



## ***Newsletter of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes***

**December, 2022**



Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes. Much has occurred within our Subpriory this year. Frà Nicola Tegoni professed his final vows as a Knight of Justice in February at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. In June, members of the Subpriory were able to return once again to Malvern, PA for our annual retreat. During the retreat, two new members, Gregory Pang of the American Association and Lynn Mullaney of the Federal Association made their Promise of Obedience. Days later, still in June, the Order of Malta received the unexpected news of the death of Frà Marco Luzzago, Lieutenant of the Grand Master, and the subsequent appointment by Pope Francis of our own former Regent Frà John Dunlap as Frà Marco's successor. In turn, Frà Richard Wolff, Regent of the Subpriory at the time, was elected to the Sovereign Council to Frà John's position.



All were taken by surprise when, in early September, Pope Francis dissolved the Sovereign Council and named a new Sovereign Council to be led by Frà John who continues as the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, and which includes two members of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes: Frà Richard Wolff and F.J. McCarthy, KMOB. The newly appointed Sovereign Council will serve until the Extraordinary Chapter General in January when a new Sovereign Council will be elected. Concurrent with the dissolution of the old Sovereign Council and the appointment of the interim one, a new Constitution for the Order was promulgated by our Holy Father. Both of these events have implications for our Subpriory.

In the first instance, Frà Richard's initial appointment to the Sovereign Council, and subsequent reappointment, necessitated the appointment of a new Regent for the Subpriory. Under normal circumstances, an election would have been held to fill both the vacancy as Regent of the Subpriory and to fill two other open positions currently on the Subpriory's governing council. However, with constitutional changes which affect the Subpriory, elections have been postponed and Frà Nicola Tegoni was appointed as the new Regent.

On Sunday, October 16, 2022, as part of the Federal Association's Investiture Weekend, members of the Subpriory gathered for Mass at St. Ann's Church in Washington, DC, celebrated by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, retired Archbishop of Washington. During that Mass, Frà Nicola was installed as the new Regent of Our Lady of Lourdes in the presence of Frà John Dunlap, Frà Richard Wolff, Frà Thomas Mulligan and Frà James-Michael von Stroebel, as well as members of the Council of the Subpriory. Following the Mass, a lovely reception was hosted by Msgr. James Watkins, Principal Chaplain of the Subpriory and Pastor of St. Ann's.



(For more pictures of this event, [Click here](#))

A few weeks later, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, as part of the American Association's Investiture Weekend, members of the Subpriory gathered again for Mass at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi in New York City. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Joseph Cavoto, OFM, and after Mass, all in attendance processed to the Altar of Our Lady to pray and sing the *Salve Regina*. Following Mass, guests were invited to a reception in San Damiano Hall.



(For more pictures of this event, [Click here](#))

As mentioned earlier, a new Constitution for the Order of Malta has been promulgated. Included in the Constitution are a number of reforms which affect both the Subpriory and the Associations. It will be left to the Regent and the two Association Presidents to explain the various legal and structural changes that will occur over time, but the most immediate change to take effect is proportional voting in the upcoming Extraordinary Chapter General in Rome beginning January 21<sup>st</sup>. Associations with 500 or more members will have a more representative presence at the meeting than in any previous Chapter General.

In the Federal Association, Second Class members of the Subpriory's Council and of the Federal Association's Board will elect 2 members in Obedience to attend the meeting and Third Class members of those Boards will elect 4 Third Class members. In the American Association, Second Class members of the Subpriory's Council and its Board will elect 3 members in Obedience, and the American Association's Board members in the Third Class will elect 6 representatives from the Third Class. All Second and Third Class members of the Association are eligible for election. (The formula specified in the Regulations for the Extraordinary Chapter General is: one 2<sup>nd</sup> Class elector for each 500 members in an Association and one 3<sup>rd</sup> Class elector for each 300 members.)

Those elected will spend at least a week near Rome, first in retreat, and then in discussions of strategic importance for the future of the Order (vocational, spiritual, charitable, humanitarian and diplomatic programs); providing guidance on the financial and economic management of the Order's institutions and assets; and conducting elections for the High Charges (Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, Grand Hospitaller and Receiver of the Common Treasure) as well as the elective members of the Sovereign Council and the Board of Auditors.

In this Advent Season with the approach of Christmas and the hope it brings, please pray for the the electors and the success of the Chapter General that their efforts will guide our Order on a path to a future which fosters a flourishing of our Order.