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NORWEGIAN
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Ordo Equestris Sancti Sepulcri Hierosolymitani
Magistral Delegation of Norway



www.oessh.no

International mini conference
THE EXODUS OF CHRISTIANS FROM THE HOLY LAND
- A CHALLENGE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE PEACE
Friday 4 December 2009



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The conference will focus on the severe situation for Christians in the Middle East. There is an on-going exodus of Christians from the Holy Land. If at the end of the 19th century Christians in the Holy Land represented 25 % of the population; today they are less than 2.5 %. About 26 % of the emigrants from the Holy Land are Christians, most of them Palestinians. At the same time, the presence of Christians in the Holy Land is vital for the universal Church as well as for dialogue and the peace building process in the region.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and MF Norwegian School of Theology invite Church leaders, researchers, students and others to this conference, to address the severe situation and to discuss how the Churches may contribute to turn this situation.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre is an official order in the Catholic Church. The spirituality of the order is inspired by the belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and it aims to help and protect the Catholic Latin Patriarchate and the Holy Sepulchre in the Holy Land in financial and spiritual ways.

Programme

- 09.00-9.15 Registration and coffee/tee
09.15-9.30 Opening session by Prof. Dr. Vidar L. Haanes, Rector at MF and Grand Prior Fr. Arne M. Kirsebom SS.CC. KHS
- 9.30-10.15 H.Em. John Patrick Cardinal Foley, Grand Master of the OESSH
- 10.30 – 11.00 Bishop Ole Christian Kvarme, Diocese of Oslo, Church of Norway
”The Christians of the Holy Land – our recent discovery, our present responsibility”
- 11.00-11.30 Prof. August E. Røsnes KHS, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås
“The Palestinians’ situation in light of conflicts, politics and rights in their close region”
- Lunch 11.30 – 12.30
- 12.30-13.15 Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary, Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations and Moderator of the Core Group in World Council of Churches, Palestine/Israel Ecumenical Forum
“The Witness of the Living Stones - and of Other Stones. The Need for the Local Christian Presence in the Holy Land”.
- 13.15-14.15 Panel discussions: *“Christian Presence in the Holy Land?”*
- 14.15-14.30 Final session by Prof. Dr. Vidar L. Haanes, Rector at MF and Magistral Delegate Knut Arstad KHS

Conference Fee is 300,- NOK, including lunch. Registration to Vibeke Wilhelmsen before 20 November 2009:

vibeke.wilhelmsen@mf.no