



EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM

OFFICE OF THE  
GRAND MASTER

9 September 2015

The Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore  
320 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore MD 21201  
U.S.A.

Dear Archbishop Lori:

May I join the legion of sorrowing faithful to extend my condolences to you and to the Archdiocese of Baltimore on the death of our mutual and dear friend, Monsignor Arthur Valenzano. I deeply regret that serious meetings here in Rome forbid my presence with you for the obsequies.

Arthur was the prototypical man without guile, totally sincere and honest, ever available to his people and to his Archbishop. While not a member of a "faculty", he ever remained a priest-formator for the clergy and seminarians of Baltimore and only the Lord knows the effect that his gentle but principled guidance has had on so many of our clergy, invariably behind the scenes.

On the regular occasions of my return from Rome, Art was always high on my list for pasta together! This, I will very much miss now.

Do, if you have an opportunity, pass along my prayerful assurances to his brothers and family whom he loved dearly and to whom he looked for ongoing encouragement and sturdy support.

And thank you, most especially, for your priestly presence with Art during months of his critical illness! Your fatherly care has spoken volumes to all of us and especially to our presbyterate.

This Thursday at 5:00pm I will be offering Mass for our friend, in tandem with the celebration in our Basilica. I will also include a memento for Tom Tewes as he reflects on a friend he knew so well and whom he will miss so profoundly!

Paradoxically to some, perhaps, but not to those who rejoice in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, I suspect that Thursday's Eucharist will be a most joyful and memorable celebration.

Fraternallly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Edwin Cardinal O'Brien".

Edwin Cardinal O'Brien  
*Grand Master*

EOB/am