

New Member Town Halls

We will hold two small-group evening receptions this spring to aid our recruiting efforts. If you have been thinking of talking with someone about joining the Order, these “Town Halls” are an excellent way to start the conversation. **Please invite your prospective candidate to join at one of these casual events.** We will have wine and cheese, a couple of short presentations on different aspects of the Order, a video and time for questions and discussion. The first Town Hall will be on March 24 from 7PM to 9PM at the home of Sharon and Stephen Niehaus, 8721 Cajeput Cove, Ft. Myers. The second Town Hall will be on May 13 at the same time at a location to be determined. Please let Gerrie Musicco know if you will be bringing a potential candidate to one of these evenings (gerriemusicco@gmail.com, or 203-273-0980). If you would like to host the May 13 reception, please let Gerrie know. Hosts need provide only glasses, plates and napkins. The Order will provide the refreshments.

March 1st Friday

Our March 1st Friday Mass and Dinner was held on March 6. We had 74 members and guests in attendance. Father Ratzmann celebrated mass, preaching about the need for hands-on work on the road to sanctification and commending the Order for providing opportunities for hands-on service.

Immediately after mass, we acknowledged first timers Tom and Lynne VanHimbergen, who are candidates for investiture in the fall, and Cindy and Michael Niedermeier, Naples residents who are originally from Connecticut.

We also welcomed several guests, including State Senator Kathleen Passidomo and her husband John. Senator Passidomo is the daughter of Kathleen and Al Cinotti, MD, KM. Other guests included Sarah Kozak, our after dinner speaker from Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc., Katie and David Caples, guests of the Counselmans, Gail and Jay Crosson, guests of the Kroegers, Barbara deMauriac, guest of MaryAnn Kelly McDonald, Barbara Noud, guest of Lenore Ford and Tom and Cathy Snyder, guests of the Amens.

We continued our tradition of serenading with a chorus of “Happy Birthday!” those with birthdays in the current month. Those receiving the recognition this month were Jim Buckley, Deacon Gary Ingold, Tom Kroeger, Jo O’Reilly, Brendan Murtaugh and Charlotte Williams.

We offered special thanks to Maria Joyce for her hard work over the last several months researching and developing our next new ministry—purchasing, preparing and serving dinner at St. Matthew House. More information on this ministry is provided on the following page.

After dinner JoAnne and Carl Kuehner, Area Co-Chairs in the years before 2009, Dick Copeland, Area Chair from 2009 to 2015, and Pete Bewley, current Area Chair, jointly presented Dr. Al Cinotti, accompanied by his wife Kathleen, with the Order of Malta American Association President’s Medal in recognition of his 47 years of contribution to the Order and his service to the sick through his volunteer and leadership activities in ophthalmology.



Kathleen Cinotti,
Dr. Al Cinotti,
John, Francesca and
Kathleen Passidomo



Pete then presented Michael Niedermeier with his 15 year pin



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Five of our members earned aprons over the past few months for their hands-on work in the Power Pack program and the Mobile Food Pantry program and received their aprons at dinner.



Teresa Claugus, Pete Bewley, Lynne VanHimbergen,
Tom VanHimbergen, Ann Swinford and Harriet Oexmann

We received a suggestion that we eliminate the requirement that men wear ties to 1st Friday mass and dinner. We polled the ladies and gentlemen separately. Both groups voted overwhelmingly to maintain the tie requirement.

Courtney Price reported that our new ministry that serves donuts and coffee to mostly elderly parishioners at St. William after the 8:00 AM mass on Wednesdays is proving popular. Courtney and Chris Kroeger have been staffing this ministry and would welcome help from others who attend 8:00AM mass. Volunteers are needed to pick up the donuts before mass and serve after mass. Please contact Courtney at ckmprice@comcast.net to help.

Michael Rothmeier, Area Hospitaller, and Maria Joyce, Co-Vice Chair of the Naples Area, introduced our newest ministry. Our Mobile Food Pantry and our Power Pack program have been so popular that we have not been able to accommodate everyone who wants to volunteer. Maria has been looking for a similar ministry to increase volunteer opportunities to provide face-to-face service to our lords the sick and the poor. She has found such an opportunity at St. Matthew House. We will be providing dinner for clients of St. Matthew House on Airport Road in Naples from 3:45 to 6:15 on the 4th Thursday of each month. Members will purchase the food, prepare the meal and serve. Tom and Chris Kroeger will lead this ministry. To participate, members must register online with St. Matthew House.

**PLEASE CONTACT MARIA JOYCE
(JOYCEMA@COLLIERSCHOOLS.COM)
OR CHRIS KROEGER AT
(CKROEGER@EMBARQMAIL.COM)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER.

Our after-dinner speaker was Sarah Kozak from Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc. She spoke about the joy she experiences helping expectant mothers in crisis pregnancies. She expressed deep gratitude to the Naples Area and our members for our support of CPCI. The Order has contributed over \$80,000 to CPCI over the last 5 years and is a member of CPCI's Century Club, the group of donors who helped fund CPCI's expansion beyond its first two clinics in Naples and Ft. Myers.

Ministries

We have highlighted the work of several of our ministries.

Power Pack: We are reminded that our Power Pack program, packs weekend food bags for poor elementary school children in East Naples. All are invited to help on Wednesday mornings at 8:00AM at Catholic Charities Judy Sullivan Resource Center, 3174 Tamiami Trail E., Naples. Contact Tom O'Reilly at toriinap@aol.com or 239-451-0015.

Respect Life: Our presence at Planned Parenthood is having a significant impact on abortion. We pray the Rosary at 8:45AM every Monday at the corner of Goodlette Frank and Creech Roads in Naples. Please contact BJ Barone at BJB@barone.com or 239-825-9259.

Mobile Food Pantry: We staff a mobile food pantry on the 4th Monday of every month from 3:00 to 6:00PM at River Park, 301 11th St. North in downtown Naples. Contact Courtney Price at ckmprice@comcast.net or 202-744-0514.

Volunteer Opportunity

Father Steve Clemente has asked for help transporting an elderly parishioner to daily mass at St. William. If you attend 8:00AM or 12:10PM mass at St. William and would be willing to give someone a ride to mass periodically, please contact Father Steve at the St. William Parish Office.

Upcoming Events

April 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be held on April 3.

May 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be held on the second Friday, May 8 because the first Friday was originally going to be in Lourdes.

St. John the Baptist Feast Day Mass will be celebrated at St. William at the 12:10PM service on Wednesday, June 24.

Informal 1st Friday masses and dinners will continue, over the summer. Watch for announcements from Courtney Price.

Formal 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will resume on October 2.