Magisterium will be held on April 21 and 22, 2020.

François Vayne

ORDER'S SPIRITUAL HEADQUARTERS OPENS ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC

Discovering the beauties of Sant'Onofrio convent during the Autumn days of Italian Heritage Fund (FAI)

On October 12 and 13, as part of the FAI Autumn Days, almost 2000 visitors were able to enter and discover the beauties of the Church of Sant'Onofrio al Gianicolo and the Tasso museum, located in the adjacent rooms that form a whole with the church and the cloister and which are entrusted to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. For the Order, it was an opportunity to continue our collaboration with the Italian Heritage Fund (FAI, Fondo Ambiente Italiano) following on from the Spring Days 2019 in which the headquarters of the Grand Magisterium of



Situated on the Gianiculum hill, the convent of Sant'Onofrio (named after the famous hermit and anchorite Onophrius) was statutorily the spiritual seat of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. It houses the tomb of Cardinal Nicola Canali, Grand Master appointed by Pope Pius XII.





During the autumn days of FAI (Fondo Ambiente Italiano), many visitors discovered the activities of the Order, echoing the initiative last spring when the doors of Palazzo della Rovere were opened to the public.

the Order, Palazzo della Rovere, was opened to the public.

The granting of these spaces to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is linked to some of the most important internal institutional changes that took place. In fact, with *motu proprio* of August 15, 1948, Pius XII established that the headquarters of the Order be transferred from Jerusalem to Rome to the aforementioned Church, and that the Grand Master would, from that moment on, be a cardinal appointed by the Pope.

The church houses the vibrant testimony of Torquato Tasso, author of *Jerusalem Delivered*, which narrates the deeds of the crusaders who fought to reconquer the Holy Sepulchre. After wandering through Italy, the poet asked for and received hospitality in the convent of St. Onofrio where he lived the last months of his life and where he died on 25 April 1595. Thus, there is a perfect harmony between the convent's literary heritage, preserved within a small museum, which houses some of Tasso's manuscripts, and its bonds with the Holy Sepulchre. Various famous people over the centuries have visited this place: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe in 1787, Giacomo Leopardi between 1822 and 1823 and François-René de

Chateaubriand between 1828 and 1829 when he was ambassador to Rome.

The architectural complex of St. Onofrio is a place where history, culture and faith have been handed down through the centuries to the present day. Its construction dates back to the beginning of the fifteenth century and, at the time, it was a hermitage dedicated to Saint Onuphrius, an anchorite living in Egypt in the 4th century. The building of the church proper began in 1439 and ended in the 16th century. The sacred building was entrusted to the Jerolomites until 1933, the year in which Pope Pius XI dissolved the congregation. Currently the Franciscan friars of the Atonement are entrusted with the spiritual care of the church.

The structure is situated in a panoramic position, on the Gianiculum promenade where Michelangelo's dome of Saint Peter's dominates the surrounding landscape, and the blast of the cannon at midday creates an evocative atmosphere. Steps lead to a gate, which bears the Order's coat of arms and opens onto a beautiful flower garden and a churchyard beyond. Already on the outside, we find paintings of fine workmanship attributed to Domenichino and Sebastiano Strada.

The interior, in Renaissance style, which is still influenced by Gothic, is a rectangular hall with cross vaults, a polygonal apse and five side chapels. These are dedicated to St. Onuphrius, to Our Lady of Loreto, to the Crucifix, to St. Pius X and to St. Jerome. In the first is the funeral monument to Torquato Tasso. The apse paintings attributed to Peruzzi and Pinturicchio are of great beauty as well as those of the sacristy. From the porch, you enter the fifteenth century cloister, a haven of absolute tranquility and peace. The atrium, instead, leads you to the Tasso museum.

This artistic splendor becomes a source of enrichment and growth for the members of the Order and for the visitors that we have been happy to welcome over these two days.



The Order and the Holy Land

THE HOLY LAND COMMISSION VISITS JORDAN

During its latest on-site visit, the Holy Land Commission of the Grand Magisterium, focused on gaining first-hand knowledge of the projects and meeting the people involved in various activities supported by the Order in Jordan. The visit of President Bart McGettrick, members Detlef Brümmer from Germany and Cynthia Monahan from the United States, as well as former president and current consultant of the Holy Land Commission, Tom McKiernan, took place from September 8 to 15, 2019.

Accompanied by Sami El-Yousef, the Latin Patriarchate chief executive officer and by the deacon Jubran Salameh, the Commission began its visit at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Jubeiha which was one of the major projects supported by the Order over

the past few years and which is about to be completed: Jubeiha has seen its Christian population grow and the need to have a church that could accommodate all the faithful has long been an important request. The projected date for the inauguration of the completed church – which will be able to accommodate 2,700 faithful – is in the first few months of 2020. Another stop was that of the church of Marj Alhamam, which was also financed by the Order. "The Commission is satisfied with the quality of these facilities and the good use made of them," commented Bart McGettrick.

Following this, the delegation went to Our Lady of Peace Centre. This structure usually cares for children with disabilities but since the arrival of many Iraqi refugees in Jordan, it has also taken on the responsibility of



Education is the key to the future of the Christians of the Holy Land and the Order invests heavily in this fundamental sector.





The members of the Holy Land Commission joined the heartfelt prayer of the Rosary at the parish of Mary of Nazareth in Sweifieh (Amman).

offering support to some of them. The issue of refugees – which shows no sign of diminishing in importance – has been the subject of particular attention by the Commission. With regards to Syrian refugees, "about 25% of school-age children have no access to education and this cannot be considered 'normal'," commented the Commission in its report of the visit.

The next day the group continued onto Hashimi where another significant project was recently completed: a new kindergarten built with the Order's contributions and inaugurated in March 2019. The day continued with a visit to Msgr. William Shomali, patriarchal vicar in Jordan and with a meeting with school principals from the Amman district. The following days

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF PATRIARCHATE SCHOOLS IN JORDAN

Also in Jordan, on October 5, celebrations were held to mark 150 years since the opening of the first Latin Patriarchate School in Jordan at our Lady of Peace Center. Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Raja'i Mu'asher, the Patriarchal Vicar for Jordan Mons. William Shomali, the Apostolic Nuncio in Jordan, Mons. Alberto Ortega Martín and various other authorities were present at the ceremony during which the steps taken so far against illiteracy and for the dissemination of Christian educational values to all citizens were outlined. To date, the Patriarchate has 25 schools and 18 kindergartens in the Hashemite kingdom "in the service of humanity" with 11,000 Christian and Muslim students noted Father Wissam Mansour, Director General of Patriarchate Schools in Jordan. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre, which pays particular attention to the education of young people, is proud to be able to support these structures on a monthly basis, thus allowing Jordanian young people to pursue their education in an environment that prepares them to be competent men and women and at the service of dialogue in society.



were also dedicated to meetings with the Patriarchate school principals from other areas of the country. "The principals are grateful for the help received from the Order," said the Commission President, who also expressed concern at the Jordanian state schoolteachers' demands for a wage increase of 50%. This will clearly have an impact on teachers in the Patriarchate schools which would not wish to offer a lower salary than the one guaranteed by the state, on pain of losing competent and qualified staff.

The delegation also met Msgr. Mauro Lalli of the Apostolic Nunciature of Amman and the director of Caritas Jordan, Wael

Suleiman.

There were various meetings with local communities. For example, one evening the Holy Land Commission had the opportunity to pray the rosary with a large group of faithful (2000 people!) gathered at the Church of Mary of Nazareth in Sweifieh, and on another occasion to attend Mass in the parish of Tla el-Ali followed by a procession to celebrate the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross along with 1200 people. "The parishes we visited vibrant and active. The engagement of youth was a particularly pleasant aspect of our visits," concluded Bart McGettrick.

DEFENDING RIGHTS: LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC SUPPORT FOR THE MOST NEEDY IN EAST JERUSALEM

The only Catholic NGO to provide legal assistance to Palestinian citizens in the Holy Land, the St. Yves Society (from the name of the saint) protector of those working in the legal sector) works to defend their rights with the support of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

It's hard not to fall in love with Jerusalem and the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre know this well.

But what is less obvious is the discovery of the hidden economic, social and political complexities and sufferings that the poorest Christian families experience in East Jerusalem. Municipal taxes are particularly high, as is the unemployment rate, not to mention the difficulty for Palestinians living in East Jerusalem to obtain family reunification permits for their Palestinian spouse if resident in another area. Because of "The Separation Wall" many Palestinian families are trying to move to Jerusalem to avoid losing the Israeli identity card that requires a regular presence in Jerusalem. For the spouse without an Israeli identity card,

the fee owed to the Ministry of Health for a temporary document is very high.

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre, thanks to the gifts of the Lieutenancy for Germany and USA Western, supports the activity of the Society of St. Yves, a Catholic organization for human rights that operates under the patronage of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Founded in 1991 by the then Patriarch Michel Sabbah, it aims to help the poor and the oppressed in line with the social doctrine of the Church by offering free legal assistance to those who need it and by advocating to make their situation known to the international community.

Helping Christians stay in the Holy Land also means helping them in this way.





The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is very close to the local communities in the Holy Land, favouring help for those most in need.

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The German Lieutenancy, in collaboration with the Society of S. Yves and Caritas Jerusalem, has offered support over the past few months to over 50 families in difficulty. Some of them had been warned that because of the accumulated debts for the payment of municipal taxes or health insurance they risked being imprisoned. Part of their debts have been covered allowing them to avoid prison. Among those who received help, is a 63-year-old widow whose son has substance abuse problems. Her pension does not cover all the expenses and she had accumulated a debt she was unable to repay.

Many Christian families try to send their children to private Christian schools and if this, on the one hand, allows children to grow in faith, on the other it imposes additional costs on these families who already face a problematic situation. This is the case of M., a 59-year-old man with four children, employed at a hotel and

married to a woman with a Palestinian identity card. Since there are no Patriarchate schools in Jerusalem, this is the only way in which Christian families can access Christian education and thus give daily support to the Christian upbringing of their children.

A new law has recently passed which requires the payment of 285 shekels per month for the health insurance of every reunited Palestinian who has lived in Jerusalem for more than 27 months. This figure must also be paid retroactively and this has caused many problems for many families, such as that of M., who received help through this project.

"A Middle East without Christians would not be the Middle East" as Pope Francis has often said and to ensure that Christians living in these lands for centuries can continue to reside there, it is important to offer them the conditions to do so.



THE STATUE OF THE FIRST DEACON AND FIRST MARTYR OF CHRISTIANITY, IN THE ATRIUM OF SAINT STEPHEN'S BASILICA

Father Jean-Michel Poffet – Dominican, Knight Commander of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre – was the director of the École Biblique et Archéologique Française for several years. In this article he wanted to tell how the Order helped him to finance the statue of the deacon St. Stephen, which rises in the heart of the building, in the area where tradition has identified the place of his martyrdom, north of the Damascus gate, in Jerusalem.

Here, I would like to express gratitude to the Order for the support it has offered over the years to the famous *École biblique* of Jerusalem. My short story will have a personal flavour. I was honoured to be appointed director of the *École Biblique et Archéologique Française* in 1999 and re-elected on two occasions until 2008. Until then, I had taught at the Swiss Faculty of Theology at the University of Fribourg. One evening, in Jerusalem, I was walking and praying in the atrium of St. Stephen's Basilica, built in 1900 on the remains of the Byzantine church of the fifth century. At the centre of the atrium made of beaten earth, covered by some venerable Byzantine-era stones, an empty column rose. In fact, the martyr was not only stoned in the first century, but his statue was also bombed during the 1947 unrest. Five years later, the friars decided to bury the statue of the beheaded saint in the garden. I felt a deep desire to restore it to its place of honour in



The statue of the deacon Saint Stephen, erected in Jerusalem thanks to the Order, reminds everyone that above all the Church is a servant and poor.

front of the basilica. However, I had neither money nor a sculptor at my disposal, but Providence was about to come to our rescue.

One of my confreres spoke to the Sisters of Bethlehem, asking them to pray for this project. They advised him one of their friars, the sculptor Johann. The conversation took



place near the place where in the 5th century the relics of Saint Stephen left to be buried in the basilica in Jerusalem. It is difficult not to see a sign in this. However, we still needed to find funds. One day I confided the project to Msgr. Michel Sabbah, then Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, to whom I was particularly attached. When he came to preside over Mass for the feast of Saint Stephen, he gave me an envelope containing a generous check. I insistently asked him for the name of the benefactor: he was the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the late Cardinal Carlo Furno. Without delay, I made an appointment in Rome to express the gratitude of the Dominicans of Jerusalem. He received me with great kindness, offering me the opportunity to talk about the *École biblique*, the library, the precariousness of our resources. For my part, I discovered the Order and its support for the Christians of the Holy Land.

Other donations finally allowed the statue to be erected and placed in front of the basilica on November 14, 2005, on the eve of the conference we had organized in honour of Father Lagrange. The sculpture

was blessed by the Latin Patriarch in the presence of the Consul General of France and many friends, on Saint Stephen's Day, December 26, 2005. Since then, the Order continues to support the *École*. In recent years, this support has taken the form of a salary for a Palestinian employee at the library, the jewel of the *École*, with its approximately 160,000 works of exegesis with direct access for students and researchers. Furthermore, the Lieutenancy for France financed some maintenance work on the atrium and the basilica. Moreover, the current director – Father Jean-Jacques Pérennès – writes to me that he regularly receives groups of Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, an opportunity for us to express our gratitude to them and for them to discover a unique work in the Holy Land that could not exist without the help of other Christians, especially those of the Order.

As for your servant, I received the honour of the Investiture on October 3, 2007 at the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, by Bishop Michel Sabbah. My belonging to the Order keeps me in communion of thought, prayer and action with and for the Christians of the Holy Land.



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The Life of the Lieutenancies

CANADA'S FIRST NATIONAL INVESTITURE

From September 27 to 29, 2019, a unique and unprecedented event in the history of the Order took place in Montreal. For the first time, the five Lieutenancies of the country – Canada-Montreal, Canada-Quebec, Canada-Toronto, Canada-Vancouver and Canada-Halifax – all joined for a Canadian national Investiture of their new members.

The idea of this meeting was born a few years ago, on the initiative of the then Vice Governor General of North America – the current Vice Governor General of Honor Patrick Powers – and of the Canadian Lieutenants. It was an absolute challenge for the scope of such an event and it was the first mission I had to carry out as a new Lieutenant for Canada-Montreal, nominated in September 2018.

In addition to the Vice Governor General of North America, six out of nine United States Lieutenants participated in this

historic Investiture held in Montreal.

History shows that the first diocese of North America was created in the city of Québec (founded in 1608 by the French explorer Samuel de Champlain), in New France. In 1658, Saint François de Montmorency Laval was its first Apostolic Vicar. American and Canadian Catholics recognize that their Catholic origin actually dates back to New France.

The Vigil of Arms took place in the afternoon, in the crypt of the Saint-Joseph Oratory, next to the tomb of our beloved



The gathering of all the Canadian Lieutenancies in Montreal has already entered the annals of the history of the Order in North America.



"Frère André" (Saint André Bessette). It was presided by Msgr. Christian Lépine, Grand Prior of the Canada-Montreal Lieutenancy, assisted by His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, Grand Prior of the Canada-Toronto Lieutenancy.

On Sunday September 28, the Investiture ceremony took place in the Cathedral Basilica of Marie-Reine-du-Monde-et-Saint-Jacques-le-Majeur, under the guidance of the Grand Master, Cardinal Edwin O'Brien. During the grand celebration, a bishop and four priests received the Investiture, along with fifteen Knights and sixteen Dames. The Canadian Lieutenancies now have thirty-six new members, of which we can be proud.

After the Investiture, at the gala dinner that brought together 220 guests, we had the privilege of listening to our Grand Prior, who congratulated the Canadian Lieutenancies for such success. He said he was very happy to have been able to attend a unique event in the history of the Order in

Canada and thanked all the participants for the welcome, reiterating his congratulations to the new members.

During my solemn closing address, I stressed that the arrival of new members among us is important, as it contributes to responding to the challenge that awaits the Order in the years to come.

In retrospect, we are pleased to note that the presence in Montreal of numerous members of the United States and Canada at this historical moment shows that the Order is more alive than ever in North America. All Lieutenancies are joined together under the guidance of Grand Master Cardinal O'Brien, the Grand Magisterium, and Vice Governor General Tom Pogge. This shows that a bright future awaits our Order: it is a great source of hope for continuing to support our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Luc Harvey

Lieutenant for Canada-Montreal

SAINT PETER IN GALLICANTU AND THE LAST NIGHT OF JESUS

There are spiritual places that speak to us in a particular way and that become places of the heart in our journey of faith.

The church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu is a Roman Catholic Church located on the eastern slope of Mount Zion, just outside the Old (walled) City of Jerusalem. The word "Gallicantu" comes from the Latin and evokes the place where "the rooster sang", as narrated by the Gospel story of the evening of the arrest and condemnation of Jesus: "The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly "(Lk 22: 61-62). This was the site of

the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas.

The current church that dates back to the early decades of the 20th century is built on the foundations of the ancient Byzantine and Crusader churches. Probably the most revered square meters of this sacred place are those of the cave which tradition has identified as the place where Jesus was sent down to wait until he appeared before the Sanhedrin to be condemned. The members of the Order who talk about their pilgrimage, when they talk about this "pit" cannot fail to do so without a certain emotion. Guillaume Angier de Lohéac is a young Knight of the Lieutenancy for France who discovered this place more than 10 years ago when he came to Jerusalem for an internship at the Assumptionist house, the





The basilica of Saint Peter in Gallicantu, erected in the place where Jesus was interrogated by the High Priest Caiaphas and the leaders of the synagogue, is one of the most significant places of pilgrimage in Jerusalem.

religious community that runs the sanctuary. "This holy place is edifying. The more time I spent here, the more I realize the depth of the mystery of our salvation. Here we remember not only Peter's denial and Christ's forgiveness but also the denial of the Son of God by the Sanhedrin and his descent into the pit. The prison under the crypt of the church is a moving place where pilgrims pray Psalm 88: 'You have put me in the lowest pit; [...] I am confined and cannot escape.' (Ps 88:7.9)"

Maria José Fernández Martín is Dame Commander of the Order. This summer she accompanied a group of young people on a pilgrimage and volunteer experience organized by the Lieutenancy for Western Spain. She speaks of the moment of prayer that they experienced in the place of Christ's imprisonment: "As we descended the stairs, the silence grew. The young people drew closer together as if the strength of the place asked them to. I approached the pulpit and read Psalm 22: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.' (Ps 21: 2-3). Silence enveloped the cave. There was

no need for great explanations. Everyone understood the importance of the place we were in".

Outside the church, we recalled the episode of Peter's denial and the exchange of glances between the apostle and the Master. "Peter who denies Jesus three times in the courtyard brought tears to my eyes while I was in the place where this event took place – confirms Joan Bridges of the USA Northern Lieutenancy – for two reasons: the first is the pain that this must have

caused our Lord while he was looking at Peter when the rooster sang after the third denial and the second is the pain that Peter must have felt for having denied Jesus in that moment of great suffering".

However, there is also another historical place that touches the heart of the pilgrim: the path that Jesus certainly travelled from Gethsemane to the house of Caiaphas. Saul and Christy Eiva of the USA Northeastern Lieutenancy say: "Outside the church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu we heard the story of Jesus' agony from the Gospel according to Luke. From where we were, we saw on the other side the Cedron Valley, the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. Then we realized how Jesus could see the soldiers gathering with their torches and weapons outside the palace of Caiaphas where we were. Jesus would have had about 45 minutes to turn around and escape to the other side of the mountain. But he chose to stay, suffer and die for us ... The steps of the ancient Roman road that crosses the valley are still here and Jesus must have climbed them to go to the palace. How incredible is God's love for us and how touching it was to listen to the events of that night."

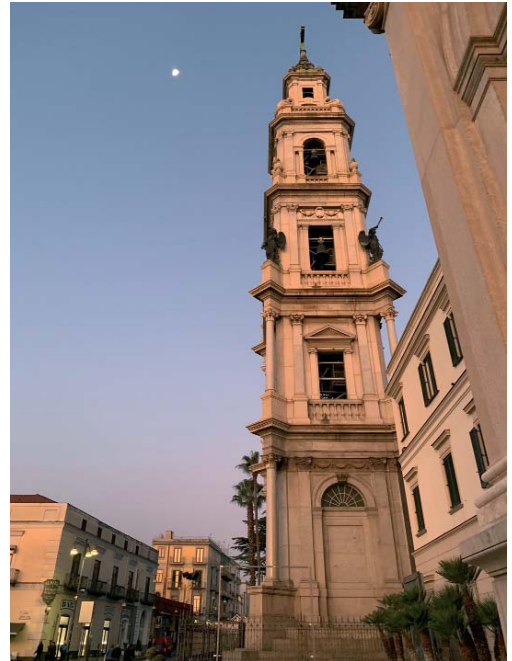
Elena Dini



“EXSULTET” IN POMPEII



The Exsultet Oratory composed for the Consulta 2018 continues to bring the message of the Order through music. On October 18 last it was staged at the Marian shrine of Pompeii, at the invitation of Archbishop Tommaso Caputo, archbishop prelate, pontifical delegate to Pompeii and Assessor of the Order.



For more information, please contact Marcello Bronzetti: marcello.bronzetti@icloud.com



SAVE THE DATE!

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. The event is coordinated by a commission appointed by Cardinal Peter Erdö, archbishop of Budapest and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Hungary. Information for registration is available on the website iec2020.hu

