

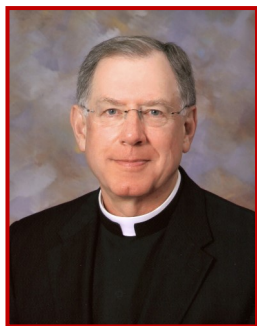


Order Of Malta

Saint Louis Area

December 2019





Reverend Monsignor
Vernon Gardin

As we look toward 2020 and a new decade, may we embrace what the Order is called to do for our beautiful Church... defend and share our faith and help those within our reach.



Kathy and Greg Gantz
St. Louis Area Co-Chairs

“They Brought to Him all Who Were Sick”

Our Order is rightly named a “hospitaller” Order since it was founded centuries ago to protect the sick in the Holy Land. That mission carried out the healing ministry of Jesus Himself, the Divine Physician, and it continues today throughout the world. The pilgrimage to Lourdes is an inspiring, emotionally moving testimony to the presence of Jesus Himself in those who are ill, and in those who minister to people in need. The privilege of sharing in Christ’s healing ministry is present not only at Lourdes, of course, but in all instances of supporting the sick. We bring the healing hand of our Savior to people who are ill. But Christ also comes to us in the person of the one who is suffering. We read in St. Matthew’s Gospel:

“Lord, when did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you? And the king will say to them in replay, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:39-40)

When physicians, nurses, all medical personnel practice the healing arts, they can also prayerfully bring Christ Himself to the patient. Besides medical professionals, all of us serve Christ when we assist the sick by bringing meals, running errands, or performing any simple act of charity. Through intercessory prayer, we unite with the entire Church in praying for miraculous healing, both physical and spiritual healing. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the priest is privileged to

Msgr. Vernon Gardin, PH.D., ChM

bring the very presence of Jesus to the souls of those who are ill, (James 5:13-15).

O ever immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comfort of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; deign to cast upon me a look of mercy. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors, and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with the most unbounded confidence, to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory, and bless you in eternity. Amen.

Message from St. Louis Area Co-Chairs

Peace of the Newborn King! The close of a year results in many of us pausing and reflecting on the past year and the new year to come. As we pause and reflect on 2019, our hearts are filled with gratitude and joy for the Lord’s wisdom in surrounding us with the holy and compassionate Clergy, Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and the American Association staff of Malta.

We are humbled by each of your unapologetically Catholic devotion and the works we witnessed in 2019 by our St. Louis area members. Our Order brought the face of Christ and his love to many in need in our area. Each of you exemplify “service before self” and inspire us to live our lives according to God’s will. Thank you for your continued support, prayers and help this year. Being the St. Louis Area Co-chairs is a true blessing.

Kathy and Greg Gantz, DM and KM

As we bring 2019 to a close may we pause and remember our members that joined our Lord in eternal life and the members that experienced significant health issues this year (and now thankfully on the mend!). The outpouring of love and prayers for our own members brought peace to many and reminded us that God never abandons us.

As we look toward 2020 and a new decade, may we embrace what the Order is called to do for our beautiful Church... defend and share our faith and help those within our reach. May we trust that our Lord and loving Mother will guide us on our journey.

The 2020 calendar will be emailed to all members just after the new year. Please print and post in a place for easy reference. As communicated at the

Advent dinner, we are adding new options for involvement in 2020. We hope to see you at our usual events as well as the new options focused on strengthening our support of the organizations we serve in our area and our relationships with the young faith filled adults at St. Louis University. Details will be included in the 2020 communication.

A reminder – the January rosary will be on the second Wednesday of January (January 8) due to the New Year’s holiday. We will also host a 30-minute area update immediately following our rosary on Wednesday February 5 at Immacolata Church.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and New Year filled with the miracles of Christ.

Malta Candidacy Event

On Wednesday, August 14, the St. Louis Area had its first-ever Information Night at the Missouri Athletic Club (West). The purpose of the evening was to introduce the Order and its mission to those who have expressed interest in joining as Knights and Dames or Auxiliary members. There were fifteen men and women interested in the Order in attendance.

The evening commenced with a convivial cocktail hour, allowing members and prospects to chat. Afterwards, Magistral Chaplain Msgr. Vernon Gardin offered an opening prayer. Area Chairs Greg

Gantz, KM, and Kathy Gantz, DM introduced the members present, and playing — for one of its first public showings, the new American Association Membership video. This video, filmed by Cardinal Dolan’s video crew in Lourdes, narrates the history and mission of the Order, and is complemented by interviews with Knights and Dames on pilgrimage (including our charming chair-couple).

After the video, Membership Chair Chris Winkelmann, KM, presented the history, structure, and international works of the Order of Malta, as well as membership eligibility and the year of

Chris Winkelmann, KM

formation. Then Carole Less gave a heartfelt description of our local works and the Lourdes pilgrimage. The evening ended with a brief question and answer session and closing prayer by Msgr. Gardin.

If you know of any faithful Catholic men and women interested in assisting the Order with its Mission, please contact Chris Winkelmann at (314) 503-7061 or clw-stl@outlook.com.

To see the new video, please go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2WjLJ83UBY>



Our Lady Of Good Help Pilgrimage

The Fourth Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help was made this August. The pilgrimage brought together members of the three United States Associations of the Order of Malta, along with their families and “malades.” (The term “malades” was used even though we were not on the Lourdes pilgrimage.)

After an opening Mass at the Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier, the pilgrimage advanced to the National Shrine of Our Lady of

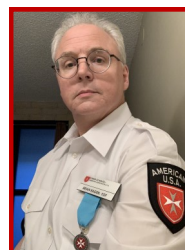
Good Help in nearby Champion. There everyone had the opportunity to learn the story of the apparition of Our Lady to Adele Brise, of whom Our Lady asked to “pray for the conversion of sinners,” and to “gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation.” The Shrine offered many opportunities for public and private prayer, for private reflection, and for interaction with members of the Order from across the country.

Pilgrims also visited the Shrine

Brian Ragen, KM

of St. Joseph on the lovely campus of St. Norbert College in De Pere. Young people who joined the pilgrimage were given the opportunity to take part in a training program for altar servers and served at every Mass. Available to pilgrims was the Order of Malta Hospitality and First Aid Center at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

The Order’s three U.S. associations, working together, will offer assistance to those visiting the Shrine in the years to come.



2019 Fall Morning of Reflection a Hit

Kathy and Greg Gantz, DM and KM

On Saturday, October 26, 2019, Knights, Dames, and Auxiliary from our Area gathered at St. Louis University for our second annual Morning of Reflection. Fr. David Meconi, SJ, graciously hosted our group at the Catholic Studies Centre.

After celebrating Mass, and reciting a rosary, we gathered for a light breakfast and a presentation by Fr. Conedera, SJ on the life of one of our newest saints, John Henry Newman. Father's inciteful talk relayed

how the former Anglican priest, after years of prayer and study, made the very difficult decision to convert to the Roman Catholic faith, and eventually become one of the most prolific and influential theological scholars in the church. In these days of confusion, this new saint is still a valuable pole star in the search for truth.

Thanks again to Fr. Meconi, Fr. Conedera, the students of St. Louis University's Catholic Studies Centre, and in particular to

our Hospitallers, Doug and Beth Van Horn, for planning and hosting such a wonderful faith-filled event. We look forward to the October 31, 2020 Morning of Reflection with the students of St. Louis University. The students' visible commitment to our faith is an inspiration that will live in the hearts of those that attended this year's Morning of Reflection. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." (Matthew 18:20)



2019 American Association Investiture

Kathy and Greg Gantz, DM and KM

The Knights and Dames of the American Association of the Order of Malta gathered in New York to witness the liturgy and solemn investiture of sixty-three new Knights and Dames. The Knights and Dames invested from the St. Louis area included Kelly Bender, DM (in abstenia), Martin Kerckhoff, KM, Lloyd Noble, KM and Brian Regan, KM.

Cardinal O'Malley from Boston presided over the investiture and delivered a beautiful and prayerful homily that confirmed for the newest members of the

Order the responsibility that all Knights and Dames have to defend our faith and serve the sick and the poor through our daily actions and prayerful life. He reminded each of us present that our Order and the works we deliver around the world continue to be relevant and very much needed for the continued conversion of our Church. He assured each of us that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit will hold us close and provide us with the graces and wisdom needed to live the charism of our Order. Cardinal O'Malley's homily left those in

attendance with a profound sense of joy and peace.

Our newest members and their guests celebrated their investiture at the St. Louis area dinner and the Investiture ball. We congratulate each of you and welcome you to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. May God continue to guide each of you in mind, heart and spirit as you incorporate into your daily activities the defense of our faith and serving the sick and the poor.



Cathedral Basilica Gala

The 2nd annual Cathedral Basilica Gala was held on Saturday, August 17, 2019 at Old Warson Country Club. The gala is part of an effort to raise funds for the preservation and restoration of the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis.

Monsignor Henry Brier, the new rector of the Cathedral Basilica, delivered an inspiring talk about the role and importance of the Cathedral Basilica in our Archdiocese.

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson presented the second-ever Msgr. Joseph D. Pins Award to Darryl and Ellen Ross. Parishioners of

St. Joseph Parish in Clayton, the Rosses Co-Chaired the inaugural Cathedral Gala in 2018. Darryl, a board member of the Cathedral Basilica, is the retired President & CEO of Ross Communications, and Ellen owns and operates The Curtain Exchange in Clayton. They have a long history of supporting many important local charities including Our Lady's Inn, Today & Tomorrow Educational Foundation and Birthright Counseling, St. Louis. Darryl Ross is a Board Member of the Friends of the Cathedral Basilica. Monsignor Pins was rector of the Cathedral Basilica

of Saint Louis Parish for 10 years before he died in 2015.

In its second year, the event had a record breaking "Fund-A-Need" led by Archbishop Carlson. A live auction concluded the evening.

The Cathedral Basilica, in the Central West End, is considered a masterpiece of art and history, rivaling the grandest cathedrals in the world. Artisans, craftsmen, stonecutters and masons spent almost a century to complete the structure and its 83,000 square feet of mosaic tile.

Mark Guyol, KM

Fall Event at Annunziata and the St. Louis Club

At Annunziata Church on September 18th, St. Louis Area Malta gathered for the Memorial Mass of St. Robert Bellarmine, celebrated by Archbishop Carlson. Concelebrants were Msgrs. Gardin and Leykam, and Scott Kennebeck was the cantor. St. Bellarmine was a Jesuit and Car-

dinal. He was canonized a saint in 1930, named Doctor of the Church, and was one of the most important figures in the Counter-Reformation.

The Mass was followed by cocktails and dinner at the St. Louis Club which served a delectable meal. The evening closed with

Bebe Kennedy, DM

remarks from Kathy Gantz who reviewed our recent activities and announced forthcoming event dates: Day of Recollection at St. Louis University Catholic Studies Center on Oct. 26th and Mass at St. Claire of Assisi and dinner at Bellerive CC on December 19th, 2019.



ORDER OF MALTA

Area Co-Chairs:
Kathy and Greg Gantz

Hospitallers:
Beth and Doug Van Horn

Treasurer:
Greg Goltermann

Auxiliary Chairs:
Genie and John Wilhelm

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Publisher: John Willmsen
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Donna and Mike Roth

Defense of the Faith:
Pat Hanley

Prison Ministry:
Patricia Hofmeister
Michael Mooney

Grant Committee:
Kathy and Greg Gantz
Carole Less
Jack Pohrer
Don Gunn

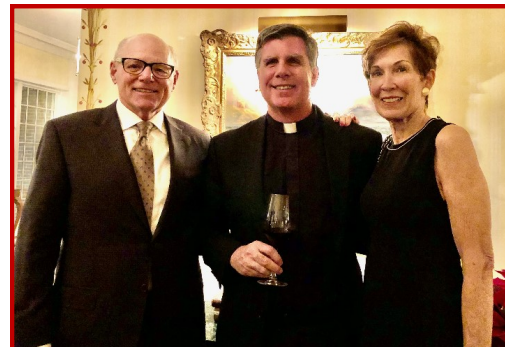
Prayer Network:
Tim O'Connell

Rosary Leaders:
Tyler Bender (lead)
Donna and Mike Albers

Mailings:
Anniversary Cards:
Carole Less
Daily Missals:
Pat Bick

Membership:
Chris Winkelmann

Advent Dinner Pictures



News Notes

The St. Louis Review Nov. 25 – Dec. 1 issue had an article titled “ ‘Holy Space’ Within St. Patrick Center” that described Mike Heck’s effort to initiate the construction of a chapel at the Center for prayer and reflection.

Both clients and staff now make visits to this sanctuary, built by donors’ contributions that totaled \$50,000. St. Patrick Center has been meeting various needs of its clients, and now chapel visits, where religious materials,

Bebe Kennedy, DM

e.g., rosaries and books, may be availed, further enhances spiritual development. Mike has been a volunteer at St. Patrick’s, immersed in this ministry for fully thirty years!