

Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem
Southwestern Lieutenancy of the United States
Fort Worth, TX Section
October 2024 Newsletter

Summary of 2024 Investiture and Annual Meeting in Little Rock

The 2024 Investiture and Annual Meeting of the Order was held on Friday, October 18 through Monday, October 21 in Little Rock, Arkansas and was attended by approximately 700 knights and dames of the Southwestern Lieutenancy. Approximately 80 new members were invested into the Order, including Sir James Pelletier, KHS from the Diocese of Fort Worth. Approximately 148 members advanced in rank, including 11 from the Diocese of Fort Worth. Additionally, Sir John Pritchett, KGCHS assumed the office of Assistant Lay Master of Ceremonies while Sir Patrick Bridges, KGCHS and Dame Joan Bridges, DGCHS assumed the office of Section President for the Fort Worth Diocese taking the place of Sir Bill Ross, KGCHS and Dame Tessy Ross, DGCHS who have served as Section Presidents (previously Section Representatives) for many years. Sir Bill and Dame Tessy were each awarded a Silver Palm of Jerusalem in recognition of their many years serving the Order.

On Saturday morning, attendees were greeted with a wonderful presentation entitled “The Stones Cry Out – Exploring the Eucharist through the Eyes of the Holy Land” by Reverend John K. Antony, J.C.L. of the Diocese of Little Rock. The text of Father Antony’s presentation can be found on the website of the Southwestern Lieutenancy at [The Stones Will Cry Out.pdf](#) and an audio of Father Antony’s presentation can be found at [eohssouthwest.com/documents/AnnualEvent/The Stones Will Cry out \(1\).m4a](http://eohssouthwest.com/documents/AnnualEvent/The%20Stones%20Will%20Cry%20out%20(1).m4a)

The Memorial Mass on Saturday afternoon was celebrated for the repose of the souls of approximately 66 recently deceased members of the Order from the Southwestern Lieutenancy.

On Sunday morning, attendees were given a status update of current conditions in the Holy Land by His Excellency Thomas Standish, KGCHS and a member of the Grand Magisterium. This presentation can also be found on the website of the Southwestern Lieutenancy at [EOHSJ SW - 2024 Grand Magisterium Presentation.pdf](#). As one might expect, conditions in the Holy Land are extremely difficult, especially for Christians, due to the war between Israel and Hamas.

2025 Investiture and Annual Meeting

The 2025 Investiture and Annual Meeting will be held at the Grand Hyatt – San Antonio Riverwalk in San Antonio, Texas on September 5-8, 2025. It is anticipated that the room block will be open for reservations on November 1, 2024 (i.e., later this week). In order to book a room at the negotiated conference rate, reservations must be made on-line, not over the telephone. The link for making room reservations is not available as of this date but will be provided as soon as it is.

Pilgrimages

All 2024 pilgrimages to the Holy Land have been deferred until 2025 due to the war. They are at risk of even further delay if the war does not end soon. The loss of pilgrimage traffic creates severe hardships for all of the people of the Holy Land, but most so for the Christians who rely on pilgrimages for their very livelihood. Please continue to pray for peace in the Holy Land.

Although pilgrimages to the Holy Land are not available at this time, the Southwestern Lieutenancy has scheduled a “domestic pilgrimage” for early in 2025. A “Mission Trail Weekend” is scheduled for February 14-16, 2025 in El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Four missions will be visited: Ysleta, established in 1692; Socorro, established in 1680; San Elceario,

founded in 1789; and the Basilica of San Albino in Las Cruces. Dinner on Saturday night will be at the D. H. Lescombes Winery and Bistro. Further information is available on the website of the Southwestern Lieutenancy at [EOHSJ ~ Southwestern USA](#) under the "Pilgrimage" tab.

Ensuring the Future

As you are assuredly aware, Christians in the Holy Land are facing a true catastrophe caused by a combination of the Covid pandemic and now the terrible war in Gaza. Unemployment in the West Bank is 50% among Christians. This high rate of unemployment has placed the schools of the Latin Patriarchate in an especially urgent state of emergency. Most families can no longer afford to pay tuition, and the classrooms and other facilities continue to deteriorate. This puts at risk the entire school system of the Latin Patriarchate and the very future of its children.

In order to address this crisis, the Lieutenancies of North America are undertaking a capital campaign to raise \$12 million over the next three years solely to support the schools of the Latin Patriarchate. \$8 million will be used to pay for critically needed repairs and upgrades to the 44 Latin Patriarchate schools and an additional \$4 million will be used to pay for tuition assistance so that the children can remain in school and the teachers can be paid. A message from His Beatitude Pierbattista Cardinal Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem regarding this urgent need can be found at eohsjnorthamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/EOHSJ-Cardinal-Pizzaballa-Campaign-Video.mp4.

Scheduling of local Fort Worth events for the coming year

We are nearing the end of the 2024 liturgical year and will shortly be beginning the 2025 liturgical year. Local activities of the knights and dames of the Diocese of Fort Worth that are in the early planning stages are (dates and details yet to be determined):

- An Advent Evening of Reflection in December 2024
- Annual Mass and Dinner with Bishop Michael Olson in 2025

Nominees to the Order

Continued growth in membership in the Order is crucial to meeting our obligation to support the Christians in the Holy Land. New members enter the Order typically by being nominated by an existing member. Nominees should be Catholics who show great devotion to the Church, have a desire to progress in their personal sanctification, and have the financial ability to support our mission to sustain the Catholic Church and its presence in the Holy Land.

Due to the fact that the 2025 Annual Meeting will be held earlier in the year than has been typically done in the Southwestern Lieutenancy, the timeline for the nomination process will be somewhat accelerated this year. If you intend to nominate a candidate or candidates for membership, please do so as soon as possible and no later than January 1, 2025. The application for proposed membership in the Order can be found on the website of the Southwestern Lieutenancy at [New Membership application](#). Additional information to share with prospective nominees can also be found on the Southwestern Lieutenancy website under Resources / Nominations from the home page.

Member Formation

A major component of the mission of the Order is for its members to continually grow in personal holiness. To facilitate this goal, both the Governor General and the Grand Master of the Order have submitted a draft Formation Document which will serve as a guideline in admitting new Knight and Dame candidates to the Order, as well as ongoing spiritual development of existing members. You will be hearing more about this renewed focus on personal spiritual growth in the

near future. In the meantime, the draft Formation Document can be found on the website of the Southwestern Lieutenancy at [2024 EOHSJ Formation Document.pdf](#).

Gratitude

Please join us in thanking Sir William Ross, KGCHS and Dame Tessy Ross, DGCHS (i.e., Bill and Tessy) for their service to the Order. Bill and Tessy were invested into the Order in 1999 and have served as Section Presidents, leading activities of the Order in the Diocese of Fort Worth, for many, many years. They have been crucial to the work of the Order as well as to the overall Catholic Church in the Diocese of Fort Worth. Thank you, Bill and Tessy.

Please continue to pray for the Christians in the Holy Land and for peace in the land of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Sir Patrick and Dame Joan Bridges, Section Presidents