

EQUESTRIAN ORDER
OF THE HOLY
SEPULCHRE OF
JERUSALEM



First Tuesday Update...FTU...December 5, 2023



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My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We have begun the holy season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas. Advent is also a time to look East, toward Christ's coming at the end of time. As the Solemnity of the Nativity of

the Lord approaches, which we await with devout, expectant delight, let us prepare ourselves to offer humble adoration to the Word made flesh, who radiates the peace of God the Father to us.

The pastoral constitution on the Church in the modern world, *Gaudium et Spes*, of the Second Vatican Council, reminds us: *"The earthly peace which arises from love of neighbor symbolizes and results from the peace of Christ which radiates from God the Father"* (GS 78). Yes, as the prophet had announced: *"a child is born to us, a son is given us...Prince of Peace."* (Is 9:5) Looking to Our Lord in these days, we also unite in prayer with the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa, who in a recent letter to his flock, shared these words of Christ: *"I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have tribulations, but take courage, I have conquered the world."* (John 16:33) My dear friends, in our Advent hunger and thirst for true peace, let us make ours the cry and petition of the early Church: *"Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!"* (Rev 22:20)

May the Glory of Christmas ever enlighten your hearts. May the angelic proclamation continue to be made manifest: *"Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis."* With the assurance that each of you, and your loved ones, will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass I celebrate on Christmas Day, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Gregory W. Gordon*

Most Reverend Gregory W. Gordon
Auxiliary Bishop of Las Vegas





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DEUS LO VULT / GOD WILLS IT



Connie's Corner

Are you excited? Have you started preparing? Are you in a state of anticipation?

Advent is THE time of preparation. What are we preparing for? Advent refers to the coming of Christ. "This Coming" includes 3 references, the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas, secondly the coming of Christ through grace and the Holy Eucharist into our lives and finally the second coming at the end of time.

As we spend time with family and friends doing all the "normal" Christmas worldly things, we need to take time to prepare spiritually as well. Make an Advent wreath. Read your Advent journey booklet together, with your family, every evening. Spend more time in prayer. This is the time to look around and see how you can touch those in need. Think of the Divine Acts of Mercy. Christ lives today, tomorrow and forever. SPEND TIME WITH HIM 🙏.

Now "Connie's Corner" gift to you, I will be in prayer for all of you this Friday December 8th at Mass. What better time to pray than on Our Lord's Mothers "Immaculate" feast day. Wishing you all a very Blessed Christmas and a very prayerful Advent season.

Our Lady Queen of Palestine, we pray for your homeland and all of its people.

In His Service, Connie

ROSARY...A blessed Rosary on Monday was led by our two Spiritual leaders, Dames Julie McIntosh-Walsh and Jennifer Mallinger-McCormick. Your intentions were lifted to our Mother Mary. Thanks also to Sir James and Dame Julie Mersch for filling in for us (on Grandparent duty in Nashville). They will be superb AC's for our LV Council as of October 2024. Our **NEXT Rosary is Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6 pm at BGHS.**

FIAT/ST. HELENA PILGRIMAGE UPDATE...FIAT #1...FIAT #1 is going to be **RESCHEDULED** due to the Israel conflict. This is a very sad situation for all especially our 4 eager FP's! But fear not.... we are closely watching daily the situation and in constant contact with all Holy Land contacts, especially HND and ACS. Our 3-week initiative will happen in God's time. At this point we hope to have at least one in 2024 and another either late 2024 or very early 2025. Please lift the Holy Land and all Living Stones, in your prayers.

MENTORING INITIATIVE...The Mentoring Initiative falls under the "Engagement" Committee's purview and our goal is to welcome our newly-invested members into our Council. This initiative was begun this year, with twelve of our members serving as mentors to each of the twelve members who were invested last October in Pasadena.

We want to make each of you feel welcomed and appreciated – and integral to our Council because you are integral!

Please make a point to introduce yourself and others to these newest members at our Monthly Rosaries and our upcoming Summer Retreat in August. Answer any questions they may have about the Order and our own Council's projects. Our new members are the future of our Council and we appreciate you!



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SPIRITUAL LEADERS... December is a time of **HOPE, JOY, PEACE and CELEBRATION**

Let us reminisce 20 years ago in the words of Pope John Paul II... "And you, Mary, the Virgin of expectation and fulfilment, who hold the secret of Christmas, make us able to recognize in the Child whom you hold in your arms the heralded Saviour, who brings **HOPE and PEACE to all. With you we worship him and trustingly say: we need You, Redeemer of man, You who know the hopes and fears of our hearts. Come and stay with us, Lord! May the joy of your Nativity reach to the farthest ends of the universe!**" Pope John Paul II, Christmas 2003

The greatest Birthday in history is worth a **CELEBRATION** and a gift. What will your gift to Jesus be this Christmas?

Going into the world and doing good for others, spreading **JOY**...? Especially if we are getting caught up in the hustle & bustle of the Holiday season there is nothing better than to serve others, offer our time and talents, and maybe even catch a glimpse of a smile of someone whose life or day you've made a little easier or a little more special. Our Christmas wish for you is:

HOPE

Honor your traditions
Open your home and hearts

Pray

Enjoy the holidays

Give Jesus and yourself (or Jesus, yourself and others) the gifts of **HOPE, JOY, PEACE and CELEBRATION**

~Dame Julie McIntosh-Walsh DHS & Dame Jennifer Mallinger-McCormick DCHS

BEIT JALA SEMINARIAN CHRISTMAS CARDS...I wanted to share an update on the travels of our Seminarian Christmas Cards that are travelling to the Beit Jala Seminary in Jerusalem.

Simply put, the cards were boxed and mailed on Friday, October 6th and I was informed that our box should reach its destination in 10-days. I was surprised and very happy to hear this and I informed the committee members of the good news!

The conflict between Israel and Hamas began the next day and once the conflict began Betty Boyd volunteered to track the box daily.

10/8 thru 10/28: The box is in transit to the next facility at the LAX International Transit Center.

10/29 thru 11/18: The box has been processed through LAX International Distribution Center.

11/19: The box departed from LAX International Transit onto its destination.

11/28: The box has cleared customs in Israel and the processing is complete.

Our box of Christmas cards is in the home stretch and we need everyone to pray that our box safely reaches its final destination.

~Seminarian Christmas Card Committee

PILGRIMAGE HOLY YEAR ALL ITALY...March 17-29, 2025. Get on the growing list as it is filling FAST! Rome, Florence, Assisi with side trips to Orvieto, Lucca, Siena, Pisa and more. Including Masses at the 4 Rome Basilicas for the Holy Year and a visit to the EOHSJ Headquarters at the Vatican. Demand is huge and Order members always get first shot, but do not wait!

PILGRIMAGE HOLY LAND OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025...October 20-November 1, 2025. DUE TO DEMAND THIS PILGRIMAGE IN 2025 WILL BE QUICKLY FILLED! This Pilgrimage will include stays in Galilee, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem. It will be 13 days of spiritual joy. Look for more info soon!



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JUSTICE & PEACE... Ever go to daily Mass and you can't put your finger on it, but something's missing? Then you attend Sunday, you hear the beautiful organ, and things come to life just a little bit more. Elham Farah was the eighty-four-year-old former organist and music teacher at Holy Family Church in Gaza City. She also played the piano, touching parishioners' hearts with sweet harmony and grace. Seven-hundred-fifty people currently shelter inside Holy Family. Elham was one of them. Prior to the cease-fire, she wanted to know if her house and possessions survived the bombings. I imagine her friends imploring her not to go, telling her it's not worth the risk. She insisted she'd be all right.

A sniper shot Elham in the leg as she approached her home. She bled to death in front of it. It was too dangerous for anyone to save her life. Her body remained there for quite some time before they could retrieve it and give her a proper burial. The orphans and refugees inside Holy Family are afraid. No bombs or shots have landed, but everything around there is destroyed.

~Sir Ray Murphy, KHS J&P Leader

ENGAGEMENT & ENHANCEMENT... Our own personal nametags were happily distributed and worn at the rosary last night by all in attendance! A huge thank you to Quennie for all her help in making and ensuring that all of our newly invested members now have their own, as well as those who will be invested in October of 2024! For those who weren't able to attend the rosary last night, we'll have them at the January rosary and each successive rosary for you to pick up.

Please hold on to your nametags and remember to keep them in your car's console or glove compartment after you leave BGHS following the rosary. This way, you'll never leave them at home! If you forget to wear it to the rosary, just retrieve it from your car in the parking lot before rosary begins – easy!

We feel that the nametags will facilitate in our meeting and learning the names of our fellow members as our Las Vegas Council continues to grow by leaps and bounds!

~Dave and Debby Barton, KCHS/DCBS

LVC MEN'S BOOK CLUB... Just finished *"The Power of Paradox - A celebration of contradictions in the Christian life"*. The book was a little challenging as it was a compilation of 6 essays, not directly connected, written by a Ph D from the University of Berkeley in California in 1980. Of note the book was republished in 2008 with an extensive introductory 'explanation' from a 'more seasoned scholar'. Dr Palmers' update allowed for a lively discussion within our group.

Our next book is *"The Power and the Glory"* is a 1940 novel by British author Graham Greene. The title is an allusion to the doxology recited at the end of the Lord's Prayer: "For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever, amen." It was initially published in the United States under the title "The Labyrinthine Ways".

Greene's novel tells the story of a renegade Catholic 'whisky priest' (a term coined by Greene) living in the Mexican state of Tabasco in the 1930s, a time when the Mexican government was attempting to suppress the Catholic Church. That suppression had resulted in the Cristero War (1926–1929), so named for its Catholic combatants' slogan "Viva Cristo Rey" ("Long live Christ the King").

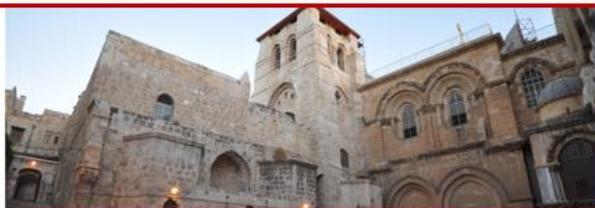
Our Book Club continues an open invitation to join us. As mentioned before, you don't need to be a literary scholar to join in. None of us are, however to a person we all believe it's been a terrific experience. For further information call Jeff Boughrum @ 702.523.3270

PS: In keeping with the requested "Christmas Theme" of this month's FTU all we have to add is ... A book is a great last-minute Christmas present!



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FRANCISCAN FOUNDATION DINNER AT HEADQUARTERS OF NUNCIO TO THE U.S....We were blest to be invited by Dame Denise Scalzo to this magnificent Dinner and Evening where the commitment and dedication of the Franciscans to the Holy Land was celebrated. Being with these wonderful people of God makes us even more aware of how blest we are to be members of the EOHSJ 🙏.



From Left to Right...Fr. David Grenier, OFM, Director of Commissariats Worldwide. Fr. Ramzi Sidawi, OFM, Guardian Franciscan Monastery, Washington D.C. Most Reverend Christophe Cardinal Pierre, D.D., Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. Yours Truly, Sir Joseph/Dame Connie Micatrotto, KC*HS/DC*HS. Most Reverend Thomas Paprocki, D.D. Bishop of Springfield, Illinois. Most Reverend Frank J. Dewayne, D.D. Bishop of Venice, Florida. Denise Marie Scalzo, SFO, DGCHS, Founding member of the Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land.

DISCERNMENT OF STORY ABOUT ENTERING THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER...This will be ongoing series on why each of us wanted to become invested in the Equestrian Order. I will be asking if you would be willing to give your story of discernment and interest in the Order. I look forward to hearing your stories. I will start with my story.

In October 2021, I saw information in the bulletin at St. Francis of Assisi Church, in Henderson, NV. I saw Al Korejwo at the podium speak about what a great opportunity it would be. Upon leaving the mass, I felt the Holy Spirit draw me toward the table with the information about the Order. I talked to Al who nominated me along with Connie. I knew that this was where I was supposed to be in my journey with Jesus Christ. I got invested in September 2022, and this was the best decision I have ever made.
~Betty Boyd, DHS

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 www.eohsjwesternusa.org



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FINALLY...how many times in our lives do we hear..." what a difference a year can make!?" Glance below at the 3 pictures, they were all taken about 287 days ago and then OCTOBER 7, 2023 happened! And now no joyous Hogar children in Manger Square this year, no Bethlehem Christmas tree lighting this year and no blessed time with Franciscan friends at Dar Al Majus/3 Kings at Manger Square Plaza this year.

In the blink of an eye, in our Lords land, hatred and evil are running rampant in the hearts and lives of so many. Yet, what better platform and stage for Satan and his followers to perform their heinous deeds. What then are we, as Spiritual Prayer Warriors, to do? Is it satisfactory to complain, bemoan, or show pure disgust for all...Hamas, Israeli, Palestinians?

May we suggest simply this...PRAY...ask not for Revenge-Justice-Peace, rather let us all be far more Christ-like, pray as Jesus did to His Father at his most exasperated point as a man, hopelessness and fear, "not as I will BUT as Your will be done".

In many ways what is happening there is all of our GETHSEMANE'S! Just think of the characters involved at that time in the final hours of Jesus's life...strangely similar to the situation today in the same land of the Lord.

The other day we heard someone complain that nothing good will ever come from this place called Holy and Palestine. It reminded us of the words of Nathaniel from John 1:46..." can anything good come from Nazareth" ...through all of our devout and "His Will" focused prayers, we may answer as Phillip answered Nathaniel, only this time about all of the Holy Land..." COME AND SEE".



Blessings in His Joy, Oh Mother Mary Queen of Palestine pray for us all.... Connie/Joe 