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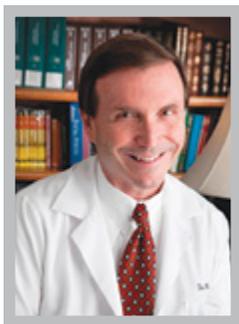
Many mothers probably said to their children, “You never miss the water until the well runs dry.” For many people around the world, as the pandemic numbers rise and fall with every breath, it has been true that those parts of our daily routines that have become the fabric of our life’s tapestry have been removed and have left a void.

For the Class of 2020, that was certainly true — no Investiture, no Annual Dinner, no Lourdes 2020 or 2021 Pilgrimage, no 2021 Wisconsin Pilgrimage. But November brought some relief — an opening in the fog, so to speak — a time when people gathered together in New York City, around Saint Patrick’s Cathedral and around the Intercontinental Barclay Hotel. It wasn’t necessarily the ‘good old days’ and the restrictions in place kept everything just a little bit on edge. But time marches on and one hundred thirty-two Knights, Dames and Chaplains were invested during the events of Investiture weekend. *(continued on page 3)*

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Please visit our website at:
orderofmaltaamerican.org to find the latest information about the American Association, our local Areas, and the Order of Malta. Links are also available to other Association websites and the Sovereign Magistry in the “About the Order” section.

Since its redesign, the Order of Malta, American Association mobile app continues to be updated regularly with new photos and user friendly improvements to its features such as daily prayers and the member directory. This app is available for Android and iOS devices in the app store when you search “Order of Malta, American Association.”



AS I WRITE THIS MESSAGE, I am reflecting on the year just ended and the year in front of us. May you and your families all be blessed with the peace, joy and love that comes to us from God. It was wonderful to be back in person at all the events surrounding our Investiture in November. Unfortunately, the lull in the storm is past and the covid numbers have continued to require adjustments in the way we interact. Hopefully, as the year progresses, the impacts of the pandemic will subside.

At the Annual Meeting, I shared how we have adapted to the pandemic and how we can continue to do so; then I shared how we've grown despite the restrictions. The almost 2 years of the pandemic have certainly presented us with many challenges but thanks to Zoom and to our industrious members we were able to accomplish many good things. One of the glaring needs, still continuing, has been for food for the many people affected by the shutdowns. We instituted a program where areas could use their grant money to help food banks and food pantries. Over \$367,000 dollars was donated by our many areas over the past two years.

We have had two virtual Lourdes Pilgrimages and also a virtual Wisconsin Pilgrimage. It certainly wasn't like being there in person, but it brought us together during a time when we most needed to be together. Our last Annual Business Meeting was on zoom as were all of our board meetings. We finally had our first in person board meeting in September in St. Louis. It was great to see everyone and to enjoy a dinner with the members of the Missouri area.

We tried to fill our spiritual needs with presentations by our chaplains, but everyone missed our twice-yearly retreats. Thankfully we had our first in-person retreat in two years in September in Massachusetts. We had over forty people in attendance and were led on retreat by Bishop Scharfenberger from Albany. Although the restrictions presented many challenges to continuing our ministries, I continue to be impressed by the ways our areas have adapted so that they could still serve the sick and the poor.

Then I took the opportunity to share how we've grown during the pandemic and how we spent the free time created by the shutdowns developing association wide ministries:

1. One of the issues we have been focused on fighting is physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia. 11 states have laws allowing physician assisted suicide and over the past year efforts to pass similar laws in Massachusetts and Connecticut were narrowly defeated.

Studies have shown that some of the people who seek physician-assisted suicide do so because they feel worthless and that they are a burden to their family or to society. It's often not that they are in terrible pain. A dedicated team of our members led by Dr. Donna Colletti, a palliative care physician, met monthly over the past 2 years to create the St. Bernadette Ministry, a palliative care initiative that would allow our members to help people who are elderly and frail and may be near death as well as those with terminal illnesses to regain their sense of self worth. It is a ministry that was developed by a psychiatrist in Canada and was expanded in Australia, so that members of the Order of Malta could participate.

The program consists of interviewing people who are elderly, frail and may be terminally ill to elicit their life story. The interview is taped and then transcribed. It is then reviewed with the interviewee, edited, and presented as a document to the person so they can share it with their family.

The simple process of reviewing someone's life gives them back their sense of worth. It takes about 4 to 6 hours to complete the whole project and can be done by anyone who is a good listener. We call it "My Life Story, a legacy project". We have developed a training program that includes mentoring for anyone interested. This is a project that can be done in all of our Areas.

Learn more about this and the St. Bernadette Palliative Care Ministry on page 15.

2. Human trafficking is a world wide problem that is estimated to have 40 million victims and is a business that generates \$150 billion in revenue. Both the Pope and the Order of Malta have recognized it as a problem we should all be actively fighting. (continued on page 16)

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2021 Investiture

A Day of Hope, A Lifetime of Commitment

(continued from cover)

On Thursday, November 4th at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, at the Mass for the blessing of capes and robes, nine Deputy Chaplains were installed to serve the members of the Areas to which they are assigned — due to covid restrictions and conflicting schedules, four of them were invested in absentia.

According to the guidelines published by the American Association, “The American Association has a unique position for Chaplains who are considering and are being considered for appointment to the Magistral Chaplain position. Clergy can be appointed by the Board of Councillors with the approval of the Principal Chaplain to the position of Deputy Chaplain. This position is intended to last for three years and provides the Deputy Chaplain and the Area with an opportunity to assess the interest and capacity to become a permanent Chaplain in the Order of Malta. Generally, in the American Association, prospective Chaplains are brought in first as Deputy Chaplains.”

At the same Mass on Thursday, the robes and capes were blessed: the Chancellor, Mr. Edward J. Delaney, spoke the following words: “These robes and capes are emblazoned

with the white Cross; the color white signifies purity. You are to carry this cross over your heart and keep it unsullied, without any sort of stain or blemish.” Mr. Delaney continued, “The eight points of the Cross signify the Beatitudes, which we must keep present in our hearts and minds. The first is spiritual contentment. The second is to live simply without malice. The third is to live humbly. The fourth is to repent of our faults and sins. The fifth is to love justice. The sixth is to be merciful. The seventh is to be pure and spotless in mind and heart. The eighth is to endure afflictions and persecution for the sake of justice. These virtues you must fix in your heart for the salvation of your soul.”

The ceremony continued with Mr. Delaney speaking about the importance of the Cross, “This cross is carried openly on the outside of your robes for all to see. It is worn over your heart so that you may be mindful of the Beatitudes and never forget them. The Cross is worn on your left, near to your heart, so that you can love it with all your strength, and defend it with your right. You are commanded never to abandon it and to carry it as the true banner of our Faith.”

“The first quality a Knight or Dame must have is to be honorable. This honor depends on four virtues. The virtue of Prudence is that by which you come to know all things, guarding in your memory things of the past, ordering the present and providing for the future. *(continued on page 6)*



DEPUTY AND MAGISTRAL CHAPLAINS,

DEPUTY CHAPLAINS

Rev. John K. Butler, ChD
New Jersey

Rev. Pedro Bismarck Chau, ChD
New Jersey

Rev. Brian G. King, ChD
Southeast, FL

Rev. Thomas M. Lutz, ChD
Upstate, NY

Rev. Msgr. Kevin J. O'Leary, ChD*
Boston, MA

Rev. Eduardo Ortiz Santiago, ChD*
US Virgin Islands

Rev. Mark D. Pavlak, ChD*
Minnesota

Rev. Nicolas Zrallack, ChD*
Vero Beach, FL

DEPUTY DEACON CHAPLAIN

Rev. Mr. Patrick Toole, ChDD
CT – Southern, Western and Northern

CONVENTUAL CHAPLAINS

Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio, ChC
Virgin Islands

Most Rev. Mitchell T. Rozanski, ChC
Missouri

MAGISTRAL CHAPLAINS

Rev. John W. Girotti, ChM*
Wisconsin – NE

Rev. Michael K. Jones, ChM, STD
Connecticut - Eastern

Rev. Thomas Kelly, Jr., ChM
Connecticut - Southern, Western and Northern

Msgr. James P. Moroney, ChM*
Boston, MA

Rev. Frank Sevola, OFM, ChM
Boston, MA

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Evelyn S. Carfagno, DM Bethlehem, PA	Lola N. Grace, DM Locust Valley, NY	Michele B. Meiers, DM Wynnewood, PA	Lourdes R. Spinola, DM Irving, TX
Hoi I (Queenie) Cheong, DM* Lexington, MA	Marisa S. Greason, DM New York, NY	Rosalinda M. Moritz, DM* Sandy Hook, CT	Dana M. Surena-Mattson, DM Norwalk, CT
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— KNIGHTS OF MAGISTRAL GRACE —

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Patrick Byrne Broderick, MD, KM New Fairfield, CT	Timothy W. Gamma, KM* Chesterfield, MO	Thomas J. Manley, Jr, KM Lafayette Hill, PA	Emir C. Roach, MD, KM* Lexington, MA
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Donald P. Burgo, PhD, KM Saint Louis, MO	Michael J. Golia, MD, JD, KM Little Neck, NY	Herman H. Martin, Jr, KM Stockton, NJ	George P Schwartz, KM* Plymouth, MI
Anthony Calanca, KM New Canaan, CT	Michael P. Gordon, KM* New York, NY	Walfrido J. Martinez, KM Ridgefield, CT	Nexus U. Sea, Esq, KM West Orange, NJ
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John (Jack) T. Dolehide, DO, KM* Dubuque, IA	Paul Klimos, KM New York, NY	Lorenzo Paladino, MD, KM Brooklyn, NY	Arthur Viola, KM* Forest Hills, NY
Brian Duperreault, KM New York, NY	Jason A. LaBerteaux, KM Stamford, CT	Timothy Lee Pohlman, DDS, KM Cincinnati, OH	Ron J. Wofford, KM Waterford, CT

**In absentia*



(continued from page 3)

The virtue of Justice, the Queen of the Virtues, is that by which you maintain all things in balance of reason and equity. The virtue of Fortitude makes you alive with courage and valiant before your enemies. The virtue of Temperance moderates all your actions.”

Mr. Delaney encouraged the candidates to take this exhortation to heart, “You must enrobe yourself with these four virtues and make them your own in this ancient Order of Chivalry.”

On Friday, at the Solemn Mass of Investiture, a long procession led the Principal Chaplain of the American Association, Cardinal Timothy Michael Dolan, Archbishop of New York, to the sanctuary to the strains of magnificent organ of the Cathedral of Saint Patrick. The choir filled the Cathedral air with a hymn from Saint Francis of Assisi, traditional at American Association Investitures over the years, All Creatures of Our God and King. The hymn, written around 1225, was predated by the Papal Bull of 1113 that established the Order under the protection of Pope Paschal II; the Order whose roots were planted in the middle of the 11th century was officially recognized as a lay religious order.

Two Conventual and five Magistral Chaplains were invested. President Peter Kelly asked them the traditional question of the Rite of investiture, “Do you promise to be faithful to the noble traditions of the Order, to participate in its services, to have a special care for the poor and sick, and to nurture the spiritual lives of the Members of the Order as a Magistral Chaplain?” The candidates responded, “I do so promise.”

Dr. Kelly addressed the candidates to be invested as Knights and Dames in the words from the Solemn Rite of Investiture, “Reception in our Order, which you ask for, belongs only to those who commit themselves to follow the



banner of Christ. So I ask you: Are you ready to follow the banner of Christ, and of the Order, to witness and defend the Catholic Faith, and to do works of charity, as the Order requires?”

The candidates replied in unison, “I promise, calling on the name of God, in chivalrous fidelity, always to bear witness to the Catholic Faith, to defend the Church, and to lead my life in accordance with the teachings of Holy Mother Church. I declare myself ready as a member of the Order of Malta to care for our lords, the sick and the poor, with all my strength and ability. I also declare myself ready to obey the Constitution, the Statutes, and the Rule of the Order, and to fulfill with fidelity and diligence whatever the Order and my superiors impose on me. To all this, so help me God, Our Lady of Philermo, Saint John the Baptist, our Glorious Patron, Blessed Frá Gerard, our Founder, and all the Saints of our Order. You who are here present, I also call to witness my commitment.”

Forty-eight Dames and sixty-eight Knights were invested in 2021 — seventy-one were 2020 Candidates and forty-five were 2021 Candidates. Twenty-nine of the new Knights and Dames were invested in absentia.

Other events during the three day celebration included the New Member Orientation, the Area Leaders and Chaplains Meeting, the Malta Human Services Foundation Board Meeting, the Board of Councillors Meeting, the Spirituality in Action Meeting, the Annual Membership Meeting, the Annual Dinner, the Mass in Honor of Living and Deceased Malades and Deceased Knights and Dames of the Association and a Mass for the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes. Add in a few Area Dinners, a reception with new members and the Board of Councillors, and a reception preceding the Annual Dinner and you have an event-packed stretch of days (and nights). God’s blessing and our best wishes for all those invested in November 2021. ■



Cardinal Timothy Dolan Speaks at the Annual Dinner

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

At the Annual Dinner, Cardinal Dolan reiterated an admonition to members issued in his sermon at the Solemn Mass of Investiture. First, he expressed his admiration for the members of the Order of Malta, “Can I just begin by renewing to all of you the esteem for you that I expressed earlier today at Mass? Not only am I grateful for your commitment to the lofty virtues of the Order of Malta, but I am grateful for you Knights and Dames, precisely because you are zealous, energetic, generous Catholic men and women. We bishops and priests see you everywhere; in our schools, working for our charities and healthcare. You’re convinced, excited, evangelically savvy Catholics who love Jesus and His church. When Pope Saint John Paul II said love for Jesus and His Church is the passion of our lives, I think of you. And I thank you for the example you give.” Then the Cardinal issued a warning about the risks to freedom of religion growing in our country, “tonight, for a minute, I’d like to speak about religious freedom in our beloved country. The country we hail as our earthly, temporary home.”

“Folks, this is a no brainer. You and I defend religious liberty, not just because of the charism of the Order of Malta, not only because we’re believers, but, darn it, because we’re Americans and freedom of religion is our first and most cherished basic right; first in the quartet of liberties, litany in the Bill of Rights. Our founders were so firm in their conviction that religious freedom was not some gift bestowed by a government, but it’s one given to us by our Creator, it is a human right, it’s a civil right and one that’s essential for the flourishing of this republic, this one nation, under God, and as the father of our country commented, I fail to see how this experiment in democracy could ever flourish, without religion.”

“The most astute scholar on American life, who happened to be a Frenchman, Alexis de Tocqueville, wrote 190 years ago this vast and complicated democracy will survive because of the vitality of voluntary associations, primarily the churches. Thus, my brothers and sisters, it is to our peril as loyal patriots to weaken our diminished religious freedom and take it from me - and you know me, I’m hardly some dismal Cassandra to tell you, we are in peril. You and I rejoice, sure we do, in the principle of separation of church and state. While that’s not a phrase found in our Constitution, it’s an honored hallmark of our nation, but it does not mean a separation of religion and politics; a cleavage between law and conscience, an aggravated push of morality and conviction to the margins of political discourse, nor is it an effort to create a public square that is naked of any religious values. And such my friends, I fear, is the drive today.”

“As the elite of entertainment, academia, politics and communications view faith, they see faith as a superstition of the unwashed weak, at best, and as a toxic source of division, at worst.”

“No, faith is not an obstacle to enlightened progressive advances, but the guardian of every noble hope, every aspiration - the guardian of every dream that has made this nation, however wounded and flawed, a city on a mountain top. When the former governor of a powerful state, not far from here at all, can snicker that prayer and faith had absolutely nothing to do with the healing and recovery after COVID, we’re in trouble. When political parties insist that faith and religion are private and must be checked at the coat rack before entering political debate and decision making, we are in peril. If not checked, this drive to sideline faith and dilute religious freedom will dull the vitality of the land we love and rob from our co-religionists throughout the globe the hope that they get when they look at us for advocacy as their churches are torched, their homes bulldozed, their lives threatened by totalitarians who detest any allegiance to a power beyond earthly autocrats and governments. All that we savor, you and I as rational human beings, the country we love, the world we inhabit, is served best and safeguarded most effectively by people whose right to believe and freedom to practice that belief is guaranteed as the basis for every other essential right. Woe to us as believers, woe to us as Catholics, as Americans, as human beings, as members of the Order of Malta if we do not defend religious freedom as our first and most cherished liberty.”



Progress in the Bahamas

A Report from Malteser International Americas

November was a busy month for our team — with a visit to Colombia and New York - but a small contingent of our team also visited our program in Abaco Island of The Bahamas which has focused on the reconstruction of post-Hurricane Dorian.

Hurricane Dorian struck The Bahamas with tremendously powerful winds in September of 2019, leaving many of the islands destroyed, and about 10,000 students displaced and unable to attend school. The hurricane was the most powerful storm ever recorded in The Bahamas and the island is still recovering two years later. With the pandemic hitting just a few months afterwards, reconstruction efforts came to a halt for the safety of those working on the project

as well as Abaco's inhabitants. When we had touched base with our partners All Hands and Hearts a year after Dorian, the protracted effects of the pandemic continued to hamper reconstruction efforts.

Abaco is still in the process of rebuilding and scars of the storm's impact are hard to miss over two years later. Rusted cars, overturned boats, concrete rubble, and mangled steel scattered alongside the road and large piles of debris in residential neighborhoods. Also, impossible to ignore are signs of rebuilding, families working on their roofs, crews cleaning wreckage from the ocean, the hardware store is the busiest place in

town. Families who were forced to flee after the hurricane are coming back, taking stock of their losses and reestablishing themselves in their communities.

MI Americas established a partnership with Disaster Relief NGO All Hands and Hearts shortly after the hurricane and have supported their efforts to rebuild schools with support from local and international volunteers. In addition to the original two schools — St. Francis de Sales (a Catholic school), Every Child Counts (ECC, an educational facility for children with special needs) — we have added a third school to our project, Little Darlings Academy (LDA), a kindergarten in central Abaco. MI Americas, in partnership with All Hands and Hearts, is supporting the reconstruction of this school.

It was important to MI Americas to support the reconstruction of primary educational facilities because of the dire context in which Abaco finds itself: only two of the existing 18 kindergartens are operational after the pandemic. Little Darlings is particularly important because it serves a cross-section of Abaco's population, including significant representation from the Haitian community which is quite marginalized within Abaco. The school is committed to making kindergarten education affordable and has provided scholarships to children whose families are in need.

Little Darlings, like ECC, is a safe haven for the Abaco community — not only



for the children, but also for their teachers, as Mr. Gary Lewis from ECC told us. Growing up in Abaco and attending ECC as a student, “having the ability to come back and give [his] service to ECC is a blessing”. Mr. Lewis is thrilled to be back at ECC engaging with his students, and he is also working with All Hands and Hearts to rebuild his home.

Kieran O’Sullivan, Program Development Specialist leading All Hands and Hearts recovery efforts in Abaco, has observed the impact that partnerships with MI Americas and other organizations have had in helping the community pull together and get back to a state of normalcy after their lives were turned upside down by the hurricane.

“The support from [MI Americas] has been massive and it has allowed us to build one of the best schools on the island, Little Darlings Academy. Because of the high quality of the construction and materials, the school is able to receive a certification to act as a hurricane shelter for the community. So that support not only means that 150 students and 6 teachers will have a school to attend, but many hundreds more local

residents will have a disaster resilient hurricane shelter for the future.”

Little Darlings finally reopened on October 12th of this year, and as Principal Christine Bostwick tells us, it’s been so wonderful to have the kids back. Virtual learning was difficult on them, particularly the little ones, but being able to come back has been “essential not only for academic reasons, but also for the social aspect of the school environment”.

“Recovering from the storm has been a journey, but what has made that journey easier is people who don’t even know us, they were so eager to assist us to get back to a state of normalcy. It has given me such a spirit of thankfulness to know that people left their families, left their homes, just to make sure we were okay and help us recover. Every time I think about that I have to offer a prayer”, says Little Darlings Principal Christine Bostwick.

As many studies have demonstrated the incredibly positive impact early-childhood education has on the trajectory of an individual’s life, MI Americas is committed to making an important contribution to the reconstruction of

schools in Abaco. With our incredible partners at All Hands and Hearts, we’re eager to see this reconstruction through and support the Abaco community’s better tomorrow. ■



■ HIGHLIGHTS

Want more Investiture content?

There are other interesting materials from the Investiture events — check them out in the Members Only section of the Association’s website.

Photos from the 2021 Investiture: Images from the 2021 Investiture Weekend can be viewed and purchased online from Studio Eleven Productions.

Spirituality in Action Speaker – Sister Mary Grace, SV: “Let Love Lead...How Faith Changes Everything”. Sister Mary Grace, a Sister of Life, shares stories of witness to the spirituality in action in the lives of the women they serve.

Annual Business Meeting Speaker – Keenan Fitzpatrick: Mr. Fitzpatrick speaks of the mission of Avodah, a non-profit

organization supporting victims of human trafficking.

Investiture Mass at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral: The Mass was live-streamed and can be accessed from the Cathedral’s website.

Annual Dinner Special Guest Speaker: Timothy Cardinal Dolan’s complete address is available for you to listen. He is the Principal Chaplain of the Order of Malta, American Association.

Mass of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes: The Mass was live-streamed and the recording is available: During the Mass, Fernando Blanco-DoPazo of Dallas, Texas made his Promise of Obedience and Frá Richard J. Wolff, PhD, Knight of Justice, took the oath of office as the third Regent of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Founding and Growth of the Pilgrimage Foundation



It's no small task to start a foundation. But when your objective is to provide opportunities for Malades and Caregivers to make pilgrimages that lift them up, both physically and spiritually, you must have faith that the Holy Spirit will guide you.

Faith, along with tenacity, commitment, and a lot of hard work, are the qualities F.J. McCarthy, KMOB, and Deacon John Powers, KM, brought to the start of The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation in 2014. The Foundation's purpose is to attract financial support so that Malades and their Caregivers can attend, in perpetuity, the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes as well as other pilgrimages through the Order of Malta, American Association, without having to worry about the cost.

Both F.J. and Deacon John have completed two three-year terms on the foundation board, F.J. as President and Deacon John as Secretary, and are required now, by the bylaws to step down. In recognition of their service, this article looks at how the Foundation was started, and the inroads F.J., Deacon John, and other members of the Order of Malta have made toward fulfilling the Foundation's mission of caring for Malades and Caregivers.

THE FOUNDATION

"It was really the brainchild of Deacon John," F.J. said. "He reached out to Jack Pohrer, GCM, then President of the American Association, who asked if I would be willing to serve as the first President of the Foundation." Deacon John, who at that time had already been on 10 Lourdes Pilgrimages, said, "F.J.'s name was the first name that popped up in my head. I knew he had the grit, the experience, and the organization to be the first leader of the Foundation."

Malades and their Caregivers have always made the pilgrimage to Lourdes with no charge to themselves, thanks to the generosity each year from many members of the Order of Malta, and even through gifts from past Malades and Caregivers. The Foundation was created to provide a more formal mechanism that would allow the Order to preserve that tradition, and to ensure its long-term viability. "John and I sat down over many meetings with outside counsel to form the corporation, to establish the bylaws, and then to identify board members to serve with us who shared our love and devotion to the pilgrimage," F.J. said.

They found that devotion with Cissie Ix and Charlotte Williams, the first board members. Cissie, along with other members including Ann Peabody; Hope Carter; and F.J.'s mother, Pat McCarthy, had been instrumental in establishing the American Association's Pilgrimage to Lourdes. When Jack Pohrer finished his term as President of the American Association, he also agreed to serve on the Foundation's board.

With a few leadership gifts to get started, the Foundation worked with a special division of Merrill (formerly Merrill Lynch) that focuses on Catholic investment options. The management of funds conforms to guidelines for socially responsible investments in accordance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

A LOVE OF THE PILGRIMAGE

Both F.J. and Deacon John have a deep love of the Lourdes Pilgrimage. F.J. said he was hooked after his first trip to Lourdes. "You want to give and give. And the more you give, the more you grow spiritually," he said. Initially, he became a member of the security team, directing traffic, helping return voitures, and checking for any obstacles that could impede the movement of the Malades. "I was there to serve, and to do what I was asked to do."





He describes one instance with a brother and sister on the trip. The brother was deaf, nonverbal, and living with multiple sclerosis. “I had returned from a very early morning run when the elevator opened, and there was the sister. She said, ‘F.J., I need your help. My brother is on the floor, and I cannot get him up.’ We were able to get him back into his electric wheelchair, ready for the day, and in line for the procession in a timely fashion.”

One could say the Order of Malta has always been a part of Deacon John’s life. Ancestors of his had been members of the Order in Bohemia and Austria for a couple of centuries. It was on a visit to Lourdes that John heard the call to become a deacon. “I was praying at the grotto,” he said. “It was late at night, and I was about to turn 50. I was asking our Lord and our Lady to guide me into the later part of my life, and I heard a person behind me say in French, ‘I’m thinking of becoming a deacon.’ I turned around, and there was nobody there. I found my vocation at the grotto.”

A SACRED JOURNEY TO A SACRED SITE

If you’re wondering how to prepare for a pilgrimage yourself, Deacon John has some advice. He outlines three requisites that he believes constitute an authentic pilgrimage:

- A belief that God lovingly responds to our prayers;
- The conviction that Emmanuel, defined as “God is with us”, makes himself present to us through the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, such as St. Bernadette, at holy sites;
- That every pilgrimage comes out of a desire and a need to make a sacred journey to a sacred site.

TODAY

While F.J. and Deacon John are stepping down from the Foundation’s leadership, they continue to find ways to serve their faith. Deacon John is looking forward to returning to Lourdes after the pandemic has stopped the pilgrimage for three years. “I think a lot of people are very eager to get back to the pilgrimage,” he said. “That one week in Lourdes is very important to our spiritual life.”

F.J. recently prepared for and became a Knight of Obedience. “Some people mistakenly look at the Second Class as a promotion,” he said. “But if one approaches it properly, one demotes oneself to become humbler and more committed to a deeper spiritual life and a greater sense of service.”

With F.J. and Deacon John leaving the board, fellow board members, Craig Gibson, KM, will become President, and Nancy Gibson, DM, Vice President. “The Foundation is on excellent footing. We couldn’t be in a better position to advance the mission further,” Craig said. “Not only did F.J. and Deacon John put in the tremendous effort it took to establish the Foundation, but they also have grown it significantly.” Today, between returns from investments and contributions from the capital campaign, the Foundation has assets of close to four million dollars.

Dr. Peter J. Kelly, GCM, President of the American Association, said F.J.’s and Deacon John’s work establishing the Foundation will bring benefits for many years to come. “Our members have been very generous through the years, making it possible for so many Malades and Caregivers to experience the joy of Lourdes,” he said. “We are eternally grateful. The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation formalizes that support, providing a lasting structure that further facilitates our ability to serve those who are ill, and in need through our pilgrimage.”

An Update on the Capital Campaign: Coming Together As A Family — *The Investiture Opens the Door*

The Order of Malta is built around spirituality, but our charism is enhanced by our fellowship. When the pandemic shut down so many activities (and continues to do so), many of us probably underestimated the impact it would have on our lives as Knights and Dames. Some call them the three essential S's — Spirituality, Service and Social. Throw them up against a pandemic and you have a real challenge. For us, leading the campaign through its silent phase, we have faced these same headwinds for two years. No thanks to us, but to the importance of our charism and the remarkable generosity and commitment of 140+ contributors, we write this article in January with more than \$13 Million pledged and \$3 Million cash contributed to the Called to Serve campaign. We are amazed (and overwhelmed) by the generosity that has been demonstrated.

As Co-Chairs, we wanted to be on the ground in as many places as made sense, but the planning and silent phases of the campaign began in the Zoom age. Most of the in-person work did not begin until the middle of 2021. We have visited areas in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Michigan, Saint Louis, Naples, South East Florida, and Wisconsin — sometimes more than once. In 2022 we will continue to go wherever the opportunity presents itself. But nothing opened our eyes and raised our hopes and expectations more than the events surrounding the Investiture in November 2021. The first major Association event since the pandemic shut things down in March 2020 was a turning point on many levels. The headline of this article might be, “The Investiture Propels More than \$3 Million in New Donations”.

What became clear during the Investiture Weekend was that we are at our best when we come together for spiritual nourishment, service opportunities, and the camaraderie we share. The energy and enthusiasm of the new members was contagious, and we were reminded why we joined the Order and what the real priorities of our commitment require of us. We had a glimpse of the impact of what we do for those we serve and on us personally.

The road for the Capital Campaign going forward runs through the Areas because that is where you are — every member is on the ground in their backyard — in the hands-on work at a soup kitchen, helping a woman so scared that

she is considering an abortion, bringing the Eucharist to patients at a hospital. You lift what needs to be lifted, you carry what needs to be carried, you love those who need to be loved. It has been said that everything happens in the Area and the truth of that is revealed in the service you give, the prayers you say with your fellow Knights and Dames, and camaraderie you share with each other.

We are challenged to provide a final goal for the Campaign and a date when it all goes public. We hope to meet both of those challenges in the second quarter of this year. The results so far continue to point us to a goal of \$20M. In the meantime, we will continue to talk, and more importantly, to listen to you. As we develop the roadmap to get the campaign to its highest potential, we have several metrics that we are working toward. They include a goal of an average gift of \$100,000 or more and participation of 20% or more of the households in each Area. We realize that both are significant. We realize that not everyone can provide a gift at that level, but we know that the capacity to reach that goal exists. Many of our members have been blessed with significant financial capacity. We also know that others, even without that financial capacity, have the connections that can lead us to those who can make such contributions.

On the following page is a chart that shows where many of the Areas are today — these results have been achieved during the pandemic environment. As we move forward, more of the Areas will be able to participate in activities to support the Capital Campaign. You can be on the lookout for a Capital Campaign Co-Chair visiting soon in your neighborhood. ■

This article was contributed by Gail and Joseph Berardino, Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign. Gail can be reached at gtberardino@gmail.com and Joe can be reached at jfberardino@gmail.com. They welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions.

Since the founding of the Order of Malta in the eleventh century, the mission of the Order has been to care for the poor and the sick.

Knights and Dames make a commitment when invested into the Order to live that charism and serve “Our Lords, the sick and the poor.” That commitment manifests itself in myriad ways according to individual capabilities and local opportunities, but together, members demonstrate the reach of the Order of Malta versus the individual alone.



CALLED TO SERVE: SECURING OUR LEGACY OF CARE FOR THE SICK AND THE POOR AREA PARTICIPATION

Our primary objective is for all Areas is to **achieve or maintain a minimum average gift of \$100,000 and participation levels at or above 20%.**

8 Areas with an average gift at or above \$100,000 | **4 Areas** with participation rates of 15% or above

Areas	Member Households	# Gifts	Total Pledged	Average Gift	% Participation	Remaining Households
New York - New York City	167	15	\$2,697,000	\$179,800	9%	152
Boston	175	16	\$2,403,000	\$150,188	9%	159
Florida - Naples	72	14	\$2,073,500	\$148,107	19%	58
Connecticut - Southern, Western and Northern	145	28	\$1,852,500	\$66,161	19%	117
New Jersey	138	14	\$997,500	\$71,250	10%	124
Florida - Southeast	91	5	\$965,000	\$193,000	5%	86
New York - Nassau & Suffolk Counties	57	3	\$376,500	\$125,500	5%	54
Connecticut - Eastern	16	1	\$340,000	\$340,000	6%	15
Wisconsin - Green Bay	13	6	\$337,500	\$56,250	46%	7
New York - Westchester	91	8	\$316,000	\$39,500	9%	83
Illinois	55	2	\$175,000	\$87,500	4%	53
Michigan	43	5	\$150,000	\$30,000	12%	38
Pennsylvania - Scranton	11	1	\$100,000	\$100,000	9%	10
Pennsylvania - Allentown	4	1	\$100,000	\$100,000	25%	3
Ohio	36	3	\$85,000	\$28,333	8%	33
Missouri	67	4	\$65,000	\$16,250	6%	63
New York - Upstate	43	2	\$55,000	\$27,500	5%	41
Texas - Dallas	33	1	\$20,000	\$20,000	3%	32
Pennsylvania - Philadelphia	25	1	\$15,000	\$15,000	4%	24
Florida - Vero Beach	22	1	\$11,000	\$11,000	5%	21
Texas - Houston	9	1	\$5,000	\$5,000	11%	8
TOTAL	1484	132	\$13,139,500	\$99,542	9%	1352



Love Stories from Bethlehem and Beyond

A Report on Holy Family Hospital



Increasing hardship and poverty marked 2021 for the families of Bethlehem and at the same time great stories of love and hope emerged. Because of the ongoing pandemic, Bethlehem again celebrated Christmas alone with no pilgrims able to join the festivities. The shops, hotels and restaurants remained shuttered, as the humanitarian crisis was sliding into its third year. 2022 began with overfilled hospitals, supply shortages and runaway inflation.

It was ambitious for the Holy Family Hospital to launch a Prenatal Program in such circumstances, but it was also greatly needed as babies were born smaller than ever in 2020 and more mothers had pregnancy complications. In 2020 the NICU was frequently over capacity and mothers were undernourished. For 2021 the Hospital set a goal of providing increased prenatal care to ensure better delivery outcomes, concentrating efforts on outreach and education. Starting an initiative in a pandemic presented significant challenges, but generous Holy Family Hospital Foundation donors stepped up and donated funds for prenatal vitamins, media outreach and increased staffing so the practitioners could spend more time with each patient. The patients enrolled in this program are experiencing healthier pregnancies and they are returning for every prenatal visit. Despite the hurdles the Hospital has had to overcome, the program is showing signs of success and will decrease NICU admissions. A generous donor offered the gift of a color doppler ultrasound from the equipment wish list to round out this program.

Construction on the Hospital's new surgical wing has restarted, and the progress is visible. When inflation, supply chain issues and the 20% rise in the Shekel value threatened the project, generous donors and foundations made new gifts and some repeated their gifts to ensure that the future generations of women in Bethlehem will continue to have safe surgeries and c-sections.

The deteriorating situation in Bethlehem is touching people's hearts around the world. Media outlets in France, Italy, the UK and here in the United States covered our work closely in 2021, sharing the story of hope and love against the backdrop of

hardship. The Cathedral in Stockholm hosted a benefit concert for the mothers and babies in Bethlehem. Donors responded from four continents and one foundation doubled the size of its grant to help close the funding gap at the Hospital.

In the midst of the crisis, a generous family ensured that learning and teaching at Holy Family Hospital would continue. In loving memory of their father, a physician, they underwrote the cost of a full Ob-Gyn residency. Another couple sponsored a resident for a full year. The Hospital provides hope, not just through healthcare and employment, but through training, too.

Love doesn't just come from abroad. It also fills the halls of Holy Family Hospital. When the head of Obstetrics and Gynecology suffered an accident and couldn't perform surgeries or deliver babies, his colleagues filled in for him, taking his shifts so he could concentrate exclusively on clinics, allowing him to keep his salary. Two young midwives who had a lot of free time (since everything in town is closed) learned photography and began doing free of charge photoshoots for newborn babies.

Thanks to the additional generosity of donors to the Poor Case Fund in 2021, the Hospital forgave patient contributions for those families which are among the 90% of the workforce with no salaries.

The greatest love came from Holy Family Hospital staff members working in difficult circumstances. They covered each other's shifts and cared for each other's children. They made their tables longer to share meals with neighbors and the elderly who are the last of their families to remain in Bethlehem. The care Holy Family Hospital provides extends beyond the Hospital's walls like leaven throughout the community. The Hospital staff shows love not only to the patients, but to the sick and the poor of the community, faithful to the charism of our Order. As Dr. George told reporter Neil Hallows of the British Medical Journal, *The Doctor*, "We strive to bring the latest advances in medicine and medical practice to our patients. Sometimes we have great challenges doing so mostly due to limited resources, but we compromise with a little bit of extra love and compassion through our work."

Holy Family Hospital is a primary work of the Order of Malta and a shared work of all three US Associations (American, Federal, Western). American Association members on the Board of Holy Family Hospital Foundation include Ellen S. Shafer, Chairman of the Board, Gail T. Berardino, Jean L.P. Brunel, Thomas E. Driscoll, Michael J. Heck, Molly K. Heines, and Nicolle C. McGowan, MD.

Visit birthplaceofhope.org or contact Kate Robinson, Foundation Director, at kate@hfhfoundation.org to learn more about Holy Family Hospital and our response to the humanitarian crisis in Bethlehem.

American Association Launches the St. Bernadette Ministry (SBM) Fostering Dignity in the Elderly, Frail, Sick, and Terminally Ill

Pope Francis, in 2021, in speaking on the “Throwaway Culture” and Euthanasia, said, “What is (deemed) useless is discarded. Old people are disposable material; they are a nuisance. Not all of them, but of course, in the collective subconscious of the throwaway culture, the old, the terminally ill, and unwanted children, too; they are returned to the sender before they are born...and when referencing euthanasia...the idea of compassion, ‘that this person may not suffer.’ But what the church is asking is to help people to die with dignity. This has always been done.”



repertoire of dignity-conserving interventions as a new model for palliative care. Dignity Therapy was shown to promote spiritual and psychological well-being. It helps a person get in touch with what was most meaningful in their experiences and accomplishments, that made them unique and valued. It allows the person to do something for loved ones that will endure beyond the person’s own life.

The American Association’s St. Bernadette Ministry Biographical Legacy Project is an amalgam of two programs. One is the clinical model developed by Dr. Harvey Chochinov’s Dignity Therapy which is

now used to give patients in hospices and in hospitals who are on palliative care the opportunity to talk about their lives and preserve their history. The second model is less clinical and more biographical from Eastern Palliative Care — it was developed by Dr. David Kissane, KM, a contemporary of Dr. Chochinov. It is a partnership between Outer East Palliative Care Service, Order of Malta, and St. Vincent’s Hospital in Melbourne Australia, offering home-based integrative palliative care. Their volunteer services include, yet are not limited to, companionship, respite, transportation, and the Biography Project. Both models provide dignity and a spiritual/social prayer-filled presence. Those with clinical interviewing skills who are able to provide a therapeutic intervention will be performing the interviews on their own. Members without clinical experience will be provided assistance initially by skilled members.

Different from a Life Review that is a historical recounting of events, these interventions support the patient in recounting those ideas, memories, and events that are relevant and meaningful for them and what they desire to pass along to others. The process uses either targeted questions or concepts to stimulate memories in 30-60 minute sessions with the person that are taped, transcribed, and edited by member volunteers. The resulting draft is then offered to the patient to make any changes they wish. The final draft is then published as a legacy document.

Patients have reported immense value as it provided the time and space to reflect on their lives, both the successes and challenges and to share these thoughts with those they care about. The patients receive a bound transcript of the interview to keep or give away. The ultimate goal is to provide the person-centered, life-giving benefit to bring dignity and hope through our presence and actions as Christ’s hands extended.

Resources: *The American Association website contains information regarding the St. Bernadette Ministry, including detailed background and training resources that may be downloaded. www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/respect-life/sbm/. For more information, contact Donna Coletti, MD, DM at dcolettimd@gmail.com*

LIFE IS A GIFT, A SYMPHONY TO BE CELEBRATED AND SHARED

Everyone has a beautiful story to tell and to share in the preciousness of passing on wisdom. The St. Bernadette Ministry’s My Life Story: A Legacy Project is a way to remember and be remembered. It is one’s important moments, a history as an autobiographical poem in prose in the storyteller’s own words. This, as a legacy document, is for them to share with and leave for their family and friends.

BACKGROUND: A LOSS OF DIGNITY

As research with terminally ill patients has shown one’s sense of dignity was the difference between their desire to live or die, at the 2021 Order of Malta American Association’s Investiture Weekend, we announced the addition of a new palliative care initiative, the St. Bernadette Ministry. Given that palliative care is a well-accepted and compassionate approach in assisting those facing these challenges, an American Association committee of members with clinical backgrounds has been working on this initiative for over a year as a Christian response to the culture of death, physician-assisted suicide, and euthanasia, loss of dignity, and denial of personhood.

Where physician-assisted suicide was legal, the loss of dignity was more than any other reason to die. Pain was only 5%. St. Bernadette Ministry’s focus is to serve those who are near or at the end of life, the frail elderly living in nursing homes or at home, individuals who are experiencing loss of dignity, or those whose life is nearing sunset and, in particular, malades, malades-in-spirit, and our members.

RESPONSE: A DIGNITY INTERVENTION

Out of their research, Dr. Harvey Chochinov of the Manitoba Palliative Care Research Unit in Canada, in collaboration with researchers from Australia, England, and the United States, found a range of factors that either supported or undermined a person’s sense of dignity. They subsequently developed a Dignity in Care Model that offers a

(continued from page 2)

Many might ask how can we fight this problem and help the victims. Fortunately, one of our board members, Deborah O'Hara-Rusckowski, has become an expert in this issue over the past 10 years. Deb has been a representative at the UN addressing this problem. She has been actively educating the public as well as our members about this issue and has given seminars to health care and law-enforcement entities in this country and around the world, training professionals on how to recognize victims.

During Deb's years of dealing with this problem, it became apparent that the most pressing need is safe housing for the victims. There are very few facilities available to help the many victims and even fewer that follow Catholic teachings.

Deb and her husband Steve generously donated a gift with a matching component to the Capital Campaign that is restricted to human trafficking. With this gift, we can now help fund nonprofit organizations that specialize in providing housing and rehabilitation for victims while abiding by Catholic teachings. We will not own these facilities or be on the board of these organizations. Our funding will only provide a portion of what they will need to maintain the facilities, but it will demonstrate that our Association is trying to help end this terrible problem.

These organizations will only receive funding if they agree to allow our members to volunteer at the facilities. Such volunteer activities will include decorating and furnishing rooms for the victims, teaching basic skills, helping with job interview preparation, and transporting residents to medical appointments. Any member volunteering will need to undergo a training program.

Later in the meeting, those present heard a presentation from Keenan Fitzpatrick, a representative of one of the 501c3 organizations that provide housing and rehabilitation to victims while following Catholic teachings. I hope you will consider supporting this wonderful ministry.

3. Pro-life initiative is more important now than ever before. Laws are being passed that now allow abortion in the 3rd trimester and prevent any attempt to save a baby that survives an abortion! How barbaric has our country become.

We have a pro-life pilgrimage each year that occurs at the time of the March for Life in Washington DC. This was started by Karen Dutkowsky and her husband Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky. Since Karen's death, Joe has continued the pilgrimage with Co-Chairs Nancy and Robert Graebe. It consists of a day of reflection and Mass at the National Basilica followed by a Mass on the morning of the March, participation in the march ending with the Rosary outside of the Supreme Court and a luncheon after the Rosary. It is a powerful experience and a great expression of our pro-life position. Due to restrictions, the Pilgrimage for Life had to be significantly modified this year.

Throughout our areas we have many pro-life activities such as supporting pregnancy centers in the Vero Beach area, a home for unwed mothers such as Malta House in Connecticut, praying the Rosary outside of abortion clinics, and providing free ultrasound services for pregnant women. We also have members actively involved in obtaining signatures on petitions to urge local and national representatives to oppose drastic abortion measures and also to have ballot items to reverse some of these terrible laws.

There is a Pro-life section on our website for more information. Getting involved in these ministries is the best retort to the pro-abortion people who claim that pro-life means only anti-abortion and that pro-life people don't care about life at all.

4. The Malta Mobile Van Ministry was successfully started in St. Louis last December. It provides needed transportation for various charitable organizations to move food and clothes for the needy and homeless as well as furniture for newly released inmates.

This ministry was started in the Western Association and through our collaboration with them, we were able to start our pilot in St. Louis. We have just approved another van for the New Jersey area and 2 more areas are now interested in vans. This ministry gives visibility to the Order of Malta in the communities that we serve. One of the things we need to do is make more people aware of the Order of Malta and the great work that we do.

At the Annual Meeting, I also commented on the Capital Campaign and provided an update on Rome and the Renewal of the Order.

We are continuing in the silent phase of the Capital campaign and had raised over \$10 million (the Campaign now has commitments of over \$13 million). Joe and Gail Berardino, with the assistance of our consultants CCS, have done a wonderful job in guiding us through this campaign. They gave a more thorough update at the meeting and have a Campaign update in this issue of the Hospitallers newsletter. I took the opportunity to thank them for the many hours they have committed to this campaign and for the work and commitment they continue to give.

Finally, I provided an update on Rome and the Renewal of the Order. Most of you know that 4 years ago, the Pope requested that the Order undergo a renewal process. He had initially appointed Cardinal Becciu as his delegate to the Order to guide this process. As I've discovered most things in Rome happen slowly and not much happened until last May when Cardinal Becciu was replaced by Cardinal Tomasi as the Pope's delegate to the Order.

Cardinal Tomasi is from the Venice area of Italy but he was ordained by Cardinal Spellman in NYC and spent 25 years in NYC and is a naturalized citizen of the US. Once Cardinal Tomasi took over, he had meetings with the



Professed of the Order, the Sovereign Council and most recently the Presidents and Regents of the Order in Rome. I was able to meet with Cardinal Tomasi during the Presidents meeting and he fully understands the issues we are facing. He also understands the motivations of some of the factions in our Order that are trying to reduce the role of the professed in the Order.

I feel comfortable telling you that Cardinal Tomasi and the Holy Father feel strongly that the Professed should remain the core of our Order and hold the main positions of leadership. He also feels that nobility requirements for Grand Master and the High charges should be eliminated. As he said to me in Rome, the qualifications of a person to hold a leadership position are not dependent on nobility.

He also feels that representation in the election bodies of the chapter general and council complete of state should be according to the number of members in an association.

I believe this is good news. I expect that we will have an extraordinary Chapter General in the spring of 2022 to approve the constitutional changes that the Holy Father and Cardinal Tomasi have proposed and that will be followed by a Council Complete of State to elect a new Grand Master and the other leaders of the Order.

That sums up my annual report on the state of the Association that I provided at the Annual Meeting in November. The Board of Councillors met in mid-January and elected a new Chancellor for the Association. I congratulate Thomas Reedy who was elected as the Association Chancellor. I look forward to working with Tom over the next two years. The Board approved the Committees for this year — you can find a list of the Board Committees on the Association’s website under Leadership. Frá Richard Wolff gave the Board an update on the reform process for the Order. I ask that you continue to pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance as the Order continues on its path to reform and renewal.

We are off to a strong start, and I am hopeful that 2022 will be a year blessed by many good works and ministries, a successful Investiture, renewal of many in-person activities and a continued commitment to the charisma of our Order.

God bless you for all you do.



Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM
President

Deceased Members: January 1, 2011 – January 1, 2022

Donald P. Brotheman, MD, KM	Dallas, TX
Hilda Brotheman, DM	Dallas, TX
Theodora S. Budnik, MD, DM	Poughkeepsie, NY
Patricia Ann Cahill, DM	West Barnstable, MA
James A. Calcagnini, KM	Darien, CT
Sarah S. Cashel, DM	Lake Wales, FL
Noreen D. Centracchio, DM	Naples, FL
Peter G. Danis, Jr, KM	Lake Forest, IL
Bertrand de Looz Karageorgiades, KM	New York, NY
Mary DeFrancisco, DM	Andover, MA
Lucille Regina DeVane, DM	Jupiter, FL
Leonard S. Dino, KM	Chesterfield, MO
Elizabeth B. Flynn, DM	New Canaan, CT
Mary Louise Formato, MD, DM	Belle Mead, NJ
James Patrick Furlong II, MD, KM	Sand Lake, NY
Peter M. Gandolfo, KMOb	Bellville, TX
Mariola B. Haggard, DM	New York, NY
Jay F. Higgins, KM	North Palm Beach, FL
Frank J. Hoene Meyer, KM	North Chatham, MA
Richard John Huether, KM	Schenectady, NY
Henry J. Humphreys, DHL, KGC	Bronxville, NY
Robert E. Jacoby, Jr, KM	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
George J. Kadri, KM	Bonita Springs, FL
Rosemary Kelly, DMOB	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Michael J. Mastrangelo, KM	Ft. Wayne, IN
Joan M. Mattison, DM	Jupiter, FL
Velma K. Maynard, DM	Warwick, RI
Kevin Gerard McCarthy, KM	Island Park, NY
Edward F. McHugh, Jr, KM	Scituate, MA
John A. McNeice, Jr, KM	Canton, MA
John Francis Murray, KM	New Canaan, CT
Rosemarie F. O’Sullivan, DM	Cincinnati, OH
Maureen J. Pesavento, DM	Scranton, PA
William B. Picotte, KM	Albany, NY
Frank K. Reilly, PhD, KM	Notre Dame, IN
Mary Elisabeth Reiner, DMOB	New York, NY
Richard J. Reuscher, KM	Saint Marys, PA
Rev. Michael R. Rock, O de M, ChM	Philadelphia, PA
Vincent J. Romeo, KM	Morrisville, NC
John Patrick Tierney, KM	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Henri H. Tikmehdash, MD, KM	Chicago, IL
Joseph C. Tranfo, KHD	Stuart, FL
Joseph V. Vittoria, KM	Palm Beach, FL



Malta Dental and Medical Clinic in Detroit: Healing and love for uninsured poor

Charles is a man of great warmth and friendliness. The 80-year-old Detroiters greets one and all with a confident, welcoming smile. But that wasn't always the case. Raised in an unstable family, Charles never learned how to care for his teeth. He was never taken to a dentist. And as the years passed, his teeth began to decay. Charles suffered constantly. Ashamed of his teeth, Charles seldom smiled; he avoided social situations. Charles knew he had to see a dentist. But there was a problem: Charles' insurance would not pay for the treatments he needed, and he could not afford to pay out of his own pocket.

Provisionally, a friend recommended that Charles go to the Malta Dental and Medical Clinic in Detroit. And when he did go to the Malta Clinic, Charles' life changed.

"Everything was beautiful," Charles says. "The service was beautiful. The dentists and volunteers were beautiful. The treatments they gave me were beautiful." He pauses, and breaks into a wide, ecstatic grin. "And now my smile is finally beautiful."

Charles believes that the Clinic did more than treat his teeth — it transformed his life. He has more confidence, makes more friends, laughs and smiles more.

And helping people transform their lives is really what the

Clinic is all about, says Clinic Dental Director Nancy Harmon, R.D.H., "We can change someone's life in one appointment," Harmon explains. "It's not only that we address a patient's dental or medical issues. We also listen to the patient — sometimes it's the first time the patient feels heard. We show patients that they are loved."

Better health care can also mean better job opportunities, as when a woman missing her front teeth came to the Clinic for care. A stocker at a big box store, she wanted to serve customers, but her appearance was an obstacle. After receiving a partial at the Clinic, the woman was able to say with confidence, "Can I help you find something?" and was promoted to a job that paid \$2 more per hour.

The Clinic was launched in 2004 from a church basement in Detroit. Members of the Order of Malta were serving lunch to the homeless at St. Leo's soup kitchen when they were approached by Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, then St. Leo's pastor. The bishop told them how desperately the poor and homeless in Detroit needed health care. Members of the Order answered the challenge, founding the Clinic. Its mission: To serve the uninsured poor.

Then as now, the Clinic relied completely on volunteers — primarily health care professionals and students — to deliver services, often under trying conditions, recalls Thomas Larabell, K.M., the Clinic's president. "We were in St. Leo's basement, which was a difficult location for several reasons," Larabell says. "Here we were trying to help people with health problems, and they had to walk down a set of steep, narrow stairs to get to the Clinic." Too, even with volunteers providing care, the Clinic needed medications, supplies, and equipment, Larabell notes. "We survived grant to grant and gift to gift."

Despite these challenges, the Clinic treated an average of



500 patients, 1,500 appointments per year. A particular speciality: Dentures. Harmon and Larabell believe that the Clinic is the only free clinic in Detroit providing dentures and partials.

In 2019, the Clinic agreed to share a building with the Center for the Works of Mercy, a project of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. The new location offered more space, better access for patients, and the opportunity to meet more of patients' needs. The process of obtaining the necessary permits for the renovation began. Meanwhile, the Clinic would continue to serve patients at St. Leo's.

Then the COVID pandemic struck. The Clinic was forced to shut its doors for four months. But Clinic Medical Director Dr. Edward Jelonek Jr., K.M., was determined that the Clinic would not stop serving those in need. He designed personal hygiene kits for the homeless; 1,800 kits were assembled and distributed to quarantine shelters and street mission teams by 60 volunteers. The dental side of the Clinic also pivoted, with tele-dentistry visits.

Another challenge: When the Clinic reopened in June 2020 with COVID precautions, volunteers were reluctant to return to the St. Leo's location, not wanting to come back until there was a vaccine. A committed core group kept the Clinic going, working in full PPE throughout the summer — with no air conditioning.

In September, the Clinic was able to move into temporary space in its new location, 8642 Woodward in Detroit. More volunteers — professionals and students — returned to help. And work on the new location continued. In May 2021, volunteers moved the Clinic into its permanent quarters.

Finally, after so many months of uncertainty and hard work, the Malta Dental and Medical Clinic and the Center for the Works of Mercy formally opened on June 6. The Most Reverend Allen Vigneron Ch.C., archbishop of Detroit, blessed the building, going from room to room.

From humble beginnings in a church basement, today the Malta Clinic has state-of-the-art equipment. Dental care includes dental examinations, dental radiographs, extractions, fillings, and teeth replacement with dentures and partials. Medical care includes physical examinations and care (including prescription drugs) for chronic diseases, diabetic, blood pressure, asthma and other conditions. Plans are in the works to add podiatry care and, starting in 2022, eye clinics.

The patients are the homeless, elderly, and veterans.

All care is provided by volunteers: Physicians, dentists, dental hygienists, nurses, and physician assistants. Members of the Order, including Dr. Jelonek and ophthalmologist Dr. Timothy Page K.M., take a leadership role, as do David Egan, D.D.S., and Charles Zammit, D.D.S., who also serve on the Clinic's board of directors.

These professionals are assisted by students planning a career in health care. Students from the Wayne State University School of Medicine come to the clinic every Wednesday. Also serving are students from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, the Wayne State University Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, and the Wayne County Community College dental hygiene program.

And thanks to sharing space with the Center for the Works of Mercy, the Clinic can now connect its patients with the Center's wide variety of services: food pantry, clothes closet, returning citizen (prisoner) outreach ministry, case management, behavioral health therapy, senior volunteering program and Project Hope, a profamily initiative.

Like Charles, the Clinic's patients need not only health care, but also hope. Thanks to the efforts of many members of the Order of Malta in Michigan, the Clinic is well poised to continue its mission to the poor and sick. ■



Board Committees: An Important Opportunity

Members of the Board of Councillors are called up for a variety of tasks. Some are chosen to serve as officers. While the President is elected by the membership, the other Officers are elected by their Board peers. The President must have been a member for at least eight years while other Officers must have been members in good standing for at least five years. All Board members are assigned to Board Committee; typically they share their preferences in advance. The President presents a recommendation at the first meeting of the new year and the Board is asked to approve the recommendation. Standing Committee membership requires Board approval while operating committees typically are reviewed by the Executive Committee. By custom, the President has asked the full Board to approve all of the regular committees. During the year, the President may determine that additional committees may serve the needs of the Association – the President can establish them at any time in consultation with the Executive Committee.

One of the many important accomplishments from the first meeting of the Board of Councillors each year is the election of any officers to fill vacant positions; another is the approval of the Board Committee. This year was no different.

At its meeting on Friday, January 14th, the Board of Councillors elected Thomas J. Reedy, KMOB, as the next Chancellor of the American Association. Tom has been a member since 2002 and now lives in the Naples Area. **Tom has served as Hospitaller, Vice Hospitaller, and Chairs of Communications, Admissions, and the Nominating Committees.** Tom served as the Illinois Area Chair from 2007 to 2013.

Tom is recently retired and was the Managing Director of Reedy Industries. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Tom and his wife, Missy, a member of the Order, have two grown children and live in Naples, Florida

The approval of the Committees went without a hitch as each Board member was invited to provide input on committees of interest in advance to Dr. Kelly who made the ultimate recommendations to the Board at the January meeting. Committees are a vital element of the organizational structure as a lot of work is done at the committee level. The by-laws prescribe a number of committees called standing committees.

The **Executive Committee** consist of ten Board members, including the five Officers as defined in the by-laws (President, Chancellor, Treasurer, Secretary and Hospitaller). Five other Board

members are elected annually by the Board. The Executive Committee advises the President and may exercise all powers of the Board between meetings of the Board (as permitted by law).

In addition to the Executive Committee, there are currently six standing committees — their members are elected by the Board upon the nomination of the President, in consultation with the Executive Committee and they serve “at the pleasure of the Board.” Each Committee’s composition is prescribed in the by-laws.

The **Admissions Committee** has five members, all of whom must be Board members. This Committee is responsible for overseeing the admissions process and proposing to the Board candidates for admission to the Order. The by-laws require that all materials reviewed, and all deliberations of the Admissions Committee shall be maintained in confidence.

The **Nominating Committee** also has five members, all of whom must be Board members — the President and the Chancellor are precluded from serving on this Committee. The Committee is responsible to recommend members to the Board of Councillors for consideration for nomination to the Board of Councillors and President. Members of the Nominating Committee may not run for election to the Board or for President.

The **Audit Committee** has three Board members (none of whom can be officers). This committee has responsibility for recommending an external auditor to perform the annual examination of the Associations financial statements and internal controls. The Committee reviews the audit results and reports their findings to the Board.

The **Disciplinary Committee** has three Board members which constitutes the “Permanent Commission” required by Section 122 of the Code of the Order. The Committee’s function and processes are defined in the Code. The Disciplinary Committee gives advice and counsel to the President and the Board of Councillors relative to disciplinary matters related to members of the Association. The committee investigates and makes recommendation on any matters referred to it.

The **By-Laws Committee** must have a minimum of three (3) Board members — they are responsible to recommend, evaluate and review proposed changes to the By-Laws of the Association.

The **Finance/Budget Committee** must have a minimum of five Board members, including the Treasurer. This Committee develops and proposes the financial policies under which the Association’s finances are managed; they oversee preparation of the financial statements of the Association, and safeguard the Association’s assets. The Committee reviews and adjusts the annual fiscal budget which is prepared

Feast Days of the Order

Were you aware that the by-laws of the Association require every Area to celebrate the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, Patron Saint of the Order? And every member of the Association is obligated to participate in that celebration unless serious reasons justify their absence?

SECTION 8 OF OUR BY-LAWS STATES —

There shall be a reunion or assemblage of the members of the American Association within each geographic area established by the Board in a church or chapel designated by the respective Area Chairperson, on or about June 24th each year, the annual Feast Day of St. John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Each member of the American Association shall have the obligation to attend such reunion or assemblage unless for justified reasons it is impossible for the member to be present.

Areas celebrate more than just the Feast of Saint John the Baptist every year on June 24th. The Feasts of the Blessed Mother, September 8th — Our Lady of Philermo, and February 11th - Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick, provide other opportunities for members to come together in prayer and in fellowship.

In the Daily Prayer of the Order, members pray for the intercession of Our Lady of Philermo, Saint John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard and all the saints and blessed of the Order. On the Association's website calendar, each feast day is marked, along with a link to the liturgical prayers associated with all the feast days.

The Holy Father chose the theme of "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36) for the 30th World Day of the Sick. This month, the Order of Malta celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick with this theme in mind where, in addition to prayer and fellowship, Knights and Dames may also perform a service work. Saint Pope John Paul II began the observance of this day in 1992, in conjunction with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, to raise the level of awareness of the sick and the role to which Christ calls each of us — to tend to their needs. For members of the Order of Malta, that is part of our charism in our path to spiritual growth.

This article has been reprinted from the Spring 2018 edition of the Hospitallers Newsletter with some edits.

under the direction of the Executive Director; they also make recommendations regarding the budget proposal to the Board.

THE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER IMPORTANT COMMITTEES THAT SERVE THE ASSOCIATION:

The **Area Support and Development Committee** was created as a result of a recommendation from the last strategic plan. Its purpose is to assist Areas in recruiting new members and building awareness of the Order at the local level, and in providing differentiated service activities and spiritual growth opportunities. And in providing more training and guidance early on in the Area Chair's tenure.

The **Spirituality Committee** has as its primary role to promote among the Association's membership the fundamental aspects of the spirituality of the Order, true to the divine precepts and admonitions of our Lord Jesus Christ and as articulated in the Order's constitutional charter. The Committee executes its role to promote God's glory through the sanctification of our members, service to the Catholic faith, service to the Holy Father, and service to our neighbors, in accordance with the Order's traditions and in reliance upon Mary, Our Mother's intercession and protection.

The essence of the Order's spirituality links service and prayer.

The **Affiliates Committee** oversees in a general capacity the Auxiliary and Associates of the American Association by establishing guidelines and policy for membership in order to ensure that the Association's Affiliates are in compliance with the charism and purpose of the Order.

The **Communications Committee** has responsibility to ensure that effective plans are developed to ensure that the Association members receive timely and meaningful communications on Association and Order activities, messages and events that affect members or call them to action.

The **Grants Committee** has the responsibility to oversee the grants process, making recommendations to the Board on national and international grants and providing approval for grant applications submitted by the Areas.

The **Prison Ministry Committee** has the responsibility to oversee Prison Ministry as the national work of the Association, to develop plans to ensure its success and growth, and to provide education, support, and advice and counsel regarding Prison Ministry activities at every level of the Association.

You can find a complete list of Committee members on the Association website at www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/american-association/leadership/committees/



A Look at the Area Grants Program

For more than twenty years, the American Association has been providing annual grants to organizations recommended by Area leaders. Since 2013, when the Association overhauled the grants program, an allocation has been set aside for each Area, based on the Area's number of full-paying members. 2022 will be the tenth year in which the Association has been operating using the Area allocation process to determine how much grant money an Area would have available. Most people have agreed that it has been a very successful change.

As the American Association's Area Grants Program opened for 2022, we acknowledge this program's

reach and just how much it has benefited organizations, Area projects, and members of the community throughout the Association. Within the last 5 years alone, homeless shelters, pregnancy centers, soup kitchens, and other organizations have received over \$3 million in funding from our Area Grants Program. This is no small feat; and, it could not have been done without the dedication of our members and the help of the Malta Human Services Foundation.

To help accomplish the Order of Malta's mission to witness the faith and serve the poor and the sick, members are asked to invite organizations, in which they are actively involved in, to apply for an Area grant. With the addition of two types of grants, Emergency Food-related Assistance and Local Area Project Support, you may wonder, where does this funding come from? The Area Grants Program is supported solely by the Malta Human Services Foundation.

Each year, 5% of the 5-year rolling average value of the Malta Human

Services Foundation's endowment is transferred to the American Association as funding for the Area Grants Program. The allocation of funds for each Area is then determined by the number of members in each Area who have paid their Annual Contribution by January 31st of the current grant program's year. Funding is also set aside for Association-level grants given to official international works of the Order (Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem and Malteser International Americas), the American Association's Prison Ministry Program, and other worthy projects or organizations that the Board of Councillors may deem a good fit for an Association grant.

The pandemic, which began almost 2 years ago, prompted the introduction of the Emergency Food-related Assistance and Local Area Project Support grants, which allowed members to fund organizations and local Area activities in new ways, while adapting to the restrictions brought on by the pandemic. Two years later,



Within the last 5 years alone, homeless shelters, pregnancy centers, soup kitchens, and other organizations have received over \$3 million in funding from our Area Grants Program.

these two new grants are now fully established as part of the Area Grants Program. The Emergency Food-related Assistance grant will continue to provide almost-immediate assistance to organizations providing food to those in need and the Local Area Project Support grant will continue to provide funding to support preexisting and new local Area ministries that do not fall under a 501(c)3 status.

While we can technically quantify just how much these two new grants have helped so many in times of need, the ongoing legacy of the Area Grants Program is priceless. How great it is to know just

how much an Area grant, of any amount, can mean to a local food pantry struggling to meet the doubled, or even tripled, demands of its patrons. Or to know that homeless and at-risk elementary school children can continue to be provided with nutritious food to take home with them

over each weekend. The commitment of our members to help meet the needs of their communities year after year, through funding and hands-on work, is inspirational, yet genuinely characteristic of a Knight, Dame, Chaplain, Auxiliary, or Associate of the Order of Malta.

As members of the Order of Malta, we recognize the magnitude of the helping hand of an international Order nearing 1,000 years old. Zooming in to a local level, where we can see the funding of an Area grant at work, we can see our impact in real time. Where we can see the local medical clinic grow thanks

to funding from Area grants throughout the years and be the hand that delivers a warm meal to a homebound member of our parish.

Although it may go unnoticed, we recognize the impact of the Malta Human Services Foundation's support in continuing the works of the Order of Malta, American Association. We also recognize the efforts of our Area Chairs, Area Grants Committees, and the Association's Grants Committee, as they recommend, review, and approve each grant that comes in through this program. The 2022 Area Grants Program opened in mid-January and we look forward to sharing its successes in the next edition of the Hospitallers Newsletter. ■

If you are interested in recommending an organization or local Area project for a 2022 Area grant, please contact a member of your Area's Grants Committee or your Area Chair for more information. A full breakdown of the Area Grants Program is available in the Members Only section of our website www.orderof-maltaamerican.org.



ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

February 11

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes,
World Day of the Sick

April 10–April 17

Holy Week and Easter Sunday

April 23

Philadelphia, PA

Day of Recollection and Healing

April 26–May 3

Virtual – TBD

Lourdes Pilgrimage

May 18-19

New York City

Board of Councillors Dinner and Board Meeting

May 26

Ascension Thursday

June 9-10

Detroit, MI

Area Leadership Workshop

June 24

Feast of St. John the Baptist

August 4-7

Champion, WI

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help

August 15

Feast of the Assumption

September 8

Feast of Our Lady of Philermos

September 14-15

Chicago, IL

Board of Councillors Dinner and Board Meeting

September 23-26

Medway, MA

Association Retreat

October 13

Feast of Blessed Gerard

November 1

All Saints' Day

November 7-16

International Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

November 13

World Day of the Poor

November 17

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

November 18

New York City

Annual Meeting, Investiture,
Annual Dinner

November 19

New York City

Mass for Malades, Caregivers and Malades in Spirit

November 19

New York City

Subpriory Mass

November 24

Thanksgiving Day

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 25

Christmas Day

On the first Wednesday of each month there is a Spiritual Outreach call at 11AM ET.

On Sunday evenings at 7PM ET, there is a live Rosary conference call.

Visit our website calendar on www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/events/ for more information regarding upcoming events.

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Change of address? Please notify the New York Office.

If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers, or created a new email address, we encourage you to visit: www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/update and fill out our information update form. This online form provides members with a quick and simple way to update any, or all, of their information that is stored in the American Association's database. Members with and without active email addresses can now submit an update to their home address, professional, and even educational information on our website using this new form. We hope that you will utilize this new method and help keep the American Association's records up to date.

You can also email mail@orderofmaltaamerican.org or call our office at (212) 371-1522 with your contact information updates.

Our Mission

The American Association of the Order of Malta has as its mission to promote the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, through witness to and support of the Catholic faith and through active service to the sick and the poor.