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Spirituality in Action

Inspiration from the Areas and the Order of Malta Worldwide

December 2017



From those of us who work on Spirituality in Action:

**“May every Knight, Dame, Auxiliary, Volunteer and Friend of the Order have a
Blessed Christmas and a Holy and Happy New Year!**

Thank you for all you do for Our Lords, the Sick and the Poor.”

Michigan Area



Sixty Michigan Area members attended a Mass and brunch on Sunday, December 3rd to celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. In his homily, Archbishop Vigneron reminded those in attendance of the Order's call to serve the sick and the poor and the need for hope as we begin Advent.

Listen to December's Spiritual Outreach Call



Father Frank Sevola, OFM, led the last Spiritual Outreach Call of 2017. Please [click here](#) to hear his discussion about the Season of Advent.

Upcoming Association Events

January 3

[Spiritual Outreach Call](#)

January 9

[Board of Councillors](#)



At brunch, Marissa Blackett gave a powerful talk about a primary ministry of the Order -- [Holy Family Hospital](#) in Bethlehem.

Holy See Defends Faith



On November 30th, the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the U.N., together with the Nineveh Reconstruction Committee and the Knights of Columbus, organized a side event entitled "Preserving Pluralism & Diversity in the Nineveh Region."

In opening remarks, Archbishop Bernardito Auza, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, said that restoring those displaced by ISIS back home to the Nineveh Plains will not only require restoring houses, schools, and places of worship, but also rebuilding society towards peaceful coexistence for the region's diverse ethnic and religious groups. Returning religious minorities to the Nineveh Plains, where 40 percent of Iraq's Christians lived before 2014, is also of deep importance to Pope Francis.

Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda, Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Erbil, cared for hundreds of thousands of refugees and said that the NRC was created among the

January 18 - 19
[Pilgrimage for Life 2018](#)

Featured Areas

If you would like us to feature your Area in an upcoming Spirituality in Action: Monthly Update, please email Margarite Heintz at mheintz6@yahoo.com

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and unify efforts to care for the 125,000 internally displaced Christians and other minority religious groups driven out of their homes by ISIS.



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Forward

“We are here not to speak from the point of view only of victims, but also from the point of view of a key partner to the future of pluralism in Iraq,” Archbishop Warda said. “It is obvious that the Christians in Iraq, especially the Church leaders have shown their commitment to be part of the solution not part of the problem in terms of bringing peace and human rights to Iraq.” Only 12 percent of Christian populations have returned, while 90 percent of those displaced from East Mosul have been able to return home.

Father Salar Kajo, Vicar General of the Diocese of Al Qosh and pastor of three Chaldean parishes in the northern Nineveh Plain, said that when the Christian towns of Nineveh began to be liberated in 2016, people were hopeful to return home. “When they arrived, they found their towns had been destroyed in the fighting. The houses that were not destroyed had all been looted. The churches and cemeteries had all been desecrated. There was no power and no water,” Father Kajo said.

“They are deeply afraid of more violence. They sleep with suitcases already packed,” he said. “I fear that if some stability cannot come in these next months, the Christian people will break and leave the land of Nineveh forever.”

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