

# Feast of Our Lady Queen of Palestine Reflection

*She bore the heart of Jesus  
in this land.  
Now let her bear the heart of Jesus  
in the land of your heart.*



His Beatitude, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Luigi Barlassina, instituted the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Palestine in 1927. Then in 1994, Saint Pope John Paul II, by decree, designated Our Lady of Palestine to be the Patron Saint of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Therefore, as members of the order, this feast day holds a special place in our hearts.

Speaking of the heart, Our Lady Queen of Palestine is queen over the Holy Land, the land where Christ was born. It was in this land that Mary would hear of the coming of the Messiah from the voice of an angel. Here, she would say her YES to being the mother of God. And here, in her womb, the Lord's heart would be formed. This Sacred Heart that loves beyond all telling.

Allegorically, like Mary, we too have a land that we are called to rule, that is the land of our own heart. Let us, like Mary, say YES to letting Christ be formed in our heart. Let him truly live there. Christ is known as the Prince of Peace and walked all over the Holy Land healing people in their suffering. Let us then, with the love of Christ in our hearts, bring peace and healing to those around us in whatever land we may find ourselves. Let us also pray that Our Lady of Palestine will bring this peace and healing to the people in Holy Land.

Mary, Queen of Palestine, pray for us!

Rev. Lawrence Seyer  
Pastor, Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
Santa Barbara, Calif.