

CONSTANTINIAN CHRONICLES
OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE
SACRED MILITARY CONSTANTINIAN ORDER OF SAINT GEORGE

21 February 2002

The legitimacy of any institution is, without a doubt, rooted in its history, traditions, and values; but this legitimacy only becomes convincing and inviting when it demonstrates a vitality and effectiveness that is of true significance to humanity.

This is the conclusion that cannot escape whoever browses through the pages of these Constantinian Chronicles with an open mind, intelligence, and attention. They record initiatives and accomplishments that gather together moments of spirituality with other moments of sharing important sentiments.

To recall but the last in chronological order, there was the event of this past 12 February at the Aeronautical Academy of Pozzuoli (Naples). Who can forget the moving sight – despite the austere setting of the prestigious military school – that touched the hearts of all as there was inaugurated for the first time a project, the Constantinian Family Home, to shelter HIV positive infants and their mothers? All were touched, from the highest authorities of the Academy to the hundreds of representatives of the medical, industrial, political, and military communities, to the Duke and Duchess of Calabria and the many Knights and Dames of the Order, some of whom traveled from other cities.

The Chronicles represent a summary of the activities carried out by the different Delegations, from the various regions of Italy, to the other States of Europe, all the way to the United States of America.

In all this, I feel the need to acknowledge the contributions of the Grand Prefect, H.R.H. the Prince Carlo of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Duke of Calabria and representative of the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Castro, and his Consort, H.R.H. the Princess Camilla, Duchess of Calabria, always untiring and dedicated promoter of many initiatives. I also want to acknowledge the noble Delegates of many Delegations whose activities are chronicled herein, as well as the not few Excellent Ecclesiastics, whose presence brings with it a Christian sensibility and an authentic spirituality to these works.

In congratulating with sincere admiration all that has been done, I cannot exonerate myself from the obligation – both as a matter of institutional prerogative as well as of the personal affection that bind me to the Order – to invite all to proceed with greater commitment, attention, and consciousness, along the path that has already been undertaken with determination, and to continue to pursue those very foundational values of the Order that we profess to holding.

Mario Francesco Cardinal Pompedda

CHRONICLES

July

“Points of Encounter for the Third Age”

The Knights and Dames of the Delegation of Lombardy visited three institutions for the aged in the city of Pavia. The recreational meetings took place in the Monsignor Trabattoni retirement home in Maleo, the Codogno retirement home, and the “Maria Consolatrice” Institute. All this took place within the context of the “Points of Encounter for the Third Age” initiative to meet the concrete needs of the elderly who are being assisted.

26 August

Dedication of the Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Houston

H.E. the Most Reverend Vincent M. Rizzotto, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, presided at the ceremony for the dedication of the new church, dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa, in the presence of a large number of Knights and Dames of the United States Delegation.

14 September

Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross

The Delegations of the Constantinian Order throughout the world celebrated, as they do every year, the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross, the most important liturgical feast for the Order.

15 September

Assistance for St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York

David Lacey Garrison, Jr., Delegate of the Order in the United States, handed over, on behalf of the Knights and Dames, a first contribution to assist St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York following the emergency caused by the attacks of 11 September.

17 September

Donation of a Medical Vehicle for the “Constantinian Cross ONLUS” Association of Novara

Representing the Grand Prefect, H.I.R.H. the Archduke Martino of Habsburg-Este, Bailiff Knight Grand Cross of Justice, participated in a ceremony for the presentation of a medical vehicle to the “Constantinian Cross ONLUS” Association. This Association, initiated by the

Representative of Novara, Notary Claudio Limontoni, began with the donation of a first ambulance on 14 September of the Jubilee Year 2000. Established as an Association of the Order in May 2001, it assists without distinction all those who need immediate medical attention and is linked to the emergency units of the ASL hospitals of Novara. The Association is comprised of young volunteers as well as specialized medical personnel. The ceremony took place in the medieval courtyard of the “*Broletto*”. Leading civilian and military authorities were present at the ceremony. The vehicle was acquired with donations received during the benefit concert of 27 May 2001.

Photo: The Representative of Novara, Notary Claudio Limontini; H.I.R.H. the Archduke Martino of Habsburg-Este; in the background, the Delegate for Lombardy, Prince Augusto Ruffo di Calabria.

6-7 October

Gala Benefit for the Hospital of Barletta

The Noble Ugo Patroni Griffi di Faivano, Delegate of the Order in Puglia, and the Noble Luigi d’Ambrosio Lettieri, representative of the regional government, welcomed the Duke and Duchess of Calabria on their arrival in Puglia. Successively, they rendered homage in the Curial Palace to H.E. the Most Reverend Francesco Cacucci, Archbishop of Bari-Bitonto. The Prelate gave his blessing to increased collaboration between the Diocese and the Order.

Photos: Prince Carlo and Princess Camilla of Bourbon with the President of the Puglia Region, Dr. Raffaele Fitto.

(Left to right) H.E. the Most Reverend Giovambattista Pichierri, Bishop of Barletta; Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda; the Duke and Duchess of Calabria; Delegate Ugo Patroni Griffi and his wife; Monsignor Antonio Talacci.

The Grand Prefect decorates the Standard of the City of Barletta and meets with the Mayor. *(In the oval)* a scene from the Benefit Gala.

Afterwards, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria were received in the new Palace of the Government of the Puglia Region by the Honorable Raffaele Finto, President of Region. Both parties confirmed their willingness to develop common artistic and cultural initiatives to promote and publicize the traditions of Puglia throughout Italy and the world.

In the evening, during a ceremony officiated by the Prior of the Delegation of Puglia and Basilicata, Mons. Antonio Talacci, the Grand Prefect conferred the insignia on a number of Knights and Dames, including: H.E. the Most Reverend Giovan Battista Pichierri, Archbishop of Trani-Barletta-Bisceglie; the Duchess Paola Guarini di Poggiardo; Attorney Savino Cannone; Dr. Luigi Lo Buono; and the Honorable Guido Viceconte.

This was followed by the first Gala Benefit, entitled the “Grand Challenge Ball”.

The evening took place in the splendid renaissance setting of the Castle of Barletta in the presence of over a thousand Knights and Dames from throughout Italy. The dinner was characterized by specialties of Puglia cuisine and there was entertainment by the noted singer Peppino di Capri.

The proceeds of the event enabled the Hospital of Barletta to acquire advanced anesthesiology equipment.

Sunday morning, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria attended Mass in the Chapel of the Hospital of Barletta, entirely renovated and enlarged at the expense of the Constantinian Order and dedicated to St. George the Martyr. Finally, the Prince Carlo, guest of the Mayor of Barletta, Dr. Francesco Salerno, and the Municipality, decorated the Standard of the City with the Gold “*Benemerenza*” Medal.

8 October

The Duchess of Calabria Dame Grand Cross of Honor and Devotion of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Fra’ Andrew Bertie, conferred on H.R.H. the Duchess of Calabria the dignity of Dame Grand Cross of Honor and Devotion. The ceremony took place in the Palace of the Grand Magistry in Rome in the presence of all the members of the Sovereign Council. Afterwards, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria participated in a luncheon in the state apartments as guests of the Grand Master.

10 October

Commemoration of the Battle of Lepanto

The Grand Prefect delegated H.E. the Prince Paolo Boncompagni Ludovisi, President of the Royal Deputation, to represent the Order at the Commemoration of the Battle of Lepanto. In the Palace of the *Cancellaria* in Rome, in the presence of a large audience, Professor Roberto De Mattei, President of the Lepanto Cultural Center, and the Very Reverend Father Massimiliano Zangheratti, Secretary General of the Franciscans of the Immaculate, spoke. Among the religious authorities present were Their Eminences, Cardinals Alfons Maria Stickler and Luigi Poggi, both Constantinian Knights.

13 October

Conference on Southern Italy

The Duke of Calabria, accompanied by Attorney Marco Cecilia, Knight, participated in a conference organized by “*Assindustria*” of Crotona on “*Mezzogiorno: What is there besides the bridge?*”. The Constantinian Order and the Royal House of Bourbon-Two Sicilies thus demonstrated again their interest in the problems of development in southern Italy.

19 October

Benefit Concert in Monaco for St. Vincent's Hospital in New York

Under the high patronage of H.S.H. Rainier III, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, the Monaco Association of the Constantinian Order organized a benefit concert in the Cathedral of the Principality to assist St. Vincent's Hospital in New York. More than a thousand people attended the event, contributing sixty thousand dollars. The Honorary Committee consisted of H.E. the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and Grand Prior of the Order; H.E. the Most Reverend Bernard Barsi, Archbishop of Monaco and Prior of the Monaco Association; H.E. Patrick Leclercq, Minister of State; H.E. Mario Piersigilli, Consul General of Italy in Monaco; the Princess Emilia Acton di Leporano; the Prince Francesco d'Avalos; the Princess Isabella of Liechtenstein; H.I.H. the Princess Napoleon; *Maestro* Luciano Pavarotti; Mrs. François Pinault; and *Maestro* Maxim Vengerov. The evening inaugurated the First Festival of Sacred Music in the Principality with Neapolitan music of the 1700s. The music was performed by an orchestra of eighty from the "San Pietro a Majella" Conservatory in Naples, which presented music by Pasquale Cafaro, Domenico Cimarosa, Giovanni Paisiello, Giovambattista Pergolesi, Domenico Scarlatti, as well as Honoré François Langle, a musician from Monaco who studied at the famous Neapolitan conservatory during the reign of the Sovereign Onorato III. The Parisian hostess Eve Ruggieri masterfully directed the various phases of the event.

His Eminence the Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington and Prior of the Delegation of the United States of America, and His Eminence the Cardinal Edward Egan, Archbishop of New York, Knight of the Order, sent a warm message of thanks.

Photos: H.S.H. the Sovereign Prince of Monaco, T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Castro, and T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Calabria, attend the concert.

Mr. Stéphane Bern, Mrs. Eve Ruggieri, Mr. Pastor.

H.R.H. the Princess Beatrice of Bourbon and the Prince Francesco d'Avalos.

Mrs. Deslandes.

Mrs. Pastor, the Prince Giovannelli, and a friend.

The Grand Prefect, H.R.H. the Prince Carlo of Bourbon, Duke of Calabria; the Grand Prior, H.E. the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda; and the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Prince Ferdinando of Bourbon, Duke of Castro.

H.E. René Novella and Donna Edoarda Crociani.

H.S.H. the Prince Rainier III of Monaco and T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Castro.

Donna Grazia de Vito Piscicelli and Knight Eugenio Donadoni.

Mr. and Mrs. Lamblin and Marco Piccinini.

Maestro Pani and the hostess of the evening, Mrs. Eve Ruggieri.

Mrs. Piccinini, Mr. Victor Pastor, and H.R.H. the Princess Anna of Bourbon.

Don Giannello de Vito Piscicelli and Donna Beatrice de Lucia.

Attorney Massimo Luca Dazio and his wife.

H.E. the Ambassador Federico di Roberto and a friend.

Commander de Lucia.

Mr. Yves Piaget and Mr. Michel Pastor.

Mrs. Pastor and a friend.

H.S.H. the Prince Rainier III of Monaco and T.R.H. Carlo and Camilla of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Duke and Duchess of Calabria.

Colonel Lamblin and the Princess Stourdrza.

Mrs. Piaget and Mr. Deslandes.

H.E. the Ambassador Michel and Mrs. Bianchieri.

Before the start of the concert, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria presented the Cathedral of Monaco with a statue of St. George the Martyr, Protector of the Constantinian Order. The statue was placed, along with a commemorative plaque, near a side altar in the front of the Cathedral. This shrine thus can be a place for meeting and prayer for all the Knights and Dames of the Monaco Association.

The musical *soirée* was preceded by a reception in honor of the Grand Master, H.R.H. Ferdinando of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Duke of Castro, hosted in his residence by H.E. Patrick Leclercq, Minister of State of the Principality of Monaco. At the end of the concert, the guests participated in a Gala Dinner hosted by Donna Edoarda Crociani, Dame Grand Cross of Merit, in the splendid *Belle Epoque* salon of the Hotel Hermitage.

Photos: The plaque placed in the Cathedral of Monaco to commemorate the Blessing of the statue of St. George: “In the presence of H.S.H. the Prince Rainier III, T.R.H. the Prince Charles and the Princess Camilla of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, Duke and Duchess of Calabria, in order to testify to their attachment to the Principality of Monaco, donated this statue, blessed by H.E. the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda, Grand Prior of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George. Friday, 19 October 2001”.

The statue of St. George the Martyr in the Cathedral of Monaco.

(from the left) H.E. Patrick Leclercq, Minister of State; H.R.H. Carlo of Bourbon, Duke of Calabria; H.E. the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda; H.E. the Most Reverend Bernard Barsi, Archbishop of Monaco.

Letters from the Cardinals of Washington and New York

(Editor’s note: *The text in Cronache Costantiniane is in the English original*)

Those who contributed to the benefit for St. Vincent’s Hospital

(Editor’s note: *The list of contributors to the Constantinian effort includes a number of prominent international personalities, including: the Aga Khan; former Italian Senator-*

for-Life Giulio Andreotti, *former Prime Minister; the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta*, Fra' Andrew Bertie; Faisal Bey of Tunis)

1 November

Solemnity of All Saints in the United States of America Donations made to the Relief Funds of the Firefighters, the Disaster Relief Fund of the Police, and the September 11 Fund of the Red Cross

The celebration of the Pontifical Mass for the Solemnity of All Saints presided by H.E. the Most Reverend René Henry Gracida, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Ecclesiastical Commander of our Order, was the occasion for the collection of funds amounting to about one hundred thousand dollars, which was turned over to the relief associations of the firefighters, the police, and the Red Cross. Over 2,500 people participated in the celebration, including many Knights and Dames. Among those present were: Commander Frank Limon and Vice-Commander Michael Atkins, representing the Chicago Police Department; Mr. William Norris, Superintendent of the Fire Department with many firefighters and their families; and representatives of the Committee of the American Red Cross. The Very Reverend Canon Mons. Regis N. Barwig, Ecclesiastical Commander of Grace, addressed a message of comfort and hope to those who were affected by the terrible events of 11 September.

5 November

Prize Trip for Three Students of “*Nunziatella*”

There arrived on this date at the Chancery of the Constantinian Order in Rome a letter of thanks from Colonel Vincenzo Papaccio, Commandant of the *Nunziatella* Military School, addressed to H.R.H. the Duchess of Calabria, thanking her for the gift of the prize trip for the three most outstanding students of the 2000-2001 academic year. The three young military cadets traveled to the United States for ten days, visiting the most important cities of the East Coast.

Last 5 May, the Princess Camilla was the “*godmother*” of the 212th course, “*Mak II 100*”, and presented the course trumpet with an banner ornamented with her monogram and the royal crown.

The visit of the Prince and Princess to the *Nunziatella* and the donation of the prize trip constituted an opportunity to renew the rapport between the Royal House and the Military School founded and endowed by the Sovereigns of the Bourbon Dynasty.

7-8-9 November

“*The Passage*”: Activities of the British Delegation

The Duke and Duchess of Calabria have granted their patronage to the charitable activities of the Constantinian Association “*The Passage*”. Consequently, they paid a visit to the Delegation of

Great Britain and Ireland on 7-8-9 November. Welcomed by the Delegate, the Lord Belhaven and Stenton, and by the Vice-Delegate, Mr. Anthony John Bailey, they went to Westminster Cathedral to participate in the celebration of Vespers presided by H.E. the Most Reverend George Stack, Auxiliary Bishop. After the homily and before the singing of the *Magnificat*, the Duke of Calabria, assisted by the Delegate, proceeded to invest new Knights and Dames. Among those receiving honors were Bishop Stack, who was also named Prior of the British Delegation; the Lord Lamont of Lerwick, Chancellor of Exchequer; Ann Widdecomb, shadow Secretary of State and Member of Parliament; H.R.H., the Princess Katherina of Yugoslavia; and Professor John Burland. The first day of the visit ended with a gala dinner hosted by the Delegation in the splendid setting of Home House for hundreds of persons, including Knights, Dames, and guests.

Photos: The Duke of Calabria invests the Lord Lamont of Lerwick with the insignia of the Order of Francesco I.

The Grand Prefect decorates an English Dame with the insignia of the Constantinian Order.

The Duke and Duchess of Calabria, accompanied by Mr. John Jarvie, President of the National Health Service, visit the Ealing Hospital.

(In the three photos on the lower left) The Duke and Duchess of Calabria meet with some of the young patients.

(In the oval) The Prince Carlo and the Princess Camilla with Mrs. Florence Riggs, just decorated as a Dame of Grace of the Constantinian Order, in the Ealing Hospital.

The following day, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria, accompanied by the President of the National Health Service, Mr. John Jarvie, visited the Ealing General Hospital where, in a simple moving gesture, they decorated as Dame of Grace of the Constantinian Order Mrs. Florence Riggs, who has volunteered to assist the poor and sick for more than seventy years. Their Royal Highnesses then participated in a luncheon hosted in his diplomatic residence by H.E. Dr. Luigi Amaduzzi, Ambassador of Italy to the United Kingdom. Afterward, they paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador of Nepal and H.R.H. the Princess Jotshana.

The most important event of the visit was the concert organized by “The Passage” Association with the theme of “*A Night under the Stars*”. The funds collected will help finance projects for the homeless and other needy. During the event, H.R.H. Michael of Kent thanked the Grand Prefect for his presence and for the charitable activities of the Order. Many personalities from the political world were present, including the Hon. Iain Duncan-Smith, Head of the Opposition; the Hon. George Martin, Speaker of the House of Commons; and representatives of the Irish President.

Photos: After the concert “*A Night under the Stars*”, H.R.H. Michael of Kent thanked the Duke and Duchess of Calabria for the activities of the Constantinian Order. In the background is the Vice-Delegate of Great Britain, Mr. Anthony Bailey.

In the Royal Palace of Westminster, the Rev. Michael Seed, Chaplain of the British Delegation; the Vice-Delegate Anthony Bailey; the Duke and Duchess of Calabria; and H.E. the Hon. Michael Martin, Member of Parliament and Speaker of the House of Commons.

In the residence of the Speaker of the House of Commons, T.R.H. Carlo and Camilla of Bourbon with H.E. the Hon. Iain Duncan-Smith, Head of the Opposition.

The last day of the visit, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria paid homage to H.E. the Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Archbishop of Westminster, Primate of the Catholic Church in England, who received them in private audience. Afterward, in the Archiepiscopal Palace of Birmingham, the Prince Carlo conferred the honor of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross of the Constantinian Order on the Archbishop, H.E. the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols. Accompanied then by the Mayor of Birmingham, the Duke and Duchess of Calabria visited the home of Cardinal Newman, in the archives of which are some important documents relating to the Royal House of Bourbon-Two Sicilies.

Photos: (From left to right) Mr. Peter Jennings; the Grand Prefect, the Prince Carlo of Bourbon; H.E. the Most Reverend Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Birmingham; the Lord Belhaven and Stenton, Delegate of Great Britain.

The Grand Prefect presents the decorations of Ecclesiastical Grand Cross to Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Birmingham.

The Chancellor of Birmingham, the Lord Major, and the Duke of Calabria.

The Venerable Cardinal John Henry Newman and the Library of his home.

9 November

Benefit Concert organized by the Order's representation in Novara

More than two thousand people attended the benefit concert given by the Naval Military Band to support the relief and charitable work of the volunteers of the "Constantinian Cross ONLUS".

During the event, a contribution was also presented to representatives of *ANVA* to assist their volunteer programs on behalf of the elderly.

Photos: The benefit concert of the Naval Military Band to support the Constantinian Order.

(In the oval) The Representative of the Order, Claudio Limontini, with the director of the Band.

10 November

Grand Benefit Ball to Benefit the Constantinian Order

The "Vienna on the Lake" Grand Debutante Ball took place on the shore of *Lago Maggiore* under the patronage of the Mayor of Vienna, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic, and the Embassies of Austria to the Holy See and the Quirinal. All the proceeds of the event went to benefit the initiatives of the Constantinian Order.

11 November

Assistance to the Rest Home of Maleo

On this day the Constantinian Delegation of Lombardy organized a social gathering for the elderly guests of the Monsignor Trabattoni Rest Home in Maleo and their relatives.

17 November**The Swiss Delegation**

The Knights and Dames of the Helvetic Delegation of the Constantinian Order participated in a Holy Mass celebrated by the Right Reverend Dom Luckas Schenker, Abbot of the Abbey of Maria Stein, in the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Berne. After the ceremony, a meeting was held in which the participants expressed their gratitude to the Delegate, the Baron Antonio Winspeare Guicciardi, for the activities carried out on Swiss territory and for the successful accomplishment of the agenda that was proposed at the time of his nomination.

The Constantinian Order carries out many charitable activities in the territory of the Helvetic Confederation, including the financial support for the construction of a public shelter for the needy.

21 November**Donation of a Hydraulic Machine to the Radaelli Institute of Milan**

The Knights and Dames of the city of Pavia donated to the Radaelli Institute of Milan an autoclave hydraulic machine. H.E. the Most Reverend Libero Tresoldi, Bishop Emeritus of Crema, Ecclesiastical Commander of Grace, attended the event.

25 November**“Constantinian Cross” at Mantua and Cremona as well**

Following authorization obtained from the Chancery of the Order, the Representations of Mantua and Cremona have taken the necessary steps to organize a “Constantinian Cross” Association along the lines of the one established at Novara.

2 December**Activities of the Representation of Novara**

The Knights of the Representation of Novara organized a recreational day for the guests of the Rest Home of Trecate. The same day, they donated computers to the Villa Costa Center for Disabled Youths, an institute that enjoys the continuing support of the Order.

6 December

Advanced Medical Equipment for the Hospital of Barletta

On the occasion of the liturgical memorial of St. Nicholas of Bari, the Grand Prefect presented the President of the Puglia Region, the Honorable Raffaele Fitto, Constantinian Commander, with the proceeds of the Grand “*Challenge Ball*” Benefit Gala.

The sum is designated for the acquisition of advanced medical equipment for the Hospital of Barletta.

The ceremony took place in the offices of the Chancery in Rome in the presence of the Grand Prior, H.E. the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda; the Grand Chancellor, H.E. the Marquis Aldo Pezzana Capranica del Grillo; the Delegate for Puglia, the Noble Attorney Ugo Patroni Griffi; the Mayor of Barletta, Dr. Francesco Salerno; and Attorney Savino Cannone, President of the ASL.

Photos: Knights and Dames of the Swiss Delegation.

The President of the Puglia Region, the Hon. Raffaele Fitto, and the Grand Prior of the Order, the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda.

The members of the Puglia Delegation in the offices of the Chancery with the High Officers of the Constantinian Order.

15 December

Christmas Visit to Naples

On the occasion of the celebration in Naples of the Holy Mass for the exchange of Christmas greetings, T.R.H. the Prince Carlo and the Princess Camilla of Bourbon visited the *Duomo*, pausing to pray in the Royal Chapel of the Treasury of St. Januarius, before taking a long walk through the streets of the historical town center, receiving the homage and the warm acclaim of the Neapolitan people. After strolling down the *via dei Tribunali* and the *piazza San Gaetano*, they visited the old shops of the artisans who make the nativity scenes at *San Gregorio Armeno* and *San Biagio dei Librai*.

During the day in Naples, the Duchess of Calabria did not want to miss what has become a traditional rendezvous: a visit to the Monastery of *San Gregorio*. The occasion was a happy encounter with the teachers and young students of the “*Santa Patrizia*” Institute. This school, in the heart of Naples, is lovingly administered by religious women as an educational institution for needy children.

The Princess Camilla renewed the gift of a scholarship for a needy girl, giving the Mother Superior a check as a personal contribution.

Photo: The Duke and Duchess of Calabria at the Monastery of *Santa Patrizia*.

15 December***Christmas Celebration in the Basilica of St. Clare in Naples***

The Holy Mass for the exchange of Christmas greetings was presided by H.E. the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda, Grand Prior of the Constantinian Order, in the Gothic Basilica of St. Clare. During the celebration, H.E. Fra' Carlo Arditì di Castelvete, in his role as Knight Grand Cross of Justice and Member of the Royal Deputation of the Order, pronounced a discourse welcoming the Cardinal to the city of Naples, historical seat of the Constantinian Grand Priory, and expressing, in the name of all the Knights and Dames, sincere and warm congratulations on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary of Priestly Ordination. Then, in the name of the Order, H.E. the Prince Francesco d'Avalos, presented His Eminence with a silver plaque in memory of the happy event.

Photos: (In the oval) The Very Reverend Father Luigi Ortaglio, Minister of the Franciscan Friars Minor in Campania, welcomes Cardinal Pompedda who presided over the celebration.

(Below) H.E. the Marquis Fra' Carlo Arditì di Castelvete welcomes the Grand Prior to the city of Naples, historic seat of the Grand Priory.

Participating in the Holy Mass, seated "*in cornu Evangelii*", were the Duke and Duchess of Calabria, with the President of the Royal Deputation, H.E. the Prince Paolo Boncompagni Ludovisi, and H.E. the Prince Alessandro d'Aquino Caramico.

"*In cornu Epistulae*" was a Delegation of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta consisting of H.E. the Venerable Bailiff Fra' Carl E. Paar, representing the Grand Master; H.E. Fra' Carlo Arditì of the Marchesi di Castelvete, representing the Grand Priory of Naples and Sicily; and the Very Reverend Monsignor Azeglio Manzetti, Chief Chaplain of the S.M.O.M.

Photos: (At the top) The Cardinal delivers his homily.

(In the oval) Fra' Carl E. Paar, Fra' Carlo Arditì di Castelvete, and the Very Reverend Monsignor Azeglio Manzetti.

The Duke and Duchess of Calabria, the Prince Alessandro d'Aquino di Caramanico, Donna Edoarda Crociani, and the Prince Paolo Boncompagni Ludovisi.

Also present were the most noble families of the Neapolitan aristocracy: the Carracciolo, the d'Avalos, the Carafa, and the Acton. Present were many Ambassadors accredited to the Holy See and to the Quirinal; the Consular Corps; the Vice-President of the Superior Council of Magistrates, Dr. Giovanni Verde; the Procurator General of the Republic, Dr. Renato De Tullio; the Assessor, Dr. Giulia Parente, representing the Mayor of Naples; and many other important figures from the civilian and military worlds. The most solemn moments of the ceremony were highlighted by the notes of the Trumpeter of the *Nunziatella* Military School, many of whose cadets served as an honor guard within the Basilica.

Photos: The honor guard of cadets from the *Nunziatella* during the Holy Mass.

Before the solemn Blessing, the Rite of Investiture of new Knights and Dames took place. Among those who received the diploma from the hands of the Duke of Calabria were: the Rear Admiral (Air) Ferdinando Sanfelice di Monteforte (*photo 1*); Major General Arturo Tornar (2); the Lieutenant General Bruno Loi, Commandant of the Southern Military Region (3); the

General Daniel Tei, Commandant of the Aeronautical Academy of Pozzuoli (4); the Colonel Vincenzo Papaccio, Commandant of the *Nunziatella* Military School (5); the Prefect of Naples, Dr. Carlo Ferrigno, and the Prefect of Crotone, Dr. Francesco Di Stefano (6); the Hon. Dr. Luigi Falco, Mayor of Caserta (7); the *Questore* of L'Aquila, Dr. Maurizio Ludovici (8); Dr. Maurizio Marinella, furnisher of the Royal House of Bourbon (9); Prof. Alberto Del Genio (10); Dr. Nicola Izzo, *Questore* of Naples (11); Donna Maria Orsini Natale, writer (12); Don Giannello dei Conti de Vito Piscicelli (13); the Rector of the Basilica of St. Clare, the Reverend Father Giuseppe Reale (14); the Reverend Vincenzo de Gregorio (15); and other illustrious personalities.

16 December

Priestly Jubilee of the Grand Prior

On the Third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday that the Liturgy dedicates to joy, H.E. the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda, Grand Prior of the Order, celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of his Priestly Ordination in the Roman Basilica of *Santa Maria in Trastevere*. At the solemn Holy Mass, celebrated by Cardinal Pompedda, vested in an antique rose chasuble, were many Cardinal, Archbishops, Bishops, and all the Prelates of the Apostolic Tribunals. The homily was given by H.E. the Cardinal Camillo Ruini, Vicar of the Pope for the City of Rome, who recalled the years spent studying with the young seminarian Mario Francesco at the *Almo Collegio Capranica* and praised his distinguished cultural and pastoral preparation, thanking God for the graces He has given to the Church in the eminent priest and pastor.

At the end of the Mass, Cardinal Ruini read a special congratulatory message from His Holiness John Paul II.

The Prince Carlo, as Grand Prefect of the Constantinian Order, attended the Sacred Rite with the Princess Camilla and the Delegate for the Lazio Region, the Prince Alessandro Jacopo Boncompagni Ludovisi Altemps. The Duke and Duchess paid homage to His Eminence, presenting, in the name of the Grand Master, the Prince Ferdinando, a precious object in silver engraved with the Constantinian Cross.

Photos: The façade of the Basilica of *Santa Maria in Trastevere*.

(From the left) H.E. the Most Reverend Vincenzo Paglia, H.E. the Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, H.E. the President Emeritus of the Italian Republic, the Hon. Senator Francesco Cossiga, and the Cardinal Pompedda.

20 December

Presentation of Gifts to the Elderly of Modena

The Knights and Dames of the Delegation of Lombardy paid a visit to the guests of the rest home run by the Sisters of the Order of the Daughters of the Oratory. The encounter was the occasion for the presentation of Christmas gifts to the elderly and to check up on the charitable works in progress.

21 December**The Order Finances the Restoration of an Antique Statue of the Virgin in Pavia**

A conservation and restoration work was financed by the Lombard Delegation to save an antique image of the Virgin. H.E. the Most Reverend Alessandro Volto, Bishop of Pavia, presided at the ceremony for the presentation of the statue that will now be placed in the Basilica of St. Lanfranc. At the same time, a modern anti-theft system was inaugurated to safeguard the artistic treasures in this ancient place.

22 December**Presentation of Christmas Gifts**

Constantinian Knights and Dames sent gift packages and food donations to the “*Mamma Rosa*” Foundation in Turi, in the province of Bari; to the “*Maria Consolatrice*” Rest Home in Pavia; and to the “*San Giuseppe*” Rest Home in Belgioiso; and to the Sisters Daughters of the Oratory in Linaiolo.

23 December**Opening of a New Medical Dispensary in Pavia**

As Christmas neared, the Constantinian Order officially inaugurated a medical dispensary at the “*Pertusati*” Institute of Pavia. This structure, to be run by specialized personnel, nursing sisters, and young volunteers, was also furnished with advanced medical equipment.

24 December**Holy Mass of Christmas**

The Knights and Dames of the Constantinian Delegations participated in the Holy Mass of Christmas, marking a special moment of intense spiritual communion.

12 February***Benefit Evening for the Construction of the First Family Home for Children with AIDS***

Under the high patronage of the Duke and Duchess of Calabria, the Constantinian Order, together with the ANLAIDS (National Association for the Fight Against AIDS) section of Campania and the AMMI (Association of Wives of Physicians) of Naples, organized a benefit event to raise funds for the restoration and furnishing of quarters for the first “Family Home” in southern Italy. The building is located in Secondigliano and was donated by the city of Naples.

This institution will welcome HIV-positive children and their mothers, for recreation and treatment, in a loving home atmosphere.

This initiative will serve as an example and stimulus for similar future initiatives in Calabria and Sicily.

It is the first undertaking of its kind in southern Italy.

The benefit gala was held in the splendid salons of the Aeronautical Academy of Pozzuoli, made available at the courtesy of the Commandant, the General Daniele Tei. More than 700 people, including Constantinian Knights and Dames and their friends, took part. Speaking at the official ceremony to present the project were the Grand Prior, the Cardinal Pompedda; Mrs. Clarissa Burt, a “witness” to the benefits of the project; Mrs. Carmella Maietta, President of ANLAIDS of Campania; and Mrs. Mariolina De Martino, President of AMMI of Naples. Among the many personalities present were: the Prefect of Naples, Dr. Carlo Ferrigno; the General Bruno Loi; the Admiral Luigi Lillo; Don Giannello dei Conti de Vito Piscicelli; the Deputy Mayor of Naples, Dr. Rocco Papa; the Assessors Giulia Parente and Rachele Furfaro; the Noble Ladies of the Organizing Committee: Geppina Giordano, Tina Morisani, Maria Rosaria Setola, Anna Maria Somma, and Maria Luisa D’Anna; also present were the illustrious medical Professors Marcello Piazza and Maurizio Maddaloni. Many families of the Neapolitan aristocracy also participated in the evening: the d’Avalos, the Sanfelice di Monteforte, the Acton, the Salier de la Tour Corio, the Gregorio Cattanio di Sant’Elia, the d’Aquino di Caramanico, and the Arditì di Castelvetere.

Photos: The General Daniel Tei, Commandant of the Aeronautical Academy of Pozzuoli, receives a presentation from the Grand Prefect.

The Prince Carlo of Bourbon, the Cardinal Mario Francesco Pompedda, and the General Daniele Tei.

The discourses in the grand salon of the Aeronautical Academy of Pozzuoli.

The Duke and Duchess of Calabria cut the cake together with the Ladies of the Honorary Committee.

The Princess Camilla and the Prince Carlo show off the poster for the event.

Text of the Poster:

Sacred Military Constantinian Order
of Saint George

SOLIDARITY AND TRADITION

The “Family Home” of Secondigliano under restoration.

Medical equipment and furnishings donated by the Constantinian Order.

“A great initiative of solidarity under the auspices of the Constantinian Order of St. George and under the sponsorship of the Duke and Duchess of Calabria, Carlo and Camilla of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, bringing together a prestigious Military Institution like the Aeronautical Academy of Pozzuoli, ANLAIDS of Campania and AMMI of Naples, to offer a concrete response to the most vulnerable who suffer from the scourge of AIDS. This entirely-self-financed concrete humanitarian initiative seeks to activate the most sane forces and fruitful spirits of the city of Naples, relaunching the charitable activities of the Constantinian Order of St. George and directing them into the heart of the South.”

Those who contributed to the benefit for the completion of the first “Family Home” for children with AIDS:

(Editor’s note: *The list of contributors to the Constantinian effort includes a number of prominent personalities, including the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Fra’ Andrew Bertie*)

13 February

Presentation of the Contribution to St. Vincent’s Hospital

Five months after the terrible terrorist attack on the city of New York, a moving ceremony was held to present the proceeds of the benefit concert held last 19 October in Monte Carlo.

It should be recalled that the initiative, organized by the Monaco Association of the Constantinian Knights, drew support from many people, including Knights, Dames, and friends of the Order.

The Delegate of the United States of America, the Honorable David Lacey Garrison, Jr., representing the Grand Prefect, presented the money to the General Director of the Hospital. St. Vincent’s Hospital, after the tragedy of 11 September, received and took care of more than 650 victims and more than 450 firefighters, policemen, and volunteers, injured in the rescue operations.

Photos: The Vice-Delegate, Richard Torrenzano, and the Delegate, David Lacey Garrison, with a companion in front of the wall that became a “memorial” for the victims and those lost.

The moment of the presentation of the contribution in the offices of St. Vincent’s Hospital. From the left, the medical personnel with the Director of the Hospital, David Lacey Garrison, Richard Torrenzano, and William Cavendish of the Constantinian Delegation.

In the photo to the left, the Constantinian Delegation in the Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul; in the photo to the right, the medical personnel show off the hospital.

EVENTS 2002

March

Rome: Organization of the First Meeting “*Cancer can be prevented and successfully treated*” at the Pontifical Institute “*Augustinianum*” in Rome and opening for a national campaign to prevent cancer of the digestive organs.

Naples: Celebration of Palm Sunday in the Basilica of St. Clare.

Novara: Benefit concert for the “Constantinian Cross ONLUS”.

April

Venice: Visit to the Venice Arsenal and investiture of new Knights and Dames.

Rome: Celebration in the Basilica of St. George *in Velabro* of the Solemnity of St. George the Martyr, Protector of the Constantinian Order.

Pavia: Inauguration of the a multipurpose center at the “*Maria Consolatrice*” Institute.

Oropa: Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Black Madonna.

May

Milan: “*Festa di Primavera*” for the guests of the Rest Homes of Pavia, Novara, Como, Cremona, and Mantua.

Palermo: Rite of the Dedication of the Altar and inauguration of the renovated sanctuary of the Royal Church “*Carolina alla Guadagna*”.

June

Bari: Ceremony of inauguration of the plaque commemorating the meeting of His Majesty Francesco II and his August Consort Maria Sofia, organized by the Delegation of Puglia and Basilicata, the City of Bari, and the Rotary Club.

London: Participation in the Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II of England.

July

Dublin/Glasgow: Visit to the Delegation of Ireland and Scotland, benefit event, and investiture of new Knights and Dames.

L’Aquila: Visit to the Delegation of Abruzzo and Molise, benefit event, and investiture of new Knights and Dames.

September

Rome: Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Naples: Celebration of the Feast of St. Januarius.

Caravaggio: Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Madonna of Caravaggio.

October

Washington: Visit to the Delegation of the United States of America, benefit event, and investiture of new Knights and Dames.

November

London: Benefit for “The Passage” and investiture of new Knights and Dames.

Novara: “Grand Debutante Ball”, a benefit under the patronage of the Constantinian Order.

December

Naples: Holy Mass for the exchange of greetings on the upcoming Christmas feasts.