



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

At the service of the living stones in the Holy Land

“They returned to Jerusalem with great joy”

A proposal for experiencing the vocation of the Church in the Holy Land



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The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem published a lengthy Pastoral Letter by Cardinal Pizzaballa.

In the introduction, the Patriarch explains that “Its purpose is not to propose immediate answers or technical solutions, but rather to help each person reflect on how to live our Christian faith in this land today in the light of the Gospel”. He notes that he signed the text on the feast of the evangelist Saint Mark, travelling companion, disciple, and interpreter of the apostle Saint Peter.

This pastorally oriented Letter is structured in three parts.

The first begins with an analysis of the current chaotic situation. “Before speaking of ideals, it is necessary to anchor ourselves firmly in reality as it is, while recognizing God’s active presence in it”, Cardinal Pizzaballa emphasizes.

In the second part, he shares a vision for the Latin Catholic community of the Holy Land, drawing on Scripture with particular reference to Jerusalem.

The third part seeks to translate this vision into pastoral implications, addressing the activities of parishes, families, schools, and institutions as he does so.

The Patriarch concludes with a reference to the heavenly Jerusalem, “a City with doors always open, illuminated by the splendor of the Lamb, the leaves that redeem the nations.” We invite all

Members of the Order to read the Letter carefully, available in the main international languages on the **Patriarchate's website**.

(April 25, 2026)