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The Grand Master's message

THE DROP AND THE SMALL SEED

A drop can carve rock; I like to recall this saying of the ancient Latins to reflect upon the following: *I pray, but I see no results!*

The dramatic situation in some parts of the world in search of peace, such as in the Holy Land, where so much violence seems almost unstoppable and prayer, urged even daily by the Pope and the Church of Jerusalem, seems useless and unheard, raises questions: Why? And from whom? From God? From men?

If the drop digs the rock, faith teaches us that praying is not useless. Jesus told the disciples: "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to [this] mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." (Lk 17:6). An incredible event in itself, the mulberry tree being a sturdy tree, well rooted in the earth and resistant to the winds.

Here is the problem:

"If you had faith"! Faith, even as great as a small seed, and constancy like the drop that continually falls, work and produce something seemingly impossible to superficial consideration.

To pray, then, is not to resort to arms and violence, but is to continue to ask that not only God comes to our rescue, but also that men, that is, those in charge of nations and

peoples, do not sleep soundly; they often are at the root of violence and wars, and their ill-considered decisions weigh unspeakably on the populations.

Praying, with faith however small as a mustard seed and with the constancy of the drop that falls, produces fruit but leaving it to God when and how.

This is what a Knight and a Dame of the Holy Sepulchre can do in support of their solicitude for the Land of Jesus in these times.



Cardinal Filoni, pictured celebrating Mass at Golgotha on 3 January 2024, invites us to constantly pray for peace without giving way to discouragement.

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

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The Order in union with the Universal Church

POPE FRANCIS TO THE CATHOLICS OF THE HOLY LAND

"I embrace all of you, in the variety of your rites, dear Catholic faithful living throughout the Holy Land. In a particular way, I embrace those most affected by the senseless tragedy of war: the children robbed of their future, those who grieve and are in pain, and all who find themselves prey to anguish and dismay," declared the Pope in a major letter to the Catholics of the Holy Land written to mark Holy Week. "I would like each of you to feel

my paternal affection, for I am conscious of your sufferings and your struggles, particularly in the course of these recent months. Together with my affection, may you sense the love of Catholics throughout the world! May the Lord Jesus, our Life, like the Good Samaritan, pour over your wounds in body and soul the balm of his consolation and the wine of hope."

"Dear brothers and sisters," the Holy Father went on to say, "the Christian



*Easter Vigil in the parish church of Gaza,
30 March 2024.*

community of the Holy Land has not only acted, down the centuries, as a guardian of the places of our salvation, but has likewise borne enduring witness, through its own sufferings, to the mystery of the Lord's Passion. By your ability to rise anew and press forward, you have proclaimed, and continue to proclaim, that the crucified Lord rose from the dead; bearing the marks of his Passion, he then appeared to his disciples and ascended to heaven to bring before the Father our tormented yet now redeemed humanity. In these bleak times, when it seems that the dark clouds of Good Friday hover over your land, and all too many parts of our world are scarred by the pointless folly of war – which



is always and for everyone a bitter defeat – you are lamps shining in the night, seeds of goodness in a land rent asunder by conflict," he also insisted.

Francis then affirmed: "You are not alone; we will never leave you alone, but will demonstrate our solidarity with you by prayer and practical charity. Soon we hope to return among you as pilgrims, to draw near to you, to embrace you, to break with you the bread of fraternity and to contemplate the tender shoots of hope that spring from the seeds you are sowing in pain and nurturing with patience."

Cardinal Pizzaballa takes possession of the Church of Sant'Onofrio al Gianicolo

On May 1, His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Patriarch of the Latins and Grand Prior of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, took possession of the Title of Sant'Onofrio al Gianicolo, a church historically linked to the Order as it was granted to it by Pope Pius XII with a *motu proprio* on 15 August 1948 as the Order's spiritual seat.

Planned for April 15, the ceremony was cancelled due to the intensification of the crisis between Iran and Israel, during which the Patriarch did not want to leave his diocese. Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, concelebrated, joining the Patriarch's gratitude in this moment of ecclesial life, which unfortunately falls in a complex period for Cardinal Pizzaballa's diocese, for which the Members of the Order continuously pray. Present at the celebration were the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, together with the Order's authorities and various Knights and Dames.



The acts of the Grand Magisterium

ADMISSION TO THE ORDER OF BISHOPS, PRIESTS AND DEACONS PRESUPPOSES THE EXERCISE OF PASTORAL SERVICE

On February 26, 2024, the Grand Master sent this important letter to the representatives of the episcopate and all the ecclesiastics-members of the Order

Eminent/Excellent Grand Priors and Prior
 Bishops
 Most Reverend Ecclesiastics,

Following the work of the Consulta held last November on the theme of 'Formation' to be implemented at various levels for all the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, it seemed significant to resume the discussion on the presence and mission also of the ecclesiastics-members of the Order itself.

On several occasions, the Holy Father Francis recalled that the admission of Bishops, Priests and Deacons into the Order is not only an honor, but also a pastoral service towards the Members of the Order and towards the responsibility for the Land of Jesus, which has always been at the heart of the entire Church. That is, a service that includes, in addition to accompanying people and their families, the care of their spiritual life through appropriate catechesis and moments of prayer (cf. Address to the Lieutenants on 16 November 2018).

All ecclesiastics are fully Members of the Order; they are therefore bound to respectful cooperation and observance of the norms and commitments, including contributions (cfr. *Mt 17:24-25*), according to the general rules and local practices. There is no point in joining the Order and then vanishing shortly afterwards. Therefore,

they must be generously available to accompany the Knights and Dames on pilgrimage to the Holy Land or elsewhere, they must take an interest – where they exist – in the young who are approaching the Order, supporting any training and volunteer initiatives, and they must not fail to provide a correct vision, in the ecclesiastical sphere, of the Order where prejudices or misunderstandings exist. The exemplary nature of their participation in the life of the Order will encourage many to hold the mission of our Knights and Dames in high regard. Let them remember the sensitivity of the Apostle Paul, who instructed his own Christian communities to take the 'saints' of Jerusalem to heart and from whom he asked for a contribution in times of famine, war and pestilence that had put the Mother Church of Jerusalem under great strain.

Particular attention must be paid to ecclesiastics candidates, who, in addition to a special love for the Land of Jesus and the Mother Church of Jerusalem, are called upon to know the spirituality of the Order, the Constitution and the Regulation, and to collaborate with the lay leaders (Lieutenants, Magistral Delegates, Presidents, etc.), knowing that the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre is a lay Order of ancient tradition, restored by Blessed Pope Pius IX, who indissolubly linked it to the support of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem (1847);





Morning Mass presided over by the Grand Master and concelebrated by the Grand Priors present at the Consulta of the Order, in November 2023.

and as is well known, Pope Francis recently (2020) updated its Constitution.

It is then the specific task of the Lieutenant, as Moderator of the procedure for the admission of ecclesiastics-members to the Order, to be in harmony with the Most Eminent/Excellent Grand Prior and the local Priors, ensuring that their numbers and presence meet the requirements of the Lieutenancy. The ecclesiastics-members, in fact, perform a true pastoral mission so that the Knights and Dames grow in faith and service to their local Churches together with their love for the Holy Land.

Finally, we would like to recall that the Lord Jesus, when accepting the gesture of Mary of Bethany who anointed his feet with perfumed nard oil on the eve of his passion, wanted to make it clear that the nascent Church would have to attend to the human and spiritual needs of the 'poor', that is, of a

humanity far from God, but, at the same time, that it was up to us to anoint the feet of a Church walking in the world, often with difficulty in preaching and wounded by the harshness of the sins of her children, yet beautiful and necessary for the mission of being a sacrament of the encounter with God.

We hope that these words will find welcome and be listened to, as we are all committed to making the Order of the Holy Sepulchre respond to the beautiful mission entrusted to it in the service of the Mother Church of Jerusalem and, at the same time, of our local Churches in which we are daily generated and regenerated to Grace.

With deepest esteem and consideration,

Fernando Cardinal Filoni

Grand Master

Leonardo Visconti di Modrone

Governor General



THE URGENT NEED TO REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS OF TRUST IN THE HOLY LAND

The Grand Magisterium Spring Meeting

For the first time in several years, the plenary meeting of the Grand Magisterium was held in person on April 16 in the Order's temporary Rome headquarters, near Piazza Cavour, chaired by the Grand Master, Cardinal Fernando Filoni. Due to the ongoing war in the Holy Land, Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa joined online and expressed his gratitude for the help that Knights and Dames from all over the world are offering to his diocese. He also underlined the extent to which this concrete solidarity is fueling confidence and hope, particularly thanks to the creation of jobs for people who have become unemployed since pilgrimages ceased.

The day began with Mass in the chapel of a religious community not far from the new offices of the Grand Magisterium, presided over by Archbishop Tommaso Caputo, Assessor of the Order, who had just celebrated his 50th anniversary of priestly ordination. In the morning, the Grand Master presented him with the insignia and diploma of Knight Grand Cross, in recognition of his commitment.

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda, after opening remarks by the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, who explained the temporary move of the Grand Magisterium's premises by the work underway at the Palazzo della Rovere, part of which is being rented out to a hotel company so that all the Order's resources can be used to support Christians in the Holy Land. He also highlighted the increase in the obligatory monthly transfer made by the Grand Magisterium to the Latin Patriarchate for its



Following the opening Mass for the Spring Meeting of the Grand Magisterium, Archbishop Tommaso Caputo, Assessor of the Order, received the insignia and diploma of Knight Grand Cross from the Grand Master.





The Governor General led the meeting of the Grand Magisterium, the main theme of which was support for the Mother Church of Jerusalem currently facing the serious humanitarian consequences of the war.

electricians, tilers, etc.). The Patriarchate also covers the medical costs of a large number of uninsured patients and provides humanitarian aid to thousands of needy people. The school network (44 schools

institutional expenses, which now stands at 950,000 dollars as of January 2024.

The Treasurer, Saverio Petrillo, speaking after the Governor General, presented a positive balance sheet for the year 2023, indicating that the Order had been able to donate more than 15 million euros to the Holy Land, one million more than the previous year. The difficulty for the Grand Magisterium is that it has to make commitments to the Patriarchate in advance, without knowing exactly how much the Lieutenancies will be able to contribute, as donations from members vary each year depending on various factors.

The meeting continued with a speech by Sami El-Yousef, the General Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate, who described in all seriousness the crisis situation in the Holy Land: a destroyed economy and the despair of the inhabitants, many of whom are out of work due to the absence of pilgrims and tourists. What's more, Palestinian workers from the West Bank can no longer cross the border into Israel. The lack of communication between the Palestinian and Jewish communities is extreme, he explained, and it will take a long time to establish human links based on mutual respect. Sami El-Yousef pointed out that the main thing that can be done at present is to create jobs in the West Bank (a large number of people have been helped in this way since the start of the war, through the parishes, particularly in the field of construction, with jobs for bricklayers,

and almost 20,000 pupils), which encourages dialogue of life between young Christians and Muslims, continues to be active (the school budget corresponds to 76% of the Patriarchate's budget), except in Gaza, where there is the question of 80 contracts for employees until the end of the academic year, after the schools have been closed for good.

According to the Patriarchate's General Administrator, the reconstruction of Gaza (60% of the houses have been destroyed) will take a long time, and the Church's priority will be to provide psychological and humanitarian aid to the local parish, which has suffered heavy bereavement (32 people died, representing more than 3% of the Christian community).

During the meeting, Cardinal Filoni emphasized the urgent need to rebuild relationships based on trust, in order to move beyond the hatred that has taken root in people's hearts. The Church will have an increasingly essential role to play, he believes, in working towards coexistence based on respect for the inalienable rights of the different communities to live on the land of their ancestors.

The President of the Commission for the Holy Land, Bartholomew McGettrick, also agreed, recounting the visit made by the Commission last March and then stressing the importance of the Patriarchate's next strategic plan, expected next summer, in order to adapt the Order's efforts to the humanitarian and pastoral requirements





The meeting of the Grand Magisterium on April 16 was held in the premises of the Order's temporary headquarters in Rome which, during the works underway at the Palazzo della Rovere, is located near Piazza Cavour.

outlined by Cardinal Pizzaballa. Each of the four Vice-Governors spoke during the meeting, highlighting, for example, the search for extraordinary funds to support the Latin Patriarchate, while the Grand Master recalled the need to safeguard in the long term the identity of the Order, which is statutorily based on the personal contribution of members, like that of the widow's obolus in the Gospel (*Mk 12:41-44*). The Vice-Governors also spoke of the importance of the long-awaited document on the formation of members and the future Regulations of the Order, which are about to come into force, as well as the development of the Order, especially in Latin America and Asia.

For his part, Chancellor Alfredo Bastianelli showed that in 2023 the Order have welcomed more than 1,000 new

members, and hoped to return to its pre-pandemic level of nearly 30,000 members. He confirmed that the Regulations would soon be ready and sent *ad experimentum* to the Lieutenancies, and then expressed his satisfaction at the number of registrations for the jubilee pilgrimage, which will take place from October 21 to 23, 2025.

Finally, the day ended with a discussion on internal and external communication, before the Grand Master concluded by focusing on the priority of the spiritual formation of members and knowledge of the Order - in particular through the creation of a permanent historical commission - as well as on welcoming young people, in a missionary perspective of growth and continuity in the service of the Mother Church of Jerusalem.

François Vayne

A pilgrimage of the Order to Rome for the Jubilee 2025

To mark the Jubilee Year 2025, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is organizing an international pilgrimage to Rome from October 21 to 23, 2025. Many Knights and Dames have already registered through their respective Lieutenancies. A visit to the four pontifical basilicas is planned, as well as crossing the Holy Door. Members of the Order can still express their wish to take part in this pilgrimage by contacting their Lieutenancies directly.



The Order and the Holy Land

SOLIDARITY VISIT OF THE GRAND MAGISTERIUM'S HOLY LAND COMMISSION

From March 10 to 16, 2024 members of the Holy Land Commission, the President Prof. Bartholomew McGettrick, Tim Milner (accompanied by his wife) in the absence of Commission member Detlef Brümmer, made their first visit to the Holy Land since the events of October 7 and the tragic events that followed. Exceptionally, the members were joined by Michael Byrne, the Lieutenant for England and Wales, who was in the Holy Land for a pilgrimage, whose presence made the visit even more interesting, both for the Commission, which was able to benefit from an outside look at the projects and activities, and for the Lieutenant, who was able to discover first-hand the work that the Commission does.

During those days, the members visited the various projects run by the Latin Patriarchate and financed by the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. They met with His Beatitude Card. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Patriarch of Jerusalem of the Latins, some members of the Patriarchate staff, some beneficiaries of the aid, and visited various institutions of

the Patriarchate.

The visit was led by Sami El-Yousef, CEO of the Latin Patriarchate, who expressed his satisfaction with the visit, saying: "We are grateful for the visit of the members of the Commission for the Holy Land, especially for insisting on coming not only for regular business matters and site visits, but especially for their solidarity visit, as they wanted to be close to their brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and listen to their challenges. Visits to institutions, parishes, schools and the homes of needy families that have been severely affected by the war gave them a clear view of the problems facing the Church in the Holy Land. The briefings and strategic discussions during the numerous meetings were rich, honest, stimulating and very strategic, aimed at strengthening relations between the Latin Patriarchate and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre."



The members of the Commission for the Holy Land in Jerusalem, accompanied by the General Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate, the parish priest of Gaza and the Lieutenant for England and Wales who took part in the visit.





Economic conditions in the region are very difficult, therefore some women in Beit Sahour parish produce, wrap and sell traditional sweets, the proceeds of which are donated to the local school to support school fees.

The visit began at several Christian residences in the Old City of Jerusalem, beneficiaries of the humanitarian aid program managed by Dima Khoury, Director of Social Services of the Patriarchate. The Holy Land Commission was able to see some of the results of the project and the current needs in relation to the events the country is facing. "Going with Dima to local homes to visit those receiving aid is always a highlight of our visits. Seeing how desperate their situations can be, but how grateful and faithful they are, is always the most moving part of the trip," Tim Milner shared.

The visit continued to the St. Rachel Centre for migrant children in Jerusalem, established by the St. James Vicariate of the Patriarchate. The center offers a safe, healthy and welcoming kindergarten for the children of immigrant parents who work long hours to survive. The premises were completely renovated with the help of various donors, first and foremost the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Here, the Commission members met with Fr. Matthew Coutinho, Patriarchal Vicar for Migrants and Asylum Seekers, who explained to them how challenging life is for migrants and how many obstacles they face every day.

"We were amazed to see how many communities there are: Chinese, Filipino, African, Indian, Romanian, Sri Lankan and Ukrainian. He showed us the Universal Catholic Church right in the room. We felt

blessed to be part of it," commented Tim Milner after this visit.

The next day, the Commission went to the school and parish in Beit Sahour. Father Issa Hijazin, the parish priest, and Anton Jaraisseh, headmaster of the school, spoke about the various job opportunities created for parishioners, which help ease the financial burden in times of crisis. They gave them a tour of the space the parish has created and made available for young people and Christian families to enjoy their free time in a spirit of fraternity. They also visited the nursery school of the Patriarchate and met students from different classes.

Next, they went to Bethlehem University, where they met with Brother Hernan Santos, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Father Iyad Twal, Executive Vice President, and Dr. Iman Saca, Vice President for Academic Affairs, with whom they discussed the various ways in which the Latin Patriarchate schools and the university can work together in the future to support and finance the development of young adults' skills and enable them to build a future. They also briefly discussed the success of the AFAQ project, which is committed to doing just that: encouraging the employment of young people.

On the third day, the Commission members went to the Beit Afram Home for the Elderly. Here, they met Fr. Bashar Fawdleh, the parish priest of Taybeh, and the Rosary Sisters. They then visited Beit





The schools of the Latin Patriarchate are laboratories for dialogue where Christian and Muslim pupils grow up in friendship and mutual respect, building the future together with the help of Knights and Dames from all over the world represented on site by the Commission for the Holy Land during its recent visit.

Jala Seminary, where they met Fr. Bernard Poggi, Rector of the Seminary, with whom they discussed the expansion of pastoral care services provided by the Patriarchate, such as the Seminary's Spiritual Formation Centre.

"I was very surprised to see how much the program has grown. There have been more than 100 students in the last few courses," confided Tim Milner.

The participants also discussed the work of the new Counselling Centre with Fr Tony Hain, and the work of the Family Centre with Fr Ibrahim Nino: "This is much needed work in the diocese," said Tim Milner. Finally, Fr. Louis Salman, youth chaplain, presented them with youth activities for the local youth.

During the week, the members of the Holy Land Commission had many meetings with the bishops, priests and staff of the Patriarchate. They were briefed on the emergency humanitarian intervention in Gaza and the West Bank, which has so far

supported over 12,000 people. They reviewed the funds allocated for the Patriarchate's main works in education, humanitarian aid and pastoral care.

"Because of the war and increased security, we were not able to go to some sites as we used to. However, as always, it was a wonderful visit. The work that the Latin Patriarchate does to support Christians in the Holy Land is truly necessary and fundamental to maintaining a Christian presence in the land where Our Lord walked. Over the past five years, between Covid-19 and the war, the Holy Land has experienced extremely difficult times.

Despite the difficulty of finding flights, we insisted on coming and assuring people that we care about them and that they are not alone," Milner said.

President McGettrick, at the spring meeting of the Grand Magisterium held a month after his return, sadly shared one of the most striking aspects he noted during that visit: the lack of life, the lack of hope and the habit of war. The streets in Jerusalem were completely empty, the airport was empty, there were no taxis, no public transport, no tourists, no pilgrims.

There is great poverty, and not only practical poverty, but also a poverty of hope. People are losing optimism for the future and hope for recovery, while children play in the streets surrounded by soldiers. The importance of maintaining hope in the Holy Land is therefore a very important point that the Church must continue to make.

(Article written in collaboration with the Communications Office of the Latin Patriarchate)



The life of the Lieutenancies

30 YEARS OF THE LIEUTENANCY FOR LUXEMBOURG

A joyous day for the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem! On October 20, the Lieutenancy for Luxembourg solemnly celebrated its 30th anniversary. The evening began with a thanksgiving mass in the church of Saint Michel in Luxembourg City. Msgr. Fernand Franck, Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for Luxembourg, concelebrated with Msgr. Leo Wagener, Auxiliary Bishop of Luxembourg, Dom Michel Jorrot, Abbot of the Abbey of Clervaux (Luxembourg), and all the ecclesiastics of the Lieutenancy for Luxembourg. A number of representatives of the Order were also present: Michael Schnieders, Lieutenant for Germany, Damien de Laminne de Bex, Lieutenant for Belgium, and representatives of the Lieutenancies for France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Spain, and England and Wales. Guy Schleder,

Lieutenant of honor, as well as the vast majority of the members of the Lieutenancy for Luxembourg, numerous guests and supporters came to pray and give thanks. As a sign of the Lieutenancy's vitality, eight new candidates, including three women and five men, were presented with the grey mantle symbolizing the start of their 'novitiate'.

During the gala dinner that followed the mass, a minute's silence was observed for the Lieutenancy's deceased and for Peace in the Holy Land. The Lieutenant for Luxembourg, Jacques Klein, read out the letter of greeting and encouragement that Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Grand Master, had sent. He also had the joy and privilege of presenting the Jerusalem Palm awarded by the Cardinal to Msgr. Franck for his undeniable merits in the pastoral service of the members of the Order.



20TH ANNIVERSARY MASS OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

December 15 last a solemn gathering of Knights and Dames attended the 20th Anniversary Mass of the foundation of the Equestrian Order in South Australia. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Patrick O' Regan, Grand Prior. During the Mass, David McCabe was formally installed as the new Lieutenant for South Australia, taking over from Emeritus Lieutenant, Phillip Donato, who had held the position for eight years. Of great significance was the promotion of Phillip Donato to the rank of Knight Commander with Star in addition to the Grand Master's conferral of the title of Lieutenant of Honor within the Order. A well-deserved commendation as he is highly respected amongst his peers and continues to be active within the Order. Following Mass, Dames and Knights celebrated the event with dinner at a local restaurant

where speeches were held and a great sense of camaraderie was shared. Archbishop O'Regan delivered a stirring speech detailing his meeting with the Cardinal Grand Master Filoni during his time in Rome. Special thanks to the members of the Order in South Australia for their continued commitment to the Holy Land.



The birthday cake for the 20th anniversary of the Lieutenancy for South Australia.

PATRIARCH PIERBATTISTA PIZZABALLA OF JERUSALEM IN BUDAPEST

The Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and Grand Prior of the Order, His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, paid a brief visit to Budapest, Hungary, on January 18, 2024. During the institutional meetings, the Hungarian

authorities assured him of Hungary's solidarity and financial support for the Christians of the Holy Land. His Beatitude was then received by H.E. Cardinal Péter Erdő, Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest and Grand Prior of the Lieutenancy for





Hungary. The Holy Mass celebrated by Patriarch Pizzaballa in the Franciscan church was particularly warm and touching, in the presence of a large number of faithful and members of the Lieutenancy for Hungary, led by the Lieutenant Béla Jungbert. Before the liturgy, His Beatitude, accompanied by the Auxiliary Bishop of Jerusalem, Msgr.

William Hanna Shomali, met with the Hungarian Knights and Dames, urging them to persevere in prayer for the Christians of the Holy Land and in active solidarity with them, but also to be "ambassadors" of the Land of Jesus in Hungary.

Márk A. Érszegi

Secretary of the Lieutenancy for Hungary

THE MAGISTRAL DELEGATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC BECOMES A LIEUTENANCY

On Sunday January 28, the Cardinal Grand Master celebrated Holy Mass in the church of the Order of St. Onofrio al Gianicolo, where he welcomed a delegation from the Czech Republic led by Lieutenant Tomáš Parma. The Chancellor, Ambassador Alfredo Bastianelli, and the Treasurer, Saverio Petrillo, were also present. The Czech confreres had come expressly to Rome to express their gratitude to the Grand Master for having recently raised their Magistral Delegation to the rank of Lieutenancy.



DESPITE WAR, KNIGHTS AND DAMES SLOWLY RETURN TO THE HOLY LAND

Giovanni Battista Rossi, Lieutenant for Tyrrhenian Southern Italy, led a small group of Knights and Dames to the Holy Land from April 12 to 15, at a time when Israel was the target of an Iranian retaliation. Here he recounts this recent pilgrimage, encouraging other Lieutenancies to visit the Holy Land without further delay.

"The idea was born between four of us after a celebration of the Order, propelled by our nostalgia for Jerusalem, then the first direct flight from Naples reopened, allowing us to spend four days there, and then the idea to return, despite tensions on the ground. There were recommendations from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of course we could not take out any insurance, this meant we could not propose a traditional pilgrimage, but neither did we make a secret of our idea and two other Knights joined us, one invested less than a month ago.

The old town appeared to us as we knew it would: few foreigners, the shops of daily necessities open, those of religious articles almost all closed. When we reached the Flagellation, we practiced, alone and excited, the Way of the Cross. The Holy Sepulchre was almost empty and, something normally impossible, we meditated on the last stations in the very place remembered: Golgotha, the Tomb. There were long prayers inside: for those who had entrusted themselves to us, for peace, for our Order, for our dead. We were able to stop there twice more in the following days.

The next day at 6am, our friend Father Sergio Galdi, Commissioner General of the Holy Land for Southern Italy, and "Abuna" Francesco Piazzolla, who teaches New Testament at the *Studium Biblicum*, celebrated Mass with us. After a little over an hour, we were received by the Patriarch:

he spoke to us about the local situation, the aid strategies he is managing to implement, the complications in relations with the authorities. After anticipating some proposals that would arrive from Neapolitan institutions, who had entrusted us with an initial message, we left him, still hopeful that the looming threats would remain so, but already worried about having to leave the diocese to come to Italy.

We left for Bethlehem. So many had urged us to go: "just seeing you will give hope." I have never seen so many people begging and in the Basilica of the Nativity we found ourselves alone with the friars. Rony, from the well-known shop near the square, run by a Christian family, welcomed us saying: "you are the first Italians we have seen since October." We bought many souvenirs to take back to Italy, even more than we needed. The "shopping in solidarity" continued at the "House of the Magi", a Custody structure where one can find everything produced by the activities promoted in the West Bank, artefacts often of great finesse.

In the late afternoon, we were at St. Saviour's, for the diaconal ordinations officiated by the Patriarch and the following little party, during which we were able to entertain ourselves with the Father Custos, who was also hopeful that there would be no acts of war.

In the evening, on the 'rooftop' of the Notre Dame, I was able to meet Lieutenant



Lieutenant Giovanni Battista Rossi with a group of the Order's members at the Holy Sepulchre: through their presence they show that small pilgrimage groups can return to the Holy Land despite the war.



Michael La Civita, who had come from New York in the retinue of Cardinal Dolan, whom I had already greeted in the morning in the hotel chapel.

At 1:45am we were awakened by the sirens of alarm for the Iranian attack. They fell silent very early: just enough time to see the flash and hear the blasting noise of a shoot-down. After a short while, the Israeli defense systems already gave "no prescription" for Jerusalem. So many messages from Italy. In the lobby I met Michael La Civita again and we went outside where everything was already silent, with the exception of the recurring and distant noise of the flight of interceptor fighters.

The next morning, we walked down the Mount of Olives, from the Ascension to the Tomb of Mary. There was little movement, but that was also due to the closing of the schools. We had lunch with a friend who has been an Italian archaeologist in Jerusalem for decades and with the director of the Franciscan NGO in Italy, who was there on official business. We then paid a return visit to Claudette, the Dame of the Order (one of two from Jerusalem) who had spoken at our Investiture; with us were the Patriarchal Vicar Bishops Shomali and Marcuzzo.

The concluding moment at the Sepulchre,

then the famous ceremony of closing the door. There was some movement in the western part of the city: Pesach was approaching and there was no lack of celebration.

The last day: while the others were visiting a school, my wife and I met the director of St. Louis, a young Arab colleague. The old French hospital is now a hospice for the elderly, severely disabled and terminally ill, cared no matter what their religion with the help of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Previously, I had gone to the Islamic cemetery of az-Zahra, to the grave of a friend, a trusted architect of the Custody, a lecturer at Al-Quds University, a man of peace, who died of cancer two months ago; I owe him much for what I know of 'that' land.

It was a powerful experience for all, "privileged" by the absence of the crowds, a source of sorrow for the same reasons. It was like returning to visit one's own mother, the Mother Church of Jerusalem".



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED IN THE ORDER

Investiture in Naples, presided over by the Grand Master

Presided over by the Grand Master, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, in the presence of the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, and the Vice Governor for Europe, Jean-Pierre de Glutz, the Prayer Vigil in preparation for the Investiture of the new Members of the Lieutenancy for Tyrrhenian Southern Italy was held on March 15 in the Basilica Incoronata Madre del Buon Consiglio in Naples. Lieutenant Giovanni Battista Rossi welcomed all the Italian-speaking Lieutenants, including those from Malta and Switzerland, who had come to attend the Investiture Mass with many Knights and Dames from all over Italy. Before the Prayer Vigil, the Grand Master met with the heads of the Italy South

Tyrrhenian Lieutenancy and the Investees, talking with them about the importance of the spiritual life of the Knights and Dames. "Receive the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ, may it protect you and be for you a sign of honor and a pledge of eternal glory": this is what some fifty new members, including many young ones, heard on March 16 when they received their Investiture by the Grand Master, under the gaze of the Mother of Good Counsel, in her Neapolitan Basilica built over the catacombs where the city's patron saint, St. Gennaro, a martyr from the early centuries, rests. Many Knights and Dames took part in the Investiture of the Tyrrhenian Southern Italy Lieutenancy, with the wise guidance lived in an apostolic spirit of Lieutenant Giovanni Battista Rossi.



Governor General attends Investiture of the Lieutenancy for Monaco

Preceded by a series of meetings of the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, with the Authorities of the Principality, the Prayer



Vigil ceremony celebrated by the Archbishop of Monaco, Msgr. Dominique-Marie David, for the new Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy for the Principality of Monaco took place on April 6, 2024. Honored by the presence of the Sovereign, Prince Albert II, the solemn Investiture ceremonies of the Lieutenancy took place the following day in the Principality's Cathedral. The Grand Magisterium was represented by the Governor General, while the Principality's Government and Authorities were represented by the Minister of the Interior, the Minister of Social Affairs and the Ambassador to the Holy See. Numerous Lieutenancies were also represented: France, Switzerland and Liechtenstein, Belgium, Luxembourg, Northern Italy, USA South Eastern.

The Order's highest offices met with the Lieutenancy for Scotland

On April 13, 2024, the Grand Master and Governor General of the Order, accompanied by the Lieutenant for Scotland, Joseph d'Inverno, met the candidates in the chapel of the Archbishopric of Edinburgh, prior to the Prayer Vigil in the Cathedral, presided over by the Grand Prior, Archbishop Leo Cushley, Archbishop of Edinburgh. The Vigil was an opportunity to pray in communion with all members of the Order around the world, for peace in the Holy Land. The following day, April 14, the Governor General of the Order met with the Lieutenants of Scotland, England and Wales, and Ireland, as part of a regional meeting. In the afternoon, in Edinburgh Cathedral, the Grand Master presided



over the Investiture of the new members. Numerous Knights and Dames, their families and friends attended this important

ecclesiastical event in a country where the Catholic community is a minority but a very warm, active and generous one.

The French experience of Squires develops in the Order

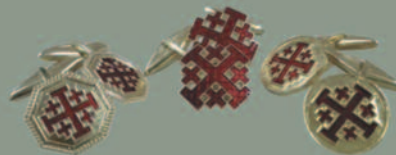
On Saturday, April 6, 2024, during Mass at First Vespers on Divine Mercy Sunday, in the Basilica of the Incoronata Madre del Buon Consiglio in Naples, the Lieutenancy for Tyrrhenian Southern Italy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem welcomed the first group of Squires. They are six young men and two girls. The tradition of the Squires derives from the French experience started in 1930. They are a particular category of aspirants, young Catholics who are approaching the spirituality of the Order and the knowledge and service of the Holy Land, not yet having the requisites, especially in terms of age, to begin a journey to enter the Order. This is the first experience in Italy, and the new Squires come from the three regions of the Lieutenancy.



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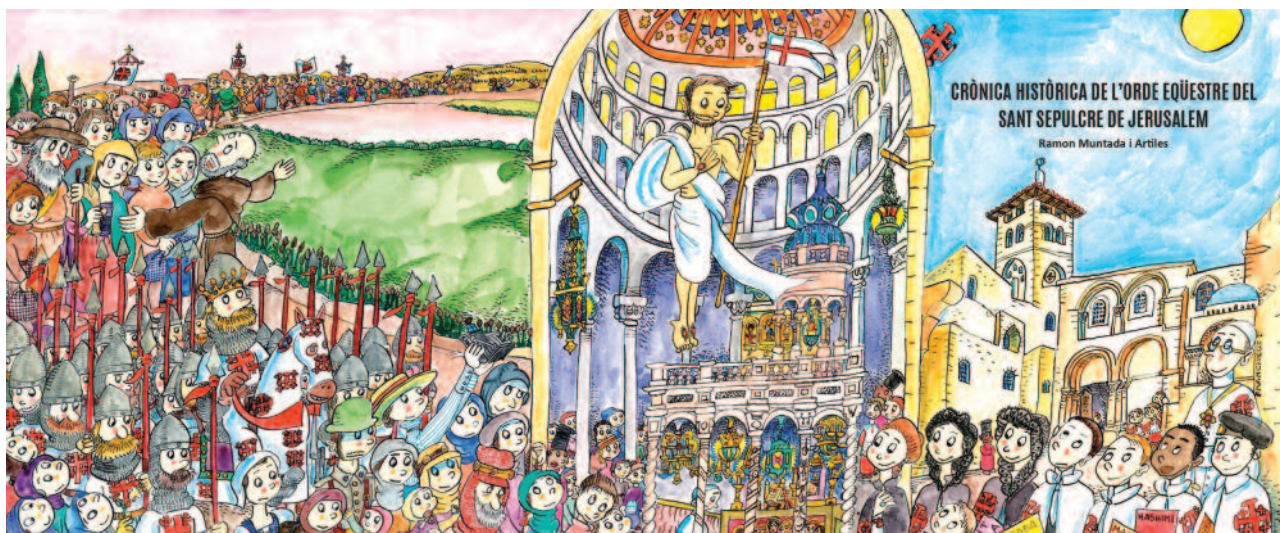


Order of the Holy Sepulchre
 Papal Equestrian Orders
 Order of Malta

Italian Dynastic Orders and Orders of the Italian Republic

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A COMIC STRIP ON THE ORDER'S PAST AND PRESENT FROM SPAIN



Illustrator and well-known cartoonist Pilarín Bayés speaks to the Order

How many of us have wondered how to bring a reality like that of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre closer to as many people as possible? How can we make them understand the history of a Pontifical Institution that not only has its roots in the distant past, but at the same time is also modern and relevant? Certainly there is no one answer to this question but many insights that the entire Order can treasure.

Today we would like to tell you about one of them: the idea born in the Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain, supported by the Lieutenancy for Western Spain, to create an illustrated story for a young and adult audience from a text written by a member of the Lieutenancy, Knight Commander Ramon Muntada Artiles and 'put into drawing' by the well-known Catalan illustrator Pilarín Bayés de Luna: *Historical Chronicle of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem* (in Spanish *Crónica Històrica de la Orden Ecuestre del Santo Sepulcro de Jerusalén*).

"I am old and I have made many books, more than a thousand," commented the famous illustrator, born in 1941 in Barcelona, "but there are certain themes that captivate you and this was one of them, for the past it evokes but also for the glimpse it offers into the future."

The Order of the Holy Sepulchre was also a discovery for her, a discovery she wanted to illustrate with simple and informative drawings, telling the story of this Pontifical Institution through the centuries to the present day.

Pilarín tells how she became involved in this initiative. "Both the author, Ramon Muntada, and the Lieutenant for Eastern Spain, Juan Carlos de Balle y Comas, asked me to work on this work and we did it in a very coordinated way. They both gave me a lot of information." Co-ordinating and working together was a key element in enabling the illustrator to use her talent to tell the story and the present of the Order. "It was great to work as a team," Pilarín comments, "and that is always the case for a





An illustrated history of the Order written by a member of the Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain, Ramon Muntada Artilles, was illustrated by Pilarín Bayés de Luna, a famous cartoonist (in the center of the photo).

book. There is always a need for collaboration between the author and the illustrator, in this case so that the result can help children and adults to understand what the Order does, how it helps, how from so many different countries one joins this Order linked to the places where Jesus lived, worked and where he died and was buried until he rose again."

It was precisely the Order's relevance today that amazed and fascinated Pilarín Bayés: "This Order, so ancient and prestigious and with such a long history, carries out such an important work today as that of protecting Palestinian Christians who are suffering so much at the moment. This encounter between past and present makes

this reality extremely interesting in my eyes."

This historical chronicle was produced to celebrate the 130th anniversary of the Lieutenancy and, so far, is available in three languages, explains the cartoonist: "in Catalan because we are in Catalonia, in Castilian and in English, because it is an

international language." Other translations are planned and, precisely for this reason, as Lieutenant Juan Carlos de Balle y Comas says, "we have tried to ensure that the text and illustrations are valid for any part of the world and we have decided not to speak specifically about the Order's rich history in Spain."

The Lieutenant concludes by recalling that this editorial adventure began with the desire to produce "a book to make our Order known, to promote new vocations for people who want to enter it and at the same time to generate donations to help the Holy Land, since around 80% of the proceeds are donations."

Elena Dini

Barbiconi
— 1825 —

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History and Culture

DIVERSITY IN LIEUTENANCIES, A SOURCE OF MUTUAL ENRICHMENT

The example of the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy

Each Lieutenancy encompasses various realities that characterize meetings and enhance their beauty, becoming a source of enrichment for all. One example is that of the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy which, as perhaps not many will imagine, groups within it two Latin liturgical rites, two nations and five official languages, the result of a history rooted in the distant past but which can still be felt today. In this text, Lieutenant Angelo Dell'Oro gives a lively presentation of this wealth to be known and cherished.

Among the 64 Lieutenancies and Magistral Delegations of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in the world, there is also our Lieutenancy, which includes the whole of Northern Italy, limited to the north by the Alpine arc and to the south by the Tuscan-Emilian Apennine Mountain range.

The history of Europe and, in particular, of the Italic peninsula, is long and complex and, referring specifically to Northern Italy, we know that it has been a crossroads of peoples and cultures with different anthropic roots. Among the ancient peoples that inhabited our territories we can count Ligurians, Etruscans, Lepontians, Celts, Lombards and many others. Northern Italy's membership of the Roman Empire gave its populations a certain homogenization, particularly in terms of language. Following the fall of the Roman Empire in 395, together with the various invasions and migrations that followed, the uses and customs of the various populations present in Northern Italy diversified, and this is evident by referring to the different and numerous languages that have since developed.

In addition to Italian, the lowest common denominator of the entire peninsula, we find, from East to West, Slovenian, the

In the chapter church of the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy mass is often celebrated according to the Ambrosian rite.



German of Carnia, the German of the Sauris Valley and Friulian, all languages spoken in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Section of our Order.

In the Veneto Section, we find Cimbrian, an archaic variant of modern German, Ladin and Friulian.

Moving on to the Trentino-Alto Adige Section, the German language group is of primary importance, followed by Dolomite Ladin and also here by Cimbrian and Mocheno.

In Lombardy, on the other hand, we encounter the dialects of Upper Valtellina, but especially Livigno, which have Romansh roots.

In the Piedmont section we find the following situation: in the valleys to the north, there are Walser-speaking communities, a contraction of the German walliser, in short inhabitants of the Canton Valais, in numerous villages on the edge of the valleys; moving towards France, on the other hand, standard French is spoken, along with its Occitan and Arpitan variants. Concluding with Valle d'Aosta, we encounter two languages: Walser German in the Gressoney valley and Arpitan French in the rest of the region. Standard French, known and spoken by everyone, is also present.

All the languages spoken locally are protected by the jurisprudence of the individual regions, but only German, French, Ladin and Friulian are considered official languages.

On the other hand, two Latin liturgical rites are practiced, the Roman liturgy in the whole of Northern Italy and the Ambrosian liturgy celebrated in Milan, in several provinces in the Western part of the Lombardy Section and in a large part of the Section of Italian-speaking Switzerland belonging to the Lieutenancy for Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Politically, the Lieutenancy for Northern Italy belongs to the Italian Republic and is made up of eight political regions, three of which have a special statute. The Serenissima Republic of San Marino also belongs to the Lieutenancy, as does the municipality of Campione d'Italia, an Italian exclave in Switzerland.

The Lieutenancy is currently organized into eight Sections and thirty-six Delegations. Common to all these specificities is the love for the land where Jesus was born, died and rose again, giving hope to humanity.

Angelo Dell'Oro
Lieutenant for Northern Italy

THE CHAPTER CHURCH OF THE LIEUTENANCY FOR BELGIUM

The church of Notre-Dame des Victoires au Sablon in Brussels was built by the Crossbowmen's Guild in the 15th century because pilgrims flocked there after the statue of the Virgin had miraculously arrived by boat from Antwerp.

The procession of the miraculous statue around the church is the origin of the *Brussels Ommegang*. This is a Dutch word meaning "walk around". Every year, this procession of 1,400 figures in the 16th

century costume still leaves the church, surrounding the figures of Charles V and his son, the future King Philip II, on their way to the Grand-Place.

Over the centuries, this pearl of Gothic style has benefited from the generosity of the Habsburg, Thurn and Taxis and Arenberg families.

The Habsburgs were frequent visitors, and Charles V's sister Marie of Hungary was baptized here. Magnificent stained-glass





windows were installed at this time, but were unfortunately destroyed by a tornado. It was not until the 19th and 20th centuries that stained glass windows with over 300 coats of arms surrounding saints were installed.

The church contains numerous funerary monuments, including the splendid Baroque-style sepulchral chapel where some fifteen Thurn and Taxis Princes are laid to rest in a crypt.

The name "Notre-Dame des Victoires" echoes the dazzling victory of the Christian fleet at Lepanto against the Ottomans on 7 October 1571.

It became the chapter church of the Belgian Lieutenancy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 1930.

The canonical installation of the Order's national chapter took place here on Sunday 3 May 1931. As long ago as 1867, Msgr. Valerga, the first Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem in modern times, inaugurated the choir frescoes in the church at Le Sablon, which had been found when the choir stalls

were removed.

Two large stained-glass windows, donated by the Belgian Lieutenancy of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, were installed in the choir in 1933.

One depicts the knighthood of a Knight by the cardinal of the time, Cardinal Van Roey, while the other depicts the attempt, initiated in 1558 in Hoogstraten by a man from Antwerp, to create an Order of the Holy Sepulchre by bringing together the many Knights who had been knighted in Jerusalem by Father Custos. King Philip II was offered to lead this group, but refused.

Every year, the Lieutenancy for Belgium celebrates here the Mass of the Dead, the Investiture ceremonies and the feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine. During Holy Week, many members of the Order attend the celebrations.

The church is also the venue for the two Crossbowmen's Guilds, the *Ommegang*, Masses for Europe, the Confraternity of Saint Yves and other devout brotherhoods.

Daniel van Steenberghe

