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LAYOUT

Monika Salzgeber, Zurich

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

FOUNDATION OF
THE VATICAN PONTIFICAL
SWISS GUARD



FOUNDATION OF THE
PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard was launched in 2000 in Fribourg, Switzerland, to ensure the long-term existence of the Guard.

The purpose of the Foundation is to support the Swiss Guard and its Guardsmen financially, materially and socially.



CONTENTS

	Ruth Metzler-Arnold, President of the Foundation	6
1	Funding areas of the Foundation	10
1.1	Training and further education	12
1.2	Support for families and children	14
1.3	Professional reintegration	16
1.4	Recruitment and PR work	18
1.5	Infrastructure and equipment	20
1.6	Renovation of the Swiss Chapel	22
2	Interview by Colonel Christoph Graf	23
3	Jubilee	27
4	Group of the 147	29
5	Foundation board	30
6	Finance	33
7	Donations and grants	37
7.1	Administrative expenses	37
7.2	Revision	38
7.3	Audit	38
7.4	Donation accounts	39



RUTH METZLER-ARNOLD

PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION

„Despite the constraints resulting from the fight against the pandemic, the Foundation was able to honour its commitments.“

Dear Readers,

In 2000, the Foundation for the Pontifical Swiss Guard saw the light of day. We would really have liked to celebrate our 20th anniversary with our patrons and donors – but the year 2020 will be remembered as exceptional for a different reason.

The coronavirus left its mark on the Swiss Guard as well. For the Foundation, it signified the cancellation of major events organized to thank our existing donors and consolidate our links with them, and to encourage potential future donors. It also meant foregoing the celebration of its 20th anniversary. We were nevertheless able to finance all the projects which had been planned for the Guard during the year.

In addition, in December 2020, the founding president of the Foundation, former Federal Councillor Flavio Cotti, passed away at the age of 81. He had led our organisation for 11 years throughout the difficult time during which the Guard's reputation had been severely compromised following the murder of its commander in 1998.

Since then, one of the aims of our Foundation has been to support the attractiveness of the Pontifical Swiss Guard to potential recruits by creating an attractive environment for Guardsmen and their families, and by making their subsequent return home easier.

Not even the coronavirus can change that. Despite the constraints resulting from the fight against the pandemic, the Foundation was able to honour its commitments. It remains on a sound footing, thanks to you, our dear donors and patrons.

On behalf of the Board of the Foundation, I would like to thank you deeply for your commitment.

Ruth Metzler-Arnold

Former Federal Councillor
President of the Foundation Board



1

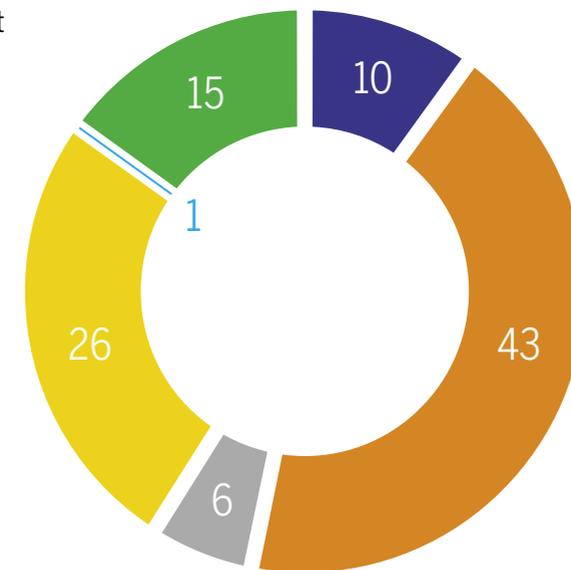
FUNDING AREAS OF THE FOUNDATION

Over the past year, the Foundation has supported the following areas that are crucial to improving living conditions in Rome and the attractiveness of serving on the Swiss Guard:

- Education and on-going training
- Support for families and children
- Contributions to professional reintegration in Switzerland
- Infrastructure and equipment
- Support with recruitment and PR work
- Renovation of the Swiss Chapel (Santa Maria della Pietà, Campo Santo Teutonico)

FUNDING 2020 BY AREA

In percent



- Education and on-going training
- Support for families and children
- Contributions to professional reintegration in Switzerland
- Renovation of the Swiss Chapel
- Infrastructure and equipment
- Support with recruitment and PR work



1.1

TRAINING AND FURTHER EDUCATION

The Guardsmen regularly take part in internal and external on-going training courses, so that they are able to meticulously fulfil the demanding tasks required in the service of the safety of the Holy Father.

More than ninety Guardsmen have already completed the comprehensive training required to obtain a Federal certification as a specialist in security and guarding. The specialist knowledge acquired not only helps them accomplish their daily duties, but also makes it easier for them to return to employment after their time in the Guard.



1.2 **SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN**

In 2011, the Foundation began paying family contributions based on the Swiss model, so as to relieve the financial burden placed on the families of the Guardsmen. The contributions are based on the rates of the canton of Fribourg.

Since 2019, the school fees for the Swiss school in Rome have also been paid. The children of the Guardsmen should have the opportunity of obtaining a school education according to Swiss standards. This will enable them to start an apprenticeship or facilitate their access to higher education.

The allowances also serve to relieve the Guard families of expenses for the sporting and musical development of their children.

It is of primary concern to the Foundation that the household budget of the families be supported through a contribution to the cost of education.

In addition, the Foundation also contributes to the families' utility costs.



1.3

PROFESSIONAL REINTEGRATION

During their time of service in Rome, the members of the Guard need to pay voluntary contributions to the Swiss State pension system. This enables them to avoid large gaps in their contributions after returning to Switzerland and subsequently being faced with a massive reduction in their pensions when they retire. Since 2019, the Foundation has financed half of the Guards' voluntary pension plan contributions.

The Foundation also finances a retirement savings plan as part of the occupational pension scheme. This should also help make it easier for Guardsmen to be integrated back into the labour market on their return to Switzerland after completing their service.

1.4

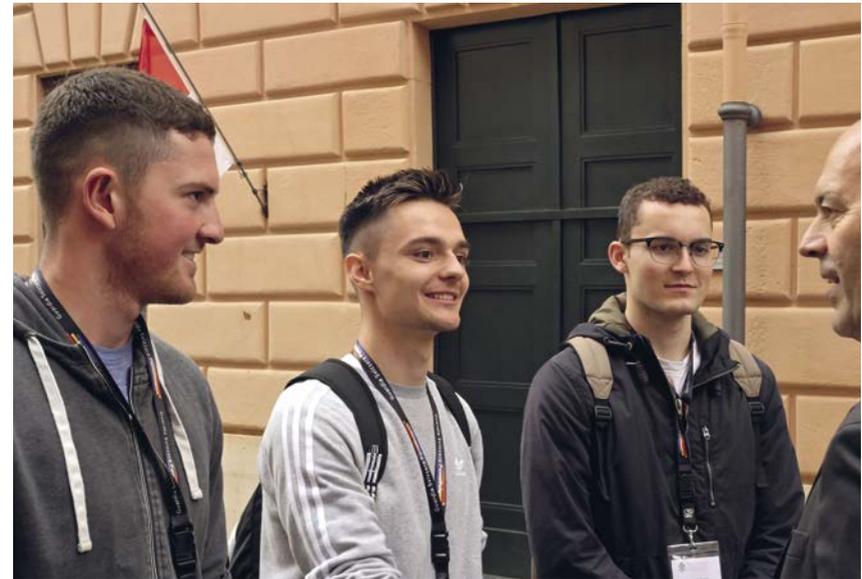
RECRUITMENT AND PR WORK

The recruitment of a sufficient number of Guardsmen proves a challenge every year.

The Foundation supports the Guard by creating and providing advertising materials, ensuring a presence at job fairs and providing funding for the “Taster Week” for prospective Guards. This week enables them to obtain an impression of life in the Guards’ quarters and gives them the opportunity to visit Saint Peter’s Basilica and the Apostolic Palace. The Foundation covers part of the travel, food and board costs for the participants.

The Command of the Pontifical Swiss Guard operates the IRC (Information and Recruitment Centre) in Glarus for recruitment purposes. The IRC is affiliated with a professional personnel management office, which serves as a contact point for those interested in joining the Guard and conducts interviews with candidates.

The Foundation’s support of the Guard’s activities includes the production of brochures and advertising materials, as well as publishing articles and giving interviews in the Swiss media.





1.5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT

MORIONS

In addition to the everyday headgear – the beret –, the Pontifical Swiss Guard wears a magnificent helmet of polished steel, known as a 'morion', on important public holidays.

To ensure that the Guard can be provided with the right equipment at all times, 25 new helmets need to be purchased. They are forged by hand using traditional craftsmanship methods. Special attention has to be paid to the fit of the morion, which weighs 1.9 kg.

ARMOUR

The historical suit of armour is worn at the swearing-in ceremony, Christmas and Easter. Traces of wear and tear were clearly visible. To ensure the preservation of these splendid suits, they had to be replaced with hand-crafted replicas of the originals. This project was successfully completed.

1.6

RENOVATION OF THE SWISS CHAPEL

A document dated 16th May 1520 attests to the transfer of rights of use of the front left-side chapel of the Church of Santa Maria della Pietà on Campo Santo Teutonico to the Pontifical Swiss Guard. It is thus considered to be the first Guardsmen's chapel, and was used as a place of worship as well as a burial ground.

The chapel with its mural paintings is considered a building of great historical value and worthy of preservation.

However, the stonework and plasterwork as well as the furnishings are showing considerable damage caused by damp. Not only does this adversely affect the chapel's visual appearance but more importantly, it has attacked the fabric of the building.

To tackle the restoration of the Chapel of the Swiss Guard, a wide range of measures that need to be carried out in several stages are planned.

The Foundation is contributing part of the costs dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the murals.

2

INTERVIEW

COLONEL CHRISTOPH GRAF, COMMANDER OF THE PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD



The coronavirus pandemic broke out in early spring of 2020. Italy was particularly affected. How did this impact on the Guard's service?

From the beginning, the members of the Pontifical Swiss Guard complied with the directives of the Vatican Health Directorate, which correspond to the regulations issued by the Republic of Italy. Service continued according to these directives, even if – due to the travel restrictions – fewer pilgrims and tourists came to Rome.

Understandably, however, the activities of the Guardsmen were restricted. This was particularly evident in the canteen, the central meeting place of our community life.

As the Guardsmen could no longer enjoy the “dolce vita romana” in the evening, and the canteen was in constant use due to the restrictions placed on the number of people, those Guardsmen with cooking skills helped the Albertine Sisters prepare the evening meal.

Training had to be constantly adapted to the situation. Italian lessons, for example, could only take place online. Only very limited sporting activities, which are indispensable for the Guardsmen, were available.

How much did the restrictions affect the recruitment of new members? Particularly given that the target number was raised to 135 men.

Despite the pandemic, recruitment went surprisingly well. On 4th January 2021, 15 recruits started training, which means that the target number of 135 men was almost reached. Since our reform and the related increase in the number of recruits was approved by the State Secretariat of the Holy See, we have initiated a large-scale campaign in Switzerland, with presentations in educational institutions and recruit schools of the Swiss Army as well as appearances at job fairs. We have also increased our presence on social media. Our Instagram profile recently reached 12,000 followers.

We cannot and will not rest on our laurels now. We must use all the possibilities and options for marketing and establishing contact with the Swiss population, all the more so since we were hardly able to participate in events with direct contact during this pandemic year. We will try to compensate for this in 2021, with the support of the Foundation.

Professionalism and a high degree of training also increase attractiveness. To what extent do Guardsmen use their training for a subsequent professional activity?

It must be underlined first of all that our training brings benefits to every Guardsman. It supports the development of personality and helps young

people to acquire maturity, self-confidence, a knowledge of human nature, etc. This is an advantage in every environment.

Some of the Guardsmen choose a career in the Swiss security sector, for instance with the police, the army, border guards or private security companies. After their third year of service, they have the opportunity to train as security and guarding specialists and obtain a Federal certification.

The higher ranks receive instruction on personal protection tasks in the military police and in the trainings for the Federal Council's Protection Detachment. These provide a solid basis for escorting the Pope on his trips abroad. In addition, Guardsmen who commit to five years of service can be admitted for training as police assistants in Switzerland.

What is the importance of the Guardsmen's environment, in particular regarding family life? The Holy Father recently liberalised the marriage regulations.

At present we have 19 families with a total of 19 children. As the current quarters offer insufficient space, 10 families already have to live outside barracks. This has a strong influence on our community life and contradicts the regulations of the Pontifical Swiss Guard, which stipulate that we live in barracks in order to be available for duty at any time. With the new barracks this problem will be resolved.

12 children attend the Swiss school in Rome, which teaches according to Swiss standards. The opportunity to send their children to a Swiss school is of great importance to the Guard families, especially for those who intend to return to Switzerland. These children can easily be integrated into the Swiss school system. The Foundation provides basic support by relieving the families of the financial burden of school fees.

Interview by Stefan Wyer



3

JUBILEE

THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION FOR THE PONTIFICAL SWISS GUARD

Right before the turn of the millennium, recruitment rates for the Swiss Guard decreased significantly. Concerned about the long-term survival, 11 men and one woman set up the Foundation of the Vatican Pontifical Swiss Guard on 26th January 2000 in Fribourg, Switzerland. Its aim is to provide material and social support, particularly in the areas of recruitment and professional reintegration in Switzerland, training, public relations and the improvement of infrastructure. The Guard service must once more become attractive again.

Flavio Cotti, a former Federal Councillor, was the first President of the Foundation. The Foundation started in its commitment to improve the living conditions of the Guardsmen and their families, as well as their further education during their years of service in the Vatican. The Foundation was endowed with a capital of 100,000 Swiss francs.

As of 2008, trial weeks were organized for young men showing an interest in joining the Guard, and this remains a very successful instrument to this day. Around 40 % of the participants later decide to join the corps. The Foundation pays part of the costs of the journey.

A widening of the Foundation's activities

In 2011, former Federal Councillor Pascal Couchepin took over as President of the Foundation Board. In 2012, he established the tradition of the St Martin's Meal, which still remains the most important event for our donors today. In the same year, the Foundation also started its own newsletter, *Il Messaggero*.

Various projects were initiated during this time. On 23rd May 2013, the Foundation Board approved the education and training of guardsmen as a

stand-alone project. This project aimed to finance future contributions to ensure the professional and extra-professional training of Guardsmen with a view to their professional reintegration at the end of their service. Since then, annual recurring contributions of 60,000 to 70,000 Swiss francs are disbursed for Italian lessons, training as a specialist in security and guarding, targeted training for officers, seminars for executives, etc.

IMPORTANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

As another stand-alone project, the Foundation Board decided to support the renovation of the Swiss Chapel. The restoration work began in 2017.

Among the most important infrastructure projects supported by the Foundation was the new operations centre. In May 2015, the Foundation approved the partial financing of the project through donations of over 350,000 Swiss francs. The centre started operations at the end of 2016 and was inaugurated on 25 September 2017.

This was followed on 31st August 2016 by the establishment of the Foundation for the Renovation of the Barracks of the Vatican Pontifical Swiss Guard. It is chaired by Jean-Pierre Roth, former President of the Swiss National Bank, and aims to completely renovate the outdated barracks. The nine-member Board includes five members of the Foundation for the Pontifical Swiss Guard.

INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS

While the Foundation depended on annual donations of some 200,000 Swiss francs to finance its current projects until 2015, this amount had already risen to around 600,000 Swiss francs by 2017. In 2018, former Federal Councillor Ruth Metzler-Arnold took over as President of the Foundation Board. She once again significantly expanded the funding contributions, amongst others by launching donors' association "Group of the 147". Today, the Foundation supports the Pontifical Swiss Guard through annual contributions ranging from CHF 500,000 to CHF 800,000.

Stefan Wyrer

4

GROUP OF THE 147

This important and exclusive donors' group was launched in 2019. The members of the Group of the 147 commit themselves to supporting the Swiss Guard through five annual contributions of at least CHF 3,000 or a one-off contribution of at least CHF 15,000. In 2020, we are happy that the Group of the 147 already numbers 24 members.

The members of the "Group of the 147" receive the "Messaggero", which reports on life in the Swiss Guard. Over the course of a five-year period, members are invited to two exclusive visits to the Vatican spanning several days: once for the swearing-in ceremony of the new guards in May, and once for a two-day visit in September.

CONTACT

reto.jauch@sz-j.com

raymond.loretan@gmail.com

or the Secretariat of the Foundation:

seiler@schweizergardestiftung.ch

Historical background

The troops of Charles V attacked the Vatican on 6 May 1527 and invaded St Peter's Basilica. The Swiss Guard fought courageously against an opponent that outnumbered them 25 to 1. The Commander, Kaspar Röist, was killed. Some 147 members of the Swiss Guard were massacred in front of the high altar of St Peter's Basilica, with only 42 managing to escape at the last minute as they protected Pope Clement VII's retreat through the Passetto, a secret passage in the fortress wall that connects the Vatican with Castel Sant'Angelo.

In memory of the 147 guards who fell heroically in 1527, this circle of friends of the Pontifical Swiss Guard is called the "Group of the 147".

FOUNDATION BOARD

Day-to-day business is taken care of by the Comité de Direction (CdD) and the Foundation Secretary.

In 2020, the Foundation Board was composed as follows:

PRESIDENT

Ruth Metzler-Arnold, Appenzell (CdD)

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. J. Maurice Zufferey, Cham (CdD)

FINANCE

Dr. J. Maurice Zufferey, Cham (CdD)

MITGLIEDER

Christoph Graf, Guard Commander, Vatican City (CdD)
 Dr. Martin Dubach, Zug (CdD)
 Brigitte Hauser-Süess, Brig-Glis (CdD) until March 2020)
 Rocco Cattaneo, Bironico
 Guido Egli, Meggen
 Thierry Fauchier-Magnan, Versoix
 Bischof Dr. Felix Gmür, Solothurn
 Prof. Dr. med. Philippe Jaeger, Lully s/Morges
 Reto Jauch, Zug
 Filippo Lombardi, Lugano
 Raymond Loretan, Geneva
 Dr. Jean-Pierre Roth, Collonge-Bellerive
 Daniel Roubaty, Villars-sur-Glâne
 Lukas Schmucki, Rapperswil-Jona
 Dr. Urs Schwaller, Tavers

SECRETARIAT OF THE FOUNDATION

Astrid Seiler, Zurich

ACCOUNTING

Nathalie Croteau Jauch, Zug
 TBO Treuhand, Zurich

FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS

c/o Monsieur Daniel Zbinden, Lawyer, Route de la Cité-Bellevue 6,
 P.O. Box 1606, 1701 Fribourg



6 FINANCES

In the past year, despite the cancellation of all our events in Switzerland and abroad, the Foundation was able to count on the support of its faithful benefactors and donors. After the very good result in 2019, we were delighted to receive CHF 669,925 throughout the financial year and to support projects and expenses coming within the scope of the Foundation's work for a total of CHF 516,753.

In addition, a contribution that had been put aside last year was transferred to the Foundation for the renovation of the barracks.

Administrative and IT expenses increased to CHF 69,000 due to the reorganization of our secretariat and, at 10%, are exceptionally slightly above the target level. The urgently needed improvement of the IT infrastructure for an amount of about CHF 20,000 was donated.

The financial income of 0.19% is lower than anticipated but should develop positively in the future thanks to various measures implemented during the financial year.

The Foundation continues to have a very robust balance sheet, which will allow us to continue to generously support the long-term concerns and projects of the Guard in the years to come. Significant contributions come from the various large and small donors and, for the second time, from the «Group of the 147» patrons' circle.

On behalf of the Foundation and the Guard, we would like to thank all our donors for their contributions. Thanks to you, we can help in continuing to motivate young Swiss men to serve in the Vatican and maintain a tradition that is more than 500 years old.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

(in 1'000 CHF)

ASSETS	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	578	1964
Securities	2'813	1'373
Total assets	3'392	3'337

LIABILITIES	2020	2019
Current liabilities	173	204
Non-current liabilities	734	766
Total debt capital	927	970
Foundation capital	100	100
Profit brought forward	2'267	2'153
Result of the financial statements	98	114
Total equity	2'465	2'367
Total liabilities	3'392	3'337

INCOME STATEMENT

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

(in 1'000 CHF)

	2020	2019
Assigned donations	430	515
Unassigned donations	235	215
Donations and contributions received	665	731
Payments to the Guards	312	458
Expenses within the scope of the Foundation's purpose:		
Further contributions	204	183
PR work	0	5
Assigned contributions and direct expenses	516	646
Gross profit	148	85
Administrative and IT costs	69	62
Operating result	79	23
Financial result	6	148
Result before change to provisions	85	172
Release of project provisions	265	457
Creation of project provisions	- 252	- 515
Annual result	98	114



7

DONATIONS AND GRANTS

The Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard can be supported in different ways:

Unassigned donations

These are used by the persons responsible within the Foundation in accordance with the Foundation's purpose.

Assigned contributions

By specifying the desired funding area (e.g. education and training, purchase of a morion), the donation will be used for this specific purpose.

Sponsorship

It is also possible to support the Pontifical Swiss Guard by means of a sponsorship in the areas of education and training, logistics or infrastructure, or by helping the Foundation and the corps in numerous areas in an advisory function.

7.1

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Low administrative costs are one of the objectives of the Foundation's Board, which works on a voluntary basis. This ensures that donations go directly to the funding areas and projects of the Swiss Guard.

7.2 AUDIT

The Foundation's books are audited by Fiduconsult Freiburg AG, Rue des Pilettes 3, 1700 Freiburg.

The audit report of 17 March 2021 for the 2020 accounts (balance sheet and income statement as well as the notes) contains no reservations.

7.3 FISCAL TREATMENT OF DONATIONS

With the decree of the cantonal tax authorities dated 4 October 2002 and the Financial Directorate of Fribourg, tax exemption applies to donations to the Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican.

7.4 DONATION ACCOUNTS

In order to support the various funding areas and projects, donations can be made as follows:

BENEFICIARY | FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS

Foundation of the Vatican Pontifical Swiss Guard
Route de la Cité-Bellevue 6
PO Box 1606
1701 Fribourg

ACCOUNT DETAILS

Bank Vontobel AG · Gotthardstrasse 43 · CH-8022 Zurich
CHF: CH49 0875 7000 0120 2282 7
EUR: CH06 0875 7000 0120 2282 5
USD: CH76 0875 7000 0120 2282 6

Postfinance

CH53 0900 0000 1724 9662 0

Donation button on the website www.schweizergarde.ch: donations for the Guard can be made here very easily.

CONTACT ADDRESS

For any questions about donations / grants / projects

Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard in the Vatican

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seiler@schweizergardestiftung.ch