

## Support of recruitment and PR work



To ensure that the Pontifical Swiss Guard can carry out its duties professionally and in full, the previous target number of 110 guards in 2019 has been increased to 135; this increased number is to be achieved over the next few years. For halberdiers, the guard service lasts at least 26 months. A large number of the guards then leave the Guard service again. This means approximately one-third of the total number of guards – i.e. at least 45 halberdiers – have to be replaced every year.

Recruiting a sufficiently large number of guards proves to be a huge challenge every year. The Foundation supports the Guard Command in creating and providing advertising materials, attending job fairs and providing funding to hold the “Taster Week” for prospective guards. During this week, potential new guards are familiarised with the tasks of the Pontifical Swiss Guard. This enables

them to get an impression of life as a resident of the Vatican City in the guards’ quarter. The taster week is rounded off by a visit to Saint Peter’s Basilica, the Apostolic Palace and the numerous attractions of Rome. The Foundation supports this taster week financially and covers part of the travel, accommodation and catering costs for the participants.

The Command of the Pontifical Swiss Guard operates the IRS Information and Recruitment Centre in Glarus for recruitment purposes. The IRS is affiliated with a professional personnel management office, which serves as a contact point for people interested in joining the Guard, advertises the opportunities the Guard service opens up to young men, and carries out a pre-selection stage by holding face-to-face interviews with the candidates.

The Foundation provides further support by printing the regularly published “Messaggero”, producing video clips, brochures and advertising materials and ensuring appropriate representation in Switzerland.

The Foundation of the Pontifical Swiss Guard is keen to support the Guard Command in its recruitment and anticipates costs of around CHF 200,000 p.a.