

**EQUESTRIAN ORDER  
OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM  
LIEUTENANCY OF AUSTRALIA - QUEENSLAND**

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*Dr Paul C Bartley* K.C.\*H.S., M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.P., F.A.C.E.

Lieutenant of Australia-Queensland

The Equestrian Order dates back to 1099 when Godefroy de Bouillon secured the Holy Places from the Saracens in the Second Crusade. From its beginning, the aim of the Order was to protect the Holy Places and protect pilgrims and that is still at the heart of the Order today. The Knights in the early days had some significant privileges which were recorded in 1553, namely, the right to legitimise bastards, to change the name given in baptism, to pardon prisoners they might meet on the way to the scaffold, to possess goods belonging to the Church, to be exempt from all taxes, to cut down a man found hanging on a gallows and order him to be given Christian burial, to wear brocaded silk garments, to enter a church on horseback and to fight against the infidel.

The Knights were driven out of Jerusalem by 1244 and after the fall of St John of Acre, which was in 1291, the first period in the long history came to an end. The second period of the Order's history goes from 1291 to 1847.

During the time of the Franciscan custody of Mount Zion, the Guardian, also known as the Custodian, was the only person representative of the Apostolic See in the Holy Land and he had the sole right to dub Knights in the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre. The Order twice overcame threats of

suppression. It had been provisionally made part of the Order of Malta by Pope Innocent VIII in 1489 and was re-established as an independent Order by Alexander VI in 1496. Now the Sovereign Pontiff was Grand Master and under these new Statutes the Order had become a Pontifical Equestrian Hospitality Order. The Papal Grand Master confirmed the prerogative of the Custodian of Jerusalem to dub Knights and investitures were restored. These Statutes were confirmed by subsequent pontiffs and Pope Benedict XIV confirmed himself as Grand Master and abolished the requirement to fight against the infidel. He also promulgated that the Order enjoy precedence over other Orders except for the Order of the Golden Fleece. This Papal Statute sowed the seeds of the disharmony that existed for a long time between the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and the Order of Malta.

The third period of the Order's history began in 1847 when Pope Pius IX reinstated the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and appointed him the ecclesiastical authority of the Order and Grand Master. The last Pope to actually act as Grand Master was Pope Benedict XV while more modern Popes have delegated the Grand Master to a Cardinal and currently it is John Patrick Cardinal Foley. The Latin Patriarch remains the second most powerful person in the Order. Worldwide there are some 25 000 Knights, Dames and Ecclesiastics in 53 Lieutenancies.

The Lieutenancy of Australia-Queensland was promulgated in 1997 by Carlo Cardinal Furno and the first investiture was conducted by him in St Patrick's Church in September of that year when 27 new members were invested. His Grace Archbishop John Bathersby was appointed Grand Prior and Mr Cedric Hampson QC, AO was the foundation Lieutenant. I was privileged to be in the initial group. St Patrick's Church was chosen as our church and down on the right-hand side you will see a coat of arms attached to the wall that was sculpted by Catherine Hampson DHS.

In approximately the year 2000 a section was established in Townsville under the presidency of the Honourable Eamon Lindsay K.C.\*H.S. The total numbers in the Order have increased gradually but significantly and are now over 100. They include Bishops Oudemann and Putney and an additional seven priests. Since the foundation, Father Adrian Farrelly has been our Ecclesiastical Master of Ceremonies.

Each year we hold two functions, the first being our Jerusalem Day Seminar and Annual General Meeting followed by Mass at St Patrick's and dinner together. This is usually held in March and the topics are many and varied: from spirituality, the resurrection, and an address by an Iraqi Christian to 'the signs of the times'. These seminars normally provoke quite vigorous questioning and are generally well attended. Later in the year, around the end of September, we hold our annual investiture of new Knights, Dames and Ecclesiastics followed again by a dinner. We attend these two Masses of course in full robes and insignia. His Grace Archbishop John Bathersby, the Grand Prior, normally conducts the investiture when in Brisbane while his Lordship Bishop Oudemann conducted the initial investiture in Townsville and will do this year's as well.

The highlight since the foundation has undoubtedly been our inaugural pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2008. It is a requirement on all members to visit the Holy Land at least once in their lifetime and, while there, be awarded the Pilgrim Shell by the Latin Patriarch. Our second pilgrimage will leave Brisbane on 23 October this year and return on 6 November. It will be longer and more comprehensive than the initial one and will start in Amman, Jordan, proceed through Israel, the West Bank and back to Jordan to return to Brisbane. If there is any interest I can certainly talk in more detail about the content and the costs of this pilgrimage.

A highlight of 2009 was the visit of our Grand Master John Cardinal Foley who conducted the investiture in St

Stephen's Cathedral. A significant moment during that visit was the agreement of the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto to become an honorary member of all five Australian Lieutenancies.

In terms of accountability all the money we raise must be forwarded to the Grand Magisterium in Rome where it is distributed for specified projects to the Latin Patriarch. No member of our council is allowed to receive any monetary recompense for their duties. We report financially to the Magisterium annually in February and the audited accounts of the Order are forwarded to each Lieutenant usually in April or May. All new members have to provide certain documentation such as a baptismal certificate, marriage certificate (if appropriate) and a reference from the parish priest for approval by the Grand Prior, His Grace Archbishop Bathersby. These documents are forwarded to Rome where normally it takes several months to receive final approval. In this Lieutenancy we have generally been cautious and have never had anyone rejected at either hurdle.

All members are asked to make a donation once a year of approximately \$500 and pay an annual membership fee of \$175. Half of the membership fee goes directly to Rome and the other half is kept here to cover expenses. We make a small donation to St Patrick's Church and to St Joseph's Gregory Terrace for the use of their facilities for our Masses and Jerusalem Day seminar respectively.

I would be remiss if I finished without acknowledging the tremendous support we have received from His Grace Archbishop Bathersby and Father Adrian Farrelly over the twelve years of the Australian-Queensland Lieutenancy.

*Dr Paul C Bartley was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph at St. Joachim's at Holland Park and then went to the Christian Brothers, firstly at St. James and then to Gregory Terrace.*

*He studied Medicine at The University of Queensland and pursued postgraduate work at both the Royal Brisbane Hospital and The National Institutes at Bethesda, Maryland, USA.*

*Dr Bartley joined the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem at its foundation in Queensland in 1997. He was appointed Lieutenant in 2004 and commenced leading their second pilgrimage to The Holy Land on 23rd October 2010.*