



# Order Of Malta

## Saint Louis Area

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### Inside this issue:

- Because of our Faith, 2  
We Serve the Poor
- Investiture of New 2  
Knights and Dames
- A Pilgrimage to 3  
Lourdes with the  
Order of Malta
- Our Lady's Inn – 4  
Services to Women
- Taste of Haiti 5
- Praying the Rosary 5
- 2013 Events Calendar 6

***“Do not be afraid. I  
bring you good  
news that will  
cause great joy for  
all the people.  
Today in the town  
of David a Savior  
has been born to  
you”***



In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world and everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shep-

herds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:1-20 NIV



Reverend Monsignor  
Vernon Gardin

**“Jesus clearly taught that every aspect of religion is based on the commandment to love God with our whole heart and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.”**

### Because of Our Faith We Serve the Poor

The mission of the Knights and Dames of Malta has always been clear: defend the faith and serve the poor. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century the Order’s founder, Brother Gerard, was motivated by Jesus Christ to respond to the needs of his day. He and his fellow knights banded together as a lay order to protect and defend Catholics in the Holy Land and take care of those who were poor and sick. In spite of all the changes and challenges over the centuries, the original two-fold charism, or spiritual gift, remains the same.

I want to emphasize the intrinsic connection within this noble, two-fold charism: *We serve the poor and the sick because of our faith in Jesus Christ.*

Jesus clearly taught that every aspect of religion is based on the commandment to love God with our whole heart and soul and to love our neighbor as ourselves. God is love. Because Jesus is God incarnate, He is the very embodiment of perfect love. He taught what love is by His very actions as well as by His words. Always in prayerful union with His heavenly Father, Jesus compassionately cared for the sick, the poor, and the outcast. He

warned that the criterion of our entry into heaven at the Last Judgment would be our love – our care in His name for people who were hungry, thirsty, sick, or in need of any kind, especially people considered the least of our brothers and sisters.

Reflecting on the love of Christ, St. Paul writes that the greatest of all the gifts which God gives us is love. In fact, divine love must motivate our service of neighbor, no matter how much we donate to the needy. *“If I give away everything I own...but do not have love, I gain nothing.”* (1 Cor 13:3)

These are not simply inspiring words; they result in life-changing actions. In his sociological study, *The Rise of Christianity*, Rodney Stark documents that in the early centuries of the Church pagans were amazed by Christians’ care of people. Christians even risked their lives to care for the infirm during devastating plagues, regardless of the sick person’s religion. Serving people as the way to please God was unheard of in the ancient Roman world. This intrinsic link between love of God and neighbor has been evidenced during the entire history of the Church, through people like Brother Gerard in

the middle ages, and in our own 21<sup>st</sup> century Knights and Dames of Malta.

When we defend the Catholic faith, we defend Christ, we defend what He taught, we defend all those He loves and with whom He identified. When we defend the Catholic faith we are upholding Christ’s Body, the Church; we keep alive the motivation for ministering to the sick and the poor. That motivation is not just a natural impulse to do something good for another. The motivation is Jesus Christ, His love for us; it is our response to His loving care and compassion for us and all people. *“The love of Christ impels us.”* (2 Cor 5:14)

St. Francis de Sales (*Introduction to the Devout Life*) taught that lay people bring Christ’s love into the real world, whatever their vocation may be. As members of a Lay Order, Knights and Dames draw closer to the Lord each day through prayer, the Sacraments, study of Sacred Scripture, and service of neighbor. In defending the faith in today’s secular world, we continue to bring His loving presence to those in need. **Because of our faith, we serve the poor.**



**Pictured Top:** Judy and Vince Shaw with Cardinal Dolan

**Bottom:** Dan and Eleanor Ferry with Cardinal Dolan

### Investiture of New Knights and Dames

Our candidates began the invested procedures with the blessing of the robes and capes Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup> with a reception that followed. Immediately after the reception the St. Louis Malta members, candidates and guests gathered at the University Club for dinner.

Our Friday morning began with a Malta Business meeting with the acceptance of various committee and financial reports. Jack Pohrer, President, addressed the difficulties resulting from tropical storm Sandy that existed on the eastern seaboard. He noted that Catholic Charities were first responders,

and that there was need for blankets as colder temperatures were imminent. (It’s interesting that the media never reported that Catholic Charities was the first to respond, and that some victims were still looking for the Red Cross.)

We also heard about Prison Ministries, the Pilgrimage to Lourdes and the St. Patrick’s Center of St. Louis. Mr. Thomas Etling, executive director and member of our Malta Auxiliary, gave an outstanding presentation on the works of the center.

Friday afternoon, Judy Shaw and Dan Ferry were invested into our Order, and as the

### By Leonard Dino

Cardinal was leaving St. Patrick’s Cathedral, he extended an invitation to the Shaws and the Ferrys to join him in his residence. This opened the door for other members of the St. Louis group to follow including: Carole Less, the Dinos, and Dick and Katie Baalman accompanied by their daughter and granddaughters. Greeting us as we entered the residence were Jack Pohrer and his Eminence Cardinal Dolan.

Friday evening the Gala Ball was held with 640 guests enjoying fine wine, dining, dancing and great company.



## A Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Order of Malta

For many Catholics, "Lourdes water" is a treasured gift, offering the hope of spiritual and physical well-being through the intercession of Mary. Lourdes, France, the site where Our Lady appeared eighteen times in 1858 to Bernadette Soubirous, an impoverished, illiterate fourteen-year-old, is among the pre-eminent destinations for Catholic travelers. It has been estimated that approximately 200 million pilgrims and tourists have visited the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes since 1860, and the shrine now attracts about five million annually. I have been privileged to visit Lourdes several times, most recently as a member of the Order of Malta, whose global associations sponsor an annual, seven-day pilgrimage on behalf of over one thousand "Malades" (French for sick persons).

The "Order" is an ancient, worldwide, Roman Catholic lay religious order dedicated to defending the faith and providing direct service and aid to the sick and the poor. *An Introduction to The Order of Malta* explains, "The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, known more commonly as The Order of Malta, is an organization with a rich, complex history dating back to the year 1099, and even earlier. It was formed as a hospitaller order and religious order, and later became a military force during the Crusades. For hundreds of years its hospitals were the most advanced in the world. Today it is an international relief agency, and remains a lay religious order of the Roman Catholic Church." As a sovereign entity, it maintains diplomatic relations with over 81 countries, and has status at the United Nations as Permanent Observer. The Order has about 13,000 members and operates in more than 120 countries.

A signature event for the organization is the Lourdes pilgrimage. Every year, in the first week of May (Mary's month),

Malta groups from all over the world, comprised of Knights and Dames of Malta, auxiliaries, clergy, medical teams, volunteers, and the Malades and their caregivers, participate in this act of service. Activities include Masses, spiritual talks and reflections, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, healing baths, anointing of the sick, Stations of the Cross, a beautiful, evening candlelight procession, and camaraderie.

While some Malades are capable of self-care, most are not and are accompanied by their caregivers. These sick and suffering also receive emotional support and service from designated Knights and Dames to whom they're assigned throughout the pilgrimage. It is in these grace-filled relationships that the true spirit of the Order is experienced.

Indeed, the spiritual transcendence of Lourdes was evident both by the inner radiance and joy of the Malades, which shone through despite their ill health, and by the unanimous spirit of love and charity manifested by those affiliated with this undertaking. One individual who captivated me by this spirit was Kingsley, a young man, wheel-chair bound and paralyzed from the waist down. I engaged him in conversation, curious about his upbeat demeanor, and his visible vigor and strength of personality. He readily and calmly told his story. Three years previously, at a barbecue with friends and family, a guest invited by a friend became violent, resulting in Kingsley's injury from a random gunshot.

Despite this horrible, personal tragedy, Kingsley remained positive, in fact joyful. He has turned his impairment over to God, has been spiritually strengthened since the unfortunate incident, and has forgiven the perpetrator. There was no evidence of bitterness, and he is grateful for his life, having been told by medical personnel that it was a miracle he even survived the shot.

Kingsley's faith is

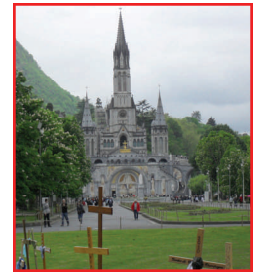
By Bebe Kennedy

strong, supported by family, friends, and church. He is persistent in his effort to walk again, and expects to receive a degree in biomedical engineering this year. Kingsley exemplifies the Biblical passage: "...for when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong" (2 Corinthians: 12, 10).

In the eyes of the world, Kingsley may be atypical in his attitude, but this was not the case with the sick at Lourdes. A bishop participating in the pilgrimage told the story of a man with late-stage cancer. Following a Mass at Lourdes, the cancer victim told him that he had been healed. While there had been no physical cure, the man explained to the surprised bishop that he was *spiritually* healed during the Bishop's homily -- he was no longer afraid to die. A few weeks later he went to the Lord in peace.

The time spent at this sacred shrine should be in the context of a holy pilgrimage, immersed in the healing spirit of the Sanctuary. One becomes rapt, even overwhelmed, by the manifest, deep faith and hope of those seeking the divine intercession of Our Lady. In gratitude and devotion, we should take care to heed Mary's message to Bernadette, to pray and do penance.

During the past one hundred and fifty years, many miracles have taken place at Lourdes, but regardless of whether or not a physical cure occurs, pilgrims leave this holy place spiritually enriched. "In him who is the source of my strength I have strength for everything" (Philippians 4:13).



**"Indeed, the spiritual transcendence of Lourdes was evident both by the inner radiance and joy of the Malades, which shone through despite their ill health, and by the**

*Pictured: Brian Ragen, John Wilmsen, Elizabeth Wilmsen, Jane Gerritzen, Ray Gerritzen, Daniel Stutte, Ann Goltermann, Carole Less, Bebe Kennedy*



## Our Lady's Inn: Services to Women in Need

by Peggy Forrest

***“Jesus clearly taught that every aspect of religion is based on the commandment to love God with our whole heart and soul, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.”***

The passage in 1973 of Roe V. Wade, legalizing abortion, indirectly led to the opening of Our Lady's Inn. A group of pro-life advocates, having been arrested for picketing outside of a facility where abortions were being performed, sat together in the back of a police paddy wagon in the hot summer of 1980 discussing the plight of so many of the women they had encountered who had come to that facility for an abortion. Many women shared that they were under pressure from family and friends to abort; should they choose not to abort, they would no longer be allowed back into their homes. These faithful men and women began to realize that there was a need for something more than counseling for these pregnant women. They needed a refuge where they could stay until the baby was born. On the ride to the police station the idea was framed for a safe haven for these pregnant women who wanted to choose life for their babies. Over the next two years, pregnant women who found themselves without a home found welcome in the homes of these dedicated pro-lifers.

The dream of the Inn remained constant, and with the cooperation of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, a lease was signed and extensive renovation began on a one hundred year old, abandoned convent in the Souldard neighborhood. With financial support from several Catholic and Christian groups and organizations, volunteers renovated and decorated the home with donated supplies

and materials. Our Lady's Inn opened in January, 1982 offering a life-affirming alternative to abortion, providing shelter and support to address the physical, psychological, and spiritual needs of courageous women.

In 1987 in response to increasing need, a second home opened in north St. Louis County in a former convent at St. Catherine Alexandria Parish. In 1997, both homes were consolidated into a larger facility when Our Lady's Inn purchased and renovated the St. Anthony of Padua Parish Convent in south St. Louis City to lodge up to eighteen pregnant women and their children.

Again responding to the growing demand for its services, Our Lady's Inn opened another home in 2006, this time in Defiance, Missouri in St. Charles County. This home houses up to fifteen women from St. Charles, Franklin, Lincoln, Warren, Washington and surrounding counties.

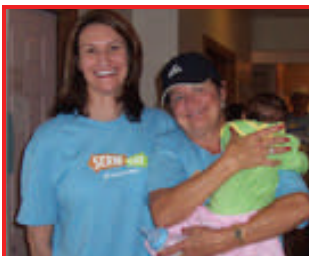
In addition to the two residential maternity homes, Our Lady's Inn operates a one-year Transitional Housing Program which consists of four private apartments where a mother and her baby can stay upon leaving the Inn while working towards self-sufficiency and independence. A re-sale shop in the Dutchtown neighborhood, *Twice Blessed*, was opened in 2009 as a social enterprise, providing job training and experience for women at the Inn.

Upon admittance to the Inn, each woman is supported by a case manager offer-

ing her guidance and structure to assist in her effort to achieve her individual educational, vocational, employment and stable housing goals. Offering classes in nutrition, childbirth, breastfeeding, newborn care and other related topics, staff nurses advocate on behalf of the woman for appropriate prenatal and post-natal care as well as pediatric services for her children. Women share in household chores, learn parenting and life skills, and establish a daily routine. They attend workshops and training programs in stress management, household budgeting, smoking cessation, domestic violence prevention, healthy relationship building, educational and employment readiness.

Since 1982, Our Lady's Inn has served more than 5,200 women. To continue to provide services in its current locations, some capital needs must be addressed. With the continued availability of Missouri State Maternity Home Tax Credits, Our Lady's Inn is in the midst of a Capital Campaign, “Building Blocks for Our Future,” with a goal of \$1.5 million dollars to be used for capital improvements, to enhance its financial position, and for expansion to underserved areas of Missouri and surrounding states.

Our Lady's Inn accepts pregnant women and their children with love, and the St. Louis Malta membership is proud to provide its support!



**Taste of Haiti, A Fun Evening for Crudem**

by Charles Dubuque

A number of years ago, on a March evening in Milot, Haiti, Tom Schlafly, Steve Reese and I began discussing ways to raise funds in the St. Louis area for Hospital Sacre Coeur. Our hope was to create a fun event that people would enjoy attending, and at the same time, get a flavor of the wonderful Haitian culture.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Taste of Haiti celebration was held at The Tap Room. We had over 160 in attendance to delight in a delicious series of tasting stations set up to showcase the wonderful flavors of Haitian cuisine. And, in view, were photo im-

ages of our volunteers and patients to provide a small glimpse of the great care that is given on a daily basis, thanks in large part to our benefactors. Being able to personally thank our supporters and update them on new developments is the fun part of the evening for each of the CRUDEM Board members. We are most thankful for the dedicated support of our St. Louis friends.

Each year we send 100% of the proceeds from the Taste of Haiti directly to the hospital. Tom Schlafly, a former CRUDEM Board member, graciously underwrites the entire cost of the Tap Room's expense

to ensure this happens. It was Tom's energy and vision that started this event five years ago, and it's his passion for CRUDEM that allows its board members to host a wonderful event at a great venue each and every year.

We are truly blessed with the dedicated support of St. Louisans, and extend a special thanks to CRUDEM Board members, Tim O'Connell KM, Steve Reese KM, Milt Wilkins KM, & Bill Guyol Jr. KM, who were involved in planning this year's gathering and who have devoted many hours over the years to keep the event fresh, relevant and most importantly, successful.



**Praying the Rosary**

by Pat Hanley

The St. Louis County Government Center was the scene of a prayerful group giving witness to the power of the rosary. In responding to Our Lady of Fatima's pleas for the rosary to be said in reparation to God for the sins of our nation, 9,077 rosary rallies were held throughout our country on October 13<sup>th</sup>, the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, Portugal. An additional 30 countries also participated. The goal of 10,000 rallies has been set for 2013.

In her visions to the three children, Our Lady promised them:

*"If the government of a country leaves the Church in peace and gives liberty to our Holy Religion, it will be blessed by God."*

Little Jacinta further revealed that Our Lady added:

*Ask them to plead for peace from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for the Lord has confided the peace of the world to her."*

During this year of faith, Our Lady's message calls us to be faithful to our mission

and to pray for our President and the healing of our divided country.

**LET US ALL JOIN TOGETHER IN PRAYER**

**Quotations taken from :  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA'S  
PEACE PLAN FROM HEAVEN**

Pictured Malta Members Left to right: John Wilmsen, Ted and Carol Dubuque, Sue MacDonald, Bebe Kennedy, Leo MacDonald, Pat Hanley, Greg Browne and Carol Costigan





## ORDER OF MALTA

**AREA CO-CHAIRS:**  
PAT AND LEN DINO

**HOSPITALLERS:**  
Liz and John Wilmsen

**Auxiliary Chairs:**  
Genie and John Wilhelm

**Mass Arrangements:**  
Ann Goltermann

**Correspondence:**  
Tina Dubuque

**Nominating Committee:**  
Ron Aylward, Don Gunn,  
Carole Less, Jack Pohrer

**Defense of the Faith:**  
Pat Hanley  
Dick Haffner

**Prison Ministry:**  
Suzie Spence

**Grant Committee:**  
Pat and Len Dino  
Carole Less  
Jack Pohrer  
Milton Wilkins

**Prayer Network:**  
Jane and Gene McLaughlin

**Rosary Leaders:**  
Ellen and Darryl Ross

**Mailings:**  
**Daily Missals:** Mary Guyol  
**Monthly Mediations:** Tricia  
Schlafly

**Membership:**  
All Members

### 2013 Calendar of Events

Dates	Time	Event Details	Location
Wednesday January 2	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Wednesday February 6	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Saturday February 9	8:00 AM	World Day of the Sick Feast of our Lady of Lourdes	Immacolata Church
Wednesday March 6	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Wednesday April 3	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Wednesday May 1	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Wednesday May 1		Lourdes Pilgrimage	Departing Newark
Tuesday May 7		Lourdes Pilgrimage	Returning Newark
Wednesday June 5	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Tuesday June 25	6:00 PM	Feast of St. John The Baptist - Mass	Annunziata Church
	7:00 PM	Dinner following	Log Cabin
Wednesday July 3	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Wednesday August 7	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Wednesday September 4	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Wednesday October 2	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Thursday October 10	6:00 PM	Mass and Mediation	Holy Redeemer Webster Groves
	7:00 PM	Dinner	Algonquin Country Club
Wednesday November 6	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Thursday November 14		American Association Annual Meeting & Investiture	New York
Saturday November 16		American Association Annual Meeting & Investiture	New York
Wednesday December 4	6:00 PM	Monthly Rosary	St. Joseph Church, Clayton, MO
Thursday December 12	6:00 PM	Advent Mass and Celebration	Incarnate Word Church
	7:00 PM	Dinner	Bellerive Country Club