

# The FRIENDS of the HOLY FATHER

----- ANNUAL REPORT -----

**MAY 2013**



## THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the thirty second Annual General Meeting of the Friends of the Holy Father will be held on **Thursday 20th June 2013 at 6.45 pm** in Vaughan House 46 Francis Street Westminster London SW1P 1QN. For security reasons tickets will be issued. Please see enclosed note. The Annual General Meeting will be preceded by the Annual Mass at the high altar of Westminster Cathedral which will be celebrated by The Most Rev. George Stack, Archbishop of Cardiff.

23a Vincent House  
Vincent Square  
LONDON SW1P 2NB

Dr Michael Straiton KCSG, MB BS, DO  
Hon. Secretary

### AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012
- 3 To receive the Report of the Council for the year ending 31 December 2012
- 4 To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012
- 5 Election of Council:

Chairman	John Dean
Vice Chairmen	Martin Dean David Murphy
Hon. Secretary	Dr Michael Straiton
Hon Treasurer	Gregory Edwards
Other Council Members retiring by rotation:	
To appoint new Member	Mary Maxwell Ivor Thomas

- 6 Election of Independent Examiner  
To appoint Mr Gerard A Smith FCCA as Independent Examiner for the ensuing year.

### TIMETABLE

5.30 pm	Mass in the Cathedral
6.45 pm	Annual General Meeting in Vaughan House
7.30 (approx)	Reception with buffet at which Friends have the opportunity to meet Archbishop George Stack, the Council and each other.
8.30 pm (approx)	End of Meeting.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 2012



We were delighted to welcome our Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Antonio Mennini to our AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2012. He celebrated the Mass for the Pope's intentions beforehand, when he urged us to continue to pray for Pope Benedict XVI but also for all the bishops and priests. Mgr Vincent Brady read out a message from the Holy Father that expressed his gratitude for our support and prayers. We had the honour of the Nuncio's and Mgr Brady's company at the congenial reception that followed.

The Holy See maintains 180 permanent diplomatic missions across the world, directed by the Secretariat of State in Vatican City. Mgr. Brian Udaigwe, until now serving at the London Apostolic Nunciature as First Counsellor, has been consecrated archbishop and on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 Pope Francis appointed him as his Nuncio to Benin. We wish him well in his new assignment.

### Pope Francis's coat of Arms.

Our new Holy Father has retained his previous episcopal coat of arms. Behind are the symbols of the Papacy – the mitre as Bishop of Rome and the crossed keys representing the successor of St. Peter. The shield bears the "IHS" symbol of the Society of Jesus; behind the "H" is the Cross, and three Nails below. The Star on the left below represents the Virgin Mary, and the sprig of spikenard on the right represents her husband, St Joseph. The motto below, ***Miserando atque eligendo***, means "lowly but chosen", literally in Latin "by having mercy, by choosing him".



### Leader of Orthodox Christians attended Pope Francis's Inauguration



His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the Archbishop of Constantinople and spiritual leader of all Orthodox Christians, travelled to Rome to attend the inauguration of Pope Francis on 20<sup>th</sup> March. This is a historic first as even before the schism of 1054 (between Eastern and Western Christianity) the patriarch of Constantinople did not attend the inauguration of a pope.

"This gesture shows the importance which I attach to friendly relations between the two churches," said the patriarch, who has spent years working on inter-religious dialogue to improve relations with Rome.

The Ecumenical Patriarchate at the Phanar in Istanbul dates from the time of the Greek Orthodox Byzantine Empire, which collapsed in 1453 when the city fell to the Ottoman Turks. Patriarch Bartholomew represents the world's 250 million Orthodox Christians. First and foremost his presence is a powerful

symbolic gesture for the cause of Christian unity. It demonstrates the extent to which the Ecumenical Patriarch considers the relationship with the Roman Catholic Church to be a priority. For their part, members of the Vatican staff responded to this grand gesture and arranged for the reading of the Gospel at the installation to be sung in Greek (rather than

Latin) in recognition of the fact that the Ecumenical Patriarch has taken this unprecedented step.



The Pope responded to the warm greetings of Patriarch Bartholomew and calling him Andrew, the name of the apostle founder and patron of the Patriarchate. "Yesterday morning" he said " during Holy Mass, through your presence, I recognized the spiritual presence of the community you represent. In this manifestation of faith, the prayer for unity among believers in Christ seemed even more urgent to men and together somehow to see prefigured this full realization, which depends on the Divine plan and our sincere cooperation".

## PACEM IN TERRIS at 50

On 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013 the Church celebrated a remarkable part of the legacy Pope Francis inherits in marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of *Pacem in Terris*, the last encyclical of Blessed Pope John XXIII, Francis' much-loved predecessor in the See of Peter.

Pope Francis declared on the anniversary "Once again we exhort our people to take an active part in public life, and to contribute towards the attainment of the common good of the entire human family as well as to that of their own country."



Blessed Pope John XXIII is seen here signing the Encyclical *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth) on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1963, in the midst of Cold War anxieties and posturing (the Berlin Wall had been erected two years before, and the Cuban Missile Crisis had occurred a mere six months prior), and spoke of a world where conflicts are settled through negotiation rather than war, and of a Christian understanding that states are called to respect human rights and basic needs: "That every man has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life...."

## POPE GREGORY III – the last non-European Pope before Pope Francis and great evangelist

The history of the Christians of Syria corresponds with the early history of Christianity itself. It was in the city of Antioch (now in Turkey) that the followers of Christ were called "Christians" for the first time, and it was on his way to Damascus that Saint Paul was converted to the Christian faith. Thus, the Christians of Syria, as all the Christians of the Middle East, are conscious that they are the heirs of a very ancient spiritual tradition. Syria gave the Church **six popes** between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> century.



The last Syrian Pope, **Gregory III**, was elected in 731 and reigned for ten years, (pictured here in this 8<sup>th</sup> century medal). His was a troubled pontificate; he came to Rome at the height of the so-called "iconoclastic (image-breaking) controversy". The Emperor Leo III in Constantinople had

forbidden the display of sacred images and their veneration in the East. Pope Gregory asked the Emperor to think again, but when he received no answer, Gregory held a Council which denounced iconoclasm and excommunicated all who destroyed images. In reply the Emperor sent an armed fleet to Rome but it was wrecked on the way.

In ecclesiastical matters Gregory III was more successful. In 732 He received the English missionary **Boniface of Crediton** who wished to set out to evangelise Germany. Pope Gregory backed him fully, giving him the pallium and the authority to establish bishoprics. Six years later he made Boniface legate of the Apostolic See with full powers to organize the Church in Bavaria, Allemannia, Hesse and Thuringia. He also gave the pallium to Egbert of York in 735, thus completing Gregory the Great's plan for two ecclesiastical provinces in England.

## TWO POPES MEET AT CASTEL GANDOLFO

Pope Francis flew by helicopter to the papal summer residence at Castel Gandolfo to meet



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI where the former pope has lived since resigning the pontificate. Both wore white vestments, Benedict XVI with a simple white cassock and Francis with another, also white, but with the short cape and sash that popes wear.

After prayers, they met alone in the private library, where they spoke for 45 minutes. They then went to lunch with the secretaries Archbishop Georg Gänswein, who is also head of the pontifical

household, and Mgr. Alfred Xuareb who served as Pope Benedict XVI's second secretary for seven years. The meeting of the new pope and the pope emeritus was a particularly historic occasion, since no pontiff has resigned in nearly 600 years.

## POPES FROM AFRICA

Christianity arrived in Africa at the end of the first century by two main channels: firstly by the Evangelist St. Mark to Alexandria where it flourished and then spread to Lower Egypt, the Thebaid, Upper Egypt, Nubia and as far as Ethiopia. Secondly, Roman soldiers and merchants brought the Gospel to Carthage, from whence it spread to the North African coastal Roman provinces west of Egypt, producing famous Doctors of the Early Church such as Tertullian, Cyprian and the great Bishop of Hippo, St. Augustine.

The stories of the three African popes remind us that Africa played an important role in the development of Christianity. There are references in the New Testament to African nations and that disciples travelled to Africa to preach the good news. Simon of Cyrene who helped Jesus carry the Cross came from Libya. With dozens of African saints, we recognize that the history of Christianity is tied to the history of the North African Roman provinces. The name Africa came from a Berber tribe, the Afri, who live in the Maghreb. The Berbers are an ancient brown-skinned people who still live in the Atlas mountains and on the coastal plains of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. Three of the early popes were Berbers from North Africa which reflects not only the diversity of the Church at its onset, but also Africa's historic influence on early Christianity.

**Pope St. Victor I** (189-199) was the first of the African popes. He introduced two important practices that Catholics follow to this day. First, he set the date for the celebration of Easter on the liturgical calendar. Second, he made Latin the official language of the Church; at the time of his election the Roman church still used Greek in the liturgy. It was only in the African provinces that Latin was the primary language. Thus, without his papacy, one of the most iconic features of Catholicism may never have emerged.

**Pope St. Miltiades** (311-314) was elevated to the papacy during the time of growing religious toleration. In February 313 the Emperor Constantine I, having conquered Rome, issued the Edict of Milan that put an end to the religious persecution of Christians and enabled Pope Miltiades to reclaim old ecclesiastical buildings that had been confiscated by Roman authorities. Constantine gave the Domus Laterani, that had been confiscated by Nero, to Pope Miltiades; the basilica was to become the Cathedral seat of the Popes as patriarchs of Rome.

**Pope St. Gelasius I** (492-496) was the third Roman pontiff born in Africa. His reign called for strict orthodoxy and a more assertive push for papal authority. He affirmed the primacy of Rome over the entire Church, both east and west. Pope Gelasius had a lasting effect on church-state relations by establishing a distinction between two powers, “the holy authority of bishops” and “the royal power” that still remains a force in international law.

## THE ST. AUGUSTINE GOSPELS

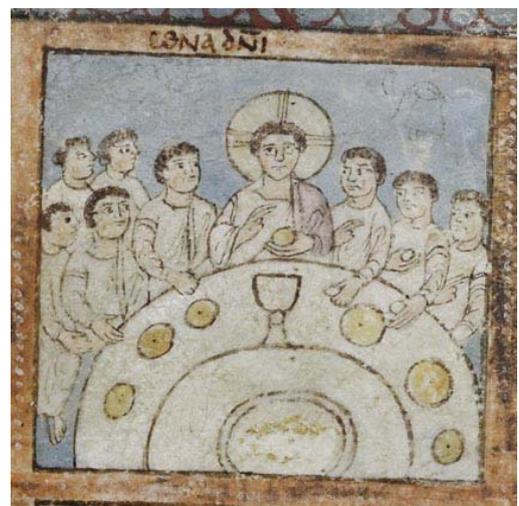


This small Gospel book, a rare survival from the 6<sup>th</sup> century, came to England with Pope Gregory the Great's mission to evangelise the Anglo-Saxon kingdom that arrived in Kent in AD 597. It was made by Italian scribes, possibly at the Benedictine monastery of Monte Cassino. The leader of the mission, St. Augustine with forty monks from Rome, established a monastery in Canterbury and this book, with others, was placed on the altar where it was kept for centuries.

Two pages of illuminations survive; one has twelve pictures of the Passion of Jesus Christ and this enlargement of the one in the centre of the top row depicts the Last Supper.

After the dissolution of the Monasteries in 1535, Catholic buildings, sacred pictures, sculptures and other valuables were systematically and ruthlessly pillaged and destroyed. The first Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, Matthew Parker, recognized the importance of some of the books that came his way and retained them for preservation. They were later transferred to Corpus Christi College in Cambridge and have been kept there safely ever since.

The Gospel book is of such historical importance that it is conveyed by the Librarian of Corpus Christi College to the enthronement of each newly-consecrated Archbishop of Canterbury who kisses it to seal his commitment of service to the church.



## VATICAN TREASURES CANNOT BE SOLD



There are still calls for the sale of Vatican treasures that ignore the legal protection that they enjoy. The contents of the Vatican Museums and Galleries and those at the Lateran Palace are protected under the Lateran Treaty that was signed on May 13, 1929 by Cardinal Gasparri (left) who represented Pope Pius XI and Benito Mussolini who represented King Vittorio Emmanuele II of Italy. The Treaty established Vatican City as an independent sovereign State and gave compensation for the loss of the Papal States.

Article 18 of the Conciliatory Treaty states “The artistic and scientific treasures within Vatican City and the Lateran Palace shall remain open to scholars and visitors, although the Holy See shall be free to regulate the admission of the public thereto”

In other words, this legal agreement ensures that these treasures are conserved, protected and maintained, not only as the cultural heritage of the Church and humanity in general, but also of those Italian citizens who live in the territory that formerly comprised the Papal States, a large chunk of central Italy that was seized from Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1860. This protection is the same as applies to other major collections, such as the British Museum in London.

## POPE FRANCIS'S ONLY TRIP ABROAD IN 2013

**Brazil** will be the only international destination for Pope Francis in 2013. Pope Francis will travel to Rio de Janeiro for the 28<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day, to be held July 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, with the motto "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Mat 28, 19).



## OUR WEBSITE

We had the misfortune to lose contact with the provider of our website: we could neither add nor remove material to keep it up to date. Consequently, a new one has been produced by *Gabriel-media* which is now up and running. To distinguish the new site from the old we have added the definite article "the" making the new name **[www.thefriendsoftheholylfather.org](http://www.thefriendsoftheholylfather.org)**

## PILGRIMAGE 2013

This will be to London **10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October** visiting sites that include some that require special permission to enter such as Lambeth Palace, the Charterhouse, the cells of St Thomas More and St John Fisher in the Tower of London, Westminster Hall and Westminster Abbey on St Edward's Day. Places are still available and for further information please write to:  
Mgr. Ralph Brown Prot. Ap, St. Wilfrid's Convent, 29 Tite Street, London, SW3 4JX.

## THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER

Registered charity number 280489

23a Vincent House, Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2NB

Web site: [www.thefriendsoftheholylfather.org](http://www.thefriendsoftheholylfather.org)

**THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012**

	<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	
	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>		
Voluntary income	6,830	16,143
Investment income - interest receivable	22	22
<b>Incoming resources from Charitable activities</b>	11,423	10,656
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	18,275	26,821
<b>CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>Charitable activities</b>		
Other charitable activities	1,985	1,715
<b>Governance costs</b>	3,269	3,922
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	5,254	5,637
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	13,021	21,184
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JANUARY 2011</b>	69,035	47,851
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2011</b>	82,056	69,035

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial years.

**CONSTITUTION**

The Friends of the Holy Father is a membership society, governed by its Objects and Rules dated 23 June 1980 and amended on 23 June 2005. It is a charitable organisation registered under the Charities Act 1993 – Registration No. 280489.

**PRINCIPAL AIMS**

The objects of the Charity are the promotion and advancement of the Roman Catholic religion by supporting the Pope through the dissemination of the teachings of the Church and the establishment and maintenance of a fund, the income and capital of which are to be applied to assist in defraying the expenses of the Pope in furthering his apostolic ministry.

23a Vincent House  
 Vincent Square  
 London, SW1P 2NB

Dr Michael Straiton KCSG MB BS DO  
 Hon. Secretary

**THE FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012**

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at bank	81,688	69,863
Debtors	2,914	1,450
	84,602	71,313
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Sundry creditors		
Creditors : Amounts falling due within one year	(2,546)	(2,278)
<b>Net current assets</b>	82,056	69,035
<b>Represented by</b>		
Unrestricted funds		
General funds	82,056	69,035

Full accounts etc. will be available at the Annual General Meeting or on request.

**TRUSTEES**

Brian Callaghan, FCA  
John Scanlan, KCSG, KGCHS

**MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

<b>Chairman</b>	John Dean BA, DipLaw, DipLP
<b>Vice Chairmen</b>	Martin Dean, KCHS David Murphy, MA
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Dr Michael Straiton, KCSG, MB, BS, DO
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Gregory Edwards, BSc, ACA
<b>Other Council Members</b>	Hazel Allport Mary Edwards, DCSG DGCHS Jennifer Edwards, BSc Margaret Hood Mary Maxwell, DCHS Ann Ross, DCHS

**Ecclesiastical Adviser** Monsignor Ralph Brown, Prot. Ap., KCHS