



February 22, 2011

Prot. #161/2011

Members of the Grand Magisterium  
Lieutenants  
Grand Priors  
Magistral Delegates  
of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

Your Excellencies:

On Thursday, February 10, 2011, I was granted a private audience with our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, to submit my resignation, for reasons of health, as Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

I informed the Holy Father that, due to the advance of an incurable type of leukemia, along with other illnesses, I was unable to fulfill the duties of my office and that I did not wish to be a burden to our wonderful Order.

I told our Holy Father how grateful I was to him for my appointment as Grand Master, because my experience was like an extended spiritual retreat before entering the final phase of my life in preparation for eternal life with our risen Lord.

I told him also what a pleasure it has been to work with our Knights and Ladies around the world and how edified I have been by your love for the Holy Land, by your own spiritual development and by your ever increasing generosity to our brothers and sisters in Christ in that land made truly holy by the presence of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When he heard of your great generosity and of the expansion of our Order into new lands, he asked me to express his gratitude to all of you to whom he sends his Apostolic Blessing.

Before the appointment of a new Grand Master, our Assessor, Archbishop Giuseppe De Andrea, will, with our Governor General Agostino Borromeo, carry on the daily work of our Order. I am sure that you will extend to them the magnificent cooperation you have shown to me over the last four years; those years have been all too brief – but precious to me, and I ask that you continue to remember me in prayer as I pray for you every day.

May God continue to bless you, your loved ones and our dear Holy Land with His love and grace!

Sincerely in Christ,

John Cardinal Foley  
Grand Master

*Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem*

JPF/am