



*Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem* ©  
\* *Knights of Malta* \*

April  
2012

## **Chancellor's Update**

### **Our Hope in Re-Evangelizing the world!**

Dear readers: In the past few months our Updates have concentrated on the salvation of souls versus social and cultural ministries.

We applauded the pope's action in implementing the Reform of the Reform, the Motu Proprio for the Latin Tridentine Mass, Path to Eternal Happiness, Subsidiarity, Wealth No Bar to Eternal Happiness and now we turn our attention to helping the Pope accomplish his work.

With the advent of the Motu Proprio and the Reform of the Reform, the Church has been slowly returning to the more spiritual path for the Faithful. We see a portion of the Anglican Church coming home to Rome, a positive step forward in a return of the Pius X Society coming back into full communion with Rome and last but not least the inching up of vocations to the Church in general. This fall the re-evangelization program is to go into full swing as the Church in Brazil prepares for the 2013 World Youth Day.

As the Holy Father said a few years ago at Fatima, the message of Fatima has NOT yet been completed. We hope and pray that this year's meeting of the Fatima Crusade in Rome will bring us ever closer to Jesus through Mary and bring us ever closer to world peace. With the leadership of the Holy Father to his fellow bishops and his enlightening theological insights in this address below he is showing the best way to evangelize.

Just as we revisited the Incarnation of Christ in the December 2011 Update, Our Holy Father has reminded all of us of the importance of the Resurrection. As St. Paul has said, "if Christ has not risen, vain then is our preaching, vain too is your faith."

### **In Recognizing the Risen Jesus**

"The Lord assures us of his real presence among us through the Word and the Eucharist"

VATICAN CITY, APRIL 23, 2012 (Zenit.org) - Here is a translation of the address Benedict XVI gave Sunday before and after praying the midday Regina Caeli with those gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Dear brothers and sisters!

Today, the third Sunday of Easter, we meet in Luke's Gospel the risen Jesus, who appears in the midst of the disciples (cf. Luke 24:36), who, incredulous and afraid, think they see a ghost (cf. Luke 24:37). "Our Lord is changed. He no longer lives as before. His existence ... is incomprehensible. And yet he is bodily, he does not leave behind ... the whole life that he has lived, the destiny that he has faced, his passion and his death. Everything is real. Although he has changed, he is still a tangible reality" ("Il Signore: Meditazioni sulla persona e vita di N.S. Gesù Cristo," Milano: 1949, 433). Because the resurrection does not eliminate the signs of the crucifixion Jesus shows the Apostles his hands and feet. And to convince them, he asks for something to eat. So, the disciples "offered him a piece of roasted fish; he took it and ate it in their presence (Luke 24:42-43). St. Gregory the Great comments that "the fish roasted over the fire signifies nothing other than the passion of Jesus, the mediator between God and men. He, in fact, deigned to hide himself in the waters of the human race, he allowed himself to be ensnared by our death and was, so to speak, placed on the fire by the pains he endured in the time of his passion" (Hom. in Evang. XXIV, 5: CCL141, Turnhout 1999, 201).

Thanks to these very real signs, the disciples overcame their initial doubt and opened themselves to the gift of faith; this faith permitted them to understand the things written about the Christ "in the law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms" (Luke 24:44).

We read, in fact, that Jesus "open their mind to understand the Scriptures and said to them: 'Thus it is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and in his name conversion and forgiveness of sins will be preached to all peoples...you are witnesses of this' (Luke 24:45-48). The Lord assures us of his real presence among us through the Word and the Eucharist. As the disciples of Emmaus recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread (cf. Luke 24:35), we too encounter the Lord in the eucharistic celebration. St. Thomas Aquinas explains in this regard that "it is necessary to recognize according to the Catholic faith, that the whole Christ is present in this Sacrament... because the divinity has never left the body that he has assumed" (S.Th. III, q. 76, a. 1).

Dear friends, it is usually during Eastertide that the Church administers First Communion to children. Therefore, I exhort the parish priests, parents and catechists to prepare well for this feast of faith, with great fervor but also with sobriety. "This day remains rightly impressed on the memory as the first moment in which... the importance of the first encounter with Jesus is perceived" (Sacramentum caritatis, 19). May the Mother of God help us to listen attentively to the Word of the Lord and to worthily participate at the Table of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, to become witnesses of the new humanity.

Copyright 2012 by the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Inc. All rights reserved. The O.S.J. Messenger and the Chancellor's Update are among the authorized publications of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, Inc. and the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem-Knights of Malta. World Headquarters and Convent of the Order are located in Reading, Pennsylvania in the United States of America.



Jerusalem 1048-1291, Cyprus 1291-1310, Rhodes 1311-1523, Malta 1530-1798, Russia 1798-1907, U.S.A. 1908-

<http://sovereignorderofsaintjohnofjerusalemknightsformalta.org/>