

THE WAY

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by Dame Betty Boyd, DHS

What is a Jubilee Year?
by Gerard O'Connell

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with our Bishops**

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H.E. Felipe Pulido

**Chivalric Dignity
and practice in the Order**
by Sir Michael Weinberg, KC^{HS}

Paths to Marian Devotion
*by Sir Clay Hoffman, KC^{*HS}*



REMEMBER,
O MOST GRACIOUS VIRGIN MARY,
THAT NEVER WAS IT KNOWN
THAT
ANYONE WHO FLED TO THY PROTECTION,
IMploRED THY HELP,
OR SOUGHT THY INTERCESSION
WAS LEFT UNAIDED.
INSPIRED WITH THIS CONFIDENCE,
I FLY UNTO THEE,
O VIRGIN OF VIRGINS, MY MOTHER;
TO THEE DO I COME;
BEFORE THEE I STAND,
SINFUL AND SORROWFUL.
O MOTHER OF THE WORD INCARNATE,
DESPISE NOT MY PETITIONS,
BUT IN THY MERCY
HEAR AND ANSWER ME.
AMEN.



H.E. Dame Margaret Romano, DGCHS
Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem,
Lieutenant,
Western Lieutenancy,
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LETTER FROM THE LIEUTENANT H.E. Margaret Romano, DGCHS



Dear Fellow Members,

Welcome to “The Way” Magazine! Our theme this year is the Jubilee Year 2025, with our focus on hope. As you look through the latest edition of “The Way,” remember the “Pilgrims of Hope” you encounter. Hope brings courage, and strengthens our faith. There are times we’ve said “I can’t imagine not having faith to get through life’s challenges.” The blessings of hope are seen in the events we experience.

Once again, we present to you stories of fellow members and those who live in

hope, pilgrims gathering their strength from their personal faith and that of those around them, spreading the word of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Many thanks once again to all who work in the Western Lieutenancy to bring God’s love and hope into our lives. As I’ve said before, ordinary people doing great things. The truth is the Western Lieutenancy is filled with great members doing extraordinary things! I am thankful for our Area Councillors and all those who serve on Council, to all who help in putting on our special presentations, newsletters, mid year meetings, Annual Meetings and this, The Way Magazine. They’re examples of people of faith who get the job done!

We travel together, Pilgrims of Hope, working this year and onward, bringing hope, strengthening faith in thanksgiving for God’s blessings.

May Our Lady bless you and keep you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Romano". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

H.E. Margaret Romano, DGCHS
Lieutenant
EOHSJ Western Lieutenancy

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BISHOP'S Corner

**Bishop for the
Diocese of San Bernardino since 2020**



Highlights of the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope written by H.E. Alberto Rojas, KC*HS

Dear friends, are there moments in your lives you can identify as highlights? Most likely, all of us have had and continue to have experiences and special moments in our lives that we can identify as highlights. Last March I had the opportunity to accompany a group of people from our Diocese on a pilgrimage to Italy with the motivation of the Jubilee year. We were able to visit a few beautiful cities and celebrate Masses in their amazing basilicas. We started in Assisi with Mass at the tomb of Saint Francis and also visited the tombs of the blessed Carlo Acutis and Saint Clara. We celebrated the Eucharist and spent some time in prayer in front of the Eucharistic miracle in Orvieto. We celebrated Mass at the basilica of St. Dominic in Siena and visited the house of St. Catherine. All these experiences were very special because they all had very powerful and spiritual moments for us!

However, on our way to Rome, we visited and celebrated Mass with the locals at the basilica of Saint Bernardine of Siena in L'Aquila where the body of Saint Bernardine is kept and venerated. This was not just a special and powerful moment for the entire group, but also one of the highlights of our pilgrimage. Saint Bernardine of Siena is our Patron Saint, and we wanted to venerate his body and ask for his intercession for the people of our Diocese of San Bernardino in California. At the end of the Mass, the pastor gave us a first-class relic of Saint Bernardine and was very grateful that a group of people from so far away such as California had come to venerate the body of San Bernardino all' Aquila. I could not believe my eyes as I was holding the actual relic in my hands. We

will treasure and venerate this relic of our patron Saint Bernardine of Siena and always ask for his intercession.

You may be wondering why the body of St. Bernardine is kept in L'Aquila and not at his hometown of Siena where he was born on September 8, 1380. We were told that there was a time when the political leaders of L'Aquila were having some terrible conflicts and division among themselves and they heard that Saint Bernardine was a great preacher and peacemaker, so they asked him for help. Saint Bernardine accepted the invitation and went to L'Aquila to listen and learn about their situation. Every day he would spend hours praying on his knees for the resolution of their problem. After some time, the problem was solved, and peace came back to the leaders and the people of the city. By this time, Saint Bernardine was seriously ill and finally died there in L'Aquila on May 20, 1444. People got to know about him and loved him, so they asked to let them keep his body.

Another highlight was entering in procession through the Holy Doors of St. Peter' Basilica and celebrate Mass there by the tomb of Saint Peter. We were all grateful to have had this special blessing of traveling to Rome for the Jubilee Year and obtain plenary indulgence. May our patron Saints, San Bernardino and Our Lady of Guadalupe, continue to intercede for us and keep us all united peacefully in God's love as a diocese.



*Dame Rolinda and Sir Rusty Dardano.
Photo by Tony Amat.*

2024 ANNUAL MEETING Western Lieutenancy

Salt of the Earth *by Sir Rusty Dardano, KCHS
and Dame Rolinda Dardano, DCHS*

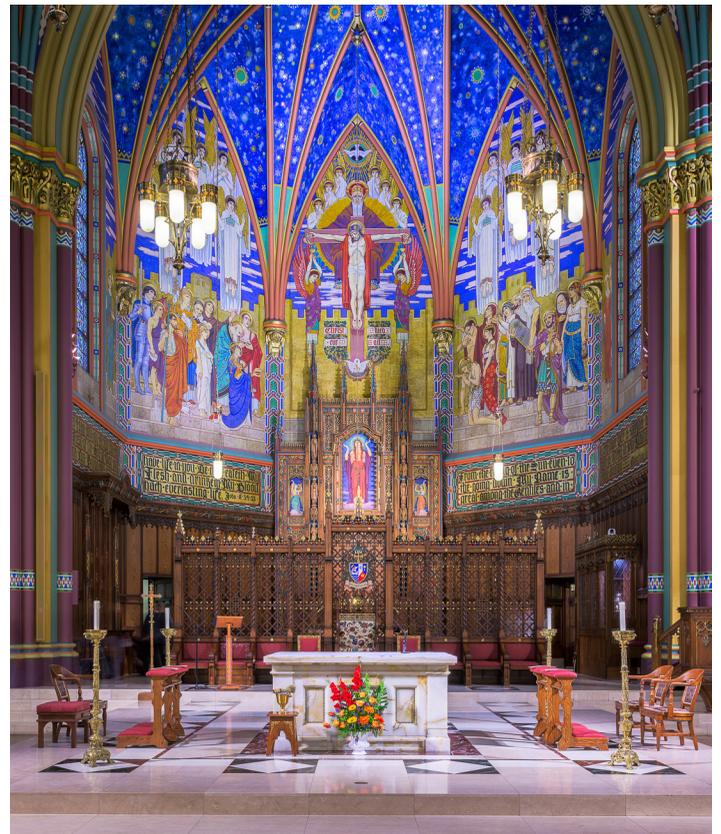
What better theme than the verse that calls Christians to have a positive impact on the world through their actions, values and attitudes, preserving good in the world and pointing to hope in times of divisiveness. With that in mind, the Salt Lake Area members enthusiastically began their preparation for the meeting, with the goal of maximizing the experience for all attendees.

Music, venues and simple logistics were the focus to afford attendees the opportunity to focus on personal sanctification while also being reinvigorated in their efforts to support the Church in the Holy Land.

Thursday

On Thursday evening, a pre-annual meeting event was held at the Madeleine Choir School's newly constructed Hitzelberger Hall, with many in attendance. Directed by Sir Greg Glenn, KHS, Co-Founder and Pastoral Administrator of the school, and assisted by Fr. Martin Diaz, KCHS, alongside Pam and Fred Strasser, the evening featured a delightful dinner and fellowship.

Somehow H.E. Bishop Oscar A. Solis knew immediately that the theme “Salt of the Earth” (Matt: 5:13) would be a perfect theme for the 2024 meeting. The thought came to him in a few brief moments as he began to contemplate the meeting in Salt Lake City.



*Above: Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Below: Front: Dame Densy Chandra, DGCHS. Row 1: Dame Anabel Carmona, DHS, Sir Francisco Carmona, KHS, Sir Raymond Dardano, KC*HS, Dame Rolinda Dardano, DC*HS, Sir Victor Siebeneck, KHS. Row 2: Dame Angela Siebeneck, DHS, Very Reverend Martin L. Diaz, KCHS, Sir Greg Chandra, KGCHS, Sir George Michalko, KHS. Row 3: Reverend Gabriel T. Mosher, O.P., KCHS, Sir John McNulty, KHS.*

Following the dinner, attendees were treated to an extraordinary musical performance by the Choristers of the Madeleine Choir School. This performance, held in the magnificent Cathedral of the Madeleine, was a musical lamentation and prayer, reflecting on the current political tragedies. The performance beautifully expressed and conveyed the mission of the EOHSJ in supporting the Christian community and all others in the land of our Lord's life, teaching, suffering, death, and resurrection. The evening served as a spiritual prelude to a weekend filled with faith-filled Masses, thought provoking speakers and fellowship.

the incredible acrobatics of the ski aerials by a professional Flying Aces ski team, jumping and twisting their way into a pool. Other members chose to visit the Genealogy Library on Temple Square to learn how to search for ancestors and then receive help from the staff. There was much excitement as members found information on their ancestors that was enlightening. One member even found out that he was related to royalty! Many planned to continue their research on-line using the training and information they gained at the event.



Friday

H.E. Sir Michael and Dame Janet Feeley led the Friday morning events which were thoughtfully designed to provide experiences unique to Utah. Many members chose to attend the tour of the Utah Olympic Park, site of the 2002 and 2034 Olympic games. They got a closeup view of the Bobsled track and were able to look down at the daunting ramp of the Nordic 120-meter ski jump. Thankfully, none of the members accepted the invitation to try out the ramp on skis. After lunch, they were treated to a private demonstration of

Photo 1: The Family Life Center where members were able to research their family trees. Photo 2: The Bobsled track at the Utah Olympic Park. Photo 3 and 4: Musicians from the Madeleine Choir School Choristers who provided angelic music for all the liturgies during the Annual Meeting. Photo 5: Bishops of the Order during Mass. Photo 6: 2024 Dame Investees. Photo 7: 2024 Deacon Investees. Photo 8: Sir Jed Durbano, Sir James Seaman, Dame Susan Durbano and Dame Madalyn Seaman presenting the gifts at Mass. Photo 9: Promottee Dame Jordan Taillon and Dame Mariam Scholte. Photo 10: Chancellor Sir Victor Rzeltelski, H.E. Pat Powers, Sir Micatrotto, Sir Schanzlin, Sir Mersch, Sir Chandra. Photo 11: Rev. Daniel Rolland, KHS, Rev. John Assalone, KCHS, Rev. Miguel Corral, KHS, Rev. Marc Howes, KCHS, Rev. Rogelio Molina (will be invested in Hawaii), & Rev. James Jankowski, KCHS.

Friday evening was filled with retreats. The Investee retreat team was led by Sir Victor and Dame Angela Siebeneck and was held in the Chapel of the Madeleine Choir School, with Fr. Fred Adamson as retreat master along with Deacon Ryan Adams. The Promotee retreat was led by Dame Maria-Cruz Gray and was held at the St. Catherine of Siena Newman Center Chapel, with Fr. Richard Vega serving as retreat master. The popular all-member retreat was again led by Fr. David Heney, providing members with a spirit-filled evening as they prepared for the weekend liturgies and events.

Saturday

The Saturday Promotion and Member Memorial Mass was held at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, with the Very Reverend Bishop Oscar Solis as the principal celebrant. Sixty-one members were promoted in rank during the beautiful celebration, amid angelic music again provided by the Madeleine Choir School Choristers.





Pictured: Bishop Solis celebrating the Promotion and Memorial Mass at the Madeleine Cathedral in Salt Lake City, Utah 2024.



From the rising of the Sun even to
the going down My Name is
great among the Gentiles and in

After Mass, we met for our annual member business meeting where we received updates on the various works supported by the Western Lieutenancy and celebrated those outstanding contributions of members receiving the Archangel award.

Utah's stunning landscapes sparked the growth of a booming film industry a century ago, inspiring our Saturday night theme, "just for the fun of it" from the film, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. The evening was met with perfect weather for our outdoor venue where all had fun guessing the names of the characters attending, then enjoyed a delightful dinner, followed by music and dancing.



Photo 1: Knights wait to process into the Madeline Cathedral in Salt Lake City to celebrate Mass.

Photo 2: Sir John Genova, KC*HS, Reverend Vaughn Winters, KCHS, and Dame Joan Genova, DC*HS, of Los Angeles.

Photo 3: The EOHSJ Treasurer Sir Brad Sharp, KGCHS with his family, Kloie Vegors (granddaughter), Oliver Vegors (grandson), Jennifer Vegors (daughter), Ashlee Vegors (granddaughter) and proud grandpa Sir Brad Sharp.

Photo 4: Star Trekkers - Dame Micaela Le Blanc, DHS, Dame Sharon Agnew, DHS, Sir Greg Warner Sr., KHS, Sir Anderson Shaw, KC*HS, and Dame Audry Shaw, DC*HS of Los Angeles.

Photo 5: Sir George Michalko, KHS and Sir Paul Hitzelberger, KC*HS lead the procession with the Order's banner and flag.

Photo 6: His Excellency, The Most Reverend Richard Higgins, KC*HS, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, and His Excellency, The Most Reverend Gregory Gordon, Auxiliary Bishop of Las Vegas, proceeding into the Madeleine Cathedral.

Photo 7: Investees: Sir Danial Pierce, Tucson, AZ and Sir Samer Nakhle, Las Vegas, NV.





Photo 8:
 Photo 9: Bishop Felipe Pulido and Bishop Michael Pham being invested into the Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.
 Photo 10: Deacons
 Photo 11: His Excellency, The Most Reverend José H. Gomez, bestowing the Order's insignia at the Investee Mass.

of the artwork and music of the Choristers in the acoustically perfect Cathedral of the Madeleine, making the investiture particularly poignant for the investees and their guests. The Sunday Gala was complete with a 15 piece "big swing band" in true white-tie style, as members danced to vintage swing tunes.

Sunday

Our Sunday morning brunch was preceded by a fascinating presentation by Sr. Dierdre Byrne, POSC who gave first-hand examples of performing the Lord's work as a surgeon in the U.S. Army and how that work took her to remote areas of the world to help and support those in need. The Sunday Investiture Mass, celebrated by Grand Prior H.E. José H. Gomez, was the liturgical highlight of the entire weekend. The 59 investees were surrounded by the magnificence

We also celebrated Bishop Solis' birthday. Cathedral shaped saltshakers were provided at each table as a gift from The Very Rev. Martin Diaz, KCHS, Rector of the Cathedral, to go with the Salt of the Earth theme. For a donation to the Peace and Mercy Crusade, members could take the shakers as a souvenir of the event.

Our time together was a testament to His presence among us, and we left this gathering renewed in our commitment to the mission of the Order to be "Salt of the Earth" to the Christians in the Holy Land.

ELEVATED TO BISHOP

Bishop Michael Pham

Diocese of San Diego

written by Betty Boyd, DHS

Bishop Michael Pham was born in Da Nang, Vietnam. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 9, 1999 for the Diocese of San Diego and was consecrated as an Auxiliary Bishop on September 28, 2023. He serves as the diocese's Vicar for Clergy. Auxiliary Bishop Pham was invested into the Equestrian Order in October 2024, Salt Lake City, Utah. The Way Magazine asked about his challenges and expectations, along with what he was looking forward to.



But then, the expectation was for me to be more visible to people and public. I was asked to give more speeches for public engagement which was expected for a bishop. I just needed to prepare more speeches. These are challenges and expectations that I experienced as an Auxiliary Bishop. It also gave me a better view of the diverse needs and gifts within our diocese. Visiting the parishes was a great opportunity to make personal

connections with the people, and they to me. I hope they were able to see my sincere commitment to them and their spiritual journey.

First and foremost, I thank God for the graces and many blessings that He has bestowed upon me. If not for God's loving grace, I would not be where I am today. Being a priest is already a tremendous blessing, but being a bishop is truly beyond blessing. Nothing can outdo God's grace, love, and mercy.

That being said, as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Diocese of San Diego, I am not assigned to a parish. In the beginning, I missed being with the people in a community. I, however, adjusted quickly with a new way of viewing the life of the church in the diocese. I had opportunities to go like a pilgrim to different churches on weekends and experience the faith and culture of the community which gave me hope, joy, love, and encouragement about the faith of the people. As a priest, I didn't have to travel much. As a bishop, I traveled more for meetings and conferences. It was an adjustment for me, but I got to learn and saw the beauty of the Catholic Church throughout the world - the Church is truly a "pilgrims of hope" as we dedicate this Jubilee Year. I got to meet with so many wonderful people.

As an Auxiliary Bishop, I look forward to meeting people in the faith. It is so beautiful and joyful to hear and listen to people in all walks of life. I look forward to sharing with people about our church, about our spiritual journey, about our social outreach to our sisters and brothers in need. I look forward to travel to learn about other cultures and ethnic communities in order to guide and lead the people in the church, finding ways to help them appreciate that especially with their diversity, they create our one church, united in Christ. In some ways, it is like being a bearer of hope. I also look forward to working with my staff at the chancery office. With our collective energy, of course guided by the Holy Spirit, we are able to collaborate, dialogue, and put in motion the strategic plans for our diocese whether pastoral or administrative for the good of God's people.

**Auxiliary Bishops
Michael Pham and Felipe Pulido
are truly Pilgrims of Hope!**

Bishop Felipe Pulido *Diocese of San Diego*

Auxiliary Bishop Felipe Pulido was born in Dos Aquas, Michoacan, Mexico. He was ordained into the priesthood on June 28, 2002 in the Diocese of Yakima, Washington. He was consecrated an Auxiliary Bishop on September 28, 2023. Auxiliary Bishop Pulido serves as a Vicar for Parish Pastoral initiatives. In October 2024 was invested into the Equestrian Order.



The Way Magazine asked about his challenges and expectations, along with what he was looking forward to.

As an auxiliary bishop of San Diego, I experience both profound joy and challenges in my ministry. I find deep fulfillment in serving the faithful, fostering unity within the church by supporting the diocesan bishop, priests, religious, permanent deacons, and the entire community in our diocese. Moments of grace, such as confirmations, pastoral visits, getting to know our priests and walking with communities in faith, bring immense joy to my life as a bishop. However, I also bear the weight of complex responsibilities, ranging from administrative duties to navigating pastoral crises. Amid these demands, I hold fast to the hope that, through prayer, humility, and service, I can contribute to spiritual renewal and foster deeper communion with God and with one another.



The coat of arms features a shield divided into four quarters with wavy horizontal lines. The top-left and bottom-right quarters are blue and white, while the top-right and bottom-left quarters are red and gold. At the center is a roundel with a white background and a red border, depicting a figure washing feet. Above the shield is a green mitre. A banner at the bottom reads 'BUILDING COMMUNIO'.

BISHOP PULIDO'S COAT OF ARMS

Bishop Pulido's coat of arms is divided into four quarters with wavy horizontal lines from top to bottom. The blue and white lines represent the Blessed Virgin Mary. They also suggest water, which alludes to Jesus washing the feet of His disciples and to the waters of baptism. The red and gold lines represent the Holy Spirit and fire. The colors also can be seen as referring to the Blood and water poured from Jesus' side at His crucifixion, as well as to the bread (gold) and wine (red) transformed into the Eucharist. At the center is a roundel featuring a symbolic representation of the "mandatum" (washing of the feet), which he believes exemplifies service to all humanity. The roundel's outer edge is a line composed of small humps; it is borrowed from the coat of arms of the Diocese of Yakima, where Bishop Pulido served as a priest before being named a bishop.

What Is a Jubilee Year?

THE HISTORY AND MEANING BEHIND
A CENTURIES-OLD TRADITION

written by Gerard O'Connell

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To understand the significance of the Jubilee and its seven-centuries-old tradition in the Catholic Church, it is necessary first to recall its biblical origins and then to briefly revisit the historical events that have shaped the Jubilee we are now celebrating.

The Christian Jubilee has its origins in the Jewish religious tradition. It is first recounted in the Book of Leviticus (25:10-14) that the law of Moses prescribed that every 50th year be observed as a Jubilee—that is, a year of rest for the land, liberation of the slaves and a general enfranchisement of the people aimed at restoring equality and reducing the distance between rich and poor. The Book of Deuteronomy (15:1-11) adds to this the cancellation of debts. This Jubilee institution was also taken up by the prophet Isaiah (Is 61:1-2), and Jesus made the words of the prophet his own at the beginning of his ministry when he presented himself as the fulfillment of “the year of the Lord’s favor” (Lk 4:18-19).

The beginning of the Jewish Jubilee was marked by the sounding of a ram’s horn. In Hebrew this horn is called *jobel*, from which the Christian term *jubilee* comes. The Christian Jubilee is also called a holy year, not only because it begins and ends with liturgical holy acts, but because its purpose is to encourage holiness of life, strengthen faith, and encourage acts of charity and fraternal love. The

Catholic Jubilee tradition was started by Pope Boniface VIII in the year 1300, without explicit reference to its biblical roots, at a time when throughout Christendom there was not only great suffering, caused by wars and diseases such as the plague, but also a deep desire to return to a more holy way of living.

Boniface VIII established the Jubilee Year by drawing on a tradition of “popular spirituality” that included pilgrimages and indulgences, as Pope Francis recalls in “Hope Does Not Disappoint” (“*Spes Non Confundit*”), the bull of indiction for the Jubilee Year 2025 that he promulgated on May 9, 2024. He wrote:

I like to think that the proclamation of the first Jubilee, in the year 1300, was preceded by a journey of grace inspired by popular spirituality. How can we fail to recall the various ways by which the grace of forgiveness had been poured out upon God’s holy and faithful People? We are reminded, for example, of the great “Pardon” that Saint Celestine V granted to all those who visited the Basilica of Santa Maria di Collemaggio in Aquila on the 28th and 29th days of August 1294, six years before Pope Boniface VIII instituted the Holy Year. The church was already experiencing the grace of the Jubilee as an outpouring of divine mercy. Even earlier, in 1216, Pope Honorius III granted the plea of Saint Francis [of Assisi] for an indulgence for all those visiting the Porziuncola on the first two days of August. The same can be said of the





Vatican City -
December 8, 2015.
Pilgrims gathered in
St. Peter's Square on
December 8, 2015 for
the feast of the
Immaculate Conception
and the opening of the
Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**Photo by: Catholic
News Agency**

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pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela: in 1222, Pope Callistus II allowed the Jubilee to be celebrated there whenever the Feast of the Apostle James fell on a Sunday.

“Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event,” the pope remarked in the bull. Although it was not an element of the Jewish Jubilee, it is something that dates back to the early centuries of the Christian era, when the faithful tended to go to the holy sites linked to their faith. Since it soon became almost impossible for them to go to the Holy Land because of travel difficulties and political realities, Rome quickly became “the new Jerusalem,” a primary place of pilgrimage because of the martyrdom there of Sts. Peter and Paul and other early Christian saints.

Throughout the Middle Ages, pilgrims came to Rome from Gaul (what is today much of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, parts of the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland), the Slavic countries and northern Italy. The pilgrims were called *Romei* (from the Greek word *Romaïos*, meaning foreigners/pilgrims to Rome). From the sixth century onward, St. Peter’s tomb (located then

as now under a basilica bearing his name) attracted pilgrims from all over the world.

They came to Rome notwithstanding the hazards of travel, risks to life from brigands or robbers, risks to health from the plague and other illnesses, and difficulty procuring food and lodging. In the 13th century, the journey could take weeks or even months, depending on whether one traveled by foot, by horse or by carriage.

The Romei came on a spiritual journey to renew their faith by drawing physically close to the tombs of the martyrs and confessors of the faith, to do penance for their sins and seek God’s mercy and pardon—and, from 1300 onward, to obtain the Jubilee indulgences. Since the ninth century, bishops across Europe had granted

indulgences, which according to the Catholic Church are “a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven,” to those who contributed to building churches or gave gifts to charitable institutions. The new mendicant orders—the Franciscans (founded by St. Francis of Assisi in 1210) and the Dominicans (founded by St. Dominic in 1216)—promoted pilgrimages, developed the concept of indulgences and greatly influenced the Christian people of that time.

The term *jubilee* came to be used for indulgences granted for participation in the Crusades. Pope Urban II called the First Crusade (1096-99) to regain the Holy Land from the Islamic rule of the Seljuks (Turkish-Persian Sunni Muslims) and granted indulgences to those who participated, confessed and repented of their sins. St. Bernard spoke of the Second Crusade as “a year of pardon, a true jubilee year.” (Pope Francis, who has developed a close relationship with the Muslim world, makes no mention of the Crusades and the indulgences linked to them in his Bull of Indiction for this Jubilee Year.)

From the mid-1200s onward popes granted indulgences for visits to some Roman churches. Nicholas IV, the first Franciscan pope (1288-92), granted indulgences to pilgrims who visited St. Peter’s Basilica (the earlier basilica, not the current structure) on certain days.

In those days, and up until 1870, the pope was not only a spiritual ruler, he was also a temporal ruler as head of the papal states. Then, at a time of rising nationalism when people began moving away from the church, Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1303) managed to rekindle religious sentiments and overcome political contrasts by celebrating the first Jubilee Year.

The First Jubilee

In the bull announcing this Holy Year, Pope Francis recalled that “the proclamation of the first Jubilee, in the year 1300, was preceded by a journey of grace inspired by popular spirituality.” The historian Paolo Brezzi, in his 1975 history of church Jubilees, *Storia degli Anni Santi*, from which I have gathered much of this history, reports that news (from unidentified sources) began circulating in Rome at the end of 1299 claiming that a total plenary indulgence would be available to all those who visited the Basilica of St. Peter’s from sunrise to sunset on Jan. 1, 1300, while lesser indulgences could be obtained in the following days and perhaps year. This caused crowds to flock to St. Peter’s, and they were soon joined by an influx of foreign pilgrims.

When Pope Boniface saw what was happening, he first consulted the archives but found no precedent for it. He then convened the College of Cardinals to discuss the matter and finally took the decision to give his seal of approval to the spontaneous event. Two months later, he issued the bull of indiction for the first Jubilee Year, “*Antiquorum Habet Fida Relatio*,” on Feb. 22, 1300, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter, and announced the granting of the Jubilee indulgence—“the fullest pardon of their sins”—to all who visited the basilicas of the two apostles of Rome “with reverence, true repentance and having confessed [their sins].” He backdated the Jubilee indulgence to Christmas Day 1299 and extended it throughout the Jubilee Year. To obtain the Jubilee indulgence, Romans were required to visit the basilicas on 30 days during the year, while pilgrims needed to do so only 15 times.

In another bull, Pope Boniface excommunicated anyone who attacked pilgrims coming to Rome. He also granted the Jubilee

indulgence to those who could not complete the visits or who died on the way to Rome, as many did.

The first Jubilee was surprisingly successful. Pilgrims came to Rome, which then had a population of 20,000, from France, Germany, Spain and even England. "The old came on the shoulders of the young," one report said. Among the many pilgrims were Dante (who in "The Divine Comedy" refers to the Jubilee several times), and artists like Giotto and Cimabue. Pilgrims prostrated themselves before the tomb of St. Peter; and on every Friday and feast day, Veronica's Veil, with an image of Jesus' face, was exposed for their veneration.

Rome has benefited from every Jubilee in terms of infrastructure and works of art. Already in 1300, the church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva was built near the Pantheon and the churches of Aracoeli and the Lateran were restored for the Jubilee. Rome's inns were full then, as now, and Vatican finances gained.

Establishing a Tradition

Although Pope Boniface decreed that a Jubilee should be held every 100 years, the next one was held just 50 years later. During the 1340s, the people of Rome were upset at the exile of the popes to Avignon and sent delegations there to the reigning pope, Clement VI, to plead with him to declare a Jubilee Year in 1350. They argued that Rome was in miserable condition and human life was too short to allow a person to gain the plenary indulgence if it could only be obtained every 100 years. Clement VI agreed to declare 1350 a Jubilee Year but published the bull only in August, after the great plague had hit Europe and Italy in 1348. Soon after that a powerful earthquake hit Rome on Sept. 9, 1349, damaging the basilicas of St. John Lateran and St. Paul's Outside the Walls.

Basilica would be included in the Jubilee agenda. The second Jubilee Year was opened in St. Peter's Basilica on Dec. 24, 1349; it was the only time in history that the pope was not present for the opening of a Jubilee Year, as he was in Avignon. More pilgrims came than for the first Holy Year; they came from Spain, England, Sweden, Germany, Hungary and Greece. Lodging again was a major problem, and food prices were high.

St. Bridget of Sweden, a Catholic mystic and founder of the Bridgettines, arrived in Rome for the Jubilee in 1350 and to get approval for her order; during her visit, she spoke out against ignorant and immoral clergy and called for the return of the papacy from Avignon.

It was only much later, however, that St. Catherine of Siena convinced Gregory XI, the last French pope, to return to Rome in 1377. When he died in 1378, the Romans demanded that the cardinals "elect a Roman, or at least an Italian" as next pope. They elected the archbishop of Bari (not yet a cardinal) in 1378. He took the name Urban VI and called a Jubilee for 1390 (a nod to the 33 years of life for Christ on earth, though it was actually 40 years after the previous Jubilee), but he died before it happened.

His successor, Pope Boniface IX, held two Holy Years: the first in 1390 and another 10 years later. He was one of three popes to hold two Jubilees: John Paul II and Francis are the only others.

The Great Western Schism (September 1378 to November 1417) saw three bishops claiming to be pope. It ended with the election of Martin V (1417-31), not yet a priest, as pope. He called a Jubilee for 1423 (33 years after the Jubilee of 1390, again for the 33 years of Christ's life) to strengthen Catholic unity, and the Holy Door of St. John Lateran was opened for the first time.

The next Jubilee Year was held in 1450, under Pope Nicholas V (1447-55), the first of the Renaissance popes. Such a vast number of pilgrims came to Rome that he had to limit their stay in Rome to five days because of the lack of food.

During that Jubilee Year, Nicholas V canonized St. Bernardino of Siena, O.F.M., the famous 15th-century Franciscan preacher, just six years after his death. This appears to be the first instance of canonizations during a Jubilee Year, and since then it has become an element of many Jubilees, including the present one. That Holy Year of 1450, however, was marred by two tragic events: an outbreak of the plague and a panic-crush on the bridge of Castel Sant'Angelo on December 19, in which 172 people died.

Pope Paul II (1464-71) issued the bull "Ineffabilis Providentia" on April 19, 1470, decreeing that a Jubilee be celebrated every 25 years, as has happened ever since with only a few exceptions. He also established that the Jubilee pilgrimage should include visits to the four main basilicas: St. Peter's, St. Paul's, St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major. He died a year later, and it fell to his successor, Sixtus IV, to celebrate the Jubilee of 1475.

Sixtus IV (former minister general of the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor) was elected pope on Aug. 9, 1471. He wished to adorn Rome with works of art for the Jubilee Year and ordered the building of the Sistine Chapel. He also had the Ponte Sisto bridge built over the Tiber to prepare for the arrival of pilgrims and avoid another tragedy like that of December 1450. He opened the Jubilee on Dec. 24, 1474, but because of the flooding of the Tiber and a recurrence of plague, the crowds were small, so he extended the Jubilee to Easter 1476.

The next Jubilee Year was held under Pope Alexander VI in 1500. He issued the bull "Inter Multiplices" on March 28, 1499, and put order into the Jubilee agenda by developing a liturgical ceremony and structure that, for the most part, have survived to this day. He wanted the beginning of the Jubilee Year to be marked by an event with a powerful impact and so established the rite of the opening of the Holy Door, with a ceremony that explicitly refers to Jesus' words, "I am the door. Whoever passes through me will be saved" (Jn 10:7).

Pope Alexander VI opened the Holy Door in St. Peter's on Dec. 24, 1500, by striking the wall (built in front of the Holy Door) with a hammer before workers demolished the wall—a practice that continued until 1975.

Not long afterward, the Protestant Reformation started on Oct. 31, 1517, and Pope Leo X excommunicated Martin Luther on Jan. 3, 1521. Two Jubilee Years followed: in 1525, under Clement VII, and in 1550 under Julius III. During the 1550 Jubilee, Ignatius Loyola was living in Rome, as was Philip Neri, who came to the help of the remarkable influx of pilgrims with his Holy Trinity Confraternity and set up a hospice. The hospice was enlarged for the 1575 Jubilee Year under Pope Gregory XIII, which was the first Jubilee after the Protestant Reformation and the redrafting of the political map of Europe, and in which the confraternities played an important role. Some 400,000 pilgrims came to Rome, which then had a population of 80,000. Many were Italians, but Arabs, Ethiopians and Armenians also came.

In 1600, Pope Clement VIII set an example by hearing confessions during Holy Week, serving meals to pilgrims and eating with 12 of the city's poor every day during Lent. Some cardinals stopped wearing their red robes as a sign of penitence. But on Feb. 17 of that same year, Giordano Bruno, a Dominican Friar, was burned at the stake in Rome's Campo de' Fiori after being condemned as a heretic by Clement VIII following a trial by the Inquisition.

From 1600 onward, Jubilees were held every 25 years for the next two centuries, but they appeared to lack the spiritual and religious enthusiasm of the first Jubilees and of those that would follow from Leo XIII onward.

At the Jubilee of 1625, Urban VIII extended the Jubilee indulgence to those who were unable to travel to Rome, to prisoners and to the sick. Pope Innocent X instituted the Way of the Cross at Rome's Colosseum for the 1650 Jubilee Year, a religious event that continues

during Holy Week even today and attracts many people.

The Jubilee Year of 1700 was the only one in which the Holy Door of St. Peter's was opened by one pope, Innocent XII, and closed by another, Clement XI.

There was no Jubilee in 1800 because there was no pope. Pius VI had been taken prisoner to France by Napoleon's troops and died in Valence on Aug. 29, 1799, and the conclave to elect his successor took place in Venice. On March 14, 1800, the assembled cardinals elected Pius VII as pope.

After Leo XII held a Jubilee Year in 1825, there was a 75-year gap with no Jubilee Year because of political turmoil.

Modern Jubilees

On the Feast of the Ascension, May 11, 1899, Pope Leo XIII proclaimed the Jubilee Year of 1900. For the first time in the 600-year history of the Christian Jubilee Year, responsibility for welcoming pilgrims fell to the authorities of the new Italian state. During that year, Leo XIII canonized John Baptist de La Salle and Rita of Cascia.

After World War I (1914-19), Pius XI held a Jubilee Year in 1925. His bull identified three goals: peace among peoples, a return of Catholics to the church and "the definitive settlement and organization of Palestine." More than half a million pilgrims came to Rome, including over 110,000 from across the globe, including from the Far East, the United States, Canada, and Latin America. During that Jubilee Year, Pope Pius XI canonized St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Peter Canisius and the Curé d'Arns and beatified Bernadette Soubirous. He also instituted the feast of Christ the King.

After World War II (1939-45), Pius XII held a Jubilee Year in 1950. His bull spoke about the religious renewal of the modern world and

presented the Jubilee as "the year of the great return, the year of the great pardon." During it he proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. He canonized Maria Goretti, a virgin martyr at the age of 11, at a ceremony attended by 200,000 people.

Visitors were given a "pilgrim card" which, for that occasion, was recognized as having the same validity as a passport within Italy. Ever since, pilgrim cards have been available for the Jubilee Years.

Paul VI held the Jubilee Year in 1975, 10 years after the ending of the Second Vatican Council, with the themes of conversion, renewal, reconciliation and social justice. It was the first Jubilee with events broadcast worldwide. (At the opening of the door of St. Peter's, some masonry in front of the door collapsed, nearly injuring the pope.)

John Paul II celebrated two Jubilee Years. The first was an extraordinary jubilee in 1983 to celebrate the 1,950th anniversary of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The second, the ordinary jubilee observed every 25 years, was known as the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, during which the pope made several pilgrimages, including to Mount Sinai in Egypt and to the Holy Land. He beatified two of the children of Fatima and held a World Youth Day attended by more than two million young people.

Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis' first Jubilee Year was the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016. For the first time in the history of Jubilees, he opened a Holy Door elsewhere than in Rome: in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Bangui, capital of the war-torn Central African Republic, on Nov. 29, 2015. He opened the Holy Door in St. Peter's on Dec. 8, and decreed that a "Door of Mercy" be opened in cathedrals, sanctuaries, hospitals and prisons throughout the world.

What is a Jubilee Year?
continued on page 40



KNIGHTS OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE - INVESTEES

2024

Sir Gustavo Amaral
Reverend Efrain Bautista
Sir Alexander Bellus
Sir Vicente Bianes
Sir Randi Buros
Sir Raymond Chan
Sir Joshua Ching
Reverend Miguel Corral
Sir David Coy
Sir Timothy Cronin
Reverend Ronnie Custorio, OSA
Sir Michael DeWitt
Sir Paul Eleazer
Sir Douglas Garcia
Sir Reverend Tomás Guillén

Sir Van McKenny IV
Deacon Sir Richard Minch
Sir Samer Nakhle
Most Reverend Michael Pham
Sir Danial Pierce
Most Reverend Felipe Pulido
Sir Enrique Quiaoit
Reverend Michael Rocha
Sir Charles Rooney
Sir Ryan Squire
Sir Charles Swick
Sir Jovito Torres
Sir Nicholas Trongale
Sir Roger Watson
Sir Benjamin Yolo

DAMES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE - INVESTEES

2024

Dame Elisa Amaral
Dame Linda Bianes
Dame Jean Chan
Dame Christine Coy
Dame Karen Cronin
Dame Nichole Dewitt
Dame Adele Eleazer
Dame Debora Ely
Dame Kathleen Fench

Dame Tina Fennel
Dame Mabel Garcia
Dame Gail Gresser
Dame Bushra Jonna
Dame Mary Latini
Dame Megan Liebelt
Dame Danielle Nakhle
Dame Rita Phillips
Dame Sin Cha Pierce

Dame Maria-Teresa Quiaoit
Dame Rosemary Raimondo
Dame Jessica Reed Holm
Dame Gloria Rooney
Dame Jennifer Squire
Dame Linda Swick
Dame Louise Thomas Bisharat
Dame Erlinda Torres
Dame Elizabeth Trongale
Dame Sandra Vanover

We welcome our newest members!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PROMOTEES!

2024

PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF KNIGHT COMMANDER

Sir Vincent Delgado	Sir Franklin Mercera
Sir Michael Flambures	Sir William Purciello
Sir Dennis London	Sir Nathan Richards
Reverend Martin Martinez	Sir Robert Ruper
	Sir Daniel Warden

PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF KNIGHT COMMANDER *WITH STAR*

Sir David Barton	Sir Leopold Falkensammer
Sir James Burgess	Sir Clay Hoffman
Sir Thomas Castellanos	Sir George Rogers
Sir William Engelbrecht	Sir Martin Ruggiero
	Sir Nidal Zaknoun

PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF KNIGHT GRAND CROSS

Sir James Heil	Sir David Snyder
Sir Charles Irwin	Sir John Stewart
Sir Robert Mulroy	Sir Percival Tamondong
Sir Patrick Park	Sir Joseph Valdes
Sir Michael Pomo	Sir Nicholas Wittner

PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF DAME COMMANDER

Dame Rosemary Castellanos	Dame Quennie Manuel	Dame Mary Jordan Taillon
Dame Candy Delgado	Dame Kathleen McCarthy	Dame Sandra Tiberti
Dame Victoria Enriquez	Dame Rosemary Mercera	Dame Muriel Vita
Dame Karen Harper	Dame Pamela Jean Richards	Dame Miriam Warden
Dame Kathryn MacGregor	Dame Joan Ruper	

PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF DAME COMMANDER *WITH STAR*

Dame Deborah Barton	Dame Sara Ford	Dame Kim Ruggiero
Dame Elizabeth Burgess	Dame Anne Hoffman	Dame Katherine Smith
Dame Paula Engelbrecht	Dame Gabriela Reitzell	Dame Ingrid Zaknoun
Dame Victoria Fertitta	Dame Tamra Rogers	

PROMOTION TO THE RANK OF DAME GRAND CROSS

Dame Van Heil	Dame Susan Stewart
Dame Elizabeth Mulroy	Dame Rebecca Tamondong
Dame Carol Park	Dame Renee Valdes
Dame Ruby Simpson	Dame Cynthia Wittner
Dame Phyllis Snyder	

MONSIGNOR DOMENICO Pinti KGCHS

BRINGING HOPE TO TUCSON

*Written by
Dame Betty Boyd, DHS*



*Monsignor Domenico Pinti
Photo: CNA - Courtesy of St. George
Church, Apache Junction*

On February 2, 1985, Monsignor Pinti was ordained a priest in the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona. He was assigned to St. Joseph Church in Tucson for three and a half years. Monsignor Pinti then served at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Tucson for three and a half years. He was the Parochial Vicar Associate Pastor at both of these churches.

Monsignor Pinti went to St. Rose of Lima parish in Stafford and was Pastor for 12 years. In 2004, he was assigned as Pastor of St. George Roman Catholic Church in Apache Junction and has been there for 21 years. On February 2, 2025, Monsignor Pinti celebrated his 40th anniversary as a priest.

St. George parish began with just 1200 families and now has 10,000 attendees per week today. Depending upon when "Snow Birds" come out for the winter determines the weekly attendance. There are two different schedules, one from May to November and one from November to May. Monsignor Pinti has developed many programs to help the local community. One is called the Great Help for the Needy Program. In this program, the

church buys up-to-date items from local stores, and 44 items go into a box and are given to people who live in Apache Junction. On Thanksgiving, they distribute 600 food boxes with turkeys or hams included.

During the winter, the parish shows spiritual movies once a week. St George has a Knights of Columbus, CCD program, prayer group, choir, and a Ladies Guild, to name just a few.



Another unique program began in 2004. An envelope is left in the pew that contains a list of all the different outside collections that happen during the year (so there is only one collection per mass instead of two).

The Tucson Diocese has 78 parishes, the size of Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts combined. The parish never talks about money, except for twice a year, during the Catholic Appeal, and the St. George Appeal which is the second highest collection in the Diocese with 900 families giving.

Monsignor Pinti has been in the EOHSJ since 2000 and was invested at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus - 4th Degree,



on the Bishop's Priest Council, Episcopal Vicar for Retired Priests, a board member with The Catholic Foundation, and in 2023, he received the Catholic Foundation Award.

Monsignor Pinti is an automobile enthusiast. He has a unique program for seminarians, where the parish has created a fund to purchase used cars. When seminarians have completed their 2nd year of theology, they are given a car, if they don't have one. Twelve cars have been given away to date. Every year, to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers, a Volunteer Dinner is held the Monday after New Year's Day. Monsignor establishes a committee to acquire 300 - 400 gifts that are to be given to the volunteers at St. George.

St. George also has a Statue Program where parishioners can donate a statue to honor someone. These statues represent the history of that saint; they are meditative only, and they come alive to help us along the way. There are also working relics, and the first of these will be of St. Faustina.

Monsignor Pinti states, "The gift of hope is to reflect on your past; what your faith is about, your future, what are you going to do for others. It is the hope of the future and doing better, and being reflective by looking into your soul, for this is what hope is."

Monsignor Pinti is a true Pilgrim of Hope in how he cares for the parishioners of St. George parish, from the poor to the seminarians and the community as a whole.





MEET *written by Dame Betty Boyd, DHS*

Vincenzo Bellomo

pillar of hope in the Holy Land

Vincenzo Bellomo is from the Diocese of Sicily, Italy. He is the Holy Land Liaison for Franciscan Custody.

Vincenzo currently lives in Orvieto, Italy, with his family. In 2006, he received a lay missionary mandate from the Bishop of the Diocese of Sicily. Vincenzo was to be a missionary layperson for two years to serve the church in Jerusalem. In 2007, the Custos of the Holy Land, Father Pizzaballa, asked Vincenzo to stay and help the Franciscan Friars with their works of charity. He served in the Office of the Latin Patriarch for almost a year while in Jerusalem.

In 2008, he was given a new mission, to work with the Franciscan Social Service Office, focusing on social work and the Friars' mission in Bethlehem. Vincenzo was previously involved in a charity office with his church in Sicily.

This was a new experience for Vincenzo, from a new culture and the people. From the beginning, he was involved in the story of the local Christian community- the "Living Stones." Vincenzo was impressed with the beauty of the people and how they handled the difficulties of their everyday lives. He met his wife Carol, and they married in 2010. They have twins, Antonio and Lea. Vincenzo has been working for almost 17 years (2006 to 2023) in serving the mission of the Franciscans. In 2024, he took a year's sabbatical in Washington, DC.

Vincenzo is the founder of 3 Kings House Community, which provides for the needs of the Living Stones. It is a house set up for charity, culture, and education and is located in Manager Square. 3 Kings was born to enhance beauty by investing in art and cultural activities to be provided to the people. They have invested in architecture, art, and activities (such as music therapy) for all.



Above: Carol Bellomo, a Franciscan Priest, Vincenzo Bellomo at 3 Kings in Jerusalem. Below: Vincenzo Bellomo with a Sisters of Charity nun who assists at 3 Kings. Next page, Vincenzo, daughter Lea, son Antonio and his wife Carol in front of the Vatican in Rome. Photos are courtesy of Vincenzo Bellomo.

The people are going through many struggles, and these programs that 3 Kings offers help support charitable causes, culture, and education. Art, culture, and beauty are ways to stay connected to the community. Giving young people a good education and helping them grow through the arts.

The Franciscan schools have never closed during the conflict, and there is a new generation to provide positive relations and promote seeds of good hope.

They provide support and assistance that is needed even more. The Franciscans have been in the Holy Land for more than 800 years and are in charge of the largest community in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Syria, and Lebanon.



Since the beginning of the conflict, some people have left, but many have stayed for different reasons. They want to stay connected to the holy places and keep them alive. The people are filling the churches, praying, and having much faith.

In 2023, Vincenzo was acknowledged with the Honorary Citizen of Bethlehem.

Vincenzo reflects, "For me the simple reason of The Holy Land is the place where God chose to send Jesus."

Vincenzo uses beauty, art, and culture to keep the community connected and give the "Living Stones" hope.



Besides writing for *The Way*, Dame Betty Boyd, DHS, writes poetry. Here is one of her works.

THE STEPS OF JESUS

By Dame Betty Boyd

From Gaza to the shores of Galilee.

The steps of Jesus were redefined.

Renewal of our Baptismal vows in the Jordan River.

The steps of Jesus were transforming.

The Transfiguration, Beatitudes and the Annunciation.

The steps of Jesus were awe inspiring.

The Church of the Nativity.

The steps of Jesus we were reborn.

The Way of the Cross.

The steps of Jesus were felt as He walked them.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The steps of Jesus will remain with us forever.

Journey of Journeys

EOHSJ MEMBERS - PILGRIMS OF HOPE

book soon to be published

Written by Sir Chuck Radloff, KGCHS
and Dame Ede Radloff, DGCHS

This forthcoming book entitled The Journey of Journeys (2003– 2018) offers an intimate and comprehensive history of the Western USA Lieutenancy in cooperative efforts with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem in the Holy Land. Through a rich tapestry of personal stories, the book provides a unique perspective of the pivotal moments and key figures that have shaped the work of the spiritual and humanitarian efforts of the Western Lieutenancy during these transformative years.



Readers will embark on a journey through the eyes of Ede and Chuck Radloff who were awarded The Gold Palm of the Jerusalem of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, Western Lieutenancy by H.E. Dame Margaret Romano, DGCHS on March 21, 2021 for their series of extended stays in the Holy Land over a period of 2 decades.

The inception of critical programs such as the Rosary Program, the Backpack Program and the early engagement with the Society of St.Yves have been at the forefront of the mission of Western Lieutenancy of preserving the Christian presence in the Holy Land. Their extensive activities in the Holy Land captures the essence of their experiences and the profound impact of their contributions as Councilors at Large of the Western Lieutenancy. The narrative is woven with tales of resilience, dedication, and highlighting of humanitarian and spiritual endeavors by the combined efforts of the Western Lieutenancy and the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem.

May 17, 2008, several members of the Lieutenancy were present at the Zarka schools for the distribution of backpacks and school supplies. Members of the Lieutenancy planned their pilgrimage to the Holy Land to coincide with the distribution of school supplies and backpacks at Zarka school,

and a highlight of the arrangement was that the hearty pilgrims were led by Abbott Eugene Hayes, O. Praem, St. Michael's Abbey in Silverado, California and will help distribute Backpacks and school supplies to the students.

Number of Students: *(North-620, South-295)* 915
 Number of Backpacks: 915
 School Supplies: *13 items in each backpack including pads of paper, pencils, pens, pencil box, notebooks*
Acknowledgment card from the Western Lieutenancy
 Total cost of backpacks and school supplies: **\$7,748.00**
 Total cost per student: **\$8.47**

The Western Lieutenancy created the Rosary Program to provide employment and an income for Christian families in the Holy Land. The Western USA Lieutenancy's initial order of 4,000 rosaries provided the seed funding for Bassam to harvest local olive wood and proved to be a source of income to support his family During the life of the Rosary Program several thousand rosaries were made and sold by the Western Lieutenancy.



Zarka School-North Music Department Zarka-North School has a talented and super-charged music director who has created a desire by students for musical training, and along with Father Eli he shares the same vision of music appreciation being an integral part of student education.



**saxophones, violins, trombones.
guitars, clarinets, accordions and
several flutes.**

A fine picture of students in a music class—but please examine the picture of the members of the music department; only one instrument, an organ... imagine students attending music lessons without instruments!

Upon being made aware of the dilemma faced by the students and director regarding the lack of musical instruments, members of the Lieutenancy sprang into action. Various committees were formed to take on the task of providing musical instruments for the students. Some members were charged with the assignment of soliciting donations of a wide array of musical instruments from organizations, friends, relatives, neighbors; anyone who had a musical instrument they wanted to donate to the cause. While the instruments were being collected another group was actively contacting the Jordanian Consulate in Washington D.C. to secure duty-free importation. Other members contacted companies to safely package the instruments in secure shipping containers and contacted Jordanian Airlines for special rates for shipping the several wooden boxes of musical instruments. In short order, due to the great efforts of members of the Lieutenancy the following instruments were shipped to the Music Department, Zarka-School:

The Mission of the Society of St. Yves is to provide legal assistance on a Pro Bono basis to Palestinians in the Israeli court system. Legal issues include: Family Reunification of Separated Palestinian Families, Demolition of Palestinian homes by the Israeli Government, Confiscation of Palestinian land by Israelis, Assistance in obtaining Israeli permits and documents, freedom of movement, social benefits, etc. With supporting organizations like the Western USA Lieutenancy, St. Yves has been able to grow and provide valuable service in protecting and promoting human rights in the Holy Land. It is a classic illustration of like-minded organizations working together to effectively protect human rights of those in need in the Holy Land. Members of the legal staff are frequently called upon to address international forums on human rights issues. "They are their brother's keepers".

Today there are ten lawyers, three legal advisors, one secretary, three advocacy lawyers, seven paralegals and the Director, Raffoul Rofa. Shown in this picture are staff with members of the Board of Directors.



OUR LADY of Guadalupe

by Clay Hoffman, DC*HS
a story of bringing hope to the world

ALSO KNOWN AS THE VIRGÉN DE GUADALUPE

In terms of its impact on the conversion of souls and migration to the West, no event in the history of the Americas rivals the significance of the apparition's of Mary in 1531 at Tepeyac Hill near modern-day Mexico City. In December of that year, the Blessed Mother appeared four times to Juan Diego and once to his dying elderly uncle, Juan Bernardino.

The first apparition occurred on December 9, 1531, which at that time was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in the Spanish Empire. On that Saturday morning, Juan Diego---a devout Native-American man whose wife had recently died---was on his way to church to attend Mass and the catechetical class that would follow. When he reached Tepeyac Hill, he heard beautiful music, and a voice just as lovely, calling his name. The Blessed Mother appeared before him and told him to go to the house of Bishop Juan de Zumarraga and request that a chapel be built in her honor on Tepeyac Hill. When Juan Diego told the Bishop about his encounter, the Bishop doubted his story and dismissed him.

During his return home from the Bishop's house, the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego again. Frustrated that he had not convinced the Bishop to fulfill her request, Juan Diego asked her to send a more influential person to convey the message. However, the Blessed Mother instructed him to visit the Bishop a second time with her request.



Above: Juan Diego's Tilma that hangs in the Basilica of the Virgen de Guadalupe in Mexico City. Photo by Adobe Stock / Inshots.

When Juan Diego returned to the Bishop, His Excellency asked him for a sign so that he might believe the Blessed Mother's request. On his way home, on December 10, the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego a third time and he told her of the Bishop's request for a sign. She promised to provide a sign for the Bishop if Juan Diego would return to her



Left: Sculpture of Juan Diego dropping the roses showing the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Photo by Adobe Stock / Arlette.

Below: The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Mexico. Juan Diego's Tilmac hangs inside the Basilica. Photo by Adobe Stock / Natalia.

the following day. Busy caring for his ailing uncle, Juan Diego missed his appointment with the Blessed Mother on December 11. The next day, as he hurried to bring a priest to administer the sacraments to his uncle, he took a different route to avoid the Blessed Virgin Mary, as he was embarrassed that he missed the appointment on December 11 and did not want to be delayed in providing spiritual help to his uncle.

Despite this, the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego a fourth time and she assured him that his uncle was already cured. Following her instructions, he gathered flowers at the top of the otherwise frozen and barren hill, and the Blessed Mother arranged the flowers in his cloak, or tilma as it was called. Juan Diego hurried to the Bishop and when he opened his tilma to show the flowers to the Bishop, Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared on the tilma. The Bishop immediately believed Juan Diego's message from the Blessed Mother and hastened to have the chapel built on Tepeyac Hill. The fifth apparition occurred when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in the small home of Juan Diego's uncle, Juan Bernardino, and cured the elderly man of his disease.



On July 31, 2002, Pope John Paul II canonized Juan Diego, making him the first indigenous Saint of the Americas. Today, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located at the foot of Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City, and is visited every year by some 20 million pilgrims from around the world. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is December 12th .

CELEBRATING

the Bishops of the Western Lieutenancy

written by

H.E. Margaret Romano, DGCHS

The Western Lieutenancy is grateful to our Bishops for their wonderful support of our Order. This year, we have several milestones we would like to recognize. We are grateful to our Bishops, thankful for their service to our Church and especially to us. Their good works bring hope to all, especially those in the Holy Land. May Our Lady continue to bless them as they celebrate these special anniversaries!

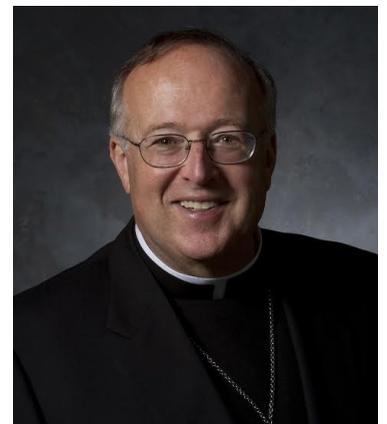


50 YEARS
CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY, KGCHS

A native Angeleno, Cardinal Mahony was ordained in 1962. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Fresno in 1975 before becoming the Bishop of Stockton in 1980. Pope St. John Paul II appointed him Archbishop of Los Angeles, the first Los Angeles native to hold that position. In 1983 Cardinal joined the Order. He served as Grand Prior of the Western Lieutenancy for 25 years until his retirement as Archbishop of Los Angeles in 2011. The Western Lieutenancy is thankful for the continued support of Cardinal Mahony throughout his many years of service to the Lieutenancy and the Holy Land.

CARDINAL ROBERT MCELROY, KGCHS

We bid adieu to H.E. Robert Cardinal McElroy, KGCHS as he moves from the San Diego Diocese to the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. Cardinal joined the Order in San Diego in October of 2015. We are thankful to him for the great support he has given to the Western Lieutenancy these years and wish him well as he shepherds the people of the Washington D.C. Archdiocese!

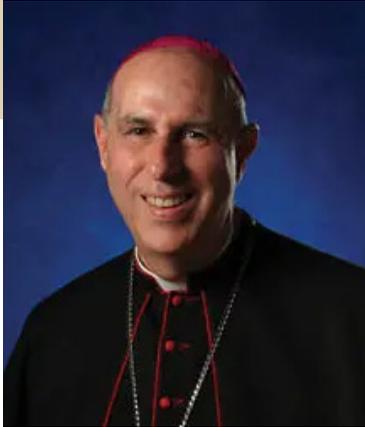


ARCHBISHOP EDWARD WEISENBURGER, KC*HS

The Western Lieutenancy congratulates Archbishop Weisenburger on his elevation to Archbishop and on his new ministry in Detroit, Michigan. Archbishop led the faithful in Tucson, Arizona from October 2017 until March 2025. During those years, the Western Lieutenancy had the privilege of having the support of Bishop in our mission to help our Brothers and Sisters in the Holy Land.



WE GIVE THANKS TO OUR BISHOPS SERVING US AND OUR CHURCH

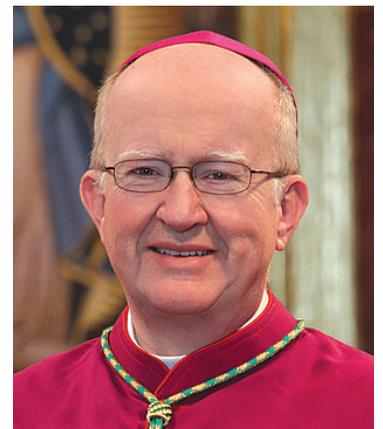


20TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEING A BISHOP BISHOP LARRY SILVA, KC*HS

Our host Bishop at the upcoming Annual Meeting in Hawaii, Most Rev. Larry Silva is celebrating his 50th Anniversary of ordination and 20 years as Bishop! Ordained in 1975, Bishop served in California until his return to Hawaii as Bishop in 2005. He has the distinction as being the first native Hawaiian to lead the faithful of the Hawaii Diocese. In addition to these special anniversaries, Bishop joined the Order October 8, 2005 in Hawaii!

20 YEARS BISHOP KEVIN VANN, KC*HS

Ordained in 1981 in Springfield, Illinois, Bishop Vann is celebrating his 20th year as Bishop. Before coming to the Orange Diocese, Bishop served as the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas from 2005 to 2012. In 2012, Bishop Vann was asked to serve in Orange. In addition to celebrating his 20th Anniversary of being a Bishop, we are blessed to have Bishop Vann mark his 19th year of being a member of Holy Sepulchre!



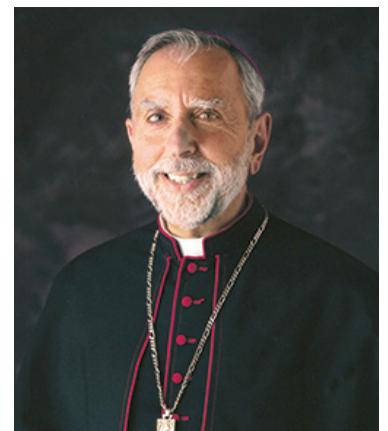
25 YEARS ARCHBISHOP GEORGE LEO THOMAS, KC*HS

Archbishop George Leo Thomas was ordained in Seattle, Washington in 1976. He was named Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle and served there from 2000 before returning to his home state of Montana as Bishop of Helena in 2004. Moving to the Diocese of Las Vegas in 2018, he was appointed as Bishop of Las Vegas. In 2023, he was named as the first Archbishop of the newly created Archdiocese of Las Vegas.



30 YEARS BISHOP GERALD KICANAS, KC*HS

Of Lebanese heritage, Bishop Kicanas was ordained in 1967. He was named Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago in 1995. He was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Tucson in 2003. Bishop retired in 2017, succeeded by Archbishop Weisenburger. With Archbishop Weisenburger's move to Detroit, Bishop Kicanas has come out of retirement and is serving as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese until a new Bishop is named. A member since 1995, Bishop has worked tirelessly to serve the people of the Holy Land. His Episcopal motto is "Justice begets Peace".



MEETING of the North American Lieutenants

by H.E. Margaret Romano, DGCHS

Each year, the Lieutenants of the North American Lieutenancies gather for updates on the Order. This year, we met in Miami. Joining us from Rome was our Governor General, H.E. Sir Leonardo Di Modrone. The Governor General's talk focused on the status of projects started at the Consulta held in Rome, 2023 and the situation in the Holy Land.

Chief among the projects is the updated General Regulations. The need for the update arose from the new Constitution of the Order approved by Pope Francis in May, 2020. Effective January 1, 2025, the new Regulations are in place and can be found on our website.

The Governor General also addressed the need for participation in Annual Contribution. Annual Contribution is not voluntary – it is obligatory. While we ask for \$1000 per lay member and \$500 per clergy member, we ask that everyone participate in some way! As reported by the Governor, the Grand Magisterium has committed to sending \$951,000 a month to the Latin Patriarchate. The need is tremendous.

A report on Communications was presented by H.E. Sir Michael La Civita, Lieutenant of the Eastern Lieutenancy and Sir Matthew Bunson of the North Central Lieutenancy. Your Lieutenant listened with pride as the Western Lieutenancy website was used as an example of excellence along with our communication through email, social media and YouTube. In today's world, good information is needed. It allows us to come together, making our large world smaller!

The Lieutenants were also fortunate to have join us the CEO of the Patriarchate, Sami El Yousef. Sami's report was as expected, the situation is grave. There is, loss of most jobs in Israel and massive unemployment. There have been major price and taxation increases. The worst part is the shattered trust and polarization.

Sami spoke of the need for support through Annual Contribution, Humanitarian and the Ensuring the Future campaign. These three funds accomplish three different things – Annual Contribution funds the running of the parishes and programs. It keeps the lights on. Humanitarian brings help in the way of basic survival. Food, medicine and medical treatment, tuition and economic support. The Ensuring the Future campaign is doing much needed repairs to the schools along with paying teacher salaries. Sami also spoke of bringing hope to the people for stability. They long to stay in their homeland. The goal of the LPJ is to help them not only with funding support but programs to find employment, to allow them to sustain themselves.

AFAQ is a Program started during the Pandemic working with Bethlehem University as a response to job loss.

Once the war started, an emergency version was introduced. This includes Job creation at LPJ Parishes, Internships benefiting other Christian Organizations, grants to start / grow a small business along with vocational training.

Sami ended his presentation with the following:

- The Church always emerges stronger after wars and conflicts
- The contributions of the Church in building societies in war zones cannot be underestimated – Values...
- The Church must remain strong and its institutions, serving as the backbone of the Christian presence
- We never felt alone and know we always have your back
- We have no choice but to remain strong and steadfast and stay in the land of Christ despite the odds. The Holy Land will be a very sad place without its Christian dimension.

After hearing the different reports, the meeting of the North American Lieutenant's brought renewal to lead the Western Lieutenancy in our support. We are called through our vows to help the people. This is needed not only financially but in friendship. Our hand extended to the people brings them hope, much needed in today's world.

EOHHSJ Annual Report

What we do matters

In 2024, thanks to your generosity, the Western Lieutenancy raised almost 2 million! With total membership of 1293, including exempt members, this is truly amazing!

Thank you for your commitment to the Holy Land. It brings hope to our brothers and sisters who strive to live in a community of peace, and love.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Antonian Charitable Society	\$ 25,000
Bethlehem University - General Support	\$ 23,650
Creche - Holy Family Children's Home	\$ 24,337
Hogar Niño Dios Bethlehem	\$ 34,150
Holy Child Program	\$ 33,350
House of the Three Kings	\$ 15,000
LPJ School Schools Campaign	\$ 35,900
LPJ Seminary	\$ 62,750
Seminarian Pilgrimage	\$ 26,950
St. Vincent	\$ 25,000
St. Yves Society	\$ 25,000
Zarqa Schools	\$ 25,250
Other	\$ 6,200
TOTAL	\$362,537

CONTRIBUTION HIGHLIGHTS

Annual Contributions	\$ 758,171
Honoraria	\$ 132,000
AC4L Contributions	\$ 86,000
Special Projects	\$ 221,730
Humanitarian Aid	\$ 582,776
Mass Card Stipends	\$ 5,921
Legacy Bequests	\$ 164,030
Investment Income	\$ 44,682

Total Contributions **\$ 1,995,310**

Note: The Special Projects total for each column differs due to the time of distribution to the Holy Land.

to support the Holy Land

CHIVALRIC DIGNITY

and practice in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre

- By Sir Michael Weinberg, KCHS

When once commenting on the series of recent official publications such as the Constitution, the General Regulations, and the Formation Document, the Grand Master Fernando Cardinal Filoni said, "Our Order is lay, chivalrous in the noblest sense of the word, and its members are called to nobility of heart, which is expressed in their concern for the Holy Land."² With ordinary participation in the life of the Order, the use of such language — "chivalrous", "noble", and similar— within the 'world' of the Order and its constituent culture and modes of thought would seem entirely congruous and apt for the description of individual and collective identity and action in its society and perhaps even quotidian to the point of becoming unremarkable. It is at this latter point, however, that frequent, customary use of such language, as naturally occurs with longevity of membership or abundant activity with the Order or in its name, may imperceptibly obscure the semantic, ethical depth of the same language. That is, plainly, it is good to pause occasionally and to refresh one's understanding of the meaning of the words that one uses justly and frequently. While, then, a full and proper consideration of the use of any society's language is well beyond the scope of this essay, perhaps a single word and concept — 'chivalry'— will serve as a sufficient point of entry to freshly-deepened meditations upon the significance of one's knight-hood or damehood, for which end let us consider a series of elucidations provided by the Church and the precise application of the same as promulgated and explicated by the Grand Magisterium.

The strictest definition of chivalry, of course, is historical and most commonly remembered as a medieval social entity: "[c]hivalry is the Christian form of the military profession: the knight is the Christian soldier".³ Yet to consider that topic

with even minimal sufficiency would also exceed the scope of this essay and has, naturally, filled many scholarly volumes.⁴ More relevant instead to Knights and Dames today, however, would be the masterful remarks of Archbishop Igino Eugenio Cardinale (1916-1983), apostolic nuncio:

[...] although the concept of chivalry was not founded by the Church, but by the laity, it was the Church who immediately set out to change and refine it according to the spirit of the Gospel. [...] it was the papacy who more than any other body understood, appreciated and initiated the spirit which moved the first Crusading Orders of Knighthood, spiritualised their military zeal and valor, granted them papal approval and support, inspired

their chivalric system of virtues based on ethico-aesthetic categories of a secular nature with high Christian ideals. These ideals transformed a secular fighting force into disciplined, self-controlled, refined, gentle and strong defenders of the rights of God, of Christendom, of the Holy Roman Church, and of society, consciously endeavoring to bring religion into daily life with service to the less fortunate, honor and courtesy to all.⁵

This description elucidates much of the idea of chivalry and could well serve as its definition and guiding principle. Its adaption and application, in fact, remains in the teaching of the Pontiffs even to

A Knight is a man who intends to place himself at the service of a noble and difficult cause, a pure and arduous ideal; fighting evil, promoting good, defending the weak and the oppressed against injustice. Becoming a Knight does not merely mean receiving a title of honor, even though it is well-deserved, it presupposes a solemn commitment.

--Agostino Cardinal Casaroli¹

¹ Said at Città del Vaticano, June 1984. (Bander van Duren, *Orders of Knighthood and Merit*, 38.) Cardinal Casaroli (1914-1998) was Cardinal Secretary of State from 1979 to 1990.

² Vayne. "The Order's Quadrennial Consulta," 12.

³ Gauthier, *Chivalry*, 11.

⁴ The Grand Magisterium has just recently established its Historical Committee for the investigation of the very same. ("Establishment of the Historical Committee of the Order." *Jerusalem Cross*, No. 75, 8.)

⁵ Bander van Duren, *Orders of Knighthood and Merit*, 52.

the present and recent memory, as Pope St John XXIII gave this allocution to the Roman Patriciate and Nobility on 9th January 1960:

The fact of belonging to a particularly distinguished order of society, however, while requiring due consideration, is a call to its members to give more, as befits those who have received more, and who will one day have to render accounts to God for everything.

By acting in this manner, you cooperate in the wondrous harmony of the kingdom of Our Lord, with the profound conviction that the things that made the fame of each family in the past must now strengthen its commitment—precisely as dictated by its particular social condition—to the sublime concept of Christian brotherhood and to the exercise of special virtues: sweet and gentle patience, purity of customs, humility, and above all, charity. Only thus will great and undying honor be conferred on individuals!⁶

Maintaining the same thought, Pope St John Paul II addressed our Order directly on 2nd March 2000:

2. Your equestrian order, which began a few centuries ago as an “Honor Guard” for the care of Our Lord’s Holy Sepulchre, has enjoyed the particular attention of the Roman Pontiffs. It was Pope Pius IX, of venerable memory, who in 1847 reconstituted it in order to encourage the re-establishment of a Catholic faith community in the Holy Land. This great Pope restored your order’s original function, but with a significant difference: the custody of Christ’s tomb would no longer depend on the force of arms, but on the value of a constant witness of faith and solidarity towards Christians residing in the Holy Places.⁷

Likewise consistently, on 16th November 2018 Pope Francis admonished us “not [to] forget that you are not a philanthropic entity committed to promoting the material and social improvement of recipients. You are called to place the evangelical love of neighbor as the central and final aim of your works, to bear witness everywhere to the goodness and care with which God loves everyone.”⁸ The Holy Father, acknowledging the “fuller participation in the life of the Church” to which Knights and Dames are called, likewise said on 9th November 2023 during the recent *Consulta*:

[...] you are called to be an Order that, strong in its own identity, participates in the mystery of charity in the most beautiful way, open and available, ready to take on those services that the Lord requires through the needs of our brothers and sisters: from the education of children in schools to concrete solidarity with the most fragile categories, such as the elderly, the sick, and refugees. Let us remember here, always, I would say the “refrain” that the Lord makes all the prophets say in the Old Testament: the widow, the orphan and the stranger. This care we must have.⁹



By pontifical instruction, therefore, chivalry and chivalric endeavor may be more aptly seen as membership by knighthood or damehood in an institution solemnly called to the service of others in need and action toward the same by solidarity and charity. The explication and application of these principles within our Order, furthermore, has been the exact aim of the Grand Magisterium.

Both constitutions of the Order — the previous one promulgated in 1978 and the current one in 2020—, in fact, affirm the view, especially when read together consonantly, that the formation of the individual Knight

⁶ Corrêa de Oliveira, *Nobility*, 46-47.

⁷ “Address of the Holy Father John Paul II to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.” March 2, 2000.

⁸ “Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to Members of the *Consulta* of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.” November 16, 2018.

⁹ “Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Participants in the *Consulta* of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.” November 9, 2023.

or Dame in moral virtue and in the life of faith and sacramental participation will (and ought to) yield charitable action towards neighbor, understood primordially within the Order as directed toward the Holy Land. First, the preamble of the Constitution of 1978:

The Knighthood is defined as self-discipline, generosity and courage. Whosoever does not have the firm willingness to develop and deepen these traits in his life will never be able to become a True Knight. The zeal for self-renunciation, in the midst of this society of abundance, generous aid to the weak and those without protection, courageous struggle for justice and peace are the characteristic virtues of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

The tie with Jerusalem which is manifested in the Order and exacts responsibility for the Holy Places orients our desires toward the heavenly Jerusalem. (Gal. 4.26)¹⁰

Compare this with introduction of the Constitution of 2020:

[...] The Order gives primary importance to the vocation to holiness of every Christian and aspires to be an instrument for the development and deepening of personal sanctification, as well as an environment in which faith is practiced and lived in all its aspects.¹¹

In the earlier Constitution, furthermore, the progress from the practice of personal virtue to social engagement for the benefit of the Holy Land with the fruits thereof is gradual and yet comprehensive:

The Order has for its purposes:

1 – to strengthen in its members the practice of Christian life, in absolute fidelity to the Supreme Pontiff and according to the teachings of the Church, observing as its foundation the principles of charity of which the Order is a fundamental means of assistance to the Holy Land;

2 – to sustain and aid the charitable, cultural and social works and institutions of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land, particularly those of and in the Latin Patriarchate of

Jerusalem, with which the Order maintains traditional ties;

3 – to support the preservation and propagation of the Faith in those lands, interesting in this work the Catholics scattered throughout the world, united in charity by the symbol of the Order, and also all brother Christians;

4 – to sustain the rights of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land.¹²

The current Constitution, complementarily, broadens the view of chivalrous social action, beginning with a succinct statement of its mission:

The specific mission assigned by the Holy Father to the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is that of animating zeal in the ecclesial community towards the Land of Jesus and sustaining the Catholic Church and the Christian presence there.

The Order, in its members, is resolved to practice the evangelical virtues.¹³

The seven commitments enumerated subsequently are personal renunciation, generosity, courage, solidarity, concern, involvement, and cooperation.¹⁴ Although much more could be said of each virtue in a homiletic way, suffice it to remark here that the cumulative focus again, most especially currently, is that of promoting virtuous action (service) toward neighbor. That is, one might begin to consider chivalry as having both internal and external aspects: personal virtues are the first to be formed and developed both by oneself and with the aid of one's community and then are directed outward as social virtues. How exactly this is realized is then a natural question to follow, for which some themes and considerations from the Formation Document are useful.

Meant for candidates for membership and for Knights and Dames alike, the Formation Document contains recommendations and instructions for developing both the internal life of devotion and knowledge and the external practice of solidarity and charity. Since a complete survey would

¹⁰Constitution (1978), Preamble.

¹¹Constitution (2020), Introduction.

¹²Constitution (1978), Article 2.

¹³Constitution (2020), Article 1.

¹⁴Constitution (2020), Article 4.

exceed the current scope, it is instead useful to consider what it states of the ecclesiological dimension of life in the Order:

Therefore, the importance of the formation of the Knights and Dames in this ecclesial sensibility must be insisted upon so that all may know that they have a place in the Church and, being vested with a specific mandate, feel that they are part of a lofty mission to which they contribute their offerings, involvement and prayers; finally, let them always be aware that they are an instrument of good and peace for the communities inhabiting the Holy Land: Christians, Jews, Muslims and others.¹⁵

*“Sentire cum Ecclesia – which means having a sense of ecclesial communion; thinking, speaking, and acting in order to make the Church grow in depth and extension in fidelity to the Risen Christ – will always be the guiding principle for a Dame and a Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.”*¹⁶

Chivalric practice in this sense, then, consists of acting in the name of the Church in the duties and the mandates prescribed, being likewise continually formed by participation in the same life and community of the Church. The particular, subsequent means of accomplishing this, again, may be many or varied in the personal life of a Knight or Dame, so a clear point of departure and focus of devotion is also worthy to be recalled:

The first guide on our path, to whom we have a special devotion, is Mary whom we venerate under the title of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine, patroness of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre. The Shrine of Deir Rafat, in Israel, houses the first image of her: radiating light and surrounded by angels on the clouds, Mary seems to reach out her hand as Mother toward our world, while below we recognize symbolically the outlines of the cities of Jerusalem and Jericho, to which she looks with affection. In addition to this image, the offices of the Grand Magisterium house an icon that has become particularly dear to

Knights and Dames: seated on a throne, Our Lady of Palestine holds on her knees, as a caring Mother, the image of “Jerusalem, symbol of the Holy Land but also symbol of the Church, the new Holy City of Revelation (Rev. 21:2).”¹⁷

Let each Knight and Dame, then, renew their entrustment to Mary, the one who has the Holy Land particularly at heart and who accompanies and blesses our steps of charity and our hope to live rooted in the life of her Son Jesus.¹⁸

Such an exhortation is particularly apt for our Order—and a memorable conclusion to this brief examination of chivalry—, inasmuch as it teaches Knights and Dames to regard the “‘living stones,’ namely that Patriarchal Church of Jerusalem, Mother Church of all Churches” and all the people there as Our Lady would.

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¹⁵Formation Document, §12.

¹⁶Formation Document, §13, quoting from the Grand Master’s book *The House was Filled with the Fragrance of the Perfume: A Spirituality of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre*.

¹⁷ Formation Document, §53.

¹⁸ Formation Document, §54.

¹⁹ Formation Document, Introduction §2.

PATHS TO Marian Devotion

written by Clay Hoffman, KC*HS



The Militia of the Immaculata

In his classic book, *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*, Saint Louis De Montfort wrote that the Blessed Mother is the “safest, easiest, shortest and most perfect way of approaching Jesus and that by surrendering to her, body and soul, without reserve, a person will belong entirely to Jesus.” Two organizations sanctioned by the Church that can assist all Catholics in seeking devotion to Mary are the Militia of the Immaculata and the Legion of Mary.

Founded by Saint Maximilian Kolbe in 1917, the Militia of the Immaculata is an association of the faithful, erected by the Holy See, that has the goal of winning the whole world for Christ through the Immaculata, Mother of God and of the Church. Through total consecration to Mary, members respond with her to the universal call to holiness and are transformed into disciples of Christ and instruments in Our Lady’s hands.

Left: St. Maximilian Kolbe (bearded, in front row, center) and his companions in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1936. Photo Credit: Public Domain/Courtesy of 'Maximilian Kolbe: The Saint of Auschwitz'/ Sophia Institute Press

The Militia of the Immaculata offers programs that:

- 1) Provide formation in the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- 2) Foster love for Jesus in the Eucharist and for the Sacramental life.
- 3) Promote a deeper understanding of the Blessed Virgin Mary’s role in the plan of Salvation.
- 4) Encourage members to become evangelists who give witness to the Truth and promote the sacredness of human life.

The website of the Militia of the Immaculata is militiaoftheimmaculata.com.



Official Act of Consecration to Mary

Written by St. Maximilian Kolbe

O IMMACULATA, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take

me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.

If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: “She will crush your head,” and, “You alone have destroyed all heresies in the



The Legion of Mary

The second organization is the Legion of Mary, which was founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1921 by Servant of God Frank Duff. Today, the Legion of Mary has over 10 million members worldwide. Membership is made up active and auxiliary members, with the latter serving only through daily prayer. Many parishes within the

world.” Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter, you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Western Lieutenancy have Legion of Mary chapters and welcome new members.

The Legion of Mary is organized on the model of an army, principally the army of ancient Rome, including the terminology of the era. Its goal is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active-cooperation. Active members usually meet on a weekly basis and carry out charitable acts by visiting and praying with those in need. Legion chapters never engage in any activities without the approval of the parish priest and the local Bishop.

The spirit of the Legion of Mary is that of Mary herself. Members serve God under the Banner of Mary through the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy. Essentially based on the teachings of Saint Louis de Monfort, as put forward in his book True Devotion to Mary, the Legion of Mary promotes total dedication to Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary. Those interested in joining the Legion of Mary should consult their church bulletin to see if their parish has a chapter.



V. *Allow me to praise you, O sacred Virgin.*

R. Give me strength against your enemies.

*What is a Jubilee Year?
continued from page 19*

Pope Francis' first Jubilee Year was the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016. For the first time in the history of Jubilees, he opened a Holy Door elsewhere than in Rome: in the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Bangui, capital of the war-torn Central African Republic, on Nov. 29, 2015. He opened the Holy Door in St. Peter's on Dec. 8, and decreed that a "Door of Mercy" be opened in cathedrals, sanctuaries, hospitals and prisons throughout the world.

The second is the current Jubilee of Hope, which Francis inaugurated by opening the Holy Door in St. Peter's on the evening of Dec. 24. He explained in the bull that the Holy Door is opened "to invite everyone to an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ."

He made history on Dec. 26 by opening another Holy Door in the chapel of Rebibbia, Rome's largest prison, as a sign of hope for the inmates there. He is the first pope to open a Holy Door in a prison.

Following tradition, the pope's legates opened the Holy Doors in the three other major basilicas in Rome.

He called on pilgrims during this Jubilee Year "to discover hope in the signs of the times that the Lord gives us" and "to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence."

In the bull, he listed at least eight ways in which we can be agents of hope in today's world. He said "the first sign of hope" in this war-torn world should be "the desire for peace." He reminded everyone that "those who are peacemakers will be called 'children of God'" and said, "the need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken."

He called on believers "to be signs of hope" in countries where there is a decline in birth rates by their "openness to life and responsible parenthood," and by working—also through legislative efforts—"for a future filled with the laughter of babies and children."

During the Jubilee Year, he said, "we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind." He called for efforts at the government level "to restore hope" to prisoners through amnesties, pardons, improving prison conditions and the abolition of the death penalty. Before Christmas, he called for the commutation of the federal sentences of prisoners on death row in the United States. He also urged believers to be "signs of hope" for the young, the elderly, the sick and those in hospitals or affected by illnesses or disabilities, and for migrants.



Photo published with permission by UMC/COB file photo

He appealed for "hope [to] be granted to the billions of poor, who often lack the essentials of life," and, like John Paul II in the Year 2000, pleaded with "the most affluent nations" to "forgive the debts of countries that will never be able to pay them" and to address "the ecological debt," describing this as "a matter of justice."

The 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea (now Iznik in Turkey) occurs during this Jubilee Year. That council, held from May to July 325, affirmed the full divinity of Jesus Christ and that his being was of one substance (consubstantial) with the Father. Francis said he plans to travel to Nicaea and hopes a major ecumenical event can be held there. He also expressed hope that the Christian churches can finally reach agreement on a common date for Easter.

Pope Francis' agenda for this jubilee year includes encounters with no less than 35 different groups of people who are coming to Rome to celebrate their particular jubilee, starting with "the world of communications" and concluding with "the jubilee of prisoners." He will canonize two young people during the Jubilee Year, Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati.

LEGACY Why Join?

Written by Sir Bill Wolf, KGCHS and
Dame Ana Sanguinetti, DGCHS

Legacy Society
Co-councilors

We joined the Order of the Holy Sepulchre because of our desire to help the Christians in the Holy Land. Leaving a bequest to the Order is powerful because it allows us to give more than you would be comfortable gifting while you were living. A gift at your passing comes from your estate, that you no longer need, with the exception of leaving something to your loved ones. The Order thanks you for making a bequest by inviting you to become a member of the Legacy Society as soon as you change your will or trust to make the bequest. Yes, this requires action by you now, even though the bequest will not occur for many years, but it's an easy edit to your will or trust.

A bequest can have an estate tax benefit if your estate is bigger than say \$14 million because the estate tax kicks in at that level (adjusted for inflation each year), and a bequest is deductible for estate tax purposes. However, most of us do not anticipate having an estate of more than \$14 million (\$28 million if you are married), so the potential estate tax savings may not be there. Nevertheless, there are some income tax benefits to consider. However, a charitable deduction in your income tax return is only allowed for contributions during your lifetime, not at death. That creates a conundrum.

Annual Contributions for Life (AC4L)

The AC4L program has been around for years. Many of our Legacy Society members have used it in lieu of making a normal bequest. It typically involves an upfront contribution to the Order of \$50,000 per person, which is invested and used to make your annual contributions to the Order for the rest of your life. The income earned on the investment approximates the annual contributions, such that at your death the balance of the investment is used by the Order to support its mission, just like a bequest.

Therefore, it qualifies for membership in the Legacy Society at the Silver Level. The \$50,000 gift qualifies as a charitable gift for income tax purposes. Some

members elect to spread the gift over 5 years at \$10,000 per year. A gift of securities is also permitted, which creates a second tax benefit in that there is no tax on any capital gain that otherwise would have been created if the securities were first sold and the proceeds gifted to the Order.

Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

DAF's have been popular for many years. They work like a private foundation, only better in that the requirements are less complicated. Most brokerage firms have charities affiliated with them that enable the formation of DAF's. Even local community foundations can sponsor a DAF. A DAF is a contract between a non-profit and a donor that allows the donor to "advise" the charity on where to spend the funds contributed. In reality, the charity waits for you to tell them which charity you wish to benefit and how much. The decision is entirely yours, as long as it's a tax qualified charity.

Not only can you designate the Order for a gift at any time, but you can specify that any balance left in the DAF at your death is to be gifted to the Order. If you provide that any balance in the DAF at your death should be left to the Order (at least in part), it has the same effect as a bequest and should permit you to join the Legacy Society. The best feature of a DAF is that it allows the donor to separate the year of the tax deduction from the year that the transfer is made to a charity. Often the contribution to the DAF is made in a year or years where you are in a high tax bracket, say earning more than \$500K per year. This allows you to maximize the tax benefit, say reducing your federal and state taxes by as much as 50% of the contribution to the DAF. You don't have to decide which charity will receive the funds until a later year and you can spread it over a number of years. That's very similar to how a private foundation works. You simply notify the DAF sponsor when you want to make a charitable gift. Your decision to reserve some of the funds for a gift to the Order at your death makes it equivalent to a bequest, yet allows you to receive a tax benefit in an earlier year. Designating the Order as a Beneficiary of your IRA or 401K Plan Often your IRA or 401K plan is well funded such that there is no need to withdraw all of the funds before you die. While you need to make Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's), there generally will be funds left over at death. This occurs because all distributions to the employee trigger taxable income, so you generally distribute the minimum amount, unless you need more funds to live.

Most IRA's and 401K plans require the employee to designate a beneficiary in case the employee dies. This person or persons, often a spouse and children, will inherit the balance in the plan at the employee's death. Unfortunately, the beneficiaries must pay income taxes on what they receive, even if it is spread over a period of time. However, if a charity is named a beneficiary, no income tax is paid on the amount transferred to the charity at death. Again, this is like a bequest and, as long as you anticipate not needing all of the funds before you die, it can be considered a bequest to the Order of whatever amount you specify in the beneficiary designation. The tax benefit comes from not having to pay income taxes on the amount left to charity. Of course, your spouse and children can receive other funds at your death to make up what they might have received from the IRA or 401K plan. Such funds would not be taxable to them.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's)

While a QCD is not a bequest, we can't resist talking about them when discussing RMD's (see above). If you are required to make an RMD because you have an IRA and are over 73 years old, you have the option of transferring an amount from your IRA directly to the Order that equals or exceeds the RMD, but not more than \$100K per year. This transfer reduces the RMD for such year, such that you avoid paying income taxes on the amount that would have been transferred to you as an RMD. Such funds could be used by the Order to support special programs in the Holy Land, just as if the funds were received at death.

Actually, the QCD can be used anytime you want to use IRA funds to benefit a charity. It does not need to be in lieu of an RMD. If unrelated to an RMD, you do need to be over 70-1/2 to use this technique. The benefit comes from disbursing funds from your IRA without creating a taxable event, the same tax benefit as if you made a charitable deduction. The QCD is often used when you don't itemize deductions in your tax return (generally when the total items qualifying for itemized deduction are less than the standard deduction, currently \$30,000 if you are married filing joint). When using a QCD, it's important that the transfer is made directly from the IRA to the charity. You will need the sponsor of the IRA to facilitate this for you.

Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)

A CRT is very powerful for income tax planning, but is complicated, so it is generally recommended for very large transactions, where potential taxes are significant. Perhaps, consider it for transactions greater than say \$5 million, where a business or real estate asset is sold that has substantially appreciated. First, form the trust and transfer the asset to be sold to the trust before it is sold, say at least a month before the sale, certainly before there is a letter of intent. The trust then sells the asset and receives the proceeds of sale and invests them in a securities portfolio until the death of the person who set up the trust or alternatively a term of 20 years. Because it is a charitable remainder trust, there is no income tax on the sale. That could save as much as \$1 million in income taxes for a \$5 million transaction (the federal and state capital gains tax on say a \$3 million capital gain). The trust then distributes an annual annuity to the beneficiary (the former owner) of between 5% and 10% of the value of the assets in the trust post-sale, say \$500,000 for this example (10% of \$5 million). This continues for the lifetime of the beneficiary, say 20 years for this example. Total distributions over 20 years in our example would be \$10 million (\$500,000 per year), mostly from the income earned on the investments made by the trust. Such distributions would be taxed at the beneficiary level.

Upon death, the remainder of the assets in the trust are distributed to charity, in our example, the Order. This remainder distribution has the same effect as a bequest to the Order. The value of the assets distributed to the Order would depend on the income earned during say 20 years. The distribution to the Order could be say \$3 million, assuming the assets earned income of about 8% per year.

Note that, over the life of the trust, the beneficiary receives \$10 million and the Order receives \$3 million, all related to the sale of an asset for \$5 million. The avoided taxes are close to \$1 million. On a present value basis, the tax savings alone are greater than the present value of the gift to charity. While complicated, the CRT is worth exploring with a tax attorney for a very large sale of appreciated assets. The owner of the asset comes out better, and so does the Order.

THE WESTERN LIEUTENANCY

THANKS OUR 2024 LEGACY MEMBERS!

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Dame Jane Hitzelberger, DC*HS	Dame Kathleen Nedder, DGCHS	Dame Therese Wolf, DGCHS

2025 - 2026 PILGRIMAGES



A Pilgrimage of Gratitude to Guadalupe
August 17-23, 2025
 Spiritual Direction of
 Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, KC*HS
 Contact: Dame Densy Chandra
 gdfpa@yahoo.com
 (909) 556-1180



A Pilgrimage to Greece
October 26 - November 9, 2025
 Spiritual Direction of
 Bishop Marc Trudeau, KC*HS
 and Fr. Mark Strader
 Contact: Viktor & Mary Beth Rzeteljski
 sylvia@206tours.com



EOHSJ Members only to Jubilee 2025 to Italy
October 21-23, 2025
 Spiritual Direction of the Grand Magisterium
 Contact: www.omniavaticanrome.org/en/pages/jubilee-2025-pilgrimage-of-the-equestrian-order-of-the-holy-sepulchre-of-jerusalem



Jubilee Pilgrimage Italy
November 2-15, 2025
 Spiritual Direction of
 Fr. Ignatius Mazanowski
 Contact: Deacon Dennis & Joan Sullivan
 dennisjoansullivan@gmail.com
 (760) 613-7554



A Spiritual Journey to Greece
November 2-15, 2025
 Spiritual Direction of
 Rev. Camillus Ogaraku, MSP & Dec. James Carabajal
 Contact: Sir Joe and Dame Connie Micatrotto
 joemicatrotto@outlook.com
 (702) 325-6764



To make a contribution to one of the Order's projects, please use this QR code or visit our website at www.eohsjwesternusa.org



A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
May 25 - June 5, 2026
 Spiritual Direction of
 Deacon Ryan & Wynsdey Adams, KC*HS
 Contact: Deacon Ryan Adams
 deaconryanadams@gmail.com
 (818) 613-6082



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Jordan
March 1-15, 2026
 Spiritual Direction of Very Rev. Miguel Corral, Fr. Daniel Rolland, KHS and Rev. Rogelio Molina
 Contact: Sir Joe and Dame Connie Micatrotto
 email: joemicatrotto@outlook.com
 (702)-325-6764



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
December 26, 2026 - January 9, 2027
 Spiritual Direction of
 Rev. Felix Just, SJ, KCHS
 Contact: Ms. Gail Gresser
 email: ggresser@me.com
 (310) 850-4033



A Pilgrimage to Fatima, Santiago & Lourdes
April 12-26, 2026
 Spiritual Direction of Bishop Gregory Gordon & Dec. James Carabajal
 Contact: Sir Joe Micatrotto
 email: joemicatrotto@outlook.com
 (702)-325-6764



A Pilgrimage to Ireland
July 5-19, 2026
 Spiritual Direction of Rev. Felix Just, SJ, KCHS
 Contact: Ms. Gail Gresser
 email: ggresser@me.com
 (310) 850-4033



A Pilgrimage to Greece
October 11-24, 2026
 Spiritual Direction of
 Bishop Alberto Rojas, KC*HS
 Contact: Dame Densy Chandra
 gdfpa@yahoo.com
 (909) 556-1180

ANNUAL MEETINGS



Annual Meeting 2026

October 1-5

Diocese of
San Diego

Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines
 10950 N Torrey Pines Rd.
 La Jolla, CA 92037

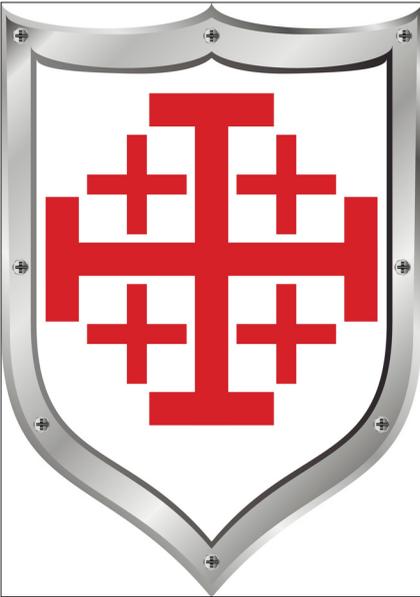


Annual Meeting 2027

September 23-27

Diocese of
Tucson

JW Marriott Tucson
 Starr Pass Resort & Spa
 3800 W Starr Pass Blvd.
 Tucson, AZ 85745



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*The cover is a beautiful
dramatic autumn sunset over
the Old City Jerusalem, with
the Dome of the Rock, the
Golden Gate and the Russian
Orthodox church of Mary
Magdalene seen through fall
trees on the Mount of Olives.*

*Photo adobe stock/
John Theodor*