Statement of John Cardinal Foley

on the Appointment of Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien

as Pro Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

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It is a delight to learn of the appointment of Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, as the Pro Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Archbishop O'Brien is a learned, prayerful, zealous, and dedicated prelate whom I have had the pleasure of knowing since his first year of priestly ordination. Father O'Brien was an assistant pastor at the parish church on the grounds of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, when as a student-priest at Columbia University School of Journalism, I was assigned to write a story about his unique parish. I later worked closely with then-Monsignor O'Brien when he was Director of Communications for the Archdiocese of New York, and when he was Rector at the North American College in Rome, and later when as a Bishop he served as Auxiliary to Cardinal John O'Connor. Archbishop O'Brien would sometimes visit Rome in the course of his service as Archbishop of the United States Military Services, and later when he was appointed Archbishop of the nation's premier see of Baltimore.

Because of his extensive experience and splendid dedication as priest and archbishop, Archbishop O'Brien will be an outstanding leader of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. I could not be happier that he is my successor as spiritual leader of this outstanding group of men and women dedicated to the service of the Church in the Holy Land, the land made sacred by the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.