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Message from the Grand Master

AN ANNIVERSARY TO REMEMBER: *NULLA CELEBRIOR*

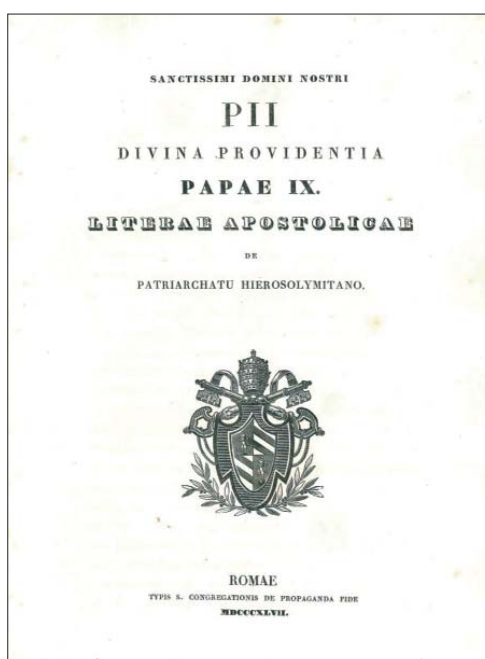
"For Christians there is no city more famous, no region better known than the City of Jerusalem and Palestine."

With these words Blessed Pope Pius IX began, "a perpetua memoria", the Apostolic Letter *Nulla Celebrior*, with which on July 23, 1847, after mature and long consideration, he decided to restore ("restituimus") the Patriarchate and the Latin Patriarch's jurisdiction over Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

In the Letter the Pope recalls the sacredness of the places where the Lord lived and died and the veneration of Christians for them, and remarks on how already the Council of Nicaea (325 A.D.), in canon 7, had established that everywhere the Bishop of Jerusalem and his Church should be held in high honour [Jerusalem, as Patriarchal See would later be erected at the Council of Chalcedon (451 A.D.)]. He adds, moreover,

that after long and serious historical events, when the European Princes [11th century] liberated Jerusalem and established a Kingdom there, the Apostolic See began to appoint Latin Patriarchs [to distinguish them from the Greek Patriarchs because of the

schism of 1054; until that date the Greek Patriarch had been in communion with Rome]. The institution of the Latin Patriarchate was later confirmed by the Fourth Lateran Council at the time of Innocent III (1215). Further historical events, writes the Pope, soon prevented the Latin Patriarchs from exercising their pastoral care in the Holy Land, which is why the Roman Pontiffs, without interrupting their appointment, exonerated them from residing there. Now, the Pontiff adds, considering the needs of Religion and pastoral necessities, and having had the desire, from the moment



Thanks to the Apostolic Letter Nulla Celebrior, Pius IX restored the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and the Holy Land 175 years ago.

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of his ascent to the Chair of Peter, to restore the ancient See of Jerusalem, comforted by the Cardinal Fathers and trusting in divine grace, in the second year of this pontificate, with the authority that is proper to him, he intended to reconstitute the Patriarchate of the Holy Land with the obligation of residence for the Patriarch himself, to whom he entrusted the pastoral care of the faithful and pilgrims, hitherto entrusted to the Franciscans, as well as whatever else would be decided by the Congregation de Propaganda Fide [on whom it was territorially dependent at the time; shortly afterwards, in the same year, the Pope appointed Giuseppe Valerga as the new Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem].



A procession led by the Patriarch in Jerusalem at the time.



The Papal Letter was followed by the Instruction (December 10, 1847) of the same Congregation, which, in Article 8, dealt with "the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre" and established that they fell under the authority of the Latin Patriarch, both for the granting of honours and for the collection of financial subsidies, to be paid into the Alms Fund for the support of the Holy Land.

It is a pleasure to recall this historical chapter based on these two documents on the occasion of the 175th anniversary of their publication; they remind us of a very significant moment in the life of our Order. Motivation and historical memory allow us not only to reflect on the past, but also to revive the love nourished by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre for the Mother Church

VIII. Omnibus pariter in suo robore permanentibus, quae circa Equites S. Sepulcri alias fuerunt sancita, quaeque diligentissime erunt observanda; decretum est gradus huiusmodi collationem privative ad Patriarcham spectare. Ipse vero ea potestate utatur in favorem tantum illorum, qui vitae integritate praestiterint, bene de Religione fuerint promeriti; aliaque prae se ferant requisita ad honorem illum obtinendum. Subsidia tamen quae ab Equitibus suppeditantur in causam Eleemosynarum pro oneribus terrae Sanctae de more conferantur.

The Papal Letter was followed by the Instruction which – in Article 8 – spoke of the "Knights of the Holy Sepulchre" and established that they depended on the authority of the Latin Patriarch for the collection of financial aid to be paid into the alms chest, destined for the support of the Holy Land.

of Jerusalem, as well as its solicitude and moral bond that stretches back to apostolic times, when the Apostle Paul, in times of particular calamity, persecution and famine, asked the communities of Antioch, Greece, Galatia and Macedonia to remember the "saints"

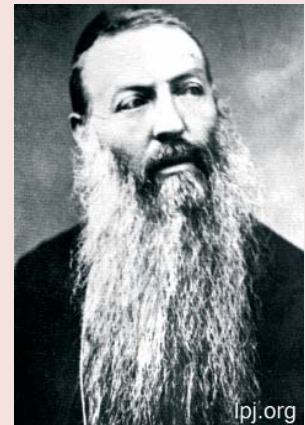
(i.e. Christians) in Jerusalem and to hold collections, which the Apostle himself later described as extremely generous. The Order still intends to respond to this commitment today by appealing to the munificence of Knights and Dames from all over the world, who, during their pilgrimage to the Holy Land, can visit some of the charitable works they support.

Charity cannot be extinguished; it is an eternal fire that has its source in the heart of the risen Christ.

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

MONSIGNOR VALERGA, THE RECONSTITUTING PATRIARCH

Giuseppe Valerga, born in Liguria on April 9, 1813, was the first Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem after the reconstitution of the Patriarchate by Pius IX in 1847. A doctor of theology and professor at the College of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith (now the Dicastery for the Evangelisation of Peoples), he became secretary to the Apostolic Delegate for Syria, Aleppo and Mesopotamia. After becoming Vicar General for Mesopotamia, he was consecrated Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem on October 10, 1847 by Pius IX himself. From the moment of his consecration until his death, he was also Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. He initiated the project to build the Latin co-cathedral, seat of the Latin Patriarchate, and the Beit Jala seminary, for the formation of future priests from the Holy Land. He actively participated in the First Vatican Council with a missionary spirit. He died of typhus in 1872 and is buried under the altar of St Joseph in the co-cathedral, where pilgrims still today flock to pray for this renowned and holy figure.



The Order in Union with the Universal Church

A VERY SIGNIFICANT CONSISTORY FOR THE ORDER

Among the 20 new cardinals, several are members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. They are: His Eminence Fortunato Frezza, Master of Ceremonies of the Grand Magisterium of the Order, ordained a bishop in St. Peter's Basilica on July 23; His Eminence Arthur Roche, Prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments; His Eminence Robert Walter McElroy, Bishop of San Diego; His Eminence Oscar Cantoni, Bishop of Como; and His Eminence Arrigo Miglio, Archbishop Emeritus of Cagliari.

On the afternoon of August 27, a delegation of about 150 Knights and Dames gathered at Palazzo della Rovere, led by the Governor General, before departing in procession to St. Peter's Basilica to attend the Consistory celebration during which the Master of Ceremonies of the Grand Magisterium, His Eminence Fortunato Frezza, was created Cardinal.

The new Cardinal sent a message of thanks to the Knights and Dames gathered in Rome that day, saying in particular: "My [receiving] the scarlet red is only an occasion of our sense of communion with each other, with the Pope, for the Church of the risen Lord Jesus, whom we love to worship at his empty tomb". During the Consistory celebration, the Holy Father insisted on the "fire that Jesus came to 'cast upon the earth', and that the Holy Spirit also kindles in the hearts, hands and feet of those who follow him, the fire of Jesus, the fire that Jesus brings." "Dear brother Cardinals, by the light and in the strength of this fire walk the holy and faithful people from whom we were taken - we, taken from the people of God - and to



*The procession of Knights and Dames led by the Governor General towards St. Peter's Basilica on the occasion of the Consistory where five members of the Order were created cardinal.
 Left: The Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone congratulating His Eminence Fortunato Frezza on behalf of all the members of the Order.*



whom we have been sent as ministers of Christ the Lord," he said, encouraging them to love the Church "always with that same spiritual fire, whether dealing with great questions or handling everyday problems, with the powerful of this world – which he often has to do –, or those ordinary people who are great in God's eyes." During the courtesy visits in the Hall of Blessings of the Apostolic Palace, the Lieutenant General,

the Governor General, the Vice-Governors for North America, Europe and Latin America, as well as members of the Grand Magisterium, numerous Lieutenants and many members of the Order, surrounded His Eminence Cardinal Frezza, assuring him of their communion in thanksgiving, before moving on to warmly congratulate the other four Cardinal members of the Order.

FIVE WOUNDS AND FIVE LOAVES

A meditation by cardinal Fortunato Frezza imagining the spiritual reflection of a young Knight of the Order leaving for his first pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

I am at the airport waiting to leave for my first pilgrimage to Jerusalem as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. A few young men approach me, surprised by my badge that I sport on the lapel of my jacket: a large red cross with four other smaller ones of the same shape and colour.

Then I begin: five wounds, five loaves. The intention is to communicate a few lines of the Order's spirituality. I immediately recall the prayer, which places on the lips of the Knights and Dames, among others, these words: "by your five wounds that we carry on our insignia, we pray to you: give us the strength to love".

Wounds and love: How is it possible? To wound a body means to hurt it by tearing, not simply to puncture or pierce. A sore is a wound extended by tearing, which from the internal fleshy tissue

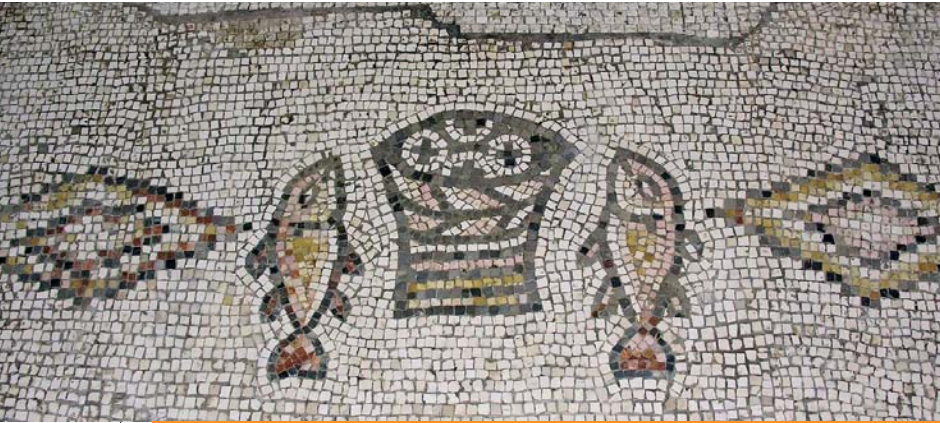
eventually surfaces on the skin, showing itself in its bloody visibility. At first impact it provokes revulsion, repulsion, a reminder of a hatred that has raged over the body of a victim. If the wound is produced by hatred, one would find it hard to believe that a call of love is to be found in that act.

Dante is not enough: *amor che a nullo amato amar perdona*, (Love, which absolves no one beloved from loving) if it is true that receiving love leads, as if by imposition, to loving again. Love, as such, cannot forgive, that is, dispense from the duty to love again. Love bears by law the cogent obligation to love in return. Nor does Iacopone da Todi suffice: *O Segnor, per cortesia, manname la malsania*, as an expression of the quest to suffer for atonement. Nor do Montale's verses satisfy: *I have descended, giving you my arm, at least a million stairs / and now that you are not there is emptiness at every*

"God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. By his wounds we have been healed"
 (John 3:16; Isaiah 53:5).

Illustration: The five wounds with the symbols of the Passion, Germany, 15th century (National Gallery of Art, Washington DC).





"The Cross strengthened with love and sacrifice" this is how Cardinal Frezza describes the emblem of the Knights and Dames, called upon to share the five loaves like the young man of the Gospel, to make it possible for them to be multiplied in the name of Christ's love for humanity. Illustration: mosaic of the sanctuary of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes in Tabgha (5th - 6th century AD).

step, with that emptiness that is only nostalgia of love.

Another book comes to my mind: *God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. By his wounds we have been healed* (John 3:16; Isaiah 53:5). Then I understand that love heals the beloved with wounds. Wounds, which by love heal other wounds, are no longer an absurdity. They are the praxis of God's love, gratuitous love, love to the end, wounded love, love sick with love (*Song of Songs* 2:5). Wounds and love, therefore, are not opposed to each other, they do not exclude each other, they have mutual attraction. There is a mutual inwardness between them.

But can Knights and Dames, who pray invoking love in the name of the Risen Lord's wounds, really aspire to this highly divine way of loving? There is one detail to bear in mind. They say that those wounds are worn on the insignia, on the left side of the cloak, on the heart! Jesus, even when resurrected, displayed the sores on his body when he emerged from the tomb, as signs of a trophy of victory for love over death. Now those wounds are cherished by those who wear them on their insignia, because their love is also love of gratuitousness, in imitation of that of the Lord.

These are the two pillars of the Order's spirituality: resurrection and gratuitousness. Because the empty tomb announces the resurrection, and gratuitousness is proper to people, who are not paid, yet pay their own way, as the Knights and Dames do. The very name, the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, indicates the

cornerstone of its spirituality, the empty tomb of the Lord, the place where the glory of the resurrection is celebrated in a special way.

The doctrine of the Second Vatican Council teaches that "every lay person must be before the world a witness to the resurrection and life of the Lord Jesus, and a sign of the living God" (*Lumen Gentium*, IV, 38).

This is true for every lay person, even more so for the Order, which could be designated as an Order of the Resurrection, and commits its Members to the faith of the resurrection through the witness of gratuitous charity towards the Church of the Holy Land.

Jesus himself adopted this method of calling to help the large crowds that followed him on the roads of Palestine: Where can we buy bread for so many people? Here a boy has five loaves and two fish (*John* 6:9). A providential presence for the prodigy of multiplication! How and why that boy had such goods to offer in his bag and how he himself was discovered in the midst of so many people, we do not know, but Jesus took that bountiful and loaf freely offered from his hands to make a miracle of it.

How beautiful it would be if a crowd of young people followed in this spirit the mission of the Order with their five loaves, which would become the vital contribution of the Knights and Dames, as an emblem to be worn on the mantle and on the heart, a cross strengthened by love and sacrifice!

Five wounds, five loaves: so much pain, so much love!

The flight is over. We land in Tel Aviv. The boys, proud of their peer, still stare at the lapel of my jacket with a new light in their eyes, as mine shine with anticipation. We bid each other farewell, they go their way. I, like Peter and John, run anxiously to the Sepulchre.

Fortunato Cardinal Frezza



THE ORDER PART OF A “SYMPHONY OF CHARITY” WITHIN ROACO

The 95th Plenary Assembly of ROACO

(Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Oriental Churches) took place from June 20 to 23, 2022 at Casa La Salle in Rome. It was chaired by Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, with the

participation of the Apostolic Nuncio in Israel and Cyprus and Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine, Monsignor Adolfo Tito Yllana, Father Francesco Patton, Custos of the Holy Land, and the Vice Rector of Bethlehem University, Brother Peter Bray. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre was represented by Governor General Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.

The debate highlighted the persistence of



The Order participates every year in the ROACO Plenary Assembly, chaired by the Prefect of the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches.

problems for the Catholic community in the Holy Land, such as the economic repercussions of the health crisis, the escalation of tension in Gaza, the danger of the marginalisation of the Israeli-Palestinian issue and the irreversibility of the Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories.

After an extraordinary session dedicated to Ukraine, the projects for the second half of 2022 were taken over by the various ROACO member organisations. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre pledged to finance projects in the Holy Land for a total of ?234,500, mainly for the restoration of places of worship and parish halls for Greek Melkite Catholics of the Byzantine rite.

During the audience granted to the Plenary Assembly, Pope Francis spoke of the “symphony of charity” developed by the Dicastery for the Eastern Churches, together with those who make up ROACO. “In setting up the symphony of charity, continue to seek agreement and flee every temptation of isolation and closure in oneself and in one’s own groups,” the Holy Father emphasised, encouraging the participants to “keep your eyes fixed on the icon of the Good Samaritan”.



His Excellency Ambassador Visconti di Modrone – Governor General – greeted the Holy Father on behalf of all the members of the Order, assuring him of their prayers for his health.



Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

THE GRAND MASTER OF THE ORDER RECEIVES THE “MAN OF RECONCILIATION AND PEACE 2022” AWARD

Before receiving the award in Poland, Cardinal Filoni held two important conferences in Paris and Rome on the culture of encounter.

On June 24, in Gdynia, a Polish city in the archdiocese of Gdansk, the Grand Master of the Order celebrated a Mass for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, with a large and devout participation of Knights and Dames from Gdansk and the surrounding area. The following day, the Archdiocese of Gdansk presented him with the “Man of Reconciliation and Peace 2022” award.

The previous month, after presiding over the Investiture of the Lieutenancy for

Switzerland and Liechtenstein, in Lugano, the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre travelled to Paris at the invitation of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces to give an important lecture on interreligious dialogue, in the light of his experience in the Middle East, on the occasion of a colloquium organised by the Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan Military Academy. On the sidelines of this event, held at the Military Academy, Cardinal Filoni was received at the Collège des Bernardins. The director of this Parisian Catholic institute of theological

studies, Laurent Landete, showed His Eminence the extraordinary virtual exhibition on Notre-Dame de Paris. Also at the Bernardins, the Grand Master gave a long interview to the “Figaro”, the leading French daily newspaper, before going to the headquarters of the French Episcopal Conference (CEF) where he discussed the Order’s universal mission with Jean-Christophe Peaucelle, Advisor for Religious Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and then with Msgr. Eric de Moulins-Beaufort and Fr. Hugues de Woillemont, respectively President and Secretary General of the CEF. During these two days, the Cardinal celebrated Mass in the



The awarding of the “Man of Reconciliation and Peace” prize to Cardinal Filoni during a ceremony in Gdansk, Poland.



Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Rue du Bac, and the next day in the Martyrs' Crypt, at the Missions Étrangères de Paris (MEP). He also visited the Sainte Chapelle, built on the Ile de la Cité at the behest of St Louis to house the relics of Christ's Passion, in particular the Crown of Thorns.

On his return from Paris, on May 30, Cardinal Filoni was invited to the Senate of the Italian Republic in Rome, for a talk organised in the prestigious Sala Zuccari of Palazzo Giustiniani, where the Constitution was signed.

The event highlighted the figure of a giant of medieval history, Emperor Frederick II, the first modern statesman, protector of the arts and poetry and creator of the culture of encounter between different cultures, in



The Grand Master of the Order was invited to a conference in France organised by the Military Academy of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan, during which he spoke about his pastoral experience in the Middle East.

particular Jewish and Arab. The President of the Centro Studi Federico II of Palermo, Giuseppe Di Franco, coordinated the event, together with Mario Nanni, parliamentary journalist and writer, who moderated the debates.

During this important colloquium, the Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre developed the theme "Papacy and Empire: Visions between faith and politics", recounting in particular how access to Jerusalem was opened to Christians, without resorting to arms, only thanks to the dialogue and friendship between Frederick II and Sultan Malik al-Kamil, thanks to the Treaty of Jaffa signed on February 11, 1229, which then favoured the creation of the Custody of the Holy Places of the Holy Land and later also the birth of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

François Vayne



During a conference held in a prestigious hall of the Italian Senate, Cardinal Filoni recounted how access to Jerusalem was only made possible for Christians thanks to the dialogue and friendship between Frederick II and Sultan Malik al-Kamil, through the Treaty of Jaffa signed on February 11, 1229, which favoured the creation of the Custody of the Holy Places of the Holy Land and later the birth of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.



THE NORTH AMERICAN LIEUTENANTS' MEETING IN PASADENA

For the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, the Grand Master and Governor General were able to meet in person with North American Lieutenants. In fact, the collegial gathering in Pasadena (Los Angeles) from June 2 to 4 was the first opportunity for Cardinal Fernando Filoni to travel to North America as Grand Master of the Order and take part with the Vice-Governor Tom Pogge in what has now become a consolidated tradition to allow the area Lieutenants to meet, get to know each other better, exchange best practices and discuss issues that are close to the hearts of the various local realities.

June 2 was dedicated to bilateral meetings between the Grand Master, the Governor General and the Lieutenants, particularly with newly appointed and incoming ones.

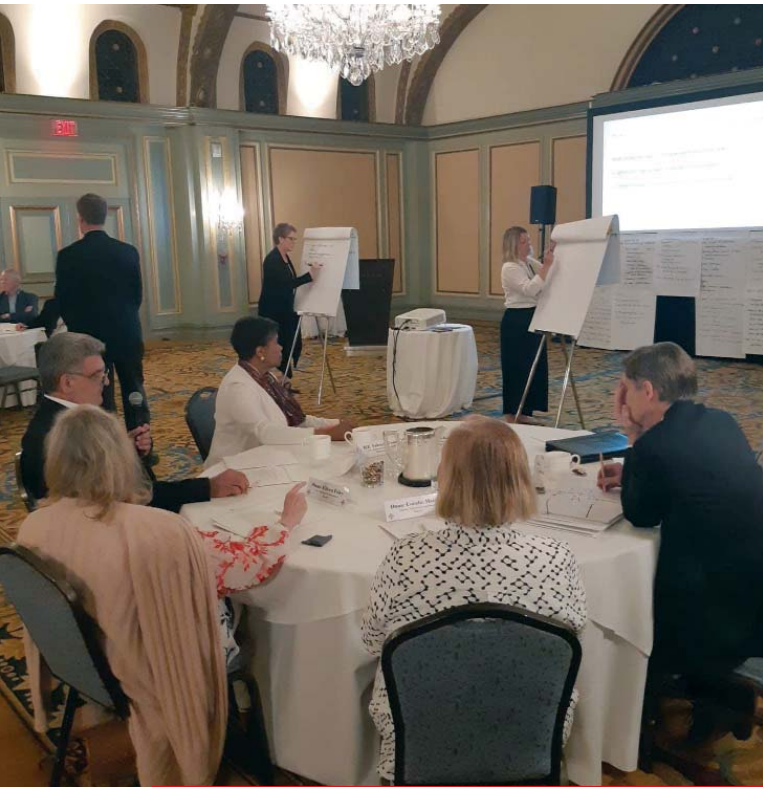
In fact, Lieutenants Colin Saldanha (Canada Toronto), Lois Folger (USA Southwestern), William Sweet (Canada Atlantic), Joe Marino (USA Southeastern), Donald Harmata (USA Northwestern), Marilyn Martin (Canada Vancouver) and Tom Olejniczak (USA North Central) took part in these meetings for the first time. The day ended with a prayer vigil in St. Andrew's Church and a presentation by the Governor General of the important finds from the Roman Imperial and Medieval periods, made during the ongoing work in Palazzo della Rovere.

The second day of the meeting focused in the morning on the theme of spirituality, the formation of candidates, and the role of prayer, with various questions addressed by participants to Grand Master Cardinal Filoni. Following this, the Governor General,



The annual meeting of the Lieutenants of North America provides an opportunity to get to know each other better, exchange views and share experiences. Accompanied by the Governor General, the Grand Master was able to attend for the first time this year, as the pandemic had prevented him from doing so until now.





Moments of sharing during the work of the North American Lieutenants.

Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, gave an extensive report on the state of the Order on the administrative and organisational level, emphasising its substantial vitality and the resumption of activities after the interruption due to Covid. In the afternoon, the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate, Sami El-Yousef, gave a detailed description of the projects initiated with the Order's contributions. Each speech was followed by an extensive debate among those present.

The last day of the meeting of the North American Lieutenants was dedicated to an exchange of experiences on measures to promote the growth of the Order and ended with a Holy Mass, celebrated by the Cardinal Grand Master, in Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral.

William Sweet, Lieutenant-designate for Canada Atlantic, recounts how this experience, prior to his actual appointment as Lieutenant, was significant. "Attending

my first meeting of North American Lieutenants in Pasadena, California, along with our outgoing Lieutenant, H.E. Trudy Comeau, gave me a better understanding of the Order's charism and commitments: personal renunciation, generosity, courage, concern, cooperation and activity in the local Church." William Sweet continued, "what attracted me to the Order, leading me to Investiture as a Knight in the summer of 2014, was its spirituality and its solidarity with the Holy Land. In Pasadena, I was struck by how these commitments and the recognition of the centrality of the Order's spirituality were at the heart of our sessions."

His comments were echoed by Tom Olejniczak, Lieutenant-designate for the USA North Central who has been a member of the Order with his wife since 1989, and who for the past eight years has served as Treasurer of the Lieutenancy: "The meeting of the North American Lieutenants was a wonderful experience and the private meeting with the Grand Master and the Governor was particularly gratifying. Their genuine interest in our Lieutenancy and their support of our concerns showed understanding and a desire to help us achieve our goals."

William Sweet concluded by dwelling on the importance of the relationships that these meetings help to strengthen: "In the meetings with the Grand Master and the Governor General, during the celebrations and moments of prayer, as well as in the working sessions and sharing over meals, I got to know some of the Order's other faithful, generous and committed leaders – people whom I hope to count among my friends soon – with whom I look forward to working together during my term of office."

At the end of the meeting, the Cardinal Grand Master and the Governor General paid a visit to the Carmelite Sisters at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Los Angeles, accompanied by USA Western Lieutenancy Margaret Romano.



AMBASSADORS WELCOMED TO PALAZZO DELLA ROVERE

The Governor General of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, received the Ambassador of Palestine to the Holy See, His Excellency Issa Kassissieh, on June 28 in Palazzo della Rovere, with whom he had a cordial conversation. The theme of the meeting, in addition to an analysis of the general political situation in Israel and Palestine, was a worrying assessment of the diminishing Christian presence in the Holy Places – and in Jerusalem in particular – and the effects of Israeli settlement policy in the Palestinian territories. The Governor General also expressed the solidarity of the Order and its members to Ambassador Kassissieh following the killing of the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, which occurred on the very days when he was in Jerusalem in the retinue of the Cardinal Grand Master, for the latter's official entry into the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre.

On July 1, the
Cardinal Grand

Master and the Governor General received a group of French-speaking African diplomats for a cordial dialogue. Those present included the Ambassador of Cameroon Antoine Zanga, the Ambassador of Senegal Martin Pascal Tine, the Ambassador of Gabon Eric Chesnel, the Minister Counsellor of the Ivory Coast André Philippe Gauze and the Counsellor of Burkina Faso Wendyam Kombantabga.

The purpose of the meeting was an initial evaluation of the possibilities for a greater presence of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in Africa, which Pope Benedict XVI has described as the continent of hope that radiates the joy of faith.

The Governor General regularly receives ambassadors at the Palazzo della Rovere, both to acquaint them with the Order and to develop the network of solidarity that the Knights and Dames lovingly nurture throughout the world.



HOMAGE TO PIERRE BLANCHARD

We would like to pay tribute to the French Knight Pierre Blanchard, who passed away last winter and left a considerable donation to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in his will. This discreet and gentle man, who was a Member of the Grand Magisterium, dedicated himself for a long time, on a voluntary basis, to the work of the Appointments and Promotions Commission, chaired by Chancellor Bastianelli, and also actively participated in the meetings of the Economic and Financial Commission. Cardinal Filoni underlined his qualities in the service of the Order in a message read by the Lieutenant General at Professor Blanchard's funeral in the Church of San Luigi dei Francesi. A professor of economics



Prof. Pierre Blanchard (on the left in the photo) – who was a member of the Grand Magisterium of the Order – is particularly distinguished for his faithful and active participation in the Commission for Appointments and Promotions, headed by Chancellor Alfredo Bastianelli.

and commerce, he was Secretary of the Extraordinary Section of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See (APSA). Our prayers continue to accompany this great servant of the Church, who was highly esteemed in the Vatican.



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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The Order and the Holy Land

VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND

Economic inclusion of women and young people in Palestine and the presence of the Saint James Vicariate in Israel

The realities of the Holy Land that the Order supports have not only faces but voices too.

During the summer period, we decided to share two short podcasts to report on various initiatives for the benefit of the local population so the Knights and Dames of the Order can discover more about them through the voices of those directly involved.

Father Piotr Zelazko, Patriarchal Vicar for the Saint James Vicariate, which unites Catholics Hebrew-speaking in Israel, tells of the five communities who, unlike the historic Catholic community in the Holy Land, speak Hebrew rather than Arabic. These are extremely active parish communities with dynamic youth groups, groups for young adults and activities such as summer camps for children, and weekend retreats which, as of this year, are not only for families, but also for the elderly. Another special ministry carried out by this Vicariate



The Saint James Vicariate – which brings together Hebrew-speaking Catholics in Israel – serves extremely active parish communities with highly involved youth groups.

is to support prisoners who speak Hebrew. All of this alongside the spiritual life nourished by the sacraments that is central to each parish.

The Saint James Vicariate is comprised of small communities which, in addition to the normal needs of a parish, also experience the challenge of having to translate their texts into another language and thus cover the expenses this incurs. Through the words of its vicar, the Vicariate is deeply grateful to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre thanks to which it is able to carry out its mission. This particular reality of the Catholic Church also has the privileged vocation of acting as a





The AFAQ project – a word meaning “horizon” in Arabic – promotes entrepreneurship and employment for Christian women and youth in Palestine.

continuing with “training for young people over 18 and those who are unemployed to develop their skills and be ready for the job market.”

The aim of the project is precisely to create opportunities to encourage the economic inclusion of these people, while also supporting them in the development of small entrepreneurial projects by helping them to access financing or interest-free loans. This will “increase the level of self-esteem of the

beneficiaries while contributing to a paradigm shift: from the feeling of being a minority to being active citizens and agents of change within Palestinian society,” comments the Director of the Institute for Community Partnerships at Bethlehem University, Musa Rabadi.

bridge of dialogue and encounter with the Jewish and Israeli world, given that it speaks the same language. “We try to build bridges between Israeli society and the Catholic Church. We try to teach our Jewish friends something about the Church and also our Catholics something about Judaism. We are pursuing various projects for dialogue,” Father Piotr concluded.

Another initiative that you can discover through our podcasts is the AFAQ project for the empowerment, business capacity building and employment of Christian women and youth in Palestine. The Order has so far contributed more than \$200,000 to this project, which started in September 2021 under the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in partnership with Bethlehem University and in close cooperation with a number of parishes, Catholic schools and Church organisations.

Nisreen Mansour, coordinator of the AFAQ project – a word that means “horizon” in Arabic – tells how, after an initial phase of meetings with the communities to present the initiative and raise awareness among the local population, the project is now

Finally, the vibrant voice of Lara Matar, a young student at Bethlehem University, sharing with us what she has received so far from this project, helps to understand the importance of supporting these young people in their professional development and emancipation: “I participated in this training course through the AFAQ project to learn how to write a CV and prepare myself for job interviews. I learnt what my weaknesses and strengths are and this boosted my self-confidence. Arriving on the job market as a new graduate, I was guided in how best to look for work.”

These testimonies are available in English on the Grand Magisterium website www.oessh.va in the podcast section: <http://www.oessh.va/content/ordineequestre santosepolcro/en/podcast.html>

Elena Dini



A REALISTIC OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN THE HOLY LAND

His Excellency Monsignor Adolfo Tito C. Yllana, Apostolic Nuncio in Israel and Cyprus and Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine, speaking on the situation in the Holy Land last June, on the occasion of the Plenary Assembly of the Reunion of Aid Agencies for the Eastern Churches (R.O.A.C.O.), reflected on the death of journalist Shireen Abu Akleh and the political tensions that this tragedy has aroused. He also recalled that the war in Gaza erupted a year ago as a result of territorial and property tensions in an Arab neighbourhood of Jerusalem, which provoked a form of "civil war" between the Arab and Jewish populations in Israel. The Nuncio also stressed how the economic crisis is affecting the Palestinian people in particular, prompting the Church to provide significant material support, especially to meet the educational costs of families. He outlined how the Abraham Accords, signed in September 2020 between Israel and several Arab countries, contribute to the marginalisation of the Palestinian issue. In this context, young Palestinians, out of despair, are tempted by terrorism, which for several months has been shaking Israeli

cities that had previously considered "safe". The Nuncio gave a detailed presentation of the socio-political situation in the Holy Land, with all its complexity and hopes for the future.

On the ecclesial level, Israel is threatening to turn the Mount of Olives into a National Park, which would deprive the Churches of much land and would risk to compromise the mission of the Church to welcoming the pilgrims who come to the Holy Land. The Churches are responding by repeatedly calling for a "two-state solution", but the Nuncio believes that the time has come to

contribute more effectively to this goal and raise the alarm before it is too late. In this regard, he echoes the words of the Latin Patriarch, His Beatitude Archbishop Pizzaballa, who, at the end of the Palm Sunday procession, addressed those who want to impose the logic of possession and exclusion: "You will not be able to possess us and you will not be able to possess the city. We all belong to her, not the other way around. Jerusalem is the Mother who gave birth to us. And mothers love all their children, who for them are all equal, all loved, freely, without exclusion. To exclude any of her children is to wound the very identity of our city".

The new Apostolic Nuncio in Israel and Cyprus, and Apostolic Delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine, Msgr Adolfo Tito Yllana, spoke about the situation in the Holy Land during the Plenary Assembly of the Reunion of the Aid Agencies for the Eastern Churches, at which the Governor General represents the Order every year.



CHRISTIANS IN INCREASING DIFFICULTY IN THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

Among the news from the Holy Land, the loss of properties belonging to the Greek Orthodox Church in the Old City of Jerusalem is particularly concerning.

In early June, the Israeli Supreme Court validated the acquisition of hotels located in the Christian quarter of the Old City by an ultranationalist association of Israeli settlers. For Bishop William Shomali, Vicar of the Latin Patriarchate for Jerusalem and Palestine for the past year, the loss of these properties will change the appearance of the Christian neighbourhood of Jerusalem. "The two hotels in our neighbourhood can accommodate hundreds of settlers, armed and sometimes violent. For us, this means that they can, at any time, block traffic in the Christian neighbourhood, and stop religious processions passing by," he anxiously told the media. "We do not want our neighbourhood to be controlled by the settlers. For us it's like buying two big hotels in the centre of Mea Shearim [an ultra-Orthodox Jewish quarter of West Jerusalem]. Everyone must have their own space to breathe," he insisted. The Patriarchal Vicar



"Jerusalem is the Mother who gave birth to us. And mothers love all their children, who for them are all equal, all loved, freely, without exclusion. To exclude any of her children is to wound the very identity of our city" (Archbishop Pizzaballa during the Palm Sunday procession of 2022).

for Jerusalem and Palestine then pointed out the Israeli court's "sympathy for the settlers", which made the legal issue a losing battle for Christians. He denounced a movement to judaize the Old City, which has already begun in recent years, and called for the status of the Holy City, to be protected by international guarantees, so that all communities and pilgrims can move around peacefully: "Jerusalem must be a city open to all, with equal rights for all communities, where everyone respects everyone else."



RESTORATION OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE PAVEMENT UNDERWAY

Last spring, in a ceremony attended by the three Christian Churches that guarantee the status quo of the Holy Sepulchre (the Greek Orthodox Church, the Catholic Church represented by the Custody of the Holy Land, and the Armenian Church), the foundation stone was raised to symbolically begin the restoration of the pavement of the Basilica of the Resurrection. The work, which is expected to last about two years, will be carried out mainly by the Custody of the Holy Land in cooperation with Rome's La Sapienza University. "The work carried out by researchers from our University in one of the most sacred places for Christians, and of great historical and artistic importance, is a source of pride", said the Rector of La Sapienza, Antonella Polimeni, "and confirms the University's



leadership at an international level, also in the field of human sciences." For the archaeological activities, coordinated by Francesca Romana Stasolla of the Department of Antiquities at Sapienza, an interdisciplinary team was established after the Israeli authorities issued the excavation permit.

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The Life of the Lieutenancies

A MEETING FOR ITALIAN-SPEAKING LIEUTENANTS IN ASSISI

On the eve of the Investiture Ceremony of the Lieutenancy for Central Apennine Italy in Assisi, the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, chaired a meeting of the Italian-speaking Lieutenants on Friday May 27, which was attended by the Vice-Governor Jean Pierre de Glutz Ruchti, the Treasurer Saverio Petrillo (also in his capacity as Commissioner for the Veneto Section) and the Lieutenants Angelo Dell'Oro (Northern Italy), Giuseppe Marrani (Central Apennine Italy), Anna Maria Munzi Iacoboni (Central Italy), Giovanni Battista

Rossi (Southern Tyrrhenian Italy), Ferdinando Parente (Southern Adriatic Italy), Maurizio Russo (Italy Sicily) and Marco Cantori (Italy Sardinia), as well as Lieutenants for Switzerland and Liechtenstein Donata Krethlow-Benziger and for Malta Roberto Buontempo.

Participants arrived on May 26 and were able to spend a fraternal moment together, strengthening the bonds of friendship.

"The Governor General gave us a great gift in providing us the opportunity to organise a meeting of the Italian-speaking Lieutenants on the sidelines of the



The Italian and Italian-speaking Lieutenants (with Switzerland and Malta) met in Assisi around three high dignitaries of the Order: Governor General Visconti di Modrone, Vice-Governor for Europe Jean-Pierre de Glutz and Treasurer of the Grand Magisterium Saverio Petrillo. This working meeting continued with the Investiture of the Lieutenancy for Central Apennine Italy, presided over by the Grand Master himself.



Investiture in Assisi of the Lieutenancy I lead: this moment allowed us all to get together again after more than two years," says Giuseppe Marrani, the Lieutenant who hosted this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to extend the traditional annual meeting between Italian Lieutenants also to "Italian-speaking" Lieutenants, with the aim of sharing useful experiences about their activities. "These sectorial meetings are very important because they allow us to discuss topics of common interest, exchange useful advice and are a propitious occasion for greater synergy in joint initiatives such as shared pilgrimages as well as future plans. We can – in a word – get to know each other better and help each other," recalled Governor General Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone in his concluding speech.

In fact, the meeting was characterised by "an open dialogue, with no particular agenda items, but with the aim of listening to the

problems and especially the expectations and advice of the Lieutenants," commented the Governor General.

His words are echoed by those of Lieutenant for Central Apennine Italy Marrani, who recounts how "we frankly discussed the challenges that each of us faces to see together how to codify them, in addition to sharing the beautiful experiences that each of us has. Finally, it was very important to receive updates from Rome on various issues on which we often receive questions from our members and which we now know how to answer."

That evening, the meeting continued with the Prayer Vigil in preparation for the Investiture, which then took place on Saturday May 28, in the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli in Assisi. Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master of the Order, celebrated the solemn ceremony with which 36 new Knights and Dames were received into the Order.

SOME IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS ON VARIOUS CONTINENTS

The Order's young people particularly active in Switzerland and Liechtenstein

The Investiture of the Lieutenancy for Switzerland and Liechtenstein was celebrated in Lugano, in the Cathedral of San Lorenzo, last May. The Grand Master presided over the Mass in the presence of numerous bishops and high officials of the Order. During his toast at the gala dinner Governor General Visconti di Modrone recalled that "for Italy, Lugano historically represents the love and brotherhood of the Swiss Confederation, having in the past



welcomed patriots who had to leave our country in dramatic moments, such as during the Risorgimento or the occupation during the last war." In a meeting with young people, the Governor General emphasised the Order's external communication efforts, which are becoming increasingly well-known. He welcomed the commitment of the younger generation in this regard. In a subsequent meeting of the young people of the Lieutenancy for Switzerland with the Grand Master, the themes of spirituality and charitable commitment in the Holy Land and in their local churches were addressed.

A new Grand Prior of the Order in the Philippines



On 18 May, Cardinal Jose Fuerte Advincula, Archbishop of Manila, took office as the new Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for the Philippines of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, succeeding Cardinal Antonio Tagle, who is now in the Vatican. On this occasion, during a beautiful celebration in Manila Cathedral, fourteen new Filipino members were welcomed into the Order.

Poland, ever faithful

The Investiture of the Order's Lieutenancy for Poland took place at the beginning of June 2022 in Warsaw, presided over by the Grand Prior, Cardinal Kazimierz Nycz, with the participation of the Vice-Governor General, Jean Pierre de Glutz. During the Vigil, thirteen candidates made their solemn promises before being admitted to the Order the following day, in the presence of 200 Knights and Dames who came to surround them with their prayers and friendship.



“Remember the Church’s predilection for you”: new members received into the Lieutenancy for Central Italy



Preceded by the Prayer Vigil on July 1 in the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major, the solemn Investiture of 35 Knights, three Dames, a Religious and a Cleric from the Rome Section of the Lieutenancy for Central Italy took place on July 2, in St. John Lateran. The ceremony was presided over by the Cardinal Grand Master, in the presence of the Governor General Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and Lieutenant Anna Maria Iacoboni Munzi. Cardinal Fortunato Frezza,

the Order’s Master of Ceremonies, was also present at the celebration.

“Even in difficult days, remember the Church’s predilection for you”: this is how Cardinal Filoni, Grand Master, welcomed the Knights and Dames who had just received the Investiture, inviting them to feel the “honour and beauty” of this call to be members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

During the convivial moment that followed the Investiture ceremony, the Governor General Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone addressed the assembled Knights and Dames, first of all thanking the Lieutenant for Central Italy for her service and updating the members on the situation in the Holy Land and the Order’s current affairs.

The Order in New Zealand and the Grand Prior’s handover ceremony

*This is an abridged version of an article by
Michael Otto, editor of the NZ Catholic*

Auckland Bishop Stephen Lowe has been appointed as the Grand Prior of the New Zealand Magistral Delegation of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ).

Invested into the Order in 2018, Bishop Lowe officially assumed his new role on July 3 at a ceremony at the Pompallier Diocesan Centre in Auckland. His term is four years, and he succeeds Emeritus Bishop of Auckland Bishop Patrick Dunn as the Grand Prior. At the July 3 ceremony, Bishop Dunn received the title of Grand Prior of Honour, and was also presented with



the Gold Palm of Jerusalem.

Before that, the New Zealand Commissary of the Holy Land, Fr Anthony Malone, OFM, noted that "Bishop Dunn is the only second local ordinary in Australasia to be awarded the golden palm, the other being a diocesan archbishop in Australia."

Among Bishop Dunn's contributions mentioned by Fr Malone were the appointment of chaplains, assisting with membership application and Investiture processes, presiding at ceremonies, supporting fundraising in parishes to help works of the order, and having St John the Baptist church in Parnell as the patronal church for the order in this country.

The Order grows in Latin America

On July 16, in Mexico City, Vice Governor Enric Mas, representing the Grand Magisterium, attended the solemn Investiture ceremonies celebrated in the capital's cathedral by Cardinal Carlos Aguiar, Metropolitan Archbishop for Mexico and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, in the presence of Lieutenant H.E. Guillermo Macias. Thirteen new members (eight Knights and five Dames) were invested. The Grand Magisterium is now paying special attention to the possibilities of expanding the Order's presence in the States of Central America with a strong Catholic presence.



Culture

SAINT MARY OF PEACE, CHAPTER CHURCH OF THE ORDER IN MILAN

In the centre of Milan, behind the gigantic Palazzo di Giustizia and surrounded by greenery, the title of the church of Santa Maria della Pace (St. Mary of Peace) reflects the wishes of its founder, the Duchess of Milan Bianca Maria Visconti,

for an end to the violence of which her son Galeazzo Sforza had been a victim. But the life of the church, the third seat of the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, was anything but peaceful.





Santa Maria della Pace, in Milan, is the chapter church of the largest Italian Lieutenancy, which includes the Sections of Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia-Romagna, Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

Initially, the Milanese Knights met at the Church of the Holy Trinity, consecrated by Archbishop Ariberto da Intimiano in 1036, in which, after the First Crusade, the altar of the Crypt had been dedicated to the Holy Sepulchre. In 1940, they moved to the coenoby of the basilica of St. Simplicianus, seat of the Benedictine monks since the IX century, where tradition has it that the Lombard Knights called to fight in the Crusades gathered. Since 1967, the Order has been located in S. Maria della Pace, where there was a convent established in 1476 thanks to ducal donations.

In its long history the church has survived many vicissitudes. Deconsecrated, it was used as barracks, horse stables and a hospital. In 1901, as a concert hall, it hosted the first performance of the Moses oratorio by Don Lorenzo Perosi, who in a somewhat faded photograph can be seen flanked by Maestro Arturo Toscanini. Many of the most important works it housed have been removed, and now grace the exhibition venues most visited by tourists, such as the

Brera Art Gallery, the Castello Sforzesco and the Museum of Science and Technology.

Restored and re-consecrated in 1906, it has nevertheless retained its main historical-architectural features, the Lombard Gothic façade and the square Renaissance bell tower. The interior, displaying a single nave flanked by side chapels, in one of which is a XVI century effigy of Our Lady of Peace, is divided into five bays with cross vaults. The rectangular apse is decorated with XVII century frescoes by Tanzio da Varallo; and the solemn ceremonies of the Order are accompanied by the monumental, fully mechanical organ from 1891. Its harmonies add to the beauty of the church, whose wide, expansive spaces confirm the sense of peace that is in its name and origins.

Santa Maria della Pace is today the seat of the largest Italian Lieutenancy, which includes the Sections of Piedmont, Liguria, Lombardy, Emilia, Romagna, Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

