

JERUSALEM CROSS

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Message from the Grand Master

WITHOUT HOPE THERE IS NO FUTURE

Dear Readers,

as this new year begins and continues to present us with so many uncertainties worldwide, I wish to share with you the importance of living the virtue of hope in our

daily lives, both as Christians and as members of the Order. It is precisely because of the challenges that we all face at this time – to different degrees and in different ways – that our call to be messengers of hope resounds



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In this painting from the early 1500s, alongside faith and charity, the theological virtue of hope, on the right, is depicted with a phoenix – a legendary bird with a long life-span and the power to be reborn after being consumed by flames – symbolising the resurrection of Christ. Spiritually strengthened by hope, the members of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre are encouraged by the Grand Master to “look beyond”, in order to continue to be peace builders.

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GRAND MAGISTERIUM OF THE EQUESTRIAN
ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

00120 Vatican City

E-mail: comunicazione@oessh.va

even more strongly: in the Holy Land and in our societies.

Those who enter the Order must have the desire to collaborate, bearing witness with their Christian lives to the faith in which they believe and with charity to their concrete and generous commitment to the Holy Land, certain that they will be able to have an impact on the future of good for that tormented region. Our bonds with the Holy Land and the Holy Sepulchre give rise to a dual dimension, spiritual and charitable, and, as John Paul II said in 2003, allow us to participate in the vocation of being builders of love and peace and of a civilization that goes beyond diversity. We succeed in investing in peace when we are nourished by hope, when we are able to "see beyond" and believe in God's plan for good.

In his message for the World Peace Day, on January 1 of this new year, Pope Francis recalled that "In every age, peace is both a gift from on high and the fruit of a shared

commitment. Indeed we can speak of an 'architecture' of peace to which different institutions of society contribute, and an 'art' of peace that directly involves each one of us."

In times of deep divisions, of political and social divisions, of barriers, of bloody fights, of exasperating claims, being an instrument that helps to "reorganize hope" (a beautiful expression of Don Tonino Bello, the Bishop much loved by the people of Puglia who is on the journey towards beatification), is a very rewarding vocation for the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, because without hope there is no future.

In *The Portal of the Mystery of Hope*, C. Péguy made it clear that among all the virtues God prefers hope: "What amazes me is hope. I do not understand it. This little hope that looks like nothing. This child hope. Immortal." It is what a Dame and Knight of the Holy Sepulchre carry in their heart as a vocation.

Fernando Cardinal Filoni



The Order in Union with the Universal Church

“A BRIDGE BETWEEN PEOPLES”: A REPORT ON THE POPE’S TRIP TO CYPRUS

The ecclesial territory of Cyprus is under the jurisdiction of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, along with Palestine, Jordan and Israel. This is why, during his visit to this Mediterranean island in December 2021, the Pope was welcomed by Patriarch Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa at the beginning of the Pontifical Mass celebrated in Nicosia.

His Beatitude first of all recalled that Cyprus played a role of primary importance in the very first proclamation of the Gospel: “Thanks to the people of this beautiful island, the proclamation of the Gospel also reached the pagans and crossed all cultural and religious boundaries, reaching the outskirts of the ancient world (cf. *Acts 11:20*). A Cypriot Levite, Joseph known as “Barnabas”, led Paul to the Apostles and vouched for him (cf. *Acts 9:27*). Paul and Barnabas were

brothers in the same community of Antioch. They were sent together to Cyprus on their first missionary journey (*Acts 13*).”

Archbishop Pizzaballa observed: “Since the beginning of Christianity, therefore, Cyprus has been a place of creativity of the Gospel, of evangelization and inculturation, a place of encounter, dialogue and acceptance of the Good News, synonymous with overcoming ethnic, cultural and religious boundaries.” This harmony between the Churches, welcome and

integration were also evident in the assembly, where the most diverse backgrounds – Asians, Africans, Europeans, migrants, foreign workers – together with the local Cypriots formed a single community.

“History teaches us that Cyprus is like a bridge between peoples,” the Patriarch of Jerusalem went on to emphasise, adding that by now “Cyprus shares the wounds of Europe and the Middle East at the same time: wounds that are political, military and – it must be acknowledged not without bitterness – also religious divisions.”

“Nicosia, the Cypriot capital, is the last European capital divided by a wall, which is a deep wound on the island. Yet, together with our beloved



Before Pope Francis in Cyprus, His Beatitude the Patriarch of Jerusalem testified to the positive local experience between Catholic and Orthodox people on the road to Christian unity.



Orthodox brothers, we look to Christ, 'who has broken down the wall of separation (...), that is, the enmity' (Eph 2:14). "That is why we express our hope, which is for us already a certainty," reassured Archbishop Pizzaballa.

Finally, His Beatitude expressed his deepest gratitude to the Orthodox Church which, especially in Cyprus, is showing signs of great openness and friendship,

allowing Catholics to celebrate the Eucharist in their churches. "I hope that this positive experience of ours may be a first step towards the unity our people long for. May Cyprus become for the other Churches a model of unity and harmony, of encounter and sincere friendship!," he concluded, considering this small island a beacon of light and hope.

François Vayne

GOD HAS "PLANS FOR OUR WELFARE AND NOT FOR EVIL, TO GIVE US A FUTURE AND A HOPE" (JEREMIAH 29,11)

In his greetings to the Diplomatic Corps on January 10, the Holy Father spoke of a "family meeting", referring to this annual appointment with the ambassadors of the 187 States that have diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

After thanking in particular Dean George Poulides, Ambassador of Cyprus, for the kind words he addressed to him on behalf of the entire Diplomatic Corps, the Pope spoke of the trips made during 2021, especially the one

to Iraq in March, which he described as "a sign of hope after years of war and terrorism. The Iraqi people have the right to regain their dignity and to live in peace. Their religious and cultural roots go back thousands of years: Mesopotamia is a cradle

"I would truly like to see these two peoples rebuild mutual trust and resume speaking directly to each other, in order to reach the point where they can live in two states, side by side, in peace and security, without hatred and resentment, but the healing born of mutual forgiveness", said the Holy Father on Israel-Palestine relations in his annual address to the Diplomatic Corps.



of civilization; it is from there that God called Abraham to inaugurate the history of salvation," the Holy Father added.

He continued, thanking "all those individuals and governments working to ensure that migrants are welcomed and protected, and to support their human promotion and integration in the countries that have received them," renewing his gratitude to the Italian authorities, thanks to whom some people were able to come with him to Rome from Cyprus and Greece at the end of last year. "This was a simple yet meaningful gesture," he commented.

Furthermore, on the international situation, the successor of Peter expressed his regret that no progress had been made in the peace process between Israel and Palestine over the past year. "I would truly like to see these two peoples rebuild mutual trust and resume speaking directly to each other, in order to reach the point where they can live in two states, side by side, in peace and security, without hatred and resentment, but the healing born of mutual forgiveness," he insisted.

The Holy Father also returned to his message for the World Day of Peace,

celebrated on January 1, highlighting the elements he considers essential to foster a culture of dialogue and fraternity.

"Education holds a special place, since it trains the younger generation, the future and hope of the world. Education is in fact the primary vehicle of integral human development, for it makes individuals free and responsible", he underscored, considering that the educational process "gives rise to culture and builds bridges of encounter between peoples". The second element he recalled was work, "an indispensable factor in building and keeping peace."

The Pope concluded by quoting the Prophet Jeremiah "God has 'plans for [our] welfare and not for evil, to give [us] a future and a hope'" (29:11), inviting the ambassadors, their families and peoples, to make room for peace, nourishing dialogue and fraternity. "The gift of peace is 'contagious'; it radiates from the hearts of those who long for it and aspire to share it, and spreads throughout the whole world."

François Vayne



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DECORATIONS OF KNIGHTLY ORDERS

Order of the Holy Sepulchre
Papal Equestrian Orders
Order of Malta

Italian Dynastic Orders and Orders of the Italian Republic

Via dell'Orso, 17 - 00186 Roma - Italia
Tel/Fax: (+39) 06 68307839 gianluca.guccione@gmail.com

Proceedings of the Grand Magisterium

**Echoes of the two continental meetings
of the Lieutenants and Magistral Delegates**

THE ORDER FACES FUTURE CHALLENGES IN KEEPING WITH ITS NOBLE TRADITIONS

The meeting of the European Lieutenants, on November 24, and that of the Latin American Lieutenants, the following day, were held online. Both were chaired by the Grand Master, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, live from the Palazzo della Rovere in Rome.

Cardinal Filoni commented on the wide diffusion of his book on the spirituality of the Order in the main European languages: "I appreciated the response that was given to the diffusion of this booklet. I must say that it has also been appreciated outside the Order."

Shifting the focus to some of the resistance manifested towards the new Ritual, the Grand Master pointed out that the use of a sword has not been abolished, but is placed among the symbols of the Prayer Vigil, along with the fundamental knightly symbols such as the spurs and the vase of oils: "let it not happen that the membership of Knights and Dames who have sworn love and fidelity to the Order be diminished by misunderstandings, by fatigue, by an inadequate evaluation of their Investiture. After all, there is a fundamental evaluation against which all behavior must be measured: our love for Christ and, concretely, for the Land of Jesus" noted the Cardinal, arguing that "our Order is not an honorary Order, but a truly contributory and active one, as clearly shown in the Pontifical Yearbook for this year."

Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone in his address explained that, after the approval of the new Constitution, a

Commission meets every Thursday morning under the presidency of the Cardinal Grand Master and gradually draws up a draft of the General Regulations. "This is a complex and delicate work, it requires a careful study that will take a long time. From many quarters the willingness to contribute to this work has been evoked. Certainly, the text will be subjected to a collective examination before entering into force definitively: in fact, it is the intention of the Cardinal Grand Master to provide for an initial period of a couple of years *ad experimentum* during which comments and suggestions can be made," Visconti di Modrone responded to the questions received on this subject.

The Governor General continued, highlighting the current renewal of the Order, in line with that of the Church under the impetus of Pope Francis: "Renewal also means rereading the meaning of the symbols of our Order, which represent a reference that commits us, in the name of the mystery of the Resurrection, to a life of solicitude for a very specific purpose of the Church." He explained that the desire to accentuate the spiritual and charitable aspect of the commitment of the Knights and Dames (Article 4 of the Constitution) is accompanied by the desire to modernize the



management and administration of the institution: the Order is "ready to face future challenges, without obviously renouncing its noble traditions."

"Our budgets are certified, our administration faithfully complies with all the latest regulations, including those on anti-money laundering, in the utmost transparency," explained the Governor General, speaking of the approval of a rather bold budget for 2022 which provides for an amount of expenditure of over 14 million Euros.

He reassured the Lieutenants regarding the renovation of the Palazzo della Rovere, as "the entire operation will be implemented without any particular burden on the Order, the work being primarily paid by the new tenant, as well as through a reserve accumulated in past years for this purpose." Another aspect that the Ambassador emphasized is the effort to expand the Order in Europe, in Asia, in South America and in Africa, dwelling finally on the need to maintain a constant dialogue between the

Grand Magisterium and the Lieutenants, a channel of communication that will soon be strengthened, when visits to the various Lieutenancies for the Investiture ceremonies will be intensified.

During the two meetings, Sami El-Yousef, administrative director of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, spoke thanking the Order of the Holy Sepulchre whose help he described as essential, especially through the institutional support provided by the Grand Magisterium (over \$750,000 per month allocated to the daily life of the Patriarchate: schools, institutional expenses, seminary training, etc.). In 2021, the Lieutenancies adopted twenty projects for a total of almost one million dollars. Humanitarian and pastoral projects benefited from a considerable increase in funds.

The spokespersons of the linguistic and geographic groups of the European Lieutenants, as well as the Latin American Lieutenants, spoke in turn, asking a variety of practical questions (recruitment of young



The spokespersons of the Lieutenants' groups raised a number of issues, alerting to the difficulties of the members in these times of health and economic crisis, especially in Eastern European or Latin American countries where social problems make fundraising very difficult.





Welcoming the Lieutenants' remarks during two major continental meetings held live from the Grand Magisterium, Cardinal Filoni, Grand Master, mindful of the economic difficulties experienced by many people as a result of the consequences of the pandemic, reiterated that the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, which is open to all the Catholics who have the Mother Church in the Holy Land in their heart, is not an Order of rich people.

people, training of candidates, information on projects, etc.) and pointing out the objective difficulties of the members in these times of economic crisis, especially in the countries of Eastern Europe or Latin America, where social problems make fundraising very difficult in this second year of Covid-19.

The Governor General raised the issue of the recruitment of young people, a theme very dear to the Grand Master, pointing out that the reflections gathered during the speeches at these meetings will be particularly useful for future arrangements, although ample room for decision will be left to the Lieutenancies, in consideration of the different local customs and traditions.

The proposal to create a body of reference texts for the Lieutenant – from statutory rules to liturgical and administrative ones – was listened to with interest, as was the recommendation of certain Lieutenancies that fundamental ethical principles, such as the protection of children, the correspondence of fair wages, the



safeguarding of the environment and administrative transparency should always be respected. The suggestion to organize the coordination of volunteer activities in the Holy Land will be considered and studied further.

Finally, the Governor indicated that the



next Consulta (International General Assembly of the Order) will take place in 2023: "in consideration of the year lost to Covid, the Cardinal Grand Master has decided, informing the Secretariat of State, to derogate from the provision of the Constitution which provides for the Consulta to be held every four years, extending the period to five years. This will allow for better preparation."

The Grand Master – attentive to the economic difficulties faced by many people in this period of pandemic – wished to reiterate that the Order is not an institution of rich people: "let us not be discouraged, on

the contrary. It is good to see that, alongside people who can give more at this time, there are also those who cannot, but this does not make them less 'members' of the Order. Generosity involves both parties but the situations of need that our Knights and Dames sometimes experience can be different. This prompts me to say that the projects carried out are always the result of a common generosity," he concluded.

The full report of the meetings can be found on the Order's international website

FRENCH SENATORS RECEIVED BY THE GRAND MASTER

Early last autumn, the Grand Master and the Governor General received a delegation of six senators from the France-Saint Siège friendship group of the French Senate. This delegation was led by the President, Dominique de Legge, and included representatives of various political

groups in the Senate: Loïc Hervé, Marie Mercier, Louis-Jean de Nicolaÿ, Patricia Schillinger and André Vallini. The French senators were on an official visit to the Vatican, as part of the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two States.



The Grand Master and the Governor General regularly exchange views with high-level personalities visiting Rome who are keen to work concretely for peace in the Middle East. For example, some French senators have been received at the Palazzo della Rovere, headquarters of the Grand Magisterium.



They were received by the Holy Father and also met with Cardinals Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State, Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and Dominique Mamberti, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura. Finally, the senators had a number of working meetings with Archbishop Paul Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States, Sr Nathalie Becquart, Under-Secretary of the Synod of Bishops and at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI).

The aim of the visit was to exchange views on various international issues of common interest between France and the Vatican, to learn about the reforms underway in the Church's structures of governance and to reflect on the prospects for interreligious dialogue. This last theme was at the heart of the meeting with the

Grand Master, drawing on his experience as nuncio in Iraq and his activity of the head of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. He outlined the various initiatives of Pope Francis for the delegation and dwelt, in particular, on his recent trip to Iraq, in the broader perspective of the *Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together*, signed together with the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Ahmad Al-Tayyeb in February 2019, in Abu Dhabi. Cardinal Fernando Filoni explained that the aim was to overcome the cycle of wars and conflicts in order to relaunch friendly relations between Christians and Muslims, first with the Sunnis and then with the Shiites. By re-establishing dialogue with the Shia world, the Pope also hopes to foster dialogue among Muslims themselves. He promotes universal fraternity, as he wrote in his latest encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, inspired by Francis of Assisi.

GRAND MAGISTERIUM HEADQUARTERS, PALAZZO DELLA ROVERE, HOSTS EVENTS

Having resumed once again after the long break imposed by the pandemic, these events are part of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre's outreach to create links with a wider public and make known the Knights and Dames' spiritual and charitable mission for the Holy Land.

The launch of Italian journalist, Andrea Gagliarducci's book titled "Christ, Hope of Europe" on September 22 inaugurated the resumption of events at Palazzo della Rovere, after a long break due to the pandemic. The presentation was introduced by the Governor General, Ambassador Leonardo Visconti di Modrone, with an intervention by cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, President of the Council of European Bishops' Conferences, followed by an overview of the past and the future of the Church's role in Europe, on the eve of the opening of the Plenary Assembly of the

Council of European Bishops' Conferences, which was commissioned fifty years ago by Saint Paul VI.

The public included numerous ambassadors accredited to the Holy See and leading figures from the world of culture and communications. The headquarters of the Grand Magisterium also hosted an important event dedicated to St. John Paul II, in the presence of Grand Master Cardinal Fernando Filoni. In his welcome address, the Governor General stressed the important role of St. John Paul II in the life of the Order, especially for his support to the Holy



The Order and the Holy Land

THE NATIVITY AND EPIPHANY CELEBRATIONS IN THE HOLY LAND

Despite the absence of pilgrims due to health restrictions, a spirit of celebration and joy lit up this Christmas 2021.

It all began with the scouts bringing the streets of Bethlehem to life as they paraded in their colourful uniforms. The presence of these young people from the Holy Land echoed the words of the Pope, who addressed them immediately after the Christmas celebrations: "commit yourselves to your land, commit yourselves to your history. And carry out that human vocation that God has given you!".

After the scouts, it was the turn of Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, to enter Star Street, the road travelled by Joseph and Mary on their journey to the Grotto of the Nativity.

St Catherine's Church then resounded with the singing of Vespers and the prayers recited during the first procession into the Grotto. The celebrations continued with Midnight Mass... even without pilgrims, it



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Entering the city of Bethlehem on the occasion of Christmas, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, walked along the same street Joseph and Mary crossed on their journey to the Grotto of the Nativity.



was difficult to find a seat for everyone!

At midnight, the bells pealed throughout the church: Christ is born! Then came the homily: in front of the entire assembly, which included the Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh and his delegation, Archbishop Pizzaballa spoke of hope, peace and the Synod desired by the Holy Father. "The synodal journey is focused on listening. I believe that we must learn to listen more. Listening is more than hearing. It means making room for the life of the other within oneself, trying to put oneself in his or her situation. Listening is a way of being, an attitude, a way of life".

The celebrations continued with many emotional moments, such as the prayers recited in several languages, the consecration and the second procession to the Grotto to lay the new-born Christ there. After the liturgy, short masses were celebrated in the Grotto until late at night.

The dawn of the next day did not mark

the end of Christmas, far from it. After all, we are in the Holy Land! Here, the celebrations continued until January 7 and 18, as the Orthodox and Armenians celebrate the birth of Christ later. The different Christian denominations in Jerusalem came to the headquarters of the Latin Patriarchate to exchange greetings with Archbishop Pizzaballa. This is a long-standing tradition that takes place not once, but twice a year, at Easter and Christmas. It is an opportunity for members of different Christian denominations to share a moment of conviviality and listening. This ecumenical meeting is a strong symbol of the Christmas season, which reminds us that, whatever our confession, we are all Christians of the Holy Land!

Archbishop Pizzaballa recalled this in his homily on 1 January 2022: "We [Christians] do not want to be protected and placed under a glass bell, but to be an integral part of the civil and religious life of this society

Every year at Christmas, the inhabitants of Bethlehem, whether Christian or Muslim, manifest their communion in mutual joy.



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of ours. [...] In society, we want to be those who proclaim the Good News by their way of life, who know how to propose different models of relationships, alternatives to our world of pain, centred on equality and reconciliation, mutual respect and love!"

Finally, for the Epiphany, in addition to the celebrations in Bethlehem on January 5 and 6, which were attended by the Custos of the Holy Land, Francesco Patton, the Mass celebrating the arrival of the Three Kings was held in Zababdeh (Palestine), led by the

Patriarch. There, the Patriarch met and thanked the new priest of the parish and the town's scouts, for their contribution to celebrations in Bethlehem on December 25. In his homily, he also urged them to persevere in their commitment within the Church, listening carefully to the Word of God, "for even today God is speaking to us, but to hear him, we must pay attention to him, we must welcome his voice."

Cécile Leca
Lpj.org

THE FIRST PILGRIM'S SHELLS IN JERUSALEM AFTER TWO YEARS OF PANDEMIC

On November 10, for the first time in almost two years, a Knight and a Dame from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe in the United States received the Pilgrim's Shell from Patriarch Pierbattista Pizzaballa at the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem. During the meeting, His Beatitude spoke to the pilgrims about the problematic realities experienced by the people of the four countries of the Patriarchate, the importance of providing them with financial support, but also of making pilgrimages and being present among the Christians of the Holy Land.



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EDUCATING THE FUTURE GENERATIONS IN THE HOLY LAND

The Order's support for the Latin Patriarchate's schools.

For years, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre has devoted a large part of the monthly donations sent to the Holy Land to the network of 44 schools of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for a total of almost 5 million dollars a year. These institutions, directly linked to the parishes of the diocese, meet the educational and training needs of some 20,000 students and are the beating heart of the youth life of the local Church.

"The schools of the Latin Patriarchate operate according to Catholic principles and values in education and lifestyle. This is why it is important that everyone has the right to be treated justly and fairly in our schools, to live as brothers and sisters and to learn the Gospel values of respect for life, dignity and non-violence," says Father Jamal Khader who was the director of the Patriarchate's schools until 2021.

He continues, "these are important values that are taught in our schools, especially the relationship of fraternity between Christians and Muslims, which begins with the students and extends to the parents."

Working for the education of future generations in the Holy Land has always



Supporting the education of young people in the Holy Land remains a priority for the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, in order to train future generations so that they are able to take control of their destiny without leaving the blessed land of their ancestors.

been one of the main missions of the Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, not only by supporting daily school activities but also by contributing to scholarships for families who can no longer meet the fees and by making an important contribution to the payment of teachers' fair wages.

Furthermore, during the pandemic, the Order's support for schools has not forgotten the needs of online learning and the technical tools needed to ensure that young people's education is not penalised in already difficult times.

Find out more about what is being done in the Patriarchate's schools to provide quality education for the new generations in the Holy Land in support of peace and the growth of the whole society in a special video available on our [YouTube channel \(OESSH Gran Magistero\)](#).



The Life of the Lieutenancies

ECHOES OF THE ORDER'S INVESTITURES AROUND THE WORLD

We share some photos received from the Lieutenancies that have recently celebrated Investitures. These were moments of great joy for the members of the Order, since the global pandemic had prevented these events from taking place for two years.

SCOTLAND

Five Dames and five Knights were welcomed into the Order during the celebrations held at St. Andrew's Cathedral, Dundee, on 3-4 September.



EASTERN SPAIN

In Barcelona, at the beginning of October, in the presence of the Governor General, Leonardo Visconti di Modrone and the Vice Governor General for Latin America Enric Mas, the Lieutenancy for Eastern Spain (which includes the territories of Catalonia, Aragon, Navarra, Balearic Islands and the Principality of Andorra) organised the Investiture of a dozen Knights and Dames in the Church of St. Anne, built by the Order centuries ago.



NORWAY

At the end of October, the Investiture of the Magistral Delegation for Norway took place in St. Olav Cathedral, Oslo. Vice Governor General Enric Mas participated as representative of the Governor General.



BELGIUM

Six new members of the Lieutenancy for Belgium were invested in mid-October in the Chapter Church of Notre-Dame des Victoires au Sablon, Brussels. A number of foreign delegations took part, representatives of the nuncios accredited to His Majesty the King and to the European Union, and representatives of the Order of Malta and the Teutonic Order. Chancellor Bastianelli represented the Grand Magisterium.

SOUTHERN ADRIATIC ITALY

The Grand Master of the Order presided over the Investiture ceremony of the Knights and Dames of the Lieutenancy for Southern Adriatic Italy on Sunday, October 31 in the Cathedral of Bari, in the presence of the Governor General. The beautiful celebration was broadcast live on social networks and was followed by many members and friends of the Order in Italy.



MALTA

The Grand Master, accompanied by the Governor General, participated in the Investiture ceremony held in the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Valletta on November 6, during which seventeen Knights and Dames were officially received into the Order.



ITALY - SARDINIA

In November, the Lieutenancy for Italy Sardinia welcomed twenty-six new members who received their Investiture in the Basilica of Our Lady of Bonaria, in Cagliari. Treasurer Saverio Petrillo represented the Grand Magisterium during the celebration.

AUSTRALIA - NEW SOUTH WALES

On the first Sunday of Advent, the Australian Lieutenancy for New South Wales celebrated its annual Investiture, shortly after the places of worship reopened to the public. Five new Knights joined the Order, including two Members of the New South Wales Parliament who are happy to give public testimony of their faith.



ITALY - SICILY

On December 5, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, celebrated the solemn Investiture ceremony of over sixty Knights and Dames, seven clergymen and two archbishops, in the Cathedral of Monreale, near Palermo. The Governor General attended, as well as the Lieutenants for Central Apennine Italy, Southern Tyrrhenian Italy, Malta and Sardinia.



SOUTHERN TYRRHENIAN ITALY

On December 18, the Lieutenancy for Southern Tyrrhenian Italy experienced a special day of spiritual joy with the Investiture of eight Knights, a Dame and two priests. The celebration took place in the basilica of St. Domenico in Cosenza, and was presided over by Cardinal Filoni. The previous afternoon, the Grand Master had received the city's seal from the mayor – reserved for important visitors – and on this occasion he illustrated to those present the situation of Christians in the Holy Land and the Order's mission.



Culture

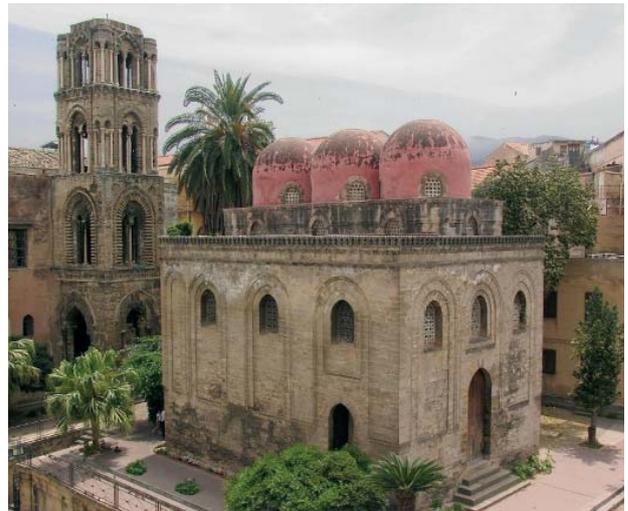
THE CHURCH OF ST. CATALDO IN PALERMO

Starting with this publication, we are opening a section dedicated to the churches belonging to the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem or assigned to the Order by the dioceses.

A tiny piece of Puglia in the heart of Palermo. Not only because it is dedicated to the saint bishop of Taranto, but also because it was most likely part of the palace of an eminent 12th century figure, Grand Admiral Maione da Bari. His rank, in reality, had nothing to do with the sea; it corresponded to that of supreme adviser to the Norman king William I the Bad. After Maione's death – in 1160 AD – the church was given by the king first to Silvestro da Marsico, who buried his daughter there in 1161, and then to the diocese of Monreale.

Like almost all ancient buildings, it has gone through many vicissitudes over the centuries, but has retained its original stylistic features, those of Arab-Norman architecture. St. Cataldo looks like a cube, lightened by ogival windows and surmounted by three small red domes in a row, corresponding to the nave, higher than the two side aisles, divided by reused columns and capitals.

The interior is bare; the contrast with the rich polychrome marble floor in cosmatesque style has led to the suggestion that work was interrupted on Maione's death. But this does not detract from its charm. The succession of ogival arches leading to the white marble altar with a central cross and the symbols of the evangelists create an evocative effect full of spirituality. Still preserved inside is the tombstone of Matilda, daughter of the building's second owner. On the outside, in addition to the round domes, part of an



Saint Cataldo, born in Munster, Ireland, was a 7th century Christian monk who became bishop of Taranto. His name was given to a beautiful church in Palermo owned by the Knights of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre since 1937. They keep this place of worship open to the public for visits, which are also opportunities to pray for the Holy Land.

openwork frieze running around the perimeter of the building bears witness to the Arab influence.

The church was donated in 1937 to the Knights of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, who restored it with great care and ensure that it is open to the public for visits. On the way out, the nearby Martorana Church, which dates from the same period, could not show a more striking contrast; the original structures, those that give San Cataldo its essential character, were submerged by a very rich decoration in the Baroque period. One next to the other, two different ways of conceiving the house of the Lord.

