

# *The FRIENDS of the* **HOLY FATHER**



**The Friends of the Holy Father were honoured to be able to sponsor a Conference in the Vatican convened by Pope Francis with the help of two large donations from Mr Anthony Mascolo and the the Michael Hintze Foundation, by sending £125,000 to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences who hosted the event.**

People trafficking, modern slavery and climate change are issues that Pope Francis seeks international support to address. He convened the conference on Tuesday 23rd July held in the Synod Hall of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences where he greeted 70 mayors from major cities around the world who were invited to attend to discuss these subjects of current concern. Among those present were mayors of New York City, Boston, San Francisco,

New Orleans, Vancouver, Madrid, Rome and Stockholm. Our Chairman John Dean was also invited to attend.

There are an estimated 35.8 million people enslaved in the world (the Global Slavery Index 2014). 20.9 million people are victims of forced labour. There are more people in slavery today than at any other time in human history. It can come in many forms such as forced labour, sex trafficking, child trafficking, bonded labour, domestic servitude or organ harvesting.

The mayors pledged to reduce their cities' emissions and urge global leaders to pass a "bold climate agreement" at the forthcoming United Nations talks in Paris. The meeting also focussed on combating modern-day slavery.





## Gift to the Pontifical Swiss Guards

**The Friends sent the Holy Father £7,700 to refurbish the Swiss Guards' gymnasium in the Vatican with some new equipment - new machines combining technology with the latest engineering. Commander Chistoph Grat wrote "We are immensely grateful to the Friends for allowing us to realise this ambition".**

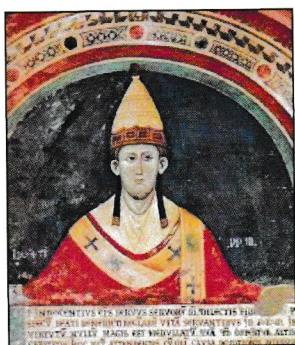
Since 1506 the Swiss guards have protected the Pope and his residence; their mission has not changed in over 500 years. What has changed are the methods and strategies they employ to fulfil that mission. The Guards respond to this call and the environment in which they must accomplish their mission.

Clothed in the traditional renaissance uniform is actually a state-of-the-art trained Swiss security professional. These young men, then as now, also share a certain appetite

for adventure: living in an international environment, experiencing the camaraderie, becoming acquainted with the latest developments and practices in personal security, experiencing one's faith more profoundly and a new language, "Bella Italia." In this Mediterranean climate it is not only sweet fruit that ripens but also faith, conviction, proficiency, friendship and joy of life.

Pope Francis has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Graf (above right) as the new commander of the Pontifical Swiss Guard. Graf joined the military unit in 1987. He replaced Colonel Daniel Anrig (above left), who retired in February 2015 and had been commander since 2008. For over 500 years, the 110-man unit has been responsible for the safety of the Pope, including the security of the Apostolic Palace.

## The Charter of Liberties of 1216



**In 1215 at Runnymede, King John granted in the Magna Carta that "to no one will we sell, to no one will we deny or delay, justice or right". Arbitrary action by the ruler was prohibited: "no free person is to be taken or imprisoned or dispossessed or outlawed or exiled or in any way ruined, nor will we**

**go or send against him, except by the lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land." It was a reaction to King John and his oppressive and unsuccessful leadership. These promises remain on the English statute book to this day.**

However, the document was annulled by Pope Innocent III (right) on the grounds that it had been extracted

under duress and was detrimental to the king's rights and dignity. Civil war escalated, yet the Charter survived. Pope Innocent III died on 24th July 1216 and was succeeded by Pope Honorius III. When John died on 18th October 1216 at Newark he was succeeded by his 9 year-old son Henry who was in desperate need of support. On 11th November at Gloucester, William Marshal was named by the King's Council, (the chief barons who had remained loyal to King John), to serve as protector of the nine-year-old King Henry III and to serve as Regent.

On 12th November William Marshal and the new Pope Honorius's Legate, Guala Bicchieri, issued a "Charter of Liberties" based on Magna Carta but with some of the most demeaning clauses removed, and authorised it in the new King's name. Such reissues would be frequent in the 13th century as kings sought support or money; the clauses that today survive on the statute book are in fact based on the reissue of 1225, not on the original grant of 1215.



# Prayers composed by Popes

**POPE JOHN XXII Jacques d'Euse – 1244-1334** was elected Pope in 1316 succeeding Clement V at Avignon. He canonised Thomas Aquinas and is believed to have composed the prayer *Anima Christi* which has become the English hymn -

*Soul of Christ, sanctify me.*

*Body of Christ, save me.*

*Blood of Christ, inebriate me.*

*Water from the side of Christ, wash me.*

*Passion of Christ, strengthen me.*

*O Good Jesus, hear me.*

*Within Thy wounds hide me.*

*Suffer me not to be separated from thee.*

*From the malignant enemy defend me.*

*In the hour of my death call me.*

*And bid me come unto Thee,*

*That with all Thy saints,*

*I may praise thee*

*Forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

**Pope Saint John Paul II** urged Catholics to recite this prayer to Saint Michael at the end of his Angelus message given in St Peter's Square, Sunday, April 24, 1994

*"The prayer can fortify us for that spiritual battle about which the Letter to the Ephesians speaks. Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power." (Ephesians 6:10). And to this same battle that the Book of the Apocalypse refers to, recalling in front of our eyes the image of St Michael the Archangel (cf. Revelations 12:7). Surely, this scene was very present to Pope Leo XIII, when, at the end of the previous century, he introduced to the entire Church a special prayer to St Michael: 'St Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil...' "* Even if today this prayer is no longer recited at the end of the Eucharistic celebration, I invite all to not forget it, but to recite it in order to obtain help in the battle against the forces of evil.

## **Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903) Prayer to St Michael the Archangel**

At the end of the Mass he was celebrating on 13th October 1664, Pope Leo XIII fell to the ground following a vision in which the Devil claimed that he would seek to destroy the Church. He composed a prayer for the assistance of St Michael the Archangel, the leader of the powers of heaven against the powers of hell.:

*Saint Michael the Archangel,*

*Defend us in battle*

*be our protection against the wickedness  
and snares of the devil;*

*May God rebuke him, we humbly pray;*

*And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host,*

*by the power of God, thrust into hell*

*Satan and all evil spirits*

*Who wander through the world*

*For the ruin of souls.*

*Amen*





# Prayers composed by Popes (continued)



## Pope Pius XI - "Foundation of Order"

From the Encyclical Letter of Pope Pius XI, 'Caritate Christi', May 3, 1932

*Belief in God is the one firm foundation of any social order and upon that belief any human authority must necessarily rest. Therefore those who do not want to see the collapse of all law and order must use every effort to prevent the enemies of religion from carrying into effect the designs which they violently and openly proclaim ... How can human commerce go on, what store can be set by agreements, if conscience offers no security, if there is no faith in God and no fear of Him? Remove this foundation and the whole moral law collapses, and there is nothing to prevent the gradual but inevitable ruin of nations, family, State and civilization itself.*

## Pope Leo the Great (AD 400-461) On the fundamental dignity of Christians

In his *In Nativitate Domini* Christmas Day sermon Leo articulates a fundamental dignity common to all Christians, whether saints or sinners, and the consequent obligation to live up to it:

*Our Saviour, dearly-beloved, was born today: let us be glad. For there is no proper place for sadness, when we keep the birthday of the Life, which destroys the fear of mortality and brings to us the joy of promised eternity. No one is kept from sharing in this happiness. There is for all one common measure of joy, because as our Lord the destroyer of sin and death finds none free from charge, so is He come to free us all. Let the saint exult in that he draws near to victory. Let the sinner be glad in that he is invited to pardon. Let the gentile take courage in that he is called to life.... having obtained a share in the birth of Christ let us renounce the works of the flesh. Christian, acknowledge thy dignity, and becoming a partner in the Divine nature, refuse to return to the old baseness by degenerate conduct. Remember the Head and the Body of which thou art a member. Recollect that thou wert rescued from the power of darkness and brought out into God's light and kingdom. By the mystery of Baptism thou wert made the temple of the Holy Ghost: do not put such a denizen to flight from thee by base acts, and subject thyself once more to the devil's thralldom: because thy purchase money is the blood of Christ, because He shall judge thee in truth Who ransomed thee in mercy, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit reigns for ever and ever. Amen.*



This sculpture in St Peter's depicts Pope Leo's meeting with Atilla the Hun



# FHF Pilgrimage September 2015

*David Murphy, a member of the FHF committee, describes our recent pilgrimage*

**Just short of a dozen Friends of the Holy Father were met at Bologna Airport by Jacqueline Joseph, our longtime Pax Travel tour manager and driven to the comfortable Hotel University in via Mentana.**

We made the traditional pit-stop en-route to acquire the essential ingredients for pre-dinner relaxation, but these were not sampled until after the celebration of the Evening Prayer at the nearby Basilica of San Martino where our new spiritual leader, Father Guy Sawyer, proved himself not only able to sing, but also to remember the tunes of at least nineteen English hymns, to the great relief of the pilgrims who had noticed the absence of Ann Ross who in previous years had been heavily relied on, but had sadly suffered a fall just before we were due to leave.

We ate on both nights in the Nicola Restaurant in the Piazza Martino. Day two saw the highlight of our pilgrimage to Bologna, with Mass at the tomb of St Dominic, the famous



Arca created by Nicholas Pisano (left) including sculptures by Guido Reni and Michelangelo.

We had a local guide, Antonella, who explained which parts of the Arca were made by which artist and pointed out the splendid reliquary in which the remains of St Dominic's skull are venerated. We were then

led across part of the University area to the Basilica of St Stephen, which enclosed a group of buildings which at one stage possibly numbered seven (according to the plan of St Petronius who had visited Jerusalem) but now number four as a consequence of restorations in around 1880. Most intriguingly it contains a version of the Holy Sepulchre, in which St Petronius was once buried.

Afterwards we walked down the Via Santo Stefano to see the medieval towers at the heart of the city and through an attractive area of small shops which had in the past housed the city's markets. After lunch we saw the great Basilica of St Petronius in the Piazza Maggiore which was being readied for some racing next day (but not a Sienese Palio we were disappointed to learn) while others saw the great fountain of Neptune, from whose trident the city's badge is taken.

The next day we took a seventy-eight mile coach ride to Padua where Father Guy celebrated Mass for us at the shrine of St Anthony. Our local guide, Caterina, explained how

the church was begun in 1232 to be St Anthony's burial place. It has been developed with six Byzantine domes and two minaret-like campanili. In the afternoon the coach took us to the Capella degli Scrovegni built in 1303 and famously decorated over every surface in frescos by Giotto. The adjoining palace no longer exists and the Chapel is now owned and managed by Padua city. The same evening we were driven back south to Ravenna, where we stayed in the extremely comfortable NH Hotel in Piazza Mameli.

We heard Mass in the Basilica of San Francesco after which we met our new guide, Verdiana, who showed us the nearby monument and tomb of Dante Alighieri, a building which seemed to pale into insignificance once we were introduced to the wonders of a city which was at one time the capital of the western world and which, because of its position inside the marshlands made it difficult to conquer, but managed to preserve so much of its ancient decoration and architectural space.

We visited the Church of San Vitale to admire the marbles, capitals and mosaics which include the retinues of the Emperor Justinian and of his wife the Empress Theodora. We saw some of the most precious examples of Byzantine art still extant, including the astonishing Mausoleum of Galla Placidia, a small cruciform building built in 450 and described by UNESCO experts as the earliest and best preserved of all mosaic monuments, and at the same time one of the most artistically perfect. We visited the Basilica of St Apollinare Nuovo, originally the Ostrogothic Emperor Theoderic's palatine church, whose wall mosaics rank among the largest to have come down to us from antiquity.

The next day we drove to the Basilica of Sant'Appollinare in Classe, well outside the city and close to the site where the Emperor Augustus had established his fleet. We also saw the Mausoleum of Theodoric, built on a massive scale and capped with a huge single-stone roof whose engineering would be a problem today even with a tower crane.

Theoderic was king of the Germanic Ostrogoths (476-526), ruler of Italy (493-526) and regent of the Visigoths from 511. In the afternoon we visited the Orthodox Baptistry and the Archiscopal museum whose great treasure is Bishop Maximian's throne made entirely of ivory. In the evening we went to Mass very close to our hotel in the Church of St John the Evangelist built by the Empress Galla Placidia in thanksgiving for surviving a great storm that struck her ship sailing from Constantinople. We walked next morning to the Basilica of Santa Maria in Porto for a final celebration in this Paulist church, quite close to Sant'Appollinare Nuovo, before going to Bologna airport where we said goodbye to Jacqueline and caught the flight home.



# The First University

The University of Bologna was founded in 1088, making it the oldest university in the western world. The establishment that we call a University today began to evolve in Bologna in the late 11th century when masters of grammar, rhetoric and logic began to devote themselves to the study of Roman Law.

Ancient Roman Law as codified by the Emperor Justinian in the 6th century had been lost in Western Europe following the collapse of the Empire in the West. The jurists in Bologna rediscovered the Digest of the law in the 11th century, a central text in Roman Law, and recognized its importance. They began teaching it and attracted scholars from far and wide.

The University arose around mutual aid societies of foreign students in Bologna called "nations" grouped by their particular nationalities. The students from Italy included Lombards, Tuscans and Romans and those from beyond the Alps included the English, Catalans, Hungarians, Polish and Germans. Each national group had a problem in that at that time for any crime in the city committed by a foreigner, a collective punishment was imposed on their fellow-countrymen, including the students,

These students of different nationalities hired scholars from the city to teach them. Eventually, these various "nations" decided to come together to form a larger association - the University - an association that provided a strong force for collective bargaining with the city officials and gained greater rights for the students themselves, eventually achieving the abolition of collective punishment. They also bargained with their tutors who served as professors at the University and who could be hired and fired by an elected Council of two representatives from each "nation" which governed the institution, where important decisions required a majority vote from all the students to ratify. The professors themselves formed a College of Teachers and secured their own rights and were then able to set examination fees and degree requirements.

Law first taught in Bologna became the bedrock upon which medieval law was built. It influenced and shaped the legal documents of the early Middle Ages, and it furnished the core of academic law that was taught at the University. The teachers then codified the law which provided a sophisticated model for contracts, rules of procedure, family law, testaments, and a strong constitutional system that was soon in use across Europe.

## Anniversaries in 2016

### 1400th - Death of Agilulf, King of the Lombards in AD 616

He converted to Catholicism due to the efforts of Pope Gregory the Great. (596-602). At the time Pope Gregory was heavily engaged in promoting the Catholic faith to different pagan or heretical barbarians who had invaded Western Europe following the collapse of the Roman Empire in the West. These included the Visigoths in Spain, the Anglo-Saxons in Britain with the mission of St Augustine in 597, the Franks in Gaul and the Lombards who originally came from a small tribe in Southern Scandinavia that had settled in the fertile plains of northern Italy that now bear their name,

The pagan Lombards posed a serious threat to the survival of Rome. They had conquered much of northern Italy and moved to Rome to besiege it into submission. Pope Gregory assumed temporal power to address this threat by appointing governors of cities and gave them instructions and provided them with munitions of war.



The Lombard King Agilulf had succeeded to the throne in 591 and married the devout Catholic Bavarian princess Theodelinda soon after. Agilulf had arrived at the gates of Rome, ready to besiege and conquer the city but Pope Gregory went out of the city gates to meet him at St Peter's on the Vatican Hill. The King was so impressed by the Pontiff that a ransom was paid, the siege was lifted and peace secured.

Of equal importance was the Pope's dealings with his Agilulf's Queen, Theodelinda. They became friends and Gregory sent her precious gifts such as the golden Gospel cover, a pectoral Cross for her son and the Iron Crown of Lombardy (above) that was fashioned around one of the Nails of the Crucifixion brought back by St Helena from Jerusalem. After the King's conversion Theodelinda built many churches in Lombardy and Tuscany; among them are the Cathedral at Monza and the first Baptistery in Florence; all are dedicated to St John the Evangelist.



## 300th – Ordination of Bishop Richard Challoner (1691-1781)

70th - Re-interred in Westminster Cathedral in 1946

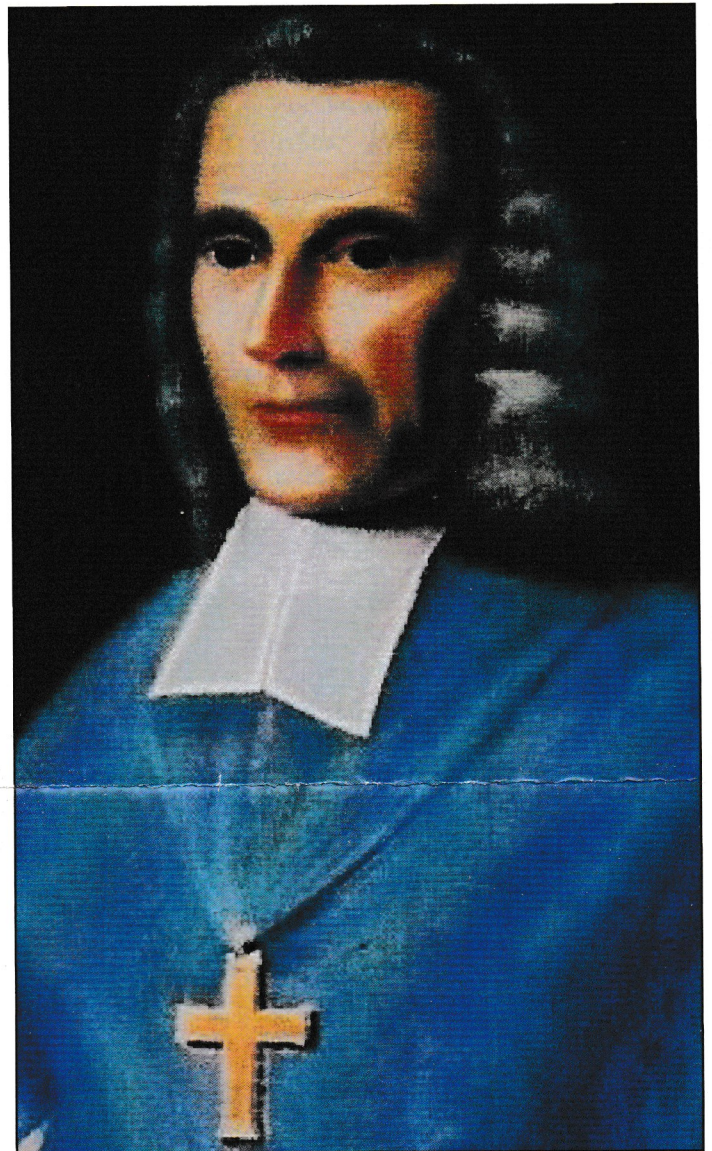
Richard Challoner was the leader and foremost figure among English Catholics in the 18th century when the penal laws were still in force. For 50 years before the passing of the Catholic Relief Act of 1778 he served his small flock with unwavering diligence always in a state of utmost personal danger..Under these laws being a Catholic priest was a felony and if caught he was liable to life imprisonment.

The period covered by Challoner's long life was without question the most discouraging through which the Catholic Church in England had ever passed. Following the revolution of 1688 ferocious penal laws were enacted under William and Mary and Queen Anne. For several generations after, the dwindling Catholic remnant was driven into the closest seclusion..The houses of the Old Catholic landowners were meeting places of the local Catholic faithful but the double land tax imposed on them caused many to apostatise.

Challoner was trained at the seminary at Douai in Flanders where he was ordained a priest in 1716 and joined the teaching staff where he was appointed Professor of Theology and served there for the following five years. All hours of the day were related to the primary purpose of prayer for an England in which Catholic priests were compelled to live under assumed names, and where Mass, or even Catholic devotions of any kind, could only be said in secret and behind locked doors. However, the public could attend Mass in the Embassy Chapels in London.

He returned to London as a missionary priest from 1730 becoming a bishop in 1741. In 1758 he became vicar apostolic of the London district. He was above all an apostle of the spirit at a time when spiritual life was at its lowest ebb in England, He not only inspired the people but moulded the forms of Catholic devotion in the succeeding generations. His literary output alone would have been formidable for any lesser man. To him is due the Catholic version of the Bible, the *Penny Catechism* that was used for generations, the *Garden of the Soul* and *Meditations for every Day of the Year*.

He died after the Gordon Riots ravaged London and was buried at Milton in Berkshire. And in 1946 he was re-interred in the Chapel of St Gregory and St Augustine in Westminster Cathedral. The Cause for the beatification has rumbled on for years by he surely deserves recognition as a hero of the Faith in this country.





# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2016

This will take place on **14th June 2016** at Vaughan House in Francis Street, behind Westminster Cathedral. It will be preceded by Mass at 5.30pm in the Cathedral for the Pope's intentions and the chief celebrant will be **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, Archbishop of Westminster, who will attend the AGM and reception afterwards.

**PILGRIMAGE** to Seville, Cordoba Ubeda and Granada from **26 September to 2 October 2016** in honour of **Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman** who was born in Seville in 1802 and **St John of the Cross** joint founder of the Order of Discalced Carmelites, who died at Ubeda in 1591.

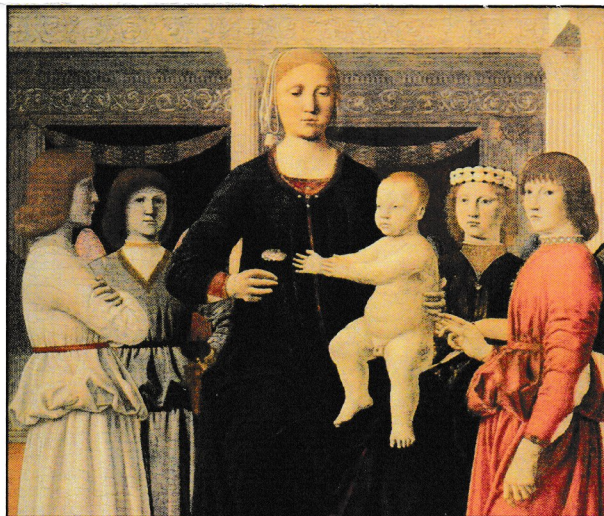
For further information on joining this pilgrimage please write to: **Fr Guy Sawyer, 22 Roxborough Park, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex HA1 3BE.**

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription renewal notice is offered to those who do not renew by Banker's Order. Please act on it **now**. If you would like to renew by Banker's Order in future, please ask for a form or download one from the website. We would also be very grateful if taxpayers could complete a Gift Aid Form if you have not already done so. The annual subscription remains at a minimum of £20.

Please remember that leaving a **legacy** to the F.H.F. is a way of continuing your support for the Holy Father well into the future. We are a national charity (no. 280489) so your bequest is exempt from inheritance tax. It can be included in a new will or added in a codicil to your existing will.

*We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



*The FRIENDS of the*  
**HOLY FATHER**

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