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Message from the Grand Master

“LET US GO NOW TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE THIS THING THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE, WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE KNOWN TO US.” (Lk 2:15)

As we approach the Holy Christmas, I would like to invite you to reflect with me on our mission to serve the Church in the Holy Land, the Mother Church.

Just like the shepherds, we seek the Child to contemplate the God who made himself a human being; we too, through our membership in the Order and our pilgrimages to the Holy Land, will learn where true greatness lies.

Our belonging to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre calls us to give our support to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, with discretion, but also with deep love, without trying to put ourselves at the forefront: this is our style as Knights and Dames with a noble soul.



“Let us live this Advent season as a spiritual exercise of simplicity and humility,” writes the Grand Master of the Order, looking at the Grotto of the Nativity in Bethlehem, represented here by a drawing of Dana Saadeh, a student at St. Joseph’s School in Nablus.

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Let us learn how to live our service to the Holy Land with simplicity and humility, and all together let us ask for this grace from the God who made himself a humble Child.

In my experience in the service to the Church, I have been deeply marked by the great Pope, Paul VI, now recognized as a Saint by the Church, who liked to call himself "servant of the servants of God" and whose great virtues were simplicity and humility. After St. Peter, he was the first Pope to go as a pilgrim to the Holy Land; in 1964, he spoke in Bethlehem about the humility of God, and in Nazareth he praised Mary and Joseph's home as a school where we too can learn and begin to understand the life of Jesus; how beautiful is to be at the school of the Holy Family and learn the profound teaching of simplicity and humility!

I will let you delve deeper into this thought with the words of St. Bernard who,

in short, said, "Make yourself little and you will have found Christ."

Let us live this Advent season in a spiritual exercise of simplicity and humility, so that our witness may be credible and many men and women may also see our Order as an instrument of good, and its Members, as artisans of good and hope.

The vocation of being a Christian reveals God's friendship towards us, and creates friendship among ourselves and among the peoples: it is a mission of understanding, of promotion, of moral and spiritual elevation; a mission of divine salvation, as Paul VI emphasized in Bethlehem. This is the meaning of our commitment as Knights and Dames in our time.

I encourage your willingness to travel this spiritual path and wish each of you a Merry Christmas!

Fernando Cardinal Filoni



The Order in Union with the Universal Church

A JUBILEE IN HONOUR OF BLESSED BARTOLO LONGO, MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

On 1 October 2022, the 'Longhiano Jubilee Way' will open at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary in Pompeii, a special year in honour of the 150th anniversary of Bartolo Longo's arrival in the *desolate valley* (as he called it). The young Apulian lawyer arrived there to administer the estate of Countess Marianna Farnararo Vedova De Fusco. Wandering through the marshy countryside, the thought of his past perdition haunted him, forcing him to ponder the salvation of his soul. He heard a voice within, a kind of "inner illumination": "If you seek salvation, spread the Rosary. It is Mary's promise. Whoever propagates the Rosary is saved!". From then on, he dedicated his entire long life to spreading the Rosary and to human promotion, building a splendid Shrine, giving life to numerous works of charity, which are still active today in favour of children, mothers in difficulty, the poor, disabled children, and founding the new city of Pompeii. Marking this jubilee

year, Pope Francis granted, through the Apostolic Penitentiary, a plenary indulgence until 31 October 2023. Pope Pius XI, on 5 March 1925, then Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of

Jerusalem, counted Bartolo Longo among the members of the Order with the rank of Knight Grand Cross. To mark the link with the Order, the Lieutenancy for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy is promoting a pilgrimage, scheduled for 11 and 12 February 2023. The programme includes a solemn Concelebration, presided over by H.E. Msgr. Tommaso Caputo, Prelate Archbishop of Pompeii and Assessor of the Order, and a reading on the Blessed by the journalist and writer François Vayne, former spokesman of the Sanctuary of Lourdes and now director of the Communications Office of our Order. The detailed program of the Jubilee Year can be found on the website www.chiesadipompei.it.

Loreta Somma
Communications Office of the Shrine of Pompeii



The Marian Shrine of Pompeii has recently produced a comic strip (in Italian) recounting the life of its founder, Blessed Bartolo Longo, Knight of the Order. Contact: info@santuariodipompei.it



Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

MANDATE OF VICE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICA, TOM POGGE, RENEWED

The Cardinal Grand Master signed the decree renewing the mandate of Vice Governor General to Knight Grand Cross Thomas Pogge.

Born in Omaha, Nebraska, where he resides, a lawyer by profession, and a member of the Order since 1997, former Lieutenant for USA Northern from 2013 to 2018, Tom Pogge took office as Vice Governor General for North America on 1 January 2019, succeeding Patrick Powers.

During his term of office, Tom Pogge, assisted by his wife Anne, organised two



important meetings of US and Canadian Lieutenants in Houston and Pasadena (Los Angeles), strengthening the spirit of communication between the various components and intensifying circulation of information on the Order and the collection of resources for the Holy Land through the use of the most modern means of analysis and communications technology. As a member of the Grand Magisterium, he is in constant contact with the Governor General, who was

delighted with the renewal of his mandate and to be able to count on his valuable collaboration in the years to come.

AUTUMN MEETING OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM

The members of the Grand Magisterium gathered in Palazzo della Rovere, Rome, around the Grand Master, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, for the autumn session on 12 October, after a Mass in honour of Our Lady of Palestine celebrated in the church of Santo Spirito in Sassia and presided over by Cardinal Fortunato Frezza.

Before the convivial lunch, the Grand

Master presented Cardinal Frezza – former Master of Ceremonies of the Grand Magisterium and appointed Cardinal by the Pope during the last consistory – with the insignia of Knight Grand Cross, warmly thanking him for his generous and appreciated service to the Order.

The working session of the Grand Magisterium opened in the afternoon and was addressed by the Governor General,





After the mass in honour of Our Lady of Palestine, in Rome on 12 October, presided over by Cardinal Frezza – formerly Master of Ceremonies of the Grand Magisterium and appointed Cardinal by the Pope during the last Consistory – the Grand Master conferred on him the insignia of Knight Grand Cross, as a sign of gratitude for his generous and appreciated service to the Order.



Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and a read text from the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude Pierbattista Pizzaballa, who was unable to attend in person. The meeting also heard from the Treasurer, Saverio Petrillo, and the Chief Executive Officer of the Patriarchate, Sami El-Yousef. Their reports were followed by a debate among the participants and the conclusions of Cardinal Fernando Filoni.

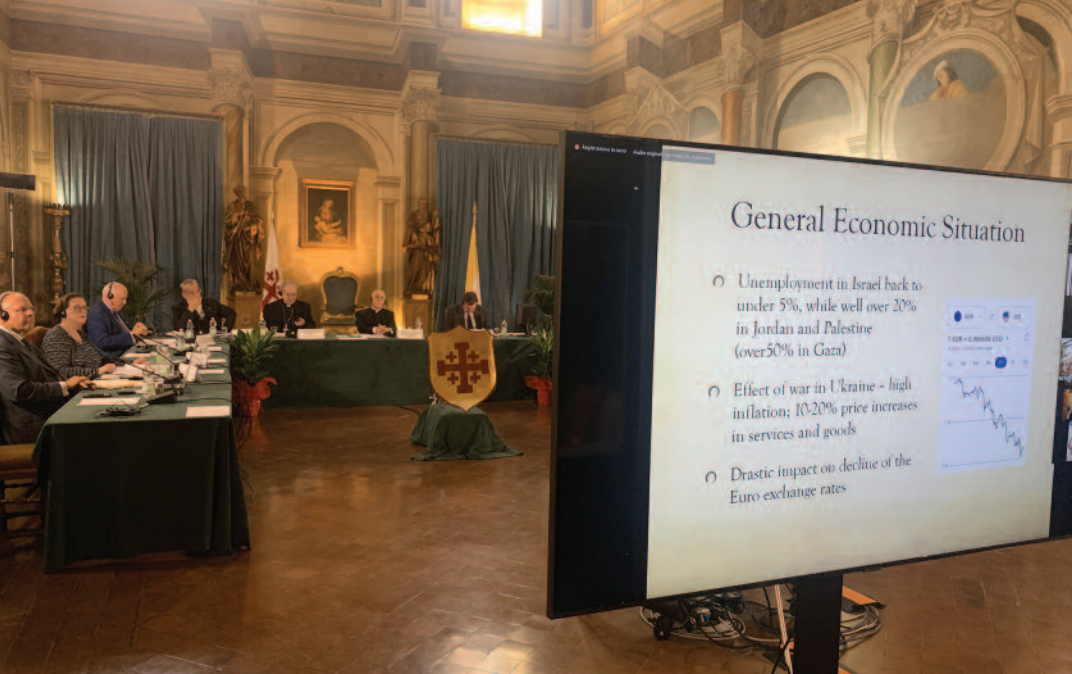
The Governor briefly recalled the highlights of 2022, such as the pilgrimage and first official visit of the Grand Master to the Holy Land, the resumption of meetings in presence on the occasion of the Investitures, and the meetings between the Lieutenancies after the pandemic. He particularly insisted on the presence of the Grand Priors at the Order's next Consulta,

the General Assembly scheduled in a year's time, together with the Lieutenants, to deepen the theme of the spiritual formation of members. He also spoke of the works being carried out in the Palace, which will be taken over by a hotel company chosen to manage part of the building for the benefit of the Order and therefore of the Holy Land. Ambassador Visconti di Modrone also underlined the Order's recent development in Slovakia and plans for expansion in other countries, especially in Africa.

In his speech, Patriarch Pizzaballa thanked the Order, without which the Mother Church of Jerusalem could not live peacefully. He mentioned several pastoral projects that he considers important, including the pastoral centre for Galilee in Haifa and the next Vicariate to be created in Cyprus, where pastoral activity is growing.

The Grand Magisterium Treasurer presented the budget for 2023, confirming that €13.4 million will be paid to the Latin Patriarchate thanks to members' contributions. Sami El-Yousef stressed, on behalf of the Patriarchate, the importance of the Order's support to cover the salaries of 2000 employees of the Diocese of Jerusalem,





The Grand Magisterium autumn meeting was held according to the agenda, with presentations by the Governor General, the reading of the speech by the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Treasurer's report, the report by the Chief Executive Officer of the Patriarchate, the debate among the participants and the conclusions of Cardinal Fernando Filoni.

in Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Cyprus. He then illustrated the diocese's needs in the humanitarian field (due to the economic crisis and unemployment, especially in Palestine and Jordan) and again highlighted the priority of education, with the network of schools and universities that the Catholic Church must maintain.

The Governor General then gave the floor to the President of the Holy Land Commission, Bartholomew McGettrick, who last September led the Commission's first field trip in three years. He said that, in his opinion, some of the Lieutenancies have not yet grasped the urgency of the population in

explaining that each member's contribution is first and foremost a gesture of love towards the Mother Church of Jerusalem, an expression of the profound faith of the Knights and Dames.

Cardinal Filoni's essential and fundamental text on this subject had just been published by *L'Osservatore Romano* – the official newspaper of the Holy See – with an announcement on the front page, after having been sent to all the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates for transmission to the Priors, Grand Priors and all the bishops of the world.

François Vayne

A REPORT FROM THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE CEO

With the resumption of many activities following a prolonged period of closure due to the pandemic in the Holy Land, Sami El-Yousef, Chief Executive Officer of the Latin Patriarchate, took advantage of the Grand Magisterium's autumn meeting on 12 October to share the state of activities on

various fronts in the diocese that are supported by the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and also to make a presentation of what has been achieved over the past four years with small projects.

In fact, in 2019, the Grand Magisterium and the Latin Patriarchate decided to work not only through fixed monthly support for



institutional expenses, schools, the Seminary, the financing of some large and medium-sized projects and humanitarian aid, but also to open up the possibility for the Lieutenancies to select small projects to be taken over entirely, thus facilitating the implementation of activities that require a smaller budget and which, at the same time, can be an opportunity to establish a direct relationship between a Lieutenancy and a local community in the Holy Land.

Unfortunately, the initiative of small projects largely coincided with the time of the pandemic, which slowed down and, in some cases, stopped initiatives altogether. The projects have been very varied in recent years: from renovations or construction of new rooms in various buildings of the Patriarchate (youth centres, homes for the elderly, convents of nuns, etc.), to the renovation of classrooms, libraries or science labs in schools, or the necessary security work in various facilities.

Sami El-Yousef first described the current challenges on an economic level (due to the war in Ukraine and rising cost of living as well as the drastic impact of the collapse of the euro exchange rate against the dollar) and a social level (high unemployment rate in the Latin Patriarchate areas). While much of the major renovation work on the facilities has been carried out in the past years, more attention is now needed for pastoral activities.

"The main difference between this year's budget and that of previous years is the request from all sides to increase the resources dedicated to pastoral activities, considering that coming out of the period of health restrictions, these can finally resume," commented the Patriarchate's CEO. These activities testify to the vitality of the local communities and include youth activities, summer camps, care of liturgies, and much more.

In addition to pastoral activities, special



Among the Latin Patriarchate projects supported by the Order, those related to education (from kindergartens to science courses, to environmental awareness clubs) are of particular importance, as well as those related to social assistance and the purchase of medicines for the needy.



attention must now also be paid to humanitarian initiatives. In recent years, the humanitarian fund agreed upon by the Grand Magisterium and the Patriarchate is one million dollars and this manages to cover various important actions: the purchase of medicines for those in need, social assistance, support with the payment of school fees for families in need, empowerment and work initiation programmes for women and young people, especially in Gaza and East Jerusalem, support programmes for Iraqi refugees, etc.

It should not be forgotten that the items that have the greatest impact on the

Patriarchate's annual budget are salaries (about 2,000 employees, 80% of whom are Christian) and the 44 schools that offer an education within a Catholic context to about 20,000 students (60% Christian in total but with different percentages in Palestine, Jordan and Israel).

On this 175th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Latin Patriarchate in 1847, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, present all over the world, continues its mission to walk side by side with this diocese, supporting it and accompanying its efforts in favour of the living stones of the Holy Land.

THE 2022 MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN AND LATIN AMERICAN LIEUTENANTS

The Lieutenants of Europe and Latin America met by video conference under the chairmanship of the Cardinal Grand Master on 22 and 23 November respectively. The discussion,

coordinated by the Governor General, focused on topical issues concerning the life of the Order, provided an update on the realities sustained in the Holy Land through a report by the CEO of the Latin

The online meetings introduced during the pandemic save a lot of travel costs, which benefits donations for the Holy Land.



Patriarchate of Jerusalem, Sami El-Yousef, and a report by the President of the Grand Magisterium's Holy Land Commission, Prof. Bartholomew McGettrick, and allowed the Lieutenants to update the Grand Magisterium on local activities and raise issues for common reflection.

In the meeting with the European Lieutenants, several issues had emerged from the reports received prior to the meeting, and the Governor General addressed issues of interest one by one, including the preparation of the next Consulta which, for the first time, will see the participation of Grand Priors alongside the 65 Lieutenants from around the world; the resumption of pilgrimages; the application of the new rituals; the boost given to spirituality; the search for new resources, humanitarian and pastoral projects and activities; initiatives in favour of young people; disciplinary aspects; the Holy Year of 2025; and the role of the clergy and religious in spiritual formation and assistance.

Some of these themes were also clearly addressed the following day in the meeting with the Latin American Lieutenants, with special attention given to the Order's expansion project in this "great Christian continent", as described by the Governor General and where there is a high "potential that the continent can express."

In Europe, the Grand Prior of the future Magistral Delegation for Slovakia joined the meeting, while in Latin America, Vice Governor Enric Mas announced the objective of being able to see the creation of Magistral Delegations in Ecuador, Panama and the Dominican Republic by 2023, based on the contacts established in recent months. Conversations with other countries in the region are in progress (Peru, Paraguay, other states in Brazil).

In his speech, Cardinal Filoni recalled his pilgrimage to Jerusalem last May and the meetings he had in the Holy Land. The Governor General, in turn, illustrated the



With the Order's expansion into South and Central America, the figure of the Vice Governor General for Latin America, represented by Knight Grand Cross Enric Mas, has taken on great importance in recent years.

administrative aspects of guiding the Grand Magisterium through a delicate economic phase. The European Lieutenants then spoke through the words of their language group spokesperson, thus giving voice to the various realities within the continent, while, given the smaller number on the following day, each Latin American Lieutenant briefly presented the activities of his or her own Lieutenancy.

Reflecting on the mission and identity of the Knights and Dames, the Governor General recalled how "our Order must look more to the future than to the past. Our noble traditions must be a stimulus to accentuate the charitable aspect of our work. Tradition is not the equivalent of immobilism: on the contrary, tradition is the search through our roots for new ideas and proposals to better face the challenges of the present and the future."

At both meetings, great satisfaction was shown by the participants for the Grand Master's text on the ecclesiological significance of support for the Holy Land, which was widely circulated in the



Lieutenancies, dioceses and episcopal conferences. In this document, Cardinal Filoni stated that "contributing to the sustenance of the Holy Places and the communities living there is a true ecclesial responsibility". The Pontiffs themselves entrusted this mission to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, which carries it out on behalf of the entire Church. This aspect is fundamental and remembering it allows us to lay fruitful foundations for the relationship with the local churches and dioceses to which they belong and to foster a greater understanding of the mission of the Knights and Dames.

In his concluding words, Grand Master

Cardinal Filoni, emphasised – among other aspects – the importance of the role of the Lieutenants, recalling that they are "fathers and formators within the Lieutenancies", called upon to exercise patience and show closeness to all members of the Order, even in problematic situations.

The hope expressed by all was that the next regional meetings could take place in presence, both in Europe and Latin America. As was mentioned during one of the interventions of the Lieutenants, in fact, in person meetings allow a greater opportunity to strengthen the bonds of friendship, fostering collaboration and closeness and the family spirit of the Order.

FAREWELL TO VICE GOVERNOR GENERAL PAUL BARTLEY, A MAN OF GREAT HUMAN WARMTH AND PROFOUND DEVOTION

The Cardinal Grand Master and all the members of the Grand Magisterium learned with deep sadness of the passing of Vice Governor General Paul Bartley, who died after a long illness on Friday 2 December in Brisbane, Australia. A distinguished physician, who graduated with honours from the University of Queensland and specialised in endocrinology, he had served in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem as Lieutenant for Australia Queensland, before being appointed Vice Governor General with responsibility for the Asian and Pacific States. A personality of great human warmth and profound devotion, he leaves an unbridgeable void and will be remembered with deep sympathy and affection.

On hearing the news, the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, sent a message to his wife: "He was a wonderful friend and will be missed by all the members of the Order for a long time to come." Another message was sent by the Governor General to the Lieutenant for Australia Queensland, Monica Thomson: "My heart goes out to you and to all the members of the Australian Lieutenancies and in particular to Australia Queensland to which he belonged."



Paul Bartley has been a valiant witness to the Catholic faith in Australia, leading the Order in an evangelical spirit as Vice Governor General for Asia and the Pacific.



The Order and the Holy Land

A CHRISTMAS GIFT

The Christmas and Easter holidays are supposed to be a time of joy and sharing, yet this is not always the reality. For families struggling to make ends meet in the Holy Land, gifts for children are an "extra" that cannot be considered.

Thanks to the contribution received from the Lieutenancy for Western Spain, last year almost 1,500 Palestinian children between the ages of 4 and 11 not only received a gift for Christmas or Easter but also participated in activities that allowed them to experience a festive atmosphere.

In December 2021, parties were organised in all Palestinian parishes with games and initiatives designed especially for the little ones. Children played games, sang Christmas carols, painted decorations and listened to stories about the birth of Jesus. On that occasion 1400 gifts were distributed.

Anton is eight years old and lives with his mother and two older brothers in the Old City of Jerusalem. His father died after a long and painful battle with cancer and his mother works as a cleaning lady, surviving on a very low salary. Anton could not contain his joy when he saw the gift on the doorstep: "I have not received a gift, since Dad went to heaven. I was so happy to see that there are people who care about me and my family. Thank you for the gift and for making our

Christmas happy," he said.

At Easter, the experience was repeated, but this time inviting around 60 children to come and celebrate with the guests of the Beit Afram home for the elderly in Taybeh: 30 elderly people between 77 and 90 years of age live there, many of them with health problems and no family to care for them. For them too, the holidays can be a difficult and often sad time. At Easter 2022, the Latin

Patriarchate together with Caritas Jerusalem organised a party that brought together children and elderly people who were a gift to each other. During the day they sang Easter hymns together, had an egg hunt in the garden of the residence, enjoyed a good lunch and the children received a gift.

Fadi is from Taybeh, his father was diagnosed with a chronic illness five years ago and has not been able to work, his mother works at a hairdresser's. Fadi was among the 60 children who had an Easter party at the Beit Afram home: the experience of spending the day with a group of elderly people and playing

with them was totally new to him. "I love puzzles and board games," he said, "and I can't thank you enough for giving me the Scrabble game. I love playing it with Dad and learning new words in English."

Elena Dini



The Order of the Holy Sepulchre also contributes to the purchase of gifts for children in the Holy Land whose families are in difficulty.



RECENTLY CONCLUDED PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN THE HOLY LAND

At the request of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Order's mission is to support the implementation of numerous projects, large and small, in the Holy Land. This article presents the projects completed between September and December, thanks to contributions from the Lieutenancies around the world. These works, once completed, help our brothers and sisters in this part of the world to live a better life.

Three projects were completed at the Gaza School

The school's entrance hall and laboratory needed renovation: the accessibility of these two areas had been compromised by various problems.

The school entrance hall is a very important space because it is used for all school activities, including meetings, assemblies and gatherings. The windows, lighting and ventilation system needed to be replaced and the entire security system overhauled.

Furthermore, the school laboratory had become unusable due to a serious water leak that had caused extensive damage.

Thanks to a grant from the England and Wales Lieutenancy, the necessary work was carried out to make these two areas safe.

The second intervention, which was

completed in recent months, was the installation of a new steel roof on the school's playing field, thanks to a donation from the Dutch Lieutenancy.

This project was proposed to complement the Latin Patriarchate's commitment to provide its students with a positive school environment and to contribute to their health and well-being.

The new canopy will provide a shaded area where students can rest during recess

and protect themselves from the adverse effects of sun and rain, allowing for longer periods of safe learning and play. In addition, the more adequately protected play area will also serve the parish to host the many family and social events that require a shaded outdoor area.

Lastly, the French Lieutenancy financed the renovation of the computer labs for the students and teachers of the Gaza school.

Renovation of spaces for the Catholic Church in Jordan

The Lieutenancy for Germany financed the renovation of the Latin parish in Smakiyeh,

covering the church, the priest's house and the multi-purpose hall. The parish, located in a marginalised area outside the capital Amman, had not been renovated for decades. Thanks to this project, the Latin



Many of the projects supported by the Order aim to help train young people to serve their country and land in the faith, under the motto 'Ut Cognoscant te', which means 'that they may know you' (in other words: you, the one true God).





In Misdar, one of the poorest districts of Amman, Jordan, the parish has grown considerably over the years. The Order has taken over the work in the Church of Christ the King.

Patriarchate was able to create a pastoral environment suitable for living, praying and participating in masses and parish events.

In Misdar, one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Amman, located in the eastern part of the city, where families struggle to meet their daily needs, the parish was established in 1924 and the construction of the church and school was completed in 1928.

This parish continued to function normally until 1948, when many Palestinians fled their country and settled in the area. In fact, the parish grew significantly over the years, especially as many refugees fled from Middle Eastern countries and the region became a destination for all these immigrants.

Both places were in urgent need of maintenance to meet the minimum health and safety standards of the residence. The project also included tiling work on 400 metres of the Church of Christ the King. All of this was made possible by another generous contribution from the Lieutenancy for England and Wales.

Also in Jordan, the Lieutenancy for

Luxembourg donated funds for the renovation of the meeting room of the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS) in Jabal Amman. The Chaplain and the IYCS management team have always insisted on the need to create a professional environment to be used for meetings and activities at the IYCS headquarters. The renovated space will be ideal for group gatherings, formal committee meetings or training events. The space will also be used to organise online meetings, video conferences, presentations, lectures and interviews.

Projects for the entire Diocese

The Lieutenancy for Luxembourg also supported the work of renewing the IT management system for the entire Diocese of Jerusalem. The Latin Patriarchate needed to create a centralised web application system that could be hosted by the Patriarchate's Data Centre and be accessible to all parishes and the Chancery, including the Custody of the Holy Land (Franciscans).

The Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain supported the training of employees of the Latin Patriarchate, those of the Beit Afram home for the elderly, the seminary, the press office, the vicariates, etc., through capacity-building courses.

The program, implemented by the Human Resources Department of the Patriarchate, included courses of various types, including: principles of record keeping, accounting, salary processing and management, strategic planning for school headmasters, technical training in electricity, master's degree in medical nursing for adults, culinary arts, and music training for kindergarten teachers.



WHEN LIEUTENANCIES VISIT THE SMALL PROJECTS THEY SUPPORT

*The pilgrimage of the Lieutenancy for Ireland
and the visit to Taybeh and Mafraq*

Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations of the Order have the possibility of selecting small projects to support specific needs of local communities and thus establish a more direct link with a local community with which they keep stable and friendly exchanges while growing in the mutual knowledge. A list of projects is every year agreed between the Latin Patriarchate and the Grand Magisterium and Lieutenancies confirm their willingness to support one or the other project.

Here we read the moving experience of the Lieutenancy for Ireland which has supported a 2021 and 2022 small project (the building of new classrooms at the Mafraq Latin school in Jordan and the fire safety works at the Beit Afram Elderly Home in Taybeh, Palestine) and their joy in finally going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and meeting the living stones that they have prayed for and interacting with throughout the past two years as well as rejoicing with them for the completed projects that offer better living and working conditions.

In September 2022, a group of thirty Knights, Dames and friends from the Lieutenancy for Ireland walked in the footsteps of Our Lord. This was the 14th Pilgrimage conducted by the Lieutenancy since its establishment in 1986. The pilgrimage itinerary included *inter alia* the Latin Patriarchate Parishes in Taybeh and Mafraq, where our Lieutenancy funded small projects and has developed a bond with those communities.

In Taybeh, the last remaining entirely Christian town in Palestine, we visited the Beit Afram Home for the Elderly, managed by the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara. Our Lieutenancy donated a substantial sum to finance urgently needed



The pilgrimage of the Irish Knights and Dames included a visit to the parishes of Taybeh in Palestine and Mafraq in Jordan, where the Order's Lieutenancy for Ireland funded small projects, developing a bond of friendship with the local communities.





In the Holy Land, the inaugurations of new or restored places of life or worship are always an occasion to celebrate the friendship between members of the Order and local Christians.

Fire Safety works to safeguard the residents and staff. On arrival, we were warmly greeted by Sisters Maria Pia and Maria Alma. Both retired Patriarch Michel Sabbah, who was visiting for a few days, and also Msgr. Kamal Bathish retired auxiliary Bishop, were there and we were honoured to have an audience with both and enjoy local Palestinian food and refreshments.

Sister Pia briefed us on the care provided to the residents and informed us of the challenges, faced daily, to provide such essential housing accommodation and medical assistance to the most deserving *'Living Stones'*, with whom we were then privileged to meet. To our great surprise, one of the residents introduced himself as a fellow Confrère of our Order, Knight Rowland Pickering, who had been invested by Cardinal Furno in 2003.

Our visit to Beit Afram Home for the Elderly was more than an assessment of the material works of a project that we contributed to financially. It was a blessing to being afforded an opportunity to engage and further strengthen our bond with these *'Living Stones'* to whom we owe so much.

In Mafrq, a city in Northern Jordan 15 km from the Syrian border, we visited the Latin Parish of *St Theresa of the Child Jesus*. We were warmly greeted by Fr. Tareq

Hijazin, parish priest who introduced us to Mr Hazem Haddad, the Vice Principal of the School associated with the parish church. We were delighted to meet with a classroom of kindergarten infants who had just commenced by a few weeks their educational journey. A number of members has brought bags of sweets for each child, which were enthusiastically accepted.

The Vice Principal brought us to the schoolyard to view the four classroom school extension that our Lieutenancy funded in 2021. This was urgently required to accommodate the senior cycle school children from the Latin community who otherwise would have had to leave to attend a public state run school.

The continued education of the school children in a Latin Church School is a priority of both the Patriarchate and the Grand Magisterium. Our visit evidenced this need and afforded us the opportunity to see how this very small community of *'Living Stones'* (500 Latin Catholics over a population of 75,000) benefits greatly from the voluntary financial donations of our members. The aim of our mission was actualised and achieved.

Thomas Kilduff
*Communications Officer of the
Lieutenancy for Ireland*



THE NEW MISSAL IN ARABIC

A work of the Church of Jerusalem for all Latin Catholic parishes in the Arab world

During this Advent, a new Missal has been made available from Jerusalem to be sent throughout the Arab world. This small diocese is in fact responsible for producing, revising and sharing the missal which is then used in all the Arabic-speaking dioceses of the world. An important gift that reminds us of the centrality of the Church of Jerusalem.

"The first edition of the missal in Arabic was produced in 1983-84 and is the one still in use today," says Father Aziz Halaweh, director of the Liturgical Office of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The edition available from December 2022 is, he explains, "the second one and was made following the latest editions of the Roman Missal from 2008. In this edition, the Arabic translation has been revised from the Latin text while, in the previous one, we took the Italian version as a starting point. This will allow us to be more faithful to the original."

This substantial work took nine years. "Our liturgical office was re-established by Patriarch Pizzaballa three years ago. For the past two years, I have taken over the coordination of the work that had already begun seven years ago," shares Father Aziz.

Before, in fact, the liturgical mission within the Patriarchate was not carried out by a designated office but by a bishop who was in charge of the liturgy assisted by a few priests. "Now, with the office," the head of the liturgical office continues, "we have a clerk and also a liturgical commission representing various realities of the diocese in Palestine, Israel and Jordan. For the



Father Aziz Halaweh, Director of the Liturgical Office of the Patriarchate, is the main developer of the new missal in Arabic.

revision of the Arabic tradition, a specialised committee was established in which we have a Latinist, an Arabist, a biblical scholar, a theologian, a bishop, a liturgist and also a musicologist because we also revised all the music."

The monumental effort behind the publication of the new missal took into account the important contribution of the arts to this work, both in terms of the musical and visual aspect through a number of icons that embellish the missal and help to enter into an attitude of prayer.

Father Aziz, who also has a musical background, explains this aspect further: "There was a need to revise the music in accordance with the Arabic language for



Gregorian chant. Fortunately, the Arabic spelling is very close to the Latin spelling for Gregorian, so we were able to set to music in Arabic everything that is set to music in Latin. Clearly, as the Arabic script goes from right to left, it is not easy to associate it with the music that goes from left to right, but we have succeeded."

The images that enrich the missal are the work of Sister Maria Ruiz from the Sisters of Bethlehem community in Deir Rafat. Sister Maria had already been called by Patriarch Pizzaballa to illustrate the entire Gospel Book and had accepted this assignment at the end of 2020.

In March 2021, she was also asked to produce the images that we will now find in the new Missal. "At that time," Sister Maria recounts, "we had just started the Evangelium: only a few images, mainly from the Gospel of Luke, had already been produced." Thus, thanks to the tireless work of Sister Maria, the new Missal will have the same style as the new Gospel Book, an original style but also - at the Patriarch's request - emblematic of all the various influences (Byzantine, Latin, Armenian, etc.) of the Mother Church of Jerusalem.

The missal is an altar book for priests and, working with a commission also on translations, some formulae have also been revised in Arabic. For example, Father Aziz explains the change that was made to the invitation to communion that immediately follows the Lamb of God. In Arabic it read: "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those invited to the banquet of the Lord". Now the formula, as in other languages and on the basis of Latin, has become: "Blessed are those invited to the supper of the Lamb". The Collect prayer, the prayer over the offerings and the prayer after communion have also been modified and enriched.

Clearly, on the basis of this, the booklets for the faithful will also be revised, although care was taken not to change the responses of the people too much. "The diocese parish of Jerusalem, with our help, produces a Sunday leaflet that is distributed in the other parishes where all the new formulas are, thus allowing the people of God to fully follow the liturgy enriched with these changes together with the priest," concludes Father Aziz.

Elena Dini



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The Life of the Lieutenancies

A LOOK AT THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE IN THE UNITED STATES

It is gratifying to witness the joy of our Members as they celebrate their Annual Meetings and Investitures. Members are happy to be together, renew friendships, and welcome new Members.

After a successful Lieutenants Meeting this past June in Pasadena, California with Lieutenants and spouses from all North America, we are on a

path to regain momentum to grow and develop the Order in our Lieutenancies. The theme of the meeting was the Spirituality of the Order as articulated by His Eminence Cardinal Filoni in his book: *The House was Filled with the Fragrance of the Perfume: A Spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*; with a special emphasis on the Eucharist.

During the June Meeting, we spent an entire day on developing Goals and Objectives to renew and grow the Order. These Goals and Objectives are being developed further through ongoing discussion and will be distributed to all North American Members.

Grand Master Cardinal Filoni spoke to us on the importance of Spirituality as Members of the Order and challenged us to



Investiture ceremony at the Church of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, California.

enhance our personal sanctification and that of our Members. We also discussed the importance of the Eucharist and ways to restore belief in the True Presence of Our Lord in our respective communities.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), at their regularly scheduled meeting last November, adopted a document entitled, *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church*; and set in motion a three-year effort to renew appreciation for the True Presence of Our Lord in the Eucharist. This Eucharistic theme has been at the heart of many of this year's Annual Meetings and Investitures in North America. As believers, Knights and Dames can and will be strong supporters of our Bishops in this three-year effort.

On May 1, 2020, the United States and





Members from all over North America participated in a pilgrimage dedicated to Our Lady of Palestine at the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament founded by Mother Angelica in Hanceville, Alabama.

Canada rededicated our two countries to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Archbishop José Gomez, KC*HS, Archbishop of Los Angeles and the Grand Prior of the USA Western Lieutenancy, as Chairman of the USCCB led the United States Bishops in this rededication. At the same time, the Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, KC*HS, Archbishop of Winnipeg and President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops led the Canadian Bishops in this rededication. We pray that with this rededication, Our Lady will watch over and bless our two countries.

Over the last several months, most of our Lieutenancies held their Annual Meetings and Investitures. We saw record attendance with a large number of Investees and Promotions. Members enjoyed the opportunity to gather and share friendships.

Examples of some of the larger Annual Meetings and Investitures are 600 Members in attendance in the Western Lieutenancy, 750 in the Northern Lieutenancy, and 900 in the Southwestern Lieutenancy. Special thank you to the hundreds of Members who volunteered their time to handle the logistics and make these Investiture weekends so very enriching.

At the Consistory in Rome in August, Bishop Robert McElroy, a Member of the Order and Bishop of San Diego was elevated to Cardinal by the Holy Father, Pope Francis; and elevated to Knight Grand Cross by the Order.

In mid-October, Members from across North America attended a Pilgrimage dedicated to Our Lady of Palestine held at Mother Angelica's Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama. This Pilgrimage was hosted by the Southeastern Lieutenancy. The Pilgrimage consisted of presentations on the Blessed Mother, and a special

Mass at the Shrine which was presided over by Bishop Steven Raica, KC*HS, the Bishop of Birmingham, Alabama. Mass was broadcast online and recorded. The recording of the Mass can be viewed on the North America website noted below.

In October, the monthly North America broadcasts resumed. The October Broadcast featured Bishop Andrew Cozzens, KC*HS, who has been tasked by the USCCB to lead the three-year Eucharistic renewal effort. Bishop Cozzens is the Bishop of Crookston, Minnesota and is a very dynamic, young Bishop who is ideal to lead this renewal effort. All of these monthly broadcasts are recorded and can be watched live or at a later date on the North America website: <https://eohsjnorthamerica.org>.

P. Thomas Pogge, KGCHS
Vice Governor General for North America



HOLY LAND AND YOUTH

The Holy Land speaks to the hearts of young people: it is a place where they can meet Jesus, grow in faith and make important choices. The Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre are well aware of how life-changing an experience in the Holy Land can be and are working to devise initiatives to enable young people to get to know the Order and this land of 'living stones' better.

Volunteers and pilgrims: the summer experience for young people in the Holy Land organised by the Lieutenancy for Western Spain

From 15 to 31 July, a group of some fifteen young people, organised by the Lieutenancy for Western Spain, had an intense volunteer experience in the Holy Land coordinated by the Dame Commander



with Star María José Fernández y Martín (who had already taken a group of young people from the Lieutenancy in 2019, before Covid) and the Order's chaplain Father Francisco Javier Boada y González.

The young people divided into groups had the opportunity to experience diverse forms of service: some helped the Sisters of the Incarnate Word who work at the Hogar Niño Dios and prepared spaces in another house in Beit Sahour to welcome older children with disabilities for whom the best solution is to have their own environment and not in close contact with the younger children welcomed in Bethlehem. Another group served at the Crèche run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul



Young people organised by the Lieutenancy for Western Spain were able to take part in several services in the Holy Land, particularly with disabled children.



in Bethlehem, which takes in 57 children between the ages of 0 and 5.

Two other experiences in the second week were in service to the friars at the Basilica of Gethsemane (cleaning, welcoming pilgrims, cooking, etc.) and a day's work at the Shrine of Bethphage to help the friars clean the archaeological area behind the friary. Being of help to the friars who administer these sacred places for the benefit of pilgrims was another important element of volunteering. Marta Inés García Cid shared how it was "a privilege to assist the Franciscan friars in their care for the pilgrims."

"I received much more than I could give": with these words, Gadea González del Valle summed up her experience of service.

These days in the Holy Land were not only an opportunity to be at the service of the needs of the communities the young people encountered, but also to grow in faith and dedicate space and time to spirituality.

Dame María José Fernández y Martín, who had already accompanied the group of volunteers in 2019, expressed her joy at their return to the Lieutenancy: "It is difficult to express how proud and happy I am to have been able to be the group's guiding thread. A group with a great personality and strength in the service of the good and dedication to the Mother Church of the Holy Land. With people like these, the Order can be sure that its solidity is assured, always responding to the mission that the Popes have entrusted to it."

The Order's Youth in Germany: discovering the life of the Order and the Holy Land

Father Oliver Rothe is the Prior of the Düsseldorf Delegation of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre's Lieutenancy for Germany.



In Germany, a group led by Father Oliver Rothe, Prior of the Düsseldorf Delegation, initiates boys and girls into the life of the Order from an early age.

This summer he led a pilgrimage for a group of young people from his diocese. "I came here with some young people from three parishes in which I have served during the past ten years," says Father Oliver.

Heny Gottlob, 19, participates in the pilgrimage and is also a member of the Youth of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. This group, animated by Father Oliver, introduces boys and girls to the life of the Order from a young age.

They are clearly not members of the Order but very young people who grow up inspired by the ideal, the mission and the concrete life of the Knights and Dames. There are more than 100 of them in their WhatsApp group with around 20 of them being more active: they participate in the Investitures and begin to familiarise themselves with the Order's mission and activities.

"I joined the Knights' Youth group after being invited by Father Oliver," says Henry. "Since I started participating during the pandemic, we had a few introductory sessions online and then we were lucky enough to be present at the Investiture that took place in Munich in mid-May."

But why would young people be interested in the Order of the Holy



Sepulchre? Father Oliver Rothe enthusiastically answers this question, explaining why he invites them to this experience. "Because the Order is a wonderful community to which I belong and therefore I am happy to share it with the young people of my parish. Secondly, I think it is important that the young people come

into contact with the Holy Land as soon as possible," explains Father Oliver.

In March 2023, Father Oliver plans to organise a pilgrimage just for the Youth of the Order and it will be a great opportunity for these young people to discover the Holy Land. Let us already remember them in our prayers.

HOMAGE FROM THE ORDER TO THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND THROUGH THE VOICE OF LIEUTENANT MICHAEL BYRNE

"The Lieutenancy of England and Wales of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem gives thanks to Almighty God for the life and Christian example of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Her Majesty's Christian faith was the centre of her life of public service both in this country and the Commonwealth to which she was devoted.

Her steadfastness, devotion to duty, and love of people stood as an example to us all."

This was the beginning of a heartfelt statement that Michael Byrne, Lieutenant for England and Wales, sent to all members of his Lieutenancy on the occasion of the passing away of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II earlier in September 2022.

"The monarch is the head of the Church in England and as such is committed to beliefs and principles of the Anglican Church. Although there was no actual personal contact between the Queen and the Order, her Christian faith was the guiding principle of her

life. The late Queen was, and now King Charles III, is committed to ecumenism. The new King publicly supports the faith of all those who believe in Almighty God," explains the Lieutenant.

"We always pray for the sovereign at our Investitures which end with the singing of the National Anthem. When on pilgrimage in Jerusalem we always say a prayer for the repose of the soul of King Charles's paternal grandmother, Prince Philip's mother, who lies buried in the Russian Orthodox Church, as we descend the Mount of Olives on the way to Gethsemane," Byrne concludes.



SOME INVESTITURES AROUND THE WORLD

With the resumption of travel and meetings in person, the Investitures are once again becoming a fundamental moment, not only, of course, for the spiritual dimension of this event, but also for the possibility of fraternal sharing that has often been lacking in this period.

Meetings between Lieutenants from the same geographical area on the occasion of the Investitures

Already during the spring, the Governor General had begun to organise meetings for Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates belonging to similar geographical groups in the Iberian Peninsula in Madrid, following the now consolidated tradition of the meeting between Italian Lieutenants (which took place this year in Assisi in May). In recent months, three new European groups have met in this way.

On the occasion of the Investiture in **Stockholm**, Sweden, the Governor General,

Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, promoted a meeting between the Lieutenants and the Magistral Delegates of the Nordic countries on 17 September, with the participation of Helene Lund, member of the Grand Magisterium, and Msgr. Czeslaw Kozon, Bishop of Copenhagen and Grand Prior for Sweden and Denmark. The meeting was attended by the Lieutenants of Sweden and Denmark, Jørgen Boesen, and of Finland, Verna Johanna Paloheimo, as well as the Magistral Delegate for Norway, Huan Ngoc Nguyen. The Knights and Dames from this region are particularly appreciated," commented the Governor General, "for their efforts in keeping alive the presence of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in countries where the percentage of Catholics is very low.

A few days later it was the turn of the meeting of other Lieutenancies on the occasion of the Investitures in **Vienna** on 23 and 24 September (the prayer vigil in St. Stephen's Cathedral on Friday 23 September, and the Investiture presided over by the

Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, Abbot Raimund Schreier, the following day in the Augustinerkirche). Together with the Governor General and Vice Governor General for Europe Jean-Pierre de Glutz, the Lieutenants of Austria, Belgium, Germany, England and Wales, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Eastern Spain, Slovenia, Switzerland and Liechtenstein were present. In his address to the numerous participants at the gala



Meeting of the Lieutenants of Northern European countries in Stockholm, Sweden, with the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone.





Numerous Lieutenancies were present at the Investiture ceremonies in Vienna.

dinner following the Investiture in Vienna, the Governor General recommended to those present to strengthen the Order's unity while respecting the diversity of traditions. The new Ritual, the commitment to greater spiritual involvement, the generosity towards the Mother Church of Jerusalem, must be shared by all the Lieutenancies, aware that together they

interpret a precise design of the Church and a duty established for the Order by the Holy Father.

Finally, on 25 November, the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates of the English-speaking countries (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Gibraltar and Southern Africa) met with the Governor General in **London** on the side-lines of the Investiture

ceremonies which took place at St. George's Cathedral in Southwark. The Prayer Vigil was officiated by the Grand Prior, Archbishop John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, and the Investiture itself, the following day, by Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, who welcomed 12 new members to the Order. A solemn banquet followed at the Mansion House, official residence of the Mayor of the City of London. During the banquet in the Egyptian Room of the Mansion House, the speeches emphasised the unity of the Order in its various peripheral articulations and the uniqueness of its commitment to the Holy Land.



The Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates from the English-speaking countries (England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Gibraltar and Southern Africa) met with the Governor General in London on the side-lines of the Investiture ceremonies.





Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo represented the Grand Magisterium in Chicago.

Chicago, 23-25 September 2022

The Lieutenancy for the USA North Central, under the leadership of outgoing Lieutenant Max Douglas Brown, welcomed many Knights and Dames of the Order during the Investiture held in Chicago. His Eminence Cardinal Cupich, Grand Prior, presided over the celebrations, in the presence of Lieutenant General Agostino Borromeo, who represented the Grand Magisterium.

Paris, 23-24 September 2022

Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, presided over the Investiture of some forty new members of the Lieutenancy for France in the church of Saint Sulpice in Paris, in the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio, Msgr. Celestino Migliore. In the morning, the Grand Master participated in the Chapter of the Lieutenancy, together with General Jean-Marie Faugère, Lieutenant of France, taking the time to answer questions from the Knights and Dames, in a warm and fraternal atmosphere. On Friday evening, His Eminence



Numerous Knights and Dames attended the Investiture Ceremony of the new members of the Lieutenancy for France and the Lieutenancy for Luxembourg in the church of Saint-Sulpice, in Paris.

accompanied the Prayer Vigil that preceded the Investiture in the Cathedral of Saint-Louis des Invalides, during which he solemnly presented General Bernard Fleuriot with the diploma and insignia of Lieutenant of Honour of the Order.

On the occasion of this Investiture in Paris, the Lieutenancy for Luxembourg was able to have its only candidate invested for the current year, thanks to the impetus of the Lieutenancy for France. The Lieutenancy for Luxembourg travelled to Paris with a reinforced delegation of about twenty people, led by Lieutenant Jacques Klein, Chancellor Tom Cranfield and Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies Claude Bache.

The Lieutenancy for France organised the gala evening in the prestigious Cercle des Armées, which was attended by all the new members of the Order. The Archbishop of Paris, Msgr. Laurent Ulrich, and the Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honour honoured the Order with their presence.





The Investiture ceremony of the Lieutenancy for Western Spain was held in the Cathedral of Cordoba.

Cordoba, 7-8 October 2022

In view of the Investiture ceremonies of the Lieutenancy for Western Spain in Cordoba, the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, met in Toledo with the Grand Prior, Monsignor Francisco Cesar Garcia Magan. Msgr. Garcia Magan was recently appointed to this position by the Grand Master, and became Secretary General of the Spanish Episcopal Conference a few weeks later. The discussion focused on the circular letter that the Cardinal Grand Master intends to send to all the bishops on the ecclesiological significance of aid to the Holy Land.

The Governor General then travelled to Cordoba for the Investiture ceremonies of the Lieutenancy for Western Spain. The Investiture was celebrated in the Cathedral and was preceded by a prayer vigil in the Church of San Pablo. The Mayor of Cordoba hosted a reception in the Alcazar de los Reyes Cristianos and then Lieutenant José Carlos Sanjuan y Monforte invited the participants to a gala dinner in the Archbishop's Palace.

At the end of the Investiture ceremonies, the Governor General presented the Mayor of the city, José Maria Bellido Roche, with the Order's Cross of Merit in recognition of the hospitality offered, in the presence of the Grand Prior, the Lieutenant for Western Spain and numerous dignitaries.

Malta, 4-5 November 2022

The Vigil and the Investiture ceremony of the Maltese Lieutenancy took place respectively in the Collegiate Basilica of the Nativity of the Virgin in Senglea and in the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Paul in Mdina. The vigil was celebrated by Msgr. Joseph Galea Curmi, Auxiliary Bishop of Malta, while the Investiture was

presided over by the Grand Prior of the Order in Malta, Msgr. Charles Jude Scicluna. The Lieutenancy was honoured by the presence of Saverio Petrillo, Treasurer of the Order, representing the Grand Magisterium. This great event was also attended by several Italian Lieutenants and a representative of the Lieutenancy for Ireland.



The Vigil and the Investiture Ceremony of the Maltese Lieutenancy took place respectively in the Basilica of the Nativity of Mary in Senglea (in our photo) and in the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Paul in Mdina.



Naples, 2-3 December 2022

Some thirty new members joined the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in a ceremony held at the Basilica Santuario Incoronata Madre del Buon Consiglio in Naples, presided over by Cardinal Filoni, Grand Master, together with the Assessor, Archbishop Caputo, and the Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy, Monsignor Depalma. As the Grand Master recalled during the homily, the Investiture "implies full adherence to the Spirituality of the Order, to the commitment to support the Mother Church of Jerusalem and your local Churches." The Lieutenant for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy, Giovanni Battista Rossi, joyfully welcomed the new Knights and Dames together with the Chancellor of the Grand Magisterium, Ambassador Bastianelli, and the other Lieutenants present (Southern Adriatic Italy, Italy Sicily, Italy Sardinia, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, and Malta).

Prior to the Investiture celebration, the Grand Master, together with the Order's Assessor and Archbishop of Pompeii, and the Lieutenant, met with the members of the Tyrrhenian Mediterranean Italy Lieutenancy for a moment of sharing in



By the Grand Master's will, during the vigil preceding the Investiture, the sword, held aloft by the future Knight as a sign of loyalty and justice, is highlighted, as shown here during the celebrations organised in Naples by the Tyrrhenian Southern Italy Lieutenancy.

which the Knights and Dames, after listening to the words of the Grand Master, had the opportunity to ask various questions and seek advice. In the morning, Cardinal Filoni and a small delegation visited the catacombs of San Gennaro, an important place for the faith of the local population.

The previous evening, during the Prayer Vigil presided over by Archbishop Beniamino Depalma, the Grand Master, meeting the *investendi* before the celebration, reminded them of the importance of the personal encounter with Christ in Eucharistic Adoration. "You belong to Christ whose insignia you bear." During the Vigil, the future Knights and Dames were presented with their own signs: the sword and spurs for the Knights and the jar of oils for the Dames.

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Culture

Saint Jean-Baptiste, Parnell, Auckland

PATRONAL CHURCH OF THE ORDER IN NEW ZEALAND

After the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, Apihai Te Kawau a chief of Ngati Whatua offered three thousand acres of tribal land to the British Crown. The church at Parnell is now sited on a part of that land, which was later purchased by an Anglican missionary, who in June 1858, sold it to Jean-Baptiste Pompallier, first Bishop of Auckland, to be used for religious and educational purposes. Shortly after purchasing the land, Pompallier became the Bishop of Auckland and established the church. It was named in honour of the Bishop Pompallier's patron saint, Saint John the Baptist.

The church, initially a small timber building with a tower and spire, was opened and blessed on 12 May 1861 by Bishop Pompallier. It took its current form when it was enlarged with the addition of the extended East end in 1899. The sanctuary was reordered in 1931 with a design that largely remains to this day. Franciscan and Marist communities administered the Parish of Parnell until 1989 when the parish reverted to diocesan status. In 1997 the church was completely refurbished.



Bishop Pompallier, the first Bishop of Auckland, member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, inaugurated and blessed the church of St. John the Baptist in Parnell, a central area of the city, which has become the Order's patronal church in New Zealand.

Saint John the Baptist Church at Parnell, Auckland, in a decree dated January 1, 2012, was named by the Prior of the Order, Bishop Patrick Dunn, KC*HS, Bishop of Auckland as the Patronal Church of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of New Zealand. The church was chosen because Bishop Pompallier, the first bishop of Auckland, was a member of the Order and he blessed the original church. It was also chosen because it was quite central to the city.

Saint John the Baptist Church, Parnell is listed as a heritage building and, as such, we continue to recognise and protect the church's cultural heritage and character.

