



First Tuesday Update...FTU...October 8, 2024

OPENING MESSAGE FROM OUR LIEUTENANT.... H.E. MARGIE ROMANO, DGCHS...



Dear Fellow Knights and Dames of Las Vegas,

For the past 8 years, Joe and Connie Micatrotto have given of their time and talent in leading the EOHSJ Western Lieutenancy as Area Councillors for the Archdiocese of Las Vegas. During these years, they have embraced the mission of the Order in their ministry. They have brought their love of our Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Land to us. Friendships have been made; help given freely.

Change is not always easy. As their term as Area Councillors comes to an end, please join me in thanking them for the great gifts they have been to all. They will continue to serve the Order – that won't change! They've promised to support James and Julie as the new Area Councillors. I believe that Joe and Connie are only a phone call away with an immediate "yes we can help" when asked!

Thank you, Micatrotto's. You are a wonderful blessing to our church, and to our Order.

May God bless you with His wisdom and grace as you go forth in service to Him.

H.E. Dame Margaret Romano, DGCHS



Sir Michael Feeley, KGCHS, Bishop Greg Gordon, KC*HS, Lieutenant Margie Romano, DGCHS and Archbishop George Leo Thomas, Ph.D., KC*HS.

Nancy, Tom (Margie's Hubby!), Margie, Karen, Bill, Connie, Joe And Dr. David... note the empty wine glasses while visiting Austria!







Connie's Corner

As Dames and Knights of the Holy Sepulcher we know that Jesus is real! How do we recognize his presence in our everyday life? Have we learned to depend on him in all things? Not only the big burdens we have in our lives but the small things we think are not important enough to bother him with. Do you wake each morning and thank God for the bed we sleep in and the beautiful new day that lies ahead? Do we know, really know, that he is always with us, that no problem is too big or small? Living in God's will is the answer to all our wants and desires. Following God's plan for us.

We live in a very complicated time. Our world is sometimes something we don't even recognize. We know the end story. God will prevail! In the meantime, we are faced with constant bombardment of evil. Satan doesn't need to "tempt" faithless people, immoral people, he has them already. We need to be strong in our faith and the assertion that Christ is alive and lives in us. Our calling as Christians is to evangelize, hoping to bring those lost back to our loving Lord. We need to arm ourselves by surrounding ourselves with people of faith, attending Mass as often as possible, and spending time in adoration of the true body of Christ. Christ is in the Eucharist and he is in you!

We are given only so much time here on earth. Our days are numbered and only he knows the when and where. How will you spend those days? What will God say to you when you go home to be with him? The struggle continues, in our community, our homes with family and friends and even in our church. We must surround ourselves in prayer and the Eucharist.

Christ Be Our Light! ~In His Service, Connie

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS FOR OUR NEW 14 INVESTEES...Under this altar we present the 14 members of our class of 2024...Please lift them up in your daily prayers through their investiture in Salt Lake City, October 10-12, 2024...

"Our Lady, hold them in your loving arms as you held your child Jesus."

Alex Bellus Karen Cronin Tim Cronin Fr. Miguel Corral Debra Ely Kathleen Fench Tina Fennel



Mary Latini Deacon Richard Minch Danielle Nakhle Samar Nakhle Rita Phillips Rosemary Raimondo Roger Watson

Main Altar Church of Our Lady Queen of Palestine in our Holy Land





ROSARY...OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY is YOUR/OUR MOTHER!!! What a beautiful evening where we all shared this blessed Feast Day. Our First Monday Rosary at BGHS again showed again the true "Family Loving Character" of this Las Vegas Council. Our next Rosary is Monday, November 4th, again at 6pm at BGHS. We are so blest to have Dame Jennifer and Dame Julie leading our Spiritual pathway along our road of Personal Sanctification. Our Lady Queen of Palestine protect our Living and Loving Stones.

SHOW UP FOR MARY... The last weekend of October, 2024 signifies the Feast Day of Our Lady Queen of Palestine, the patron saint of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. Several of our Knights and Dames have been feverishly working to invite parishes within the Archdiocese of Las Vegas to participate in a special rosary of devotion to Our Lady and to pray for peace in the Holy Land, which marks a one-year anniversary on October 7 of ongoing violence.

We are thrilled to report that several churches have agreed to participate in the recognition of OLQP in some form, most adaptive to the particular conditions of their parish schedules. Some have established their special rosary on a time or date on or close to the weekend of October 26 & 27, 2024.

We encourage all Knights and Dames to check the participation of their home parish and to attend the rosary dressed in ceremonial robes. We know that interest and curiosity in the Equestrian Order is evoked when people see Knights and Dames in their robes. Following the Mass or rosary, in the narthex or courtyard, Knights and Dames will be available to greet or answer questions about the Order, very informally. When questioned about the Equestrian Order by curious parishioners, concentrate on these facts: the Equestrian Order is the only institution of the Vatican State charged with providing for the needs of the Latin Patriarchate and for providing support of a Christian presence in the Holy Land. It is a Papal Order. Knights and Dames are called to support each other in our individual quest for personal sanctification.

Let's all "Show up for Mary," Our Lady Queen of Palestine, during her feast day this October. Blessings,

~Sir Franklin Mercera, KHS ~Dame Rosemary Mercera, DHS mercera@gmail.com







JUSTICE & PEACE... LETTER FROM REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF PONTIFICAL MISSION... I wanted to pass on the opening letter reflection from Mr. Joseph A. Hazboun, Regional Director and resident of Jerusalem for the Pontifical Mission for the Vatican. His words are direct and honest and require our prayer and attention.

Dear friends and partners,

In a few days, it will be a year since the war on Gaza began. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a chance for an end to the hostilities any time soon. Instead of finding a diplomatic solution that would end the war that have caused much death and suffering, release the captives and end the threats from Lebanon as well as Yemen; instead, Israel decided to open another front with Hezbullah. The damages in Beirut and the various cities in Lebanon are tremendous. How many innocent people have been killed in the process of eliminating the leadership of Hezbullah? Would such a blast bring peace and put an end to hostilities and, most importantly, to the suffering of innocent children and women?

How and when would this madness end?

Let's pray with Sr. Francis of Assisi, who's feast is on October 4th: "Make me an instrument of your peace". Enclosed is brief update on the situation.

With best wishes, Joseph



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In His Grace.... ~Sir Ray Murphy, KHS J&P Leader

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT..." SYMPATHY" & "PRAYING FOR YOU" CARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

This is just a reminder to our Las Vegas Council membership to please notify me via email or phone if/when you become aware of the need for either of our cards to be sent to any of our members. Our Sympathy Cards are sent to any of our members who experience the loss of a family member or loved one, and our Praying for You Cards are mailed to any member who is experiencing a hardship, illness, or any other kind of distress and is in need of our prayers.

I can be contacted at <u>tkral@kralussery.com</u> or text 608-852-4566.

We've learned, from hearing from our members, how much these cards mean to the recipient. Just knowing that our entire membership is praying for us, helps us get through life's difficult times. ~Dame Tracey Kral, DCHS





25 YEAR JUBILEE CELEBRATION... The Las Vegas Council was recently privileged to participate in a milestone celebration of one of our Knight Chaplains, Sir James Jankowski, KHS. Thirty-one Knights and Dames were honored to process for the Mass, along with many brother priests and deacons. Father Jim is an excellent example of how a religious member of the Order can be a great spiritual and pastoral leader in a council. Father

Jim has walked with us on pilgrimages and been a regular fixture at monthly rosaries. He has made himself available for us whenever possible, and in an age when priests are in short supply, Father has made us a priority.

Congratulations, Father Jim, on 25 years of priesthood! Deus Lo Vult ~Sir James D. Mersch. KCHS

~Dame Julie A. Mersch, DCHS



MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE....After seven years of heading this Committee, we will be stepping down, effective October 10th. We've immensely enjoyed working on this Committee's goals of developing projects and programs that build, promote, and sustain a strong and cohesive membership. This truly results in advancing and cultivating a firm sense of fraternity and fellowship among our own members, as well as with the EOHSJ. We have found that our members overwhelmingly enjoy being involved by participating in our Council's projects and spiritually-related activities – all of which attempt to fully engage the

participation of our members and nominees in our Las Vegas Council and the EOHSJ. In the process, we have all become better acquainted with one another and made new and lasting friendships. We've discovered common interests with our fellow members, as well as hidden talents!

Thank you all for your support over the years! We've loved getting to know so many people involved in this Committee's eight Sub-Committees and it's heartening to see their ideas, creativity and inspiration in each of their respective projects. We truly have a lot of talent in our Council!!

Please continue to support Member Engagement and Enhancement and each of the subcommittee heads in our Las Vegas Council!!

With Gratitude...

~Dame Deborah Barton, DC*HS

~Sir David Barton, KC*HS

2025 NOMINEES...WE NEED THEIR NAMES NOW...the clock is ticking down and if you have folks you believe would be good "Invitation" Catholics for our EOHSJ...PLEASE TELL US NOW...we have a team of 4 to get the 2025 Candidate's interviewed and informed. The M&M's.... Mersch's and Micatrotto's are available. One of your duties as Dames and Knights is to bring forth those you feel may be ready for the Holy Spirit's calling to the Order. This Council has become a phenom of member and spiritual growth because of YOU and your FELLOW members taking it upon themselves to bring forth members of God's family to become a member and serve in this Papal Order. And to our Bishops, Priests and Deacons...you carry a special blessing by fulfilling this duty for the work of God. Contact us now...PLEASE and full of GRATITUDE...

~James/Julie/Connie/Joe





MENTORING INITIATIVE...To all Knights and Dames of our Las Vegas Council! This year, I'm heading the "Mentoring Initiative," a sub-committee of the Member Engagement and Enhancement Committee. I am asking for volunteers to serve as a mentor to one of our 14 newly-invested members this

year, beginning immediately after their investiture in October and continuing for one year, as needed. As mentors, we make them feel welcome to our council, introduce them to fellow members at our monthly rosaries, MYM's, summer retreats, answer any questions they may have about the Order and/or our Council projects and most of all, make them feel integral to our Council. Also, it's an opportunity to make a new friend!

So far, the following Knights and Dames have volunteered:

Knight Dave Barton / Dame Debby Barton Knight Norman Jolicoeur / Dame Temmie Jolicoeur Knight Norman Ho / Dame Elena Ho Dame Victoria Enriquez

You can send me a text at 808-358-2276 or email me at <u>elenavho53@gmail.com</u>. I look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you and God bless!

~ Dame Elena Ho, DCHS

ENGAGEMENT/ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE...LINK TO THE HOLY LAND...We have a program in our Las Vegas Council called "Link to the Holy Land", where we connect our Las Vegas Council members with many Council contacts throughout the Holy Land. The seminarians at the Beit Jala Seminary in Bethlehem, are a large part of this program.

Our purpose is to serve as a "link" from here to there and to let them know they are in our daily prayers and to offer words of encouragement and interest. Also, they may share where they are from originally, where their family members are and perhaps something about themselves. Optimally, the email would be on a monthly basis.

Recently we received comments from Rev. Father Bernard Poggi, the Rector/Director of the Beit Jala Seminary in Bethlehem, "Thanks so much for the initiative. It means so much to us to keep our seminarians connected with our wonderful supporters."

Currently there are 7 individuals waiting to be "linked" to a Las Vegas Council member. If you are interested, please contact Madalyn Dornak at mddornak@mac.com

LV COUNCIL BOOK CLUB UPDATE...We are continuing to read "Don Quixote" by Cervantes. Believed to be 'the first novel' written in the early 1600's. Although listed in every 'Books that a Catholic must read', backed by the romantic notions of the Broadway play, a very memorable musical score and several movies ... 'To dream the impossible dream' ... this is ... 'our quest' ... at 1000 pages, to keep reading and carry over to next month. The tale of the errant knight and his squire continue to intrigue and enlighten us to the challenges of a chivalrous errant knight in the Spanish 17th century culture. Call 702.523.3270, or email <u>iboughrum3@cox.net</u> to learn more..

~Sir Jeffrey Boughrum, KCHS

WESTERN LIEUTENANCY WEB SITE...remember, we do have a really good web site that can keep you up to date on so many aspects of our WL, the ORDER and the events of the other Councils. We do share our FTU with many folks but the larger picture of the Lieutenancy is best captured by staying in tune with our website at <u>www.eohsjwesternusa.org</u>





ENGAGEMENT/ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE...CHRISTMAS CARD SUBCOMMITTEE...It is time to send Christmas cards to our Beit Jala Seminarians in Bethlehem! There are currently 20 seminarians at the seminary. Their names and pictures are at the conclusion of this article.

There will be Christmas cards available, for your taking, at the October and November rosaries. Please return the cards by the December rosary as Connie and Joe will be taking the cards to the Holy Land for us!

It is such a blessing to have the opportunity to write to these young men and to let them know how meaningful it is to us, for them to be preparing for the priesthood and to send them your personal Christmas wishes.

Theology Students 2023-2024



Yousef Elias Yaqoub Haddad

Basil Hanna Rafea Baransi



Salama Hanna Salama Azar

Grace Majed Anton Abu Khalil Fadi Munther Yagoub Kandah

Malik Azmi Eid Al-Qalanza

Spirituality Year Students 2023-2024



Qais Firas Boutros Diab



Milad Najib Tohme Albadr



Daniel Raja Edmond Sweidan



Majd Firas Jalal Mazahera



Ghassan Hani Yousef Haddad

ENGAGEMENT/ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE...CHRISTMAS CARD SUBCOMMITTEE...CONT'D



Pierre-Giorgio Mikhail Kersoyan

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ... Knights and Dames it is my pleasure to spotlight Connie and Joe Micatrotto. Much has been told about this couple in the Western Lieutenancy in the past eight years and much more will be told for they have built good memories and done good

work for the Lord worth 800 years. So, I will make a less obvious statement—the Order is the means by which the

Micatrotto's sought Mary.

For Connie the seeking has been from reverence to recognition; for Joe from recognition to reverence.

Connie's childhood seeds of faith grew in an unnamed tiny Protestant congregation in Ohio but she always held Mary in great reverence as the Mother of the Jesus she loves. After converting, her reverence in some ways kept Connie in awe of Marian devotions-she had rosaries and statues and they meant a lot to her but not until Ephesus did Mary make it personal. Connie stood on that holy ground, in such terrible physical pain that Joe was helping her stand, and her prayers were for



someone else. Yet her Mother loved her through and through. On the plane ride home, Connie realized she'd been keeping up with Joe with no pain and Connie recognized Our Mother's touch; she commemorates that recognition numerous times a day with her favorite Memorare prayer.

For Joe, steeped in Catholicism, Mary has been around always-statues of Mary all over the home, including the bathrooms, a miraculous medal round his neck, a scapular on his back, the Feast of the Assumption celebrated with a huge party in his neighborhood every year and Cleveland's Holy Rosary Church just down the block. He admits that he took her for granted; the Mother he knew was always there and not until Ephesus did Mary make it divine. Joe stood on that holy ground and knew the miracle of the Assumption. Reverence for the Mother he'd known all his life shot through him and he commemorates this through his favorite devotion to the Assumption on August 15.

Of course, it was an Order pilgrimage that brought these two children to Ephesus and to their Mother. And that is why the Order will always be the means by which the Micatrotto's seek to bring us all closer to Mary.

~Dame Ruth Palileo, DCHS





OUR OWN SIR CHRIS...Many will remember our great emcee for the 2021 ANNUAL Meeting held in Las Vegas. Chris made our lives much easier by handling the opening duties. Many watched on EWTN the great interview with Raymond Arroyo and asked if they could by the book written by Sir Chris...here you go...Go to the following....<u>JerryLewis2024.com</u> to get it directly from the publisher for \$19.26. Chris did that price to honor his dad, Jerry, born in 1926. Also, if interested in the fabulous charitable life time work of Chris...the wheelchairs (see below) just go to<u>www.amwheelchair.org</u>.



YOUR LOVE AND COMMITMENT MADE THIS HAPPEN...





FIAT UPDATE...FIAT #1...DECEMBER 1-18, 2024...BARNABAS TRIP... okay, what is going on now? We have a new update, as the war continues to delay Pilgrimages and progress of many events, we have decided that the FIAT Initiative is too important to allow time to erode previous progress but we also need to be able to securely move folks in their roles. We have decided, along with Deacon Rick Minch, to make a special BARNABAS trip (he was known as the apostle of Encouragement and Love). So, we will be on assignment for just under 3 weeks to revisit, rekindle and reinvigorate the many wonderful aspects that have assisted us in building the FIAT program including Hogar Ninos Dios, Antonia Charitable Services, 3 Kings, Beit Jala Seminary, Franciscan Boys Home as well as visits with the Latin Patriarch and Franciscan Custos.

We hope to have videos and possible podcasts as well as extensive reports to all. We are thrilled to have Dame Denise Scalzo, our Holy Land Councilor, visiting Jerusalem at the same time we are in Bethlehem. Her guidance and assistance will be huge. This is a great opportunity to "walk the talk" of our Council and Lieutenancy. It is our prayerful hope that not long after this St. Barnabas trip we can solidify the first FIAT as well as usher in Holy Land Pilgrimages in the following year.



"No dear, I am fine, love the LV Wheelchairs...but where do you get that white hair???"

Hmmmm...A Custos, Archangel and the Mouth



God has blest us with Spiritual Role Models...Fr. Ferraro and Mother Roncevalles

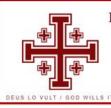


OK....now who is the Bishop, you or Bob? And these other 3 women want to join the convent! (Liz/Pauline/Connie!)





"Hey, I will sit in the last row as you guys are shorter, but I will slouch down, this is 1st grade?"





PILGRIMAGES SPONSORED BY THE LV COUNCIL!

***HOLY YEAR ALL ITALY...March 17-29, 2025...SOLD OUT**...phenomenal time in Rome, Assisi, and Florence, featuring day trips to Orvieto, Lucca, Pisa and Siena. Holy Year Masses at the four major Basilica's of Rome and a visit to EOHSJ Headquarters at the Vatican. A blessing to be led by 3 Spiritual Leaders: Bishop Higgins, KC*HS, Fr. Roy Kurian, Deacon James Carabajal, KCHS.

*NEW...PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE...in the Footsteps of St. Paul...November 2-15, 2025. Includes a Greek Isle Cruise and early Chrisitan Communities. This magnificent Pilgrimage will soon be posted with travel details but already includes the following...Athens, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Delphi, Mykonos, Santorini, Ephesus, Rhodes, Corinth, Patmos and more! Spiritual leaders: Fr. Camillus Ogaraku, MSP, and Deacon James Carabajal, KCHS. If interested now please email, space very limited.

*HOLY LAND AND JORDAN/PETRA...March 1-15, 2026...this amazing pilgrimage will include Galilee, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Kerak, Petra and incredible sites throughout. Spiritual leaders: Fr. Daniel Rolland, OP, KHS, and Deacon Rick Minch, KHS. Look for more info soon.

*FATIMA, SANTIAGO, LOURDES...15 DAYS...April 12-26, 2026...this blessed Pilgrimage includes Lisbon, Porto, Oviedo, San Sebastián, Toulouse and more. Pricing and registration begin June 1, 2025. Space is limited. Spiritual leaders: Bishop Greg Gordon, KC*HS and Deacon James Carabajal, KCHS.

PLEASE NOTE...all of these Pilgrimages will be coordinated by Joe/Connie Micatrotto and operated by CTC. You may place your name on the "INTERESTED" list, which gives you priority now but has no financial commitment until actual registration, for Pilgrimages 2,3 and 4.

MID-YEAR MEETING DATES...THANK YOU ARCHBISHOP THOMAS, KC*HS, PhD. One of the questions we have consistently received during our eight years as your Area Councillors is, "how do you folks get such amazing support and commitment from your Bishops?" We are blest because they LOVE the Order! We have four men led by our Archbishop who see the EOHSJ as the Papal Order it was and is meant to be, in service to the Lord's family...from our Auxiliary Bishop Gordon, KC*HS to our retired but ACTIVE Bishops Higgins, KC*HS and Bishop Pepe, KC*HS.

Think of this...these Bishops have accompanied us on four Pilgrimages to the Holy Land, with more on the docket! And no one is better than our Archbishop when it comes to future planning, even with his BUSY schedule. Below are the next four years of dates for our Mid-Year Meetings (MYM). Please make note so you can avoid any conflicts! BLESSINGS TO YOU, ARCHBISHOP and thanks always to your superb assistant, Lisa Sifuentes!

Mid-Year Meetings (MYM) Schedule 2025.... March 13th 2026.... March 19th 2027.... March 11th 2028.... March 16th All are Thursdays and start times are 4:00pm.





FINALLY...

We are having a "dueling emotions" of "overflowing love" and "breaking" of our two Spiritual hearts. In our 52 years of blessed marriage, we have never had a more fulfilling experience with our Lord's family than with YOU...both our family in the EOHSJ and our family in God's Holy Land. We now pray with greater enthusiasm, knowing what God has done-is doing-will do!

We are now speaking to each of you reading this...YOU have allowed us to live a life that is "overflowing" with the most important virtue given by God…we all know the importance of FAITH in God, HOPE in His word, yet we can find in Corinthians 13:13 the pinnacle of Gods gifts…it sums up all we can be as children of God…"but the greatest of these is LOVE."

That brings us to the other "emotion"..."breaking" of our Spiritual heart. You have allowed us the honor and blessing to serve the Order and you in ways our combined 147 years could not envision. It is not easy to leave this role of God's service. Yet, we are overwhelmed at what Jim and Julie Mersch will provide in their love and guidance in serving each of you. When we feel the nostalgic yank of our heart "breaking" we must remember what Christ always showed us in His humanity. He deeply desired for us to be His hands, feet, arms and HEART to all those we come into contact with in this life. His heart surely broke as He moved through humanity in His day, as he saw His family searching, seeking, reaching and rejecting.

This too is for YOU and US...we must use this gift of time on earth for His glory, to vividly show what we all can be with Jesus Christ as the centerpiece of our lives. PLEASE pray for us as we move to the next fulfillment in His will. We are Dame and Knight for this life and your brother and sister for eternity.

May God see and know all of our hearts, use all our lives for His family and fill us all with His grace to be "FULLY HIS" in this life....

We sign off as AC's in this FTU with a most beautiful and humbling heart filled message from our two blest Spiritual Leaders, Dame Jennifer Mallinger-McCormick, DCHS and Dame Julie McIntosh-Walsh, DCHS. They inspire by their actions and they role model by their lives....

In His Grace, Joy, Peace and Love.... Joe and Connie 🔶

HOW DO YOU...



How do you thank someone so kind?

How do you thank your mentor?

How do you say, you changed my life?

How do you say, your faith inspires me?

How do you let someone know, all of their hours of hard work have paid off?

How do you let someone know, your presence made me a better person? How do you tell someone, they make the world a better place?

How do you tell someone, they matter more than they know?

How do you remind them of your love?

How do you…

YOU PRAY FOR THEM and you THANK GOD!

Thank you, dear Lord, for the blessings of Joe and Connie Micatrotto in our lives.