

NEW YORK



CITY AREA

## December NewsFlash

December 2016 proved to be both a very happy month and a sad month. Happy as we celebrated the coming of Christmas with the usual Children's Christmas Sing-Along and the annual Malta Christmas party for the residents of the Terence Cardinal Cooke HealthCare Center. The month ended on a very sad note as we lost one of our most loved chaplains, Fr. John P. McGuire, OP, on Christmas night.

### Christmas at TCC

As always, thanks go to Maggie Ludwiczak, DM, and her band of merry carolers who serenaded the severely disabled children at TCC with Christmas carols to kick-off the holiday season. If you have never participated in the monthly sing-along, try it sometime (first Saturday of each month, September – June, plus the Malta Circus on April 22, 2017). It is a truly uplifting experience.

By Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, the holiday season was in full swing and residents were ready for the annual Malta Christmas party. Some members arrived early to help wrap gifts for the TCC residents and many more came to escort residents to the party and serve desserts and beverages to our guests. With a great band playing holiday and other classics, there was dancing in the aisles as our guests eagerly awaited the appearance of Santa. Many thanks to John Ottosen, KM, who played the role of Santa with great enthusiasm.



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Following the TCC Christmas party, the Irishes and Kellehers hosted the annual NYC Area Christmas party which raises funds to support many of the Malta pro-life and homeless works of the Order in NYC. This year, the party raised almost \$11,000 for those efforts. As has become a tradition in recent years, the party-goers were led in a rousing session of Christmas carols by members of St. Patrick's Cathedral choir.



On December 8<sup>th</sup>, many members faced the dilemma of choosing between attending a Viennese Style Christmas Concert and the Pregnancy Help Benefit honoring Jean-Hugues and Veronique Monier.

The mini Christmas concert, organized by the Auxiliary and Junior Committee in conjunction with the Order's Mission to the United Nations, featured Lauren Andree, AUX, as its primary singer. She was reportedly AWESOME! About 60 members and guests attended the event and proceeds from the event went to Holy Family Hospital Foundation.



Mini Concert to benefit HFHF

Special Advent collection at Holy Family Church to benefit HFHF. Thanks to all who volunteered here and at St. John the Evangelist.



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Across town, a Mass and reception were held at St. Vincent Ferrer Church to benefit Pregnancy Help Inc., a pro-life organization in which many members of the Order are involved. The honorees at this event were Jean-Hugues Monier, KM, and his wife Veronique, DM. Both have been extremely supportive of PHI with both time and treasure.



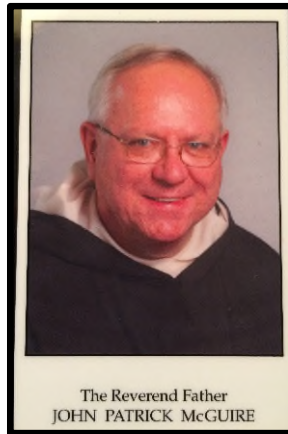
### **Advent Afternoon of Recollection**

In the midst of parties and Christmas cheer, members took time out of their busy schedules to attend an Advent afternoon of recollection in the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. The event was organized by the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and as in past years, the Order of Malta was invited to participate. Our chaplain, Msgr. Robert Ritchie celebrated Mass to conclude the afternoon.

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Rev. John Patrick McGuire, O.P.  
Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain *ad Honorem*  
1943-2016

All were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Fr. John McGuire, O.P., who went to God on Christmas night. So many of us had seen Fr. John and/or shared a meal with him in the run-up to Christmas and found the news hard to believe.

The NYC Area of the Order will miss our beloved chaplain in so many ways: he administered the sacraments of baptism and marriage for members and their families; he supported some in their spiritual journey into Catholicism; he gently directed many to the Order of Malta---all while serving as chaplain at NYU and pastor at St. Joseph's in Greenwich Village. For many more, he will be remembered for his hospitality and generosity in making St. Joseph's available for NYC Area and SubPriory Masses, complete with wonderful music and bountiful receptions. Those who have been on the Lourdes Pilgrimage in recent years will recall his cheerful smile as he motored around in his electric "voiture".

Fr. John's life was celebrated at a Mass of Christian Burial on January 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Vincent Ferrer. So many of those whose lives Fr. John touched were there to bid him a final farewell.

*Requiescat in pace*