



Retreat Master
Father George Ratzmann

February 5th Mini-Retreat & Dinner

Our Mini-Retreat and Dinner was held on February 5, 2021. We had a fantastic turnout. Over sixty of us were present at Mass and more than fifty of us gathered for dinner at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club.

Our Chaplain, Fr George, gave two inspirational talks for our Mini Retreat. The first talk was on Ta Biblia "The Books" and focused the history and literary forms contained in the bible. Fr. George also discussed the development of the canon of scripture and how books were included. He then spoke on how to read and interpret the bible and how to use methods such as Lectio Divina "Divine Reading" when reading scripture.

Fr. George's second talk was on Redemptive Suffering. He began by discussing how other religions view suffering and then he went through the development of the theology of suffering in the Old Testament from the Pentateuch to Prophets and then the Wisdom literature. Fr. George then transitioned to Jesus' attitude on Suffering as the Suffering Servant and the Sacrificial Lamb of God. He concluded with the Christian implication of suffering and suffering's effect on the sufferer. Suffering can help us to learn from our mistakes and it can help to strengthen us. Suffering can

also work to unite us in the face of suffering and finally there is the victory of love over suffering. The retreat concluded with a final prayer.

O give us patience and steadfastness in adversity, strengthen our weakness, comfort us in trouble and distress, help us to fight; grant unto us that in true obedience and concentration of mind we may give over our wills to thee, our Father, in all things, according to the example of thy beloved Son; that in adversity we grudge not, but offer up ourselves unto thee without contradiction...O give us a willing and cheerful mind, that we may gladly suffer and bear all things for the sake of receiving thee.

— **Bishop Miles Coverdale, 1488-1568**

Mass was in the church at St. Ann rather than the chapel to facilitate social distancing. Special thanks for Leo Stec, Debbie Brunel and Jo O'Reilly for a spectacular event! Also for safety, dinner was not preceded by stand-up cocktails, but drinks were served at the tables. Tables were limited to 6 people. Attendees were happy to be getting together again sharing a meal.

David and Maria welcomed first time attendees to the dinner. Ed and Kathy Delaney, Ed is the Chancellor of the American Association. Dr. Ron and Joanne Caputo, guests of Daniel and Kathy Mezzalinguas, Tom and Kathy Smith, guests of Nancy and Jeff Matthews and Kaye McGarry.

We also celebrated several birthdays occurring



in February, Chris Kroeger, Marcella Logue, Ken Muraski, Tom O'Reilly and Nancy Stec.

To the right are Nancy and Jeff Matthews were awarded Malta work aprons by Tom O'Reilly for their work with **Power Pack** on Wednesday mornings.

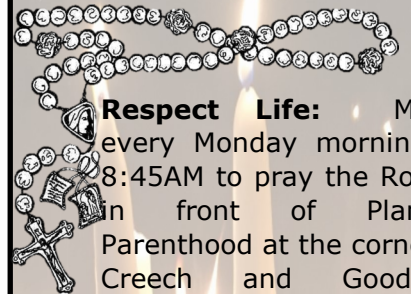
Power Pack
Tom O'Reilly came up to the podium and gave a great speech about the beginnings of Power Pack with Catholic Charities. It all started with one person wanting to do more. As result the Power Pack program has grow to fill 200 hundred back packs for children in Collier County schools. Thanks Tom! What an amazing program!



Jeff Matthews , Tom O'Reilly and Nancy Matthews

Ministries

Power Pack: Is packing 200 weekend bags for elementary school children in Naples. We meet at 8:00AM every Wednesday morning at Catholic Charities, 3174 Tamiami Trail, East Naples. Contact Tom O'Reilly at (toriinap@aol.com) to volunteer.



Respect Life: Meets every Monday morning at 8:45AM to pray the Rosary in front of Planned Parenthood at the corner of Creech and Goodlette Frank Roads. Contact BJ Barone at (BJB@BJBarone.com) for more information.

Recruiting: If you know of someone who is interested in learning about membership in the Order of Malta. Please contact Gerrie Musicco at gerriemusicco@gmail.com if you have someone you would like to recommend.

Human Trafficking Back Pack Program: Packing Backpacks for Human Trafficking happened on December 16, 2020. New date for March coming soon. If you would like to help out, please contact Steve or Sharon Niehaus at sgniehaus61@gmail.com



- Grants Program:**
- Regular area Grants Program
 - COVID-19 Emergency Food-Related Assistance Program
 - Local Area Project Support Grants Program

If you have questions about the 2021 program, or ideas for new ministries, please contact Michael Rothmeier, Chairman of the Grants Committee at: rothmeiermj@gmail.com

Eucharistic Procession Opportunity

Courtney Price has alerted us to a potential Defense of the Faith project. It involves organizing a public eucharistic procession. See uniteournation.net for more information or contact Maria and David Joyce Joycema@collierschools.com

Announcements

- **March 1st Friday Mass and Dinner:** March 5, 2021.
- **April 1st Friday Mass and Dinner:** (**2nd Friday**) April 9, 2021
- **May 1st Friday Mass and Dinner:** May 7, 2021

- Please remember , Mass begins at 5:30
- We will employ the same safety protocol that we used in February.





The Order of Malta, American Association Grants Program

As we all know, the mission of the American Association of the Order of Malta is the promotion of the Glory of God through the sanctification of its members, witness to and support of the Catholic faith, and active service to the sick and the poor. Toward that end, the American Association offers resources through the annual Area Grants Program for local organizations to support Area ministries and to enable Area members to be the hands and feet of Christ in serving the sick and the poor, thereby living out our Order's mission and charism.

The 2021 Area Grants program was launched in January, and offers some new and exciting changes to the structure of the program. This year's Area Grants Program offers three ways to utilize the Area's resource allocation to maximize program impact.

First, the Regular Area Grants Program will continue, as in the past, to allow our Area to submit grant applications for organizations in which our members are actively involved. The scope and process will be the same as last year.

Second, the COVID-19 Emergency Food-Related Assistance Program that was introduced last year to provide immediate assistance to organizations providing food to those in need will be continued in 2021. The American Association will continue to approve grants through an expedited process.

Third, we are excited to introduce the Local Area Project Support Grants Program which will provide funding that supports local ministries that do not fall under the previous Area Grants program structure. Activities like Malta Walks and Backpack Programs are a fit for this category. These resources are a great option as we look to start up new ministries in the Naples Area.

If you have questions about the 2021 program, or ideas for new ministries, please contact Michael Rothmeier, Chairman of the Grants Committee at: rothmeiermj@gmail.com

Human Trafficking Back Pack Program



Back Pack Program: Dennis Logue, Leah Flavia, Marilyn Miller, Peter Bewley, Chris Kroeger, Tom Kroeger, Sharon and Steve Niehaus.

Matthew 25:35-36

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36

I needed clothes and you clothed me,

I was sick and you looked after me,

I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Pray for Our Sick

Mary, spiritual Mother to those in need, we fervently request your heavenly intercession for,

- Sue Dillon
- Joe Gill
- Tom Redmond
- Jeannie Murtaugh
- Brendan Murtaugh
- Al Cinotti
- Steve Orr
- Harry Witt
- Allie Maggini,

and all those who are ill and seek God's miraculous assistance.

May each of you be wrapped up in God's love,
Carried and kept, safe and cherished,
May the healing power of Christ Breathe across your being now.
Amen

The Naples Area Order of Malta has been very busy packing backpacks for victims of human trafficking in our area. The program is headed up by Steve and Sharon Niehaus. Our group packed 25 backpacks in December and will be packing backpacks again in March. In addition, last week on February 8, 2021 it was the International Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking. Please join us this month in praying the following prayer:

Loving Father,
We seek your divine protection for all who are exploited and enslaved.
For those forced into labor, trafficked into sexual slavery, and denied freedom.
We beseech you to release them from their chains. Grant them protection, safety, and empowerment. Restore their dignity and provide them a new beginning. Show us how we might end exploitation by addressing its causes.
Help us reach out in support of victims and survivors of human trafficking.
Make us instruments of your spirit for their liberation. For this we pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen



Rosary Group 2/1/21. Left to right, Sue Newman, Jim Newman, Chris Kroeger, Charlotte Williams, Ed Delaney, Gerrie Musicco, BJ Barone, Gary Ingold, Steve Barrett, Jim Dillon, Fran Buckley.

Do you know someone who is in the Order of Malta that is unable to leave home and would benefit from a visit from Malta. Let us know. Joanne Kuehner is heading up our newest program and Nancy Stec is assisting Joanne, visiting our own sick. Please contact them if you would like to be involved. Joanne can be contacted at joanne@hopeforhaiti.com and Nancy can be contacted at n.stec2516@gmail.com.