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Message from the Grand Master

A NOBLE IDEAL

Recently we celebrated with profound spiritual joy the solemn Liturgy of 'Our Lady Queen of Palestine' that gathered all of us, Dames and Knights of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, also online, in a communion of prayer to her whom the Holy Father John Paul II, with the Apostolic Letter *Est quidem*, of January 21, 1994, established as Patroness of our Order.

Our Order turns to Mary, Mother of Jesus, as Patroness, she who was a beacon of peaceful coexistence in the land of which she was a daughter and from which she extends her maternal protection wherever the blessed name of her Son is proclaimed. In this way, she extends her benevolent protection to our brothers and sisters who, through the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, are particularly dear to her because of the care they show towards the Holy Land.

Today I entrust to her, in a special way, those many new Dames and Knights who are receiving Investiture in numerous

Lieutenancies. This implies that the vitality of the Order, despite the general crisis generated by Covid, has not waned.

As an Order that has a constitutive commitment to the Holy Land, we must ceaselessly re-evoke the two aspects of our commitment: the ecclesiological dimension of our work, which delineates the horizon of the commitment itself, and the personal spiritual and charitable dimension, which renders us the protagonists of our work which is never mediocre or mechanical.

The title of Knight and Dame implies that the reality of contribution brings us back to the same words of Jesus that we read in the Acts of the Apostles, when Paul, addressing the Christians of Ephesus, wrote: "*In everything*

I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive' (Acts 20:35). This is a noble ideal! It is a nobility that does not come from descent, but from our actions and that places each

Last October 20, the Grand Master celebrated the annual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Palestine at the Roman shrine of Divine Mercy.



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of us in the context of the highest charity, as Saint Paul teaches.

This is the true nobility to which we aspire and to which we commit ourselves. Let us continue to ask Mary, "Queen of

Palestine," every day for Her maternal comfort and peace for the Holy Land and the entire Middle East.

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

The Order in Union with the Universal Church

MEMBERS OF THE ORDER AT THE INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN BUDAPEST

The preparation and celebration of the 52nd International Eucharistic Congress involved in some way the whole Hungarian Church, so also the local Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Over the previous three years, the Missionary Cross, the symbol of the Congress, has visited the various Catholic communities not only in Hungary, but also in neighbouring countries, gathering the

faithful for prayer and adoration. It is a grandiose reliquary, made in 2007 from sheets of bronze, bearing a splinter of the Holy Cross in the center, surrounded by the relics of Hungarian and Central European saints. The Lieutenancy for Hungary welcomed the Missionary Cross in August 2021, at its headquarters in Budapest, with particular affection, since it was created by a Knight, Csaba Ozsvári, who died in the odor of sanctity in 2009. For three days the



Knights and Dames organized moments of prayer and sacred music, with testimonies about the Order, which were also very well attended by the public. The Lieutenancy had also participated in the worldwide adoration, organized in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress, on 5 June 2021.

During the week of the International Eucharistic Congress, the Lieutenancy, together with the Hungarian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta, organized an evening of prayer and fraternal meetings with the prelates of the Middle East present in Budapest. Despite travel restrictions due to the pandemic, several of the Order's Lieutenancies sent their representatives to the Congress. The significant presence of the Lieutenant for Western Spain, the Lieutenant for Belgium and the Magistral Delegate for Croatia are worthy of mention.

The Mass celebrated on 11 September 2021, presided over by Cardinal Péter Erdő, Primate of Hungary, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Hungary, in front of the Hungarian Parliament Building, was



The participation of Knights and Dames in the International Eucharistic Congress demonstrated the commitment of the Order's members to the life of the universal Church.

followed by a grand Eucharistic procession with hundreds of thousands of faithful, which wound its way through the streets of the center. The Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, as well as the candidates, the "novices", walked under the banners of the Lieutenancy, led by Lieutenant Béla Jungbert, immediately after the float carrying the Blessed Sacrament. Similarly, members of the Lieutenancy for Hungary were also present on September 5 at the opening of the Congress on Heroes' Square.

The concluding liturgy of the International Eucharistic Congress was celebrated by the Holy Father in front of 250,000 faithful on the morning of 12

September, with the participation of Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, some of whom were involved in the organization of the event.

These days were for all a solid foundation from which to start again in order to become collaborators in the spiritual rebirth for Europe called for by Cardinal Péter Erdő and Pope Francis.

Article written from a report received from Márk Aurél Érszegi, Secretary of the Lieutenancy for Hungary



The Order of the Holy Sepulchre collaborates in the spiritual rebirth of Europe called for by Cardinal Erdő in Budapest.



STORIES OF A GREAT HISTORY

Don Michele Bellino, Prior of the Order in Bari, offers us the opportunity to learn more about the action of the Grand Masters in the service of the Christian East. This autumn he tells us about Pius XI and the Order's mission in Palestine.

During the years of Pope Pius XI's pontificate (1922-1939), the vicissitudes of Palestine would continue to interest international diplomacy on the question of Jerusalem and the holy sites. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, with the mandate of Great Britain committing to the establishment of a national Jewish homeland in Palestine, is the plot around which the pontifical activity was to be woven.

Here are the words of Pope Ratti, during a speech to a consistory on 11 December 1922: ... *We are still very anxious about Palestine, about that blessed land... Now, since it seems that the Representatives of the Powers at the League of Nations will have to deal with Palestine again in the near future, we make Our own, as well as the protest, so the purpose of Our Predecessor: We want to ensure that when the mandate for Palestine is established, the rights of the Catholic and Christian Church are safeguarded...*¹

Pius XI's pastoral concern was to undertake activities that could support

Christians in Palestine, overcoming the idea of an evangelization that would forget the identities of the different communities. What choice did Pope Ratti make for the Order? The *Apostolic Letter* of 6 January 1928² indicates the reformist action that he outlined: ... *We desire that from now on the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the aforementioned 'Work for the Preservation of the Faith' in the Holy Places be joined and form almost a single body or institution under the government of the one Patriarch of Jerusalem.*

The task of the Work previously established by the Patriarch of Jerusalem was to deal with, "... in many ways, the increase and the safeguard of the Catholic Faith, promoting schools, publishing useful books, opening societies and clubs with the purpose of appropriate education or honest entertainment."

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Luigi Barlassina (1928-1947), took in hand the reorganization of the two institutions, in order to address the situation of Christians in Palestine. The choice of endorsing apostolate activities in Palestine, as a mission of the Knights and Dames, indicated the new path that the Order had to take in the contemporary age. It was no coincidence that the approval of the new ceremonial of 5 August 1931, by Pope Pius XI, indicated the "Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem." The city of Jerusalem was the key element of identity,



Pope Pius XI, who was Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, worked hard to support the Christians of the Holy Land.



but also the mission to be implemented, for the members of the Order. In one of the speeches that Pope Ratti addressed to Catholic university students, he urged them to study not only the history of the Catholic Church, but also that of the other churches, because this preparation would make them able to participate in the work for Unity: *"first of all we must know and love each other... If there are prejudices on both sides, let the*

*prejudices fall... sometimes fraternal piety is lacking, because knowledge is lacking."*³

¹ *"Nos velle ut cum maturitas Palestinae ordinandae venerit, Ecclesiae catholicae christianisque universis ibi salva et incolumia iura sint."* in ACTA APOSTOLICA SEDES (AAS), vol. XIV (1922), p. 609.

² AAS, vol. XX (1928), pp. 68-70.

³ PIO XI, *Discorso dell'8 gennaio 1927* in *Discorsi*, ed. D. BERTETTO, I, Torino 1961, p. 670.

“GOD MADE US DIFFERENT, SO THAT WE MIGHT BECOME FRIENDS, AND WE MIGHT LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

A conversation with Cardinal Matteo Maria Zuppi, archbishop of Bologna, after the G20 Interfaith Forum that took place in his diocese in September.

What did this G20 Interfaith Forum represent for Bologna and what relations do you have with the Foundation that coordinated the event?

Bologna's vocation is to be an economic and, above all, a cultural crossroads between north and south, east and west. It is a welcoming city, where the first university of the Western world was born. The urban architecture demonstrates this vocation with the famous arcades of the historical center, under which it is possible to walk sheltered from rain or sun. Bologna, therefore, invites to meeting and relationships. The G20 Interfaith Forum that we have just experienced confirms this vocation. The diocese has collaborated a lot with the John XXIII Foundation for Religious Sciences (FSCIRE) and with its secretary, my friend Professor

Alberto Melloni. We work together regularly, as witnesses to a presence in culture and history, also in connection with the faculty of theology and the university, desiring to find a common language. The challenge is to ensure that the opportunity for encounter not be separated from daily life. This G20 Interfaith Forum has chosen to encourage

Welcoming the G20 Interfaith Forum in Bologna, Cardinal Zuppi stressed the importance of living the dimension of respectful encounter of believers of different confessions on a daily basis.



exchanges between political and religious leaders, in order to offer an ethical contribution to the meeting of heads of state at the end of October in Rome. The fact that the Italian Prime Minister has decided to come to Bologna during those days attests to the fact that our "common home" needs a broader vision, one that is not only economic, but one that takes into account the human person in all his or her dimensions, both historical and eschatological. Positive secularity is not questioned, it must only enter into a respectful dialogue with religious realities, so that social harmony and unity in diversity may grow.

On the sidelines of the G20 Interfaith Forum, you celebrated the Eucharist with all the priests of your diocese in the church of San Domenico, where the body of the homonymous saint rests. What can this great figure of the Middle Ages tell us today about the theme of universal fraternity?

Dominic of Caleruega understood that here, in Bologna, the foundations of the future were being laid. He wanted his community to be present among the students at the university to enrich minds and form people through the light of faith that opens the heart to others. Few people know that St. Dominic rests in Bologna, yet his current message deserves to be emphasized in relation to this G20: he is the man of community, of fraternity.

The *Tavola della Mascarella* on which the first portrait of Dominic was painted shortly after his canonization – chosen this year as the symbol of the eighth centenary of the *Dies Natalis* of the saint – depicts him at the table with his brothers, whose faces evoke different ethnic origins. He lived in a period of transition and can deeply inspire us as we face the epochal changes we are going through.

On 11 September, in the church of Santo Stefano in Bologna – where there is a large reproduction of the



The reproduction of the Holy Sepulchre in Bologna symbolically marked the opening and closing of this great meeting of religious and political leaders as part of the G20 Interfaith Forum.

Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – the G20 Dialogue opened with an interreligious prayer for all the victims of those attacks perpetrated in places of worship. The G20 ended on September 14 – feast of the Holy Cross – with a concert in the same church, near the copy of the Holy Sepulchre that reminds everyone of the Holy Land. What meaning does this symbolic place have in your eyes?

When I go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, I love to sit alone at the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in the evening, praying for peace. The difficulty of living together in the Holy City is a permanent invitation to dialogue and peace. God made us different so that we might become friends, and we might love each other: this is the message of this G20 of dialogue and encounter.

Interview by François Vayne



Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

THE FALL MEETING OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

The fall meeting of the Grand Magisterium was held on October 20 in the form of a video conference, but with the participation in Palazzo della Rovere of some of the main authorities of the Order. In fact, the Grand Master, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, who chaired the meeting, and the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, who led the sessions, were joined by: the Assessor of the Order, Most Rev. Tommaso Caputo, Archbishop of Pompei; the Lieutenant General Prof. Agostino Borromeo, the Vice Governors Jean Pierre de Glutz Ruchti and Enric Mas; the

Chancellor Ambassador Alfredo Bastianelli; the Treasurer Dr. Saverio Petrillo; the President of the Juridical Commission Flavio Rondinini; and four members of the Grand Magisterium, Duke Leopoldo Torlonia, Mr. Luigi Giulianelli, Professor Helene Lund, and Mrs. Mary O'Brien.

In the morning the Cardinal Grand Master celebrated the Eucharist for the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Queen of Palestine in the church of Santo Spirito in Sassia, with the participation of many members of the Order.

In the early afternoon His Eminence opened the session of the Grand Magisterium by recalling his recent visits to the United States and the Principality of Monaco and the numerous meetings he had in Rome with members of the Grand Magisterium, Grand Priors, and Lieutenants who had come to meet him. These meetings gave the Grand Master the opportunity to emphasize that "the Church walks, it is not static and the Order walks with the Church". In light of this the path undertaken a few years ago reflects the



During the annual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Palestine, the Grand Master of the Order insisted the "true nobility to which we aspire... does not come from our lineage, but from the actions we perform and that situates each of us in the context of the highest charity." This celebration, which was broadcast live on the Order's Facebook page, preceded the Grand Magisterium meeting, which was held on the afternoon of October 20 at Palazzo della Rovere.





The fall meeting of the Order's Grand Magisterium, chaired by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, was held virtually. Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone directed this important meeting dedicated to the major current issues affecting the life of the Order in the service of the Holy Land, with the participation of the four Vice-Governors, including those of North America and Asia-Pacific, connected live through digital media.

invitation already addressed by Pope St. John Paul II to the Consulta of 2000 to "renew without losing the spirit of the Order." His Eminence then illustrated the main innovations introduced by the Constitution and the new Ritual, the result of a careful collective work, highlighting their meaning, which should also be read in the light of the booklet on the Spirituality of the Order that he wrote and distributed in all the vehicular languages.

The Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, then made his report, welcoming the three new members, Prince Hugo Windisch Graetz, Professor Helene Lund, and Mr. Luigi Giulianelli, and retracing the steps taken by the Grand Magisterium in the last semester, after the Spring meeting. Taking his cue from some of the Grand Master's themes, the Governor highlighted above all the strengthening of dialogue in this era of pandemic, and the efforts made in communication, to make known to the general public what the Order does for the Holy Land. On administrative matters, the Governor General reiterated the commitment to maximum transparency and the use of the most modern technologies to ensure the best efficiency.

The speech of the Latin Patriarch, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, (unable to be present in person) was read by the

Governor General. His Beatitude recalled the most significant events that have characterized the last year at the Latin Patriarchate and renewed the commitment of the Mother Church of Jerusalem, thanking the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for its closeness and generosity, also in view of the visit that the Cardinal Grand Master will make to the Holy Land in January for the solemn entrance in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Treasurer Dr. Saverio Petrillo then illustrated the Order's economic and financial management and presented for approval the budget for 2022, which foresees revenues of about 14 million Euros, of which more than 13 million Euros for works in the Holy Land and the remaining for the Order's institutional operating expenses. The latter expenses will soon be covered by the rent of the portion of Palazzo della Rovere designated as a hotel, enabling the Order to send to the Holy Land the entirety of the contributions received from the Lieutenancies.

This was followed by speeches from the Chief Executive Officer of the Latin Patriarchate, Sami El-Yousef, and from the President of the Commission for the Holy Land, Prof. Bart McGettrick who highlighted the difficulties encountered in the wake of the pandemic, but at the same time highlighted the generosity of the Order's members, who have contributed over 3 million Euros to the special Covid Fund.

The debate that followed touched on various topics, from the new Ritual to the expansion of the Order into new countries, from the opening to young people, to the resumption of pilgrimages, to the work in progress in the Palazzo della Rovere. The various reports and conclusions were sent in written form to all the Lieutenancies for their complete and exhaustive information.



BONIFACE VIII INTERNATIONAL PRIZE AWARDED TO CARDINAL FERNANDO FILONI

*What can the first Jubilee held
in Rome seven centuries ago
tell us today?*

The Grand Master of the Order was awarded the prize in the papal city of Anagni last July, in the presence of David Sassoli, President of the European Parliament. In his *Lectio Magistralis*, Cardinal Filoni centered his reflection on the first historic Jubilee of 1300, called by Pope Boniface VIII.

While the Holy Land had long been the foremost and favoured destination for pilgrims, the political-military landscape in the 1300s made it a hostile one. In fact, continued Cardinal Filoni, "the Holy Land in 1300, without the protection of Christian principles, still the scene of wars and further attempts at conquest, became a difficult destination to reach and beyond the possibilities of the majority of European faithful. Rome then became the centre of pilgrimages for the great multitude of men and women on a journey of faith and in search of penitential grace, attracted by the Eternal City," he said. "The Jubilee of 1300 actually remains the greatest ecclesiological act of Boniface VIII, all the more significant in the context of the numerous spiritual movements that demanded the reform of the Church and the papacy; the Jubilee was a response to this, born of the faith of the believers, and Rome represented the new 'Holy Land', a less complicated destination to reach for the pilgrim, if one thinks of the seas and unknown lands and not infrequently enemies to cross. The tombs of the Apostles Peter and Paul attracted the imagination of many, and the presence of the Successor of Peter impressed the faith of the pilgrim."



The Grand Master and the President of the European Parliament, David Sassoli, spoke at length on the Christian roots of Europe, during the ceremony to present the Boniface VIII International Award to Cardinal Fernando Filoni.

Today's context is certainly different, but even in 2021 we keenly feel in need of God's mercy and pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which is intrinsic to the Knights and Dames and at the heart of membership in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, is not easily achievable due to the complicated health and safety measures in place in nations across the world.

And yet, the experience of the Jubilee of 1300 which, starting from an objective difficulty, was able to follow the desire of the faithful and the impulse of the Spirit, teaches us that there are no boundaries to God's mercy. Even if for many it will not be possible to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land during these months, let us keep up our desire to be encountered by God in the situations of our lives, leaving the doors open to His grace that always finds a way to reach us.

Elena Dini



AN EXAMPLE OF ECCLESIAL FIDELITY AND SENSITIVITY

Death of Bishop Franco Croci, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy

A funeral Mass was celebrated on July 29 at the Altar of the Chair in St. Peter's for Bishop Franco Croci, who passed away at the age of 91. The sacred liturgy was presided over by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, with the participation of ten archbishops and bishops, including Most Rev. Edgar Peña Parra – *Sostituto* of the Secretariat of State – and Most Rev. Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States, as well as numerous priests. The Grand Magisterium was represented by the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, by the Treasurer Saverio Petrillo and by the Master of Ceremonies of the Order, Msgr. Fortunato Frezza. Also present were the Lieutenant for Central Italy, the President of the Lazio Section and the Prior of the Rome



section. "The amiability of the cordial and sincere trait" of Msgr. Croci "in human relations, his mildness and welcome, the deep faith that animated his every action, his love for the Pope and the Church" were recalled by Cardinal Fernando Filoni during the funeral celebration of the bishop who was secretary of the Prefecture for Economic Affairs of the Holy See from 1999 to 2007.

"In his pastoral solicitude, he also carried out a generous ministry at the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy, showing himself to be a pastor of singular spiritual calibre and capable of those subtleties of charity, typical of those who took the Gospel seriously," the Grand Master stressed, paying heartfelt homage to this humble and devoted servant of the Church.

 An advertisement for Barbiconi, a company established in 1825. The image shows a collection of ecclesiastical accessories: a white cape with a black collar and a red cross, a black sash with a red cross, a gold chain, a gold tassel, a black sash with a red cross, a gold tassel, a measuring tape, a pair of scissors, and a small box containing medals. The text on the right reads:

Barbiconi
 1825

**CAPES
 MEDALS
 ACCESSORIES**

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

f @barbiconi

RENEWAL OF THE MANDATE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TO PROFESSOR BORROMEO

Born in Oreno di Vimercate (Milan) in 1944, and member of the Grand Magisterium between 1995 and 2004, Agostino Borromeo held the office of Chancellor from 2002 to 2004 and then of Governor General from 2009 to 2017. In that year he was appointed by Cardinal Edwin O'Brien as Lieutenant General, succeeding Prof. Giuseppe Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto. A professor of Modern and Contemporary History of the Church and other Christian Confessions at La Sapienza University in Rome and a member of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences since 2001, he is the author of more than 180 publications mainly concerning the history of the papacy in the early modern age.



The Lieutenant General is the highest lay authority of the Order, and in accordance with the Constitution represents the Cardinal in events concerning the Order or when delegated by him; he also carries out any other task that the Cardinal Grand Master deems appropriate to entrust to him.

The Governor General Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, in expressing on his own behalf and on behalf of the Grand Magisterium his congratulations and best wishes to Prof. Borromeo,

declared that the renewal of his mandate fills with joy all the members of the Order, who appreciate his commitment during all these years and are glad to be able to avail themselves again of his experience and dedication.

LUIGI GIULIANELLI, NEW MEMBER OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

His Eminence the Cardinal Grand Master, after hearing the opinion of the Presidency of the Grand Magisterium, has appointed Luigi Giulianelli, Knight Grand Cross, member of the Grand Magisterium as of October 8, 2021. Contextually it has conferred to him the title of Lieutenant of Honour for Central Italy.

Born in Rome on February 22, 1944 and graduated in Engineering, Luigi Giulianelli has been a member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre since 1967. Promoted Commander in 1982 and Knight Commander with Star in 1990, Luigi Giulianelli



The Governor General of the Order in the company of the Lieutenant Emeritus for Central Italy, a new member of the Grand Magisterium.

was awarded the rank of Knight Grand Cross in 1996. In 2000 he received the Silver Palm and the Golden Palm in 2005.

Since 2004, he has held the position of Lay Master of Ceremonies and Chancellor of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy, before being called to direct it in 2017, succeeding Knight Grand Cross Saverio Petrillo, current treasurer of the Grand Magisterium, in the historic seat of Sant'Onofrio al Gianicolo.

The Lieutenancy for Central Italy is now headed by Anna Maria Iacoboni Munzi, Dame of the Order since 1991.



The Order and the Holy Land

APPOINTMENTS TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE

At the beginning of July, His Beatitude Patriarch Pizzaballa appointed Bishop William Shomali to assist him in leading the Diocese of Jerusalem as Vicar General, replacing him in Jordan with Father Jamal Khader, who becomes Patriarchal Vicar resident in Amman. In Israel, Father Rafic Nahra assumed the

position of new Patriarchal Vicar in Nazareth. By decision of the Patriarch, the new officer of the Vicariate responsible for migrants is Father Nikodemus Schnabel, a German Benedictine, while the chaplain of the Saint James Vicariate for Hebrew speaking Catholics is Father Piotr Zelazko, a Polish priest.

A SUMMER OF SPIRITUAL LIFE AND SOCIAL OCCASIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE HOLY LAND

Summer is a golden opportunity for young people to find the space and time to focus on their faith life, and in the Latin Patriarchate this is judiciously and steadfastly accompanied by the pastors of the various churches that belong to the Diocese of Jerusalem and by the priests who support the group Youth of Jesus' Homeland Palestine (YJHP).

While carefully observing health and safety measures dictated by the current pandemic, 22 parishes in Jordan, 2 in Israel and 7 in Palestine organized a summer camp for children and young people this summer. This allowed them to spend time together and devote themselves to their spiritual formation as well as recreational activities such as workshops, theatre and drama, sports, games and dance at the end of a year during which socializing was not always possible.

The Knights and Dames of the Order of

the Holy Sepulchre are happy to have been able to financially support these initiatives with about 120,000\$ through the fund for pastoral activities thanks to which the local population can take concrete steps to nourish and strengthen their faith.

As well as over thirty parish summer camps, in July YJHP organized an additional summer camp for young workers and in August for the university students at the Cremisan Monastery in Beit Jala. The theme of the 4 days was "Where do we go from here?" (*Halla la Wain*), encouraging the 70 young men and women already in the working world to reflect on the challenges of faith facing them today through the experience of biblical figures such as Abraham and Mary. Discussions also addressed hot topics such as abortion, euthanasia and bullying, as well as self-esteem and love as a couple.

The experience of the young university



The Order of the Holy Sepulchre - thanks to donations from its members, regularly sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem - supports the human and spiritual growth of young people in the Holy Land from a distance.



students was similar but focused on the theme of the sacraments: "My faith x 7" was the title chosen in reference to the number of sacraments that were rediscovered during the days of the retreat as a fundamental support for the Christian faith.

Trips, moments of relaxation among games and dances, accompanied by conferences on specific topics, all nourished by Eucharistic celebrations and moments of

prayer, spoke to the hearts of these young people, reinvigorating them ahead of the resumption of the academic and working year after the summer break.

From a distance we continue to joyfully support the path of human and spiritual growth of these young people, deeply grateful for the opportunity we have – through the contributions we send – to be able to help the realization of these important moments in the life of faith.

THE FUNDAMENTAL MISSION OF THE SCHOOLS OF THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE

Over the summer, Patriarch Pizzaballa shared new appointments in his diocese. Among them was that of Father Yacoub Rafidi, called to serve as director of the Latin Patriarchate's schools in Palestine, after serving these past four years as rector of Beit Jala Seminary. After his appointment, we asked Father Yacoub Rafidi a few questions in his new capacity.

How are you approaching your new position as director of schools in Palestine and what are the main challenges you will face in the years to come?

I found a well-organized administrative and financial management of the schools,

where we work in a team spirit. Upon my arrival, I visited all the institutes with the administrative team, except Gaza (we are waiting for Israeli authorization). We visited with the curate, discussing the strengths and weaknesses of his school. We listened to him, so that he could share the



responsibility with us. Afterwards, we met with the directors – to whom I outlined ideas and goals on which we will work in the coming year – the administrators, teachers, and students.

Together with the administrative team, I try to focus on three main points:

- paying attention to school infrastructure, through periodic interventions throughout the year and the definition of development projects;
- strengthen capacity building, through various courses for principals and teachers in all disciplines;
- considering aspects that can help reduce the deficit, without compromising the quality of the education system.

What does the new year look like for



Father Rafidi – former director of Beit Jala Seminary – currently directs all the schools in Palestine run by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, institutions historically linked to the pastoral care of local parishes.

students?

The students have welcomed the new school year with excitement after the long period at home due to Covid-19. In addition, they are very excited to meet up again with friends they missed during the past year. The local directorates were perfectly prepared, welcoming students on the first day of class with special

events and activities. On the first week, all schools celebrated Mass to open the year.

However, the health situation remains difficult - this is a big challenge for us and our schools.

What are the successes and strengths of youth education through Patriarchate facilities that you have already experienced?

GUCCIONE
 SINCE 1975
 DECORATIONS OF KNIGHTLY ORDERS

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

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Over the summer, maintenance work was done so that all schools were ready for the new year with modern furniture and electronic devices for distance learning. In addition, we appointed several teachers.

Our institutes help to form good believers and good citizens, in a healthy human, educational, and pedagogical environment that helps to build bridges and develop society. Another strength is the willingness to welcome students when schools reopen in a professional manner, especially with the efforts to adapt to the current health situation. In the summer, a variety of courses were organized for teachers, with the aim of expanding skills

and abilities, as well as improving their performance.

This year, we will focus particularly on the kindergartens in all our schools, taking care of the teaching staff, furniture, and buildings.

Such a mission and such important work in the schools of the Latin Patriarchate would be impossible to accomplish without the support and partnership of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, whom we thank and to whom we extend our gratitude for all the material, moral and spiritual support they offer to our institutions.

Interview by Elena Dini

A NEW APOSTOLIC NUNCIO IN THE HOLY LAND

On Thursday, September 30, Msgr. Adolfo Tito Yllana made his solemn entrance at the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, accompanied by the Christian religious authorities of the Holy Land. This important moment marked, as per tradition, the official welcome of the newly appointed apostolic nuncio to Israel and Cyprus and apostolic delegate to Jerusalem and Palestine.



The new representative of the Holy See in the Holy Land is a Filipino diplomat, former Apostolic Nuncio in Australia. He has worked on behalf of papal diplomacy on several continents.

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The Life of the Lieutenancies

In this column dedicated to the local life of the Order, we have chosen to share some articles received from the Lieutenancies, which tell us about the events that have taken place in the last few months, following the easing of health restrictions related to the pandemic.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY DURING HEALTH CRISIS REVEALED “THE VALUE OF A RESILIENT COMMUNITY”

Cardinal Reinhard Marx – Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Germany – presided over the Investiture ceremony of twenty-three new Knights and Dames in the Order.

Attracting new members for our Order is a particular challenge in times of pandemic. Lieutenant Michael Schnieders was pleased that on 29 May the German Lieutenancy was at least able to offer a shortened version of the celebrations, which otherwise last several days, while still adhering to the health regulations. This time, the emphasis was exclusively on the solemn Investiture of the new members during a beautiful mass.

The Lieutenant emphasizes: “The organizers had to demonstrate maximum flexibility, since

the restrictions imposed by the state and the municipalities changed several times during the planning.” The organizing delegation *Regina Coeli* in Spire / Kaiserslautern took up the challenge with equal joy and success: instead of the 500 to 800 participants who



usually gathered for the Investiture ceremonies before the Covid pandemic, this time only 100 people were able to attend. The celebration in the Spire Cathedral was held in a simple but dignified manner in a single day, in observance of the rules of spacing and wearing the obligatory mask.

The approximately 1,400 other members who make up the Order in Germany – as well as relatives of the candidates who were unable to enter the cathedral due to limited numbers – had the opportunity to watch the Investiture ceremony from their home screens. The Catholic television station EWTN televised and streamed the celebration live directly from the church. The Delegations and home sections of the candidates held parallel smaller scale

events in order to spiritually accompany the new members of the Order through prayer.

The ten Dames and thirteen Knights who received the Investiture of our Order were deeply moved and happy. The Lieutenant commented, "This time, we had to limit ourselves to the essentials of the ceremony. Although we regretted not being able to hold a reception or communal meal due to the pandemic, this essential part of the Investiture proved to be brighter than ever for all involved and for demonstrating the value of a community that can stand strong, supporting others even in difficult times."

**Article taken from a report submitted
by Susanne Schumacher
Press Officer of the
Lieutenancy for Germany**

A BEAUTIFUL INVESTITURE IN BERN

For all of us, it was important to hold this Investiture after having to cancel one last year, for the first time in the seventy-year history of our Lieutenancy. In today's uncertain times, we have had to learn to give up many things. That is why we feel even more grateful to have been able to welcome twenty-two Knights and Dames into the Order in a dignified manner last June 5. The people present joined in prayer with all those who did not have the opportunity to travel to Bern. Emphasis was placed on the uniqueness of the moment of investiture, marked by its



own deep and palpable spirituality and great joy.

**Article taken from a report sent by
Donata Maria Krethlow-Benziger
Lieutenant for Switzerland**



NEW MEMBERS OF THE ORDER WELCOMED IN BIRMINGHAM

The Lieutenancy for England and Wales generally holds two Investitures each year, one in early summer and the other in the Fall. They are both generally held in Southwark Cathedral, London, where the Lieutenancy is based, but periodically we move out of London and hold Investitures in other cities to emphasise that we are a one nation Lieutenancy.

Three years ago we were in Liverpool and on 25-26 June this year we were in Birmingham. We had cancelled the three previous Investitures because of the Covid pandemic and resisted doing them on-line or in small groups within the Sections, principally because although each of our eight individual Sections

has a very active life, our two Investiture weekends are the only occasions when we all get together annually, and are therefore the two highlights of our year.

It was not clear for many months beforehand whether we would actually be able to go ahead in Birmingham, and we were making decisions knowing that we may be required to make changes or even cancel at very short notice. Our new Grand Prior, the Archbishop of Southwark, John Wilson, was appointed about two years ago but had never yet conducted an Investiture.

He was anxious to do so and meet members for the first time, and they were also eager to meet their new Grand Prior.

We were only allowed eighty people in the congregation in the cathedral. Eleven Knights and Dames were invested in total; three Knights, four Dames and four



Ecclesiastics. Over two days we celebrated with them and enjoyed their company as new friendships were formed. They had been waiting for this moment for so long, and were so grateful that their admission into the Order had finally arrived. Despite the restrictions of the pandemic, the Lieutenancy is very much alive and active in so many ways.

**Article taken from a report sent by
Michael David Byrne
Lieutenant for England and Wales**



NEW EXPERIENCES OF COMMUNION AMONG THE LIEUTENANCIES AND WITH THE HOLY LAND

The Lieutenancy for England and Wales normally organises two pilgrimages each year to the Holy Land, but obviously because of the Covid pandemic, the last four have been cancelled, and it is presently hoped that we can resume in May next year, but that is very much subject to health and safety conditions in Israel, Palestine and Jordan at the time. So instead we organised a "virtual pilgrimage" with streamed masses from the Holy Land, prayers, reflections and biblical videos from one of our tour guides we have got to know so well over the years. This was a completely new venture.

The first one was spread over eight days, and based upon this experience we organised a second one which was quite different in scope and execution.

This second "virtual experience" was quite different from the previous one in many ways. For the first time ever, we decided to invite other Lieutenancies to join us, and so this virtual pilgrimage was a joint collaborative effort between the Lieutenancies for England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and Gibraltar and also the Magistral Delegation for South Africa, with input from all five of us.

All five Grand Priors gave us a reflection about a different day of Holy Week, and Archbishop Arthur Roche, now Head of the Congregation for Divine Worship, gave us a reflection

on Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper in the tradition of Passover.

Easter Mass was streamed from Jubeiha. The number of participants who contributed around the world was truly impressive; three cardinals, seven archbishops, four bishops and many priests. The international participation of so many people gave a real sense of unity amongst Knights and Dames with the people of Jordan even though we could not actually be with them. The week ended with a video reflection on the Resurrection on Easter Sunday by the Grand Master, Cardinal Filoni.

Our "virtual pilgrimages" would not have happened but for the pandemic, and illustrate that there are always ways forward even if not as originally planned. We began by thinking these pilgrimages were second best and could not really replace actually visiting the "living stones" themselves, but



we very soon came to realise that this was not so as they took on a life and identity of their own, even if it is true that nothing can replace the reality of being actually present in the Holy Land.

These pilgrimages cost nothing and reached out to many more people than would probably actually travel out on pilgrimage. They allowed people to participate, who through either age or infirmity or other reasons had either never been to the Holy Land or recognised that their days of international travel were over. Our elderly and sick Knights and Dames were particularly appreciative, and as with all of us, found them a very moving and

spiritual experience. We had clearly been led by the Holy Spirit into the realms of twenty first century technology. We felt very close to both the Christians in the Holy Land, and also to each other around the world, and it has made us think how different Lieutenancies might continue to cooperate with each other.

We have now learned by experience, and hope that the friendships and cooperation forged on these pilgrimages will continue amongst us.

**Article taken from a report sent by
 Michael David Byrne
 Lieutenant for England and Wales**

FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE AT AN INVESTITURE IN THE UNITED STATES

The Northern Lieutenancy USA has over two thousand members. On August 20 - 23, 2021, it held its annual meeting of Investiture in Sioux Falls. Over 500 people attended, which included 66 new Investees, and 116 members that were promoted in rank for their continued support of the Equestrian Order and the

Christians in the Holy Land. Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Lieutenancy Prior, along with Bishop Donald DeGrood, host Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, celebrated the liturgies and the ceremonies.

**Article extracted from a report sent by
 Shawn Timothy Cleary
 Lieutenant for USA Northern**



The Investiture ceremonies are also an opportunity for the Knights and Dames to discuss in the assembly current issues concerning the Holy Land and the internal life of the Order, especially with regard to the implementation of the Constitution and the new Ritual.



A DAY OF PRAYER AND FRATERNAL LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

Last September 11 2021, the Australia Queensland Lieutenancy welcomed new members of the Order at a ceremony at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane.

The ceremony, following the new Order of Service as issued by the Grand Master this year, followed the Vigil which was held the previous night at St. Stephen's Chapel in the grounds of the Cathedral precinct. The new Knights and Dames were welcomed by the Lieutenant.

Our Vice Governor-General Dr Paul Bartley KGCHS was present to acknowledge the new Knights and Dame with the presentation of the Word of God.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the new Investees and their families and friends as

well as the Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy enjoyed the fellowship at a luncheon.

It was a day of prayer and commitment to the Order in Australia.

**Article taken from a report sent by
Monica Thomson
Lieutenant for Australia Queensland**



NEARLY SIXTY NEW MEMBERS IN FRANCE

From September 24-26, 2021, the Lieutenancy for France celebrated its Investitures in the southwest of the country, in Bayonne, in the Basque region near the Spanish border. The distance did not prevent about 200 Knights and Dames from coming to celebrate the 57 candidates, including two bishops: Msgr. Marc Aillet, bishop of Bayonne, and Msgr. Patrick Le Gal, auxiliary bishop of Lyon. In view of the health situation, the Investitures planned in 2020 that had been postponed could not be

held, which explains the high number of new Knights and Dames this year. Moreover, despite its large size, the cathedral could not accommodate all the candidates, so some aspirants will have to be patient until next year's Investitures in Paris.

The various ceremonies were particularly heartfelt around Msgr. Aubertin, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy - who presided over the liturgies - and our Lieutenant, General Faugère. Msgr. Marcuzzo - representing the Patriarch - has honored us





with his presence. He affectionately congratulated the new Knights and Dames, stressing that each of us is part of the Church of Jerusalem. During the chapter, Jean-Pierre de Glutz-Ruchti – Vice Governor General of the Order – reminded us of the growing need for help of Christians in the Holy Land and more generally in the Middle East: it is necessary for the Order to mobilize itself more and more. After the Investitures, the charity dinner with 350 guests – including several foreign Lieutenants – allowed us to raise funds in favor of the institute 'Effetà-Paolo VI' in Bethlehem, which welcomes and educates young Palestinians with hearing disabilities.

After long months in which many activities were cancelled, it is therefore with great fraternal joy that the members of the Lieutenancy could finally meet! They are now eagerly awaiting the reopening of the borders to go back to the Holy Land, to their brothers of the Mother Church in Jerusalem.

Stéphane Lancereaux
 Lieutenancy for France



The Bishop of Bayonne was welcomed into the Order of the Holy Sepulchre during the Investiture ceremony of the Lieutenancy for France last September.



THE PRINCE OF MONACO KNIGHT OF THE COLLAR OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

The Investiture ceremonies of the dynamic Lieutenancy for Monaco were presided over by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, on October 1 and 2, in the presence of Msgr. Dominique-Marie David, Archbishop of Monaco and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, who was in charge of the homily during the vigil of arms. Prince Albert II - who attended the Investiture mass in Monaco's cathedral on October 2 - received the Cardinal in his palace, accompanied by Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, Chancellor Alfredo Bastianelli, Lieutenant for Monaco Dr. Hubert Perrin and members of a small delegation of the Order. The Sovereign conducted an informative meeting, after which he spoke with the Grand Master, before the latter presented him with the insignia of "Knight of the Collar" of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as a sign of gratitude for the activities carried out in the Holy Land by the Principality of Monaco. In turn, Prince Albert conferred on Cardinal Filoni a high honor of the Order of Grimaldi. The visit was also marked by the

delivery of a check in support of the Order's projects and a lunch in the Palace gardens. We will describe this historic meeting extensively in our annual magazine, *The Jerusalem Cross*, to be published next spring.



The Prince of Monaco received the insignia of Knight of the Collar from Cardinal Fernando Filoni, during a visit to the Prince's Palace, which was also attended by the Governor General Visconti di Modrone and Chancellor Bastianelli.

FESTAL DAYS FOR THE ORDER IN MADRID

In mid-October, the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, attended the Investiture Ceremony of the Lieutenancy for Western Spain in the Royal Basilica of San Francisco el Grande in Madrid, celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Carlos Amigo y Vallejo. On this occasion he met with the three Iberian Lieutenants: Jose Carlos Sanjuan y Monforte, Juan Carlos de Balle y Comas and Bartolomeu da Costa Cabral.

In his speech at the subsequent gala dinner at the Hotel Riu Plaza de España, the Governor General stressed that the current renewal in the Order is not intended to erase the past, of which the Order should be proud, but to revitalize an ancient institution so that it can successfully meet the challenges of the future.

