



Naples Order of Malta: Power Pack



In 2011 Dick Copeland, Area Chair, was seeking a ministry to help the poor in our community. Dick knew he had a group of knights and dames who were "chomping at the bit" to use their time and talents to help people.

Dick approached the local director of Catholic Charities. The director told Dick he had a program he had been unable to launch because of a lack of volunteers needed on an ongoing basis. The program was the Power Pack Program. The Power Pack program is important because, it is easy for children to go hungry. The goal of the Power Pack Food

Program is to provide up to 270 children who are identified to be homeless, with a container of nutritious food every Friday so they will have sustenance throughout the weekend.

As a result a partnership was formed. Catholic Charities provided the money and Malta committed to providing the manpower.

Now in its tenth year the "Power Pack" program is providing 270 meals a week to Parkside Elementary School and Gulf Coast Charter Academy. In this school year, 9,000 Power Pack will be provided at a cost of \$61,000. The knights and dames will have contributed over 700 hours of volunteer time. Catholic Charities solicits restricted contributions for the program. A number of knights and dames also support the program along with a grant from our local Malta area.

The counselors, teachers and staff at Parkside and Gulf Coast, are very grateful for all that we have done for their students through the Power Pack program.

This partnership between the Naples Area of Malta and Catholic Charities in making a difference is the lives of the children we serve.

If you would like more information about the program or you would like to help. Please contact at Tom O'Reilly at toriiinap@aol.com.

First Friday March 5, 2021

Mass was in the dining room at the Naples Yacht Club at 5:30. First Friday was well attended. We had 69 people attend Mass and Dinner.

David and Maria welcomed our special guests Fra John Dunlap from the other coast who is on the Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta. Joe Guillen, a long time member from Ft Lauderdale who has attended the Lourdes Pilgrimage many times. Barb and Judy Miller. Barb's husband Joe was the President of the American Association in 2010 & 2011 and both were long time members with their daughter-in-law Judy. Lastly Lisa Murtha joined us. She is the daughter of Tom and Chris Krueger. She came up to the podium to share a story about the ripple effect that Malta has on our community.



We also celebrated several birthdays occurring in March: Gary Ingold, Tom Kroeger, Dennis Logues, Brendan Murtaugh, Jo O'Reilly, and Steve Barrett.

Five Year Pins



Lenore Ford, Anne Peach and Gary Ingold & presenter David Joyce

Lenore Ford, Anne Peach and Gary Ingold were presented with their five year pins. Tony Giglio, Mike Cogburn, Betsy Cogburn, Gerrie Musicco, and Jean-Paul Musicco were presented with their 10 year pins. Congratulations!

Jim Costello was a good sport and graciously accepted his 30 year pin prematurely (he was invested in 2009)!

Lastly, David invited Courtney Price up to talk about the Hope for Haiti Hike. Hike for Haiti starts April 1, 2021. If you would like to join Courtney on her hike please go to: <https://give.hopeforhaiti.com/event/hike-for-haiti-challenge-2021/e312563/register/new/select-tickets>. If you would like more information please contact Courtney at ckmprice@comcast.net or 202-744-0514.

Ten Year Pins

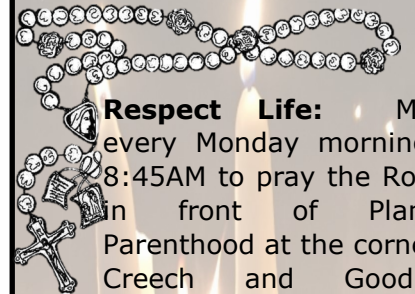


Tony Giglio, Mike Cogburn, Betsy Cogburn, Gerrie Musicco, and Jen-Paul Musicco

James 2:26 *A body that doesn't breathe is dead. In the same way faith that does nothing is dead.*

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 (toriiinap@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 Backpack 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

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 each month.





Malta Ministries—Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem

Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem is a joint hospitaller work of the three American Associations of the Order of Malta, providing state-of-the-art pediatric, obstetric, and gynecological care to women and children of the Holy Land. The Hospital treats all those who seek care, regardless of their religion, nationality, or ability to pay. Since 1990, Holy Family Hospital has delivered over 75,000 babies in Bethlehem.



Holy Family Hospital In Bethlehem

The Hospital's Mobile Outreach Clinic makes routine visits to remote village communities in order to provide medical treatment to those in need, and its *Well Woman Clinic* offers screenings and treatment to post-menopausal women for diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases. It is the only hospital in the region equipped to care for premature infants and women with high-risk pregnancies. Holy Family Hospital is Bethlehem's second largest employer, it provides more than 160 jobs for Palestinian families. The Hospital unites Christians and Muslims as they work together to foster peace through medicine. The hospital is located only 1,500 steps from the birthplace of Christ, Holy Family Hospital is an instrument of peace and a beacon of hope in region filled with strife and uncertainty. It embraces all who seek care and no one is ever turned away.

For more information about the Foundation or to support the Hospital please visit Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation.

Meet Maha and Afaq

Baby Maha is from a small village named Doha in Palestine & she was the first baby born in 2021 at Holy Family Hospital.

Baby Afaq was born at thirty-three weeks old at a local hospital in respiratory distress. He was transferred to Holy Family Hospital where he was intubated in the NICU and his life was saved. At two weeks old, he will go home soon!



Maha



Afaq

Matthew 18:12-14 *He's the Shepherd that leaves ninety-nine sheep to go search for the one that is lost, then rejoices when he finds it, not willing that "...even one of these little ones should perish."*

The Birth Place of Hope

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
- Charlie Morgan,

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 Malta Ripple by Lisa Murtha

I've lived in Cincinnati for more than two decades but had never heard of the Saint Francis Seraph Ministries (SFSM) soup kitchen until my parents, members of the Order of Malta, began volunteering there with other Order members, serving breakfast and dinner to food insecure SFSM clients. After joining them once, I came away so impressed by the organization, and vowed to write a story about them soon. I just didn't know what the story would be about.



In 2019, I started writing a recurring column for Cincinnati Magazine, called Person of Interest, featuring regular people doing inspiring things. In 2020, desperate for story material in a time where so much of the world was closed down, I checked online and found that the SFSM soup kitchen had never once closed its doors. I immediately pitched the story idea to my editor and she accepted it. The volunteer staff the day I shadowed was a skeleton crew, but my favorite quote came from a regular helper: "Here I see clients being treated like human beings." It's a simple way of showing, he added, "I'm not any better than they are."

Fast forward to 2021. The magazine published the article in February; in March, I received an unexpected basket of flowers at my front door from SFSM. Turns out, a local charitable foundation had donated \$25,000 to the organization, specifically noting they did it because of my article. I knew instantly it was God's hand at work... through the order of Malta. Had the Order not hosted volunteer opportunities at SFSM, I never would have learned about it in the first place. And if I hadn't known about it, I wouldn't have written about it... and they never would have gotten that check.

Volunteer work is sometimes thankless, and certainly those in the Order of Malta know it's almost never glamorous. But this experience proves what I hope you all know - that the work the Order does has a tremendous ripple effect which touches lives and organizations in ways we can only imagine.

Follow the link if you would like to read the original article. <https://www.cincinnati.com/article/st-francis-seraph-ministries-feeds-the-homeless-and-the-hungry/>

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.