



HOSPITALLERS IS PUBLISHED BY THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA™ AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, U.S.A

HOSPITALLERS

VOLUME 24, SPRING 2024

COME AND SEE

THE 2024 LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

The 2024 Lourdes Pilgrimage is nearly upon us – the charter plane departs on April 30th from Baltimore-Washington International Airport and travels overnight on a 3,851-mile nonstop flight to the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains. From there, after the long journey across the Atlantic, the 23 miles on a bus to go from the airport to the hotel will seem a simple ride. For many of the pilgrims including most or all of the Malades and Caregivers, this will be the first time they have traveled to Europe. If the day is clear, most passengers on the transport buses will be wide awake, taking in the lush farmlands and the snow-capped mountains in the distance. Having come across the Atlantic from what was once dubbed the “new world”, this will seem like a new world to them.

Fifty Malades and fifty-three Caregivers are expected to be on the charter, along with close to two hundred other pilgrims, a mix of Chaplains, doctors, nurses, Knights, Dames, Year of Formation Candidates, Auxiliary and Associates, Volunteers, a travel agent, and a photographer. An additional group of close to fifty Pilgrims are expected to travel on commercial flights and meet us at the hotel.

This is the 36th Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes and it is our honor and privilege to be the Co-Hosts. While the pattern and rhythm of the Pilgrimage has a familiar cadence each year, veterans of this sacred journey know that every pilgrimage is different. There are a number of reasons why each pilgrimage is unique, but the main one is the Malades. There are no “veteran Malades”. Having the central focus of our pilgrimage (which is the Malades and their Caregivers) change each year makes every pilgrimage a new experience for each one of us. Our hearts are touched and our faith is on display as we take on the role of servants to our honored guests. *Continued on next page.*

WELCOME BACK, READERS

The Hospitallers Newsletter is back up and running after a brief hiatus. You may have noticed that it has a new look and feel. 2024 ushered in a redesign of the newsletter and how you receive it. If you have an email address on file, you received this newsletter via email. If you do not, you received this newsletter via regular mail. Email is the most efficient way to stay up to date with all things Order of Malta and the American Association. Don't forget to let us know if your contact information has changed (see the last page for instructions). We hope you enjoy the Volume 24 Spring 2024 edition of the Hospitallers Newsletter!

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COME AND SEE

THE 2024 LOURDES PILGRIMAGE (CONTINUED)

Each one of our "Lords, the sick" brings his or her own challenges, fears, hopes and outlook and our job is to help them find the peace that comes from Our Lady's gentle care for them, delivered through the hands and hearts of all of us who will serve them. From their arrival at BWI airport to the last goodbyes we share with them when we land back in Baltimore, it is a celebration of their lives and their generosity in allowing us to serve them. The pilgrimage is a celebration of hope, of renewal, a spiritual journey like no other.

Those of you who will be joining us in spirit will also be in our thoughts and prayers as we ask you to keep us in yours. As we travel to the Grotto, we will remember the generosity of so many whose financial and moral support makes this journey possible.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for Us!



Linda A. Kelly, DM
2024 Lourdes Pilgrimage Co-host



Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM
2024 Lourdes Pilgrimage Co-host

JOIN HIS EMINENCE TIMOTHY CARDINAL DOLAN ON RETREAT THIS SUMMER

LIVING OUR EUCHARISTIC FAITH IN THESE TRYING TIMES



There is still time to register for our Summer Retreat on the weekend of June 21st – 23rd. If you are interested in attending, visit www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/member-retreats/sr/ or call the NY Office at (212) 371-1522. Registration closes May 1st.

In this year of the Eucharistic Revival, join His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, for what promises to be a moving and inspirational weekend retreat destined to draw all participants into a deeper, personal relationship with our dear Lord.

The Summer Retreat is being held on the beautiful campus of St. Norbert College located on the banks of the Fox River in De Pere, Wisconsin.

Immerse yourself in a deeply spiritual journey through daily Mass, dedicated prayer sessions, and enriching liturgical activities. Experience transformative insights with four keynote conferences on "Living Our Eucharistic Faith in These Trying Times," presented by Cardinal Dolan. Join in the sacred celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, led by Cardinal Dolan himself, at the National Shrine of St. Joseph, located on the campus grounds. Engage in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, find solace in moments of prayer and reflection, and enjoy the camaraderie of knights, dames, associates, and fellow attendees from across the nation, all while savoring delicious food and meaningful fellowship.

Our retreat will close on Sunday morning with a bus ride to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion where Mass will be celebrated in the Apparition Chapel followed by lunch on the beautiful Shrine grounds. There will be time to visit the crypt, the actual site of Mary's appearance to Adele Brice, and a stop in the Shrine gift shop. Join us for what promises to be an unforgettable spiritual experience!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KENNETH R. CRAIG, KM



Dear Friends,

Have you heard the exciting news? Over 80 candidates are completing their year of formation for investiture in 2024 – the largest class we've had in many years! Thanks to the hard work of Tom Reedy, the Area Chairs, sponsors, and your witness through the works you do, 80 hearts and minds are asking to join our community and care for the sick and the poor. These are our future Malta walkers, soup kitchen servers, shelter workers, prison ministers, van drivers, and

Lourdes charioteers. These are our future Area Chairs and Board members. I can't wait for you to meet them – I did so during a video call in March and was overwhelmed by their passion and enthusiasm. They are truly fired up and I hope you are as well!

There has been lots going on. This issue of the *Hospitaller* includes an update on how Holy Family Hospital is coping with the turmoil in the Holy Land, articles on the Pilgrimage for Life and Prison Ministry, and an amazing story about Zoe, a talented musician and former Lourdes malade sharing her gifts to help other children.

The Winter Retreat held in February was a great success. Over 50 members, candidates, and guests came away inspired and moved by New York Auxiliary Bishop and Chaplain Edmund Whalen's reflections on the Blessed Mother and how she can be our inspiration to answer God's call to service. His use of sacred art, scripture, personal stories, and a fair bit of humor struck a chord for many and really gave us pause to think about the promise we made at our Investiture.

There's also been lots going on at the board and international level. The Board of Councillors (BOC) met in New York in February with a very packed agenda. Highlights from the meeting include:

- Anne Peach was elected Association Hospitaller.
- We formed a Stewardship Committee, comprised of BOC members, current and former Area Chairs, and members with professional experience in philanthropy and fundraising to develop a strategy to best utilize the funds raised by the Called to Serve Campaign and engage our members in the works the funds will support.
- Under the leadership of Craig and Nancy Gibson, the Pilgrimage Foundation has commitments to fully endowing the participation of Malades and Caregivers over time. However, conscious that some expenses, such as the charter flight, fuel and hotel are beyond our control, we've reconvened the Lourdes Strategic Planning Committee, with Michael Castine as Chair, to look at all aspects of the pilgrimage and find ways to keep it affordable for our members. *Continued on next page.*

2024

BOARD OF COUNCILLORS

Kenneth R. Craig, *President*

Thomas J. Reedy, *Chancellor*

Laure C. Aubuchon, *Treasurer*

Rory Kelleher, Esq., *Secretary*

Anne G. Peach, *Hospitaller*

Gail T. Berardino

David A. Dempsey

Michael J. Donoghue

Joseph P. Dutkowsky, MD

Virginia Dwyer-Aoyama

Thomas M. Egan

H. Stephen Fletcher, MD

Nancy J. Graebe

Margaret M. Lyons

John J. Mitchell

Gregory P. Oussani

Anne G. Peach

Frá Nicola Tegoni, Esq.

Hugh M. Dempsey

Frá Richard Wolff

Timothy Cardinal Dolan,
Archbishop of New York,
Principal Chaplain

Very Reverend Enrique Salvo,
Assistant Principal Chaplain

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED

Over the past several months, the leadership of the three US Associations worked to create a revised set of common bylaws that reflect the Order's new Constitutional Charter & Code (CC&C). These BOC-approved bylaws are being sent to the Grand Magistry for consideration, and hopefully approval, at the April 30th meeting of the Sovereign Council. After we return from Lourdes, we'll host a town hall to provide the Association with an overview of the new bylaws.

At the international level, the Association was represented at several leadership gatherings:

- In January, the Grand Chancellor hosted the first-ever conference for the Order's Diplomatic Corps in Rome. I was pleased to attend this alongside several of our members who are Ambassadors, including Ambassadors Paul Beresford-Hill, Peter McGuire, and Michael Murphy. The three-day event provided a unique opportunity to gain perspectives from the Grand Master, High Charges, and a number of guest speakers who discussed the economic, political, and humanitarian challenges facing the Order as it carries out its mission.
- In February, Tom Reedy (Chancellor), Rory Kelleher (Secretary), Ambassadors Beresford Hill and Peter McGuire, Msgr. Bob Ritchie, and I joined leaders from North, Central and South America at the IX Conference of the America's in Panama. The conference focused on how the Associations and Diplomatic Corps could better partner to serve the needs of the sick and poor throughout the Americas.
- In March, Anne Peach (Hospitaller) attended the 30th Hospitallers Conference hosted by the Grand Hospitaller in Krakow, Poland. Anne joined Hospitallers from around the world to participate in the Malteser International General Assembly and to discuss safeguarding, the security challenges inherent in responding to humanitarian needs in conflict and hostile zones, and cooperation amongst entities of the Order.

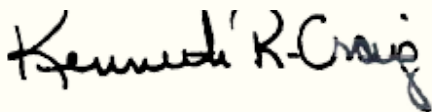
There is a lot coming up as well. Read on in this issue to learn about the upcoming retreat with Cardinal Dolan, the XXXVI Lourdes Pilgrimage, Malta Camp U.S.A., and the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Champion.

On May 23rd, the Path to Peace Foundation will honor Frá John Dunlap, our Grand Master, with its Path to Peace award in recognition of the Order's work to provide care and hospitality to the most vulnerable populations in the world due to poverty, illness, or conflict. The award will also recognize Frá John's many years of dedicated service to the Holy See's Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations.

Our changes to the composition of the Board of Councillors to reflect the Order's revised CC&C continue to progress. At the beginning of this year, the number of councillors dropped from 24 to 16; at the beginning of 2025, the number will drop to eight. In the fall, we'll hold elections for the three officer positions: the Secretary General (which is a merger of the current Chancellor and Secretary positions), the Hospitaller, and the Treasurer. This election highlights a significant change introduced by the CC&C, in that the membership, and not the Board of Councillors (now to be called the Board of Directors), will choose the officers. Details on the responsibilities of these positions, as well as an overview of the nominating process will be shared shortly and also discussed at the town hall mentioned above.

Attending conferences, firing up committees, and amending bylaws are important and necessary work, but our real impact depends on the countless ways our members, humbly and without fanfare, live the charism of the Order and witness the faith through their passion and action. Visiting nursing homes, feeding the hungry, providing medical care for the homeless, praying with the lonely, nurturing expectant mothers and their babies, visiting the incarcerated – the list is endless! You are truly the heart of the Association, and we are most thankful for all you do!

As we continue to celebrate Easter and the joy of the resurrection, please pray for the flourishing of our Order and Association, for the sick, the poor, the unborn, and especially those living amidst conflict in the Ukraine, the Holy Land, Haiti, and other parts of the world.



Kenneth R. Craig, KM
American Association President

ORDER OF MALTA, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION WELCOMES THE INVESTITURE CLASS OF 2023

CHAPLAINS

REV. CHRISTOPHER S. BUTERA, CHD
PENNSYLVANIA - ALLENTOWN

REV. GARY GEORGE, CHD
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST *

REV. BRIGGS A. HURLEY, CHD
FLORIDA - NORTHEAST *

REV. MSGR. JAMES RAMACCIOTTI, CHD
MISSOURI

REV. PHILLIP-MICHAEL F. TANGORRA, CHD
NEW JERSEY

REV. JOHN VALENCHECK, CHD
OHIO

THE VERY REVEREND
ANTHONY M. BARRATT, CHM
NEW YORK - UPSTATE

DAMES OF MAGISTRAL GRACE

PATRICIA AMATO KREIENKAMP, DM
MISSOURI

LINDA MARY BRODERICK, RN, BSN, DM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

PAMELA F. DAVIS, DM
FLORIDA - NAPLES

MARIA MERCEDES DE GUARDIOLA, DM
NEW YORK - NYC

MARY F DICKHUT, DM
WISCONSIN - NE

JENNIFER M. ESPOSITO, DM
MINNESOTA

KRISTEN V. HALL, DM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

MELINDA A. HASSEN, DM
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

ANNEMARIE HELTON, DM
FLORIDA - NAPLES

CLAUDINE N HOLT, DM
NEW YORK - NYC

KAREN L. HOSTOFFER, DM
OHIO

CHRISTINE JONNA PILIGIAN, DM
MICHIGAN

JUDITH A. KYLE, DM
FLORIDA - NAPLES ^

LESLIE LOPEZ, DM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

SUSAN MCNULTY LOPICCOLO, DM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

PAMELA MCKEON McDONALD, DM
FLORIDA - NAPLES

MELINDA MARIE MONSON, DM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

VANESSA AUDI RHYS O'BRIEN, DM
NEW YORK - NYC

MARLENE R. O'BRIEN, DM
BOSTON

SALLY OHRSTROM, DM
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

ANNA C. SALVI D'EMILIO, DM
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

EVA J. SUDOL, DM
NEW YORK - NYC

LORINE M. TAKARUZA, DM
NEW JERSEY

AMY L. WILLIAMSON, DM
NEW JERSEY

KNIGHTS OF MAGISTRAL GRACE

MARK BATEY, KM
NEW YORK - NYC ^

FRANCESCO CONSONNI, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

PATRICK M. CORRIGAN, KM
NEW YORK - NYC *

TAYLOR S. DAVIS, KM
FLORIDA - NAPLES

DOMINICK T. DE LUCIA, KM
NEW YORK -
NASSAU & SUFFOLK COUNTIES

GREG B. DICKHUT, KM
WISCONSIN - NE

JUSTIN H FARIVARI, KM
MINNESOTA

COL. MARC A GARCIA, KM
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

HUMBERT J. GIUMETTI, KM
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

CHRISTOFER CHARLES GLYNN
GUARINO, KM
PENNSYLVANIA - SCRANTON

DAVID L. HAAS, KM
PENNSYLVANIA - SCRANTON

ARTHUR W. HALL, KM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

THOMAS E. HASSEN, KM
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

JOHN G HOULIHAN, KM
NEW YORK - WESTCHESTER **

PEDRO JOSÉ IZQUIERDO FRANCO, KM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

JAMES E JOHNSEN, KM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

JOHN E KEENAN, KM
NEW YORK - WESTCHESTER

ALEXANDER JOHAN CARL KEMPE CANAL
DE OROZCO, KM
WISCONSIN - MILWAUKEE

RAYMOND S. KREIENKAMP, KM
MISSOURI

JOHN F. KYLE, KM
FLORIDA - NAPLES ^

ROBERT E. LOFTUS, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

FRANK LOPICCOLO, KM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

JOSEPH H. MANGAN, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

MICHAEL P. McDONALD, KM
FLORIDA - NAPLES

JON ERIC MONSON, KM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

EDWARD O'BRIEN, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

JONATHAN SPENCER ANDREW
O'BRIEN, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

THOMAS L. PAONE, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

LOUIS A. PAPA, DO, KM
NEW JERSEY

JOSHUA D. PAULIN, KM
BOSTON

JOHN C. PESCOSOLIDO, KM
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

JOSEPH J. PLAUD, KM
FLORIDA - NAPLES

ANDREW RO, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

STERLING C. ROATCH, KM
CONNECTICUT - EASTERN

PETER JUSTIN ROSSI, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

ALEXANDER R. RUSSO, KM
CONNECTICUT - S,W,N

NICHOLAS D. SAWICKI, J.D., KM
TEXAS - HOUSTON

ROBERT J. SIRHAL, KM
BOSTON

RAFAEL URQUIA II, ESQ, KM
NEW YORK - NYC

JAMES A. WILLIAMSON, KM
NEW JERSEY

JEFFREY WRIGHT, KM
ILLINOIS

^ IN ABSENTIA *ELECTED IN 2022 ** ELECTED IN 2015

IN MEMORIAM
DECEASED MEMBERS

JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

CAMILLE AUBUCHON
BOSTON

SABINO BALUYOT
OHIO

PATRICIA BICK
MISSOURI

CHARLES CARELLA
NEW JERSEY

PATRICK CARROLL
MICHIGAN

ALFONSE CINOTTI
FLORIDA - NAPLES

WILLIAM CRAIG
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

LILY DUGGAN
MISSOURI

MARY FARRAR
MICHIGAN

DAVID FARRELL
MISSOURI

MARY FERRICK
MISSOURI

JOSEPH FINN
BOSTON

HANS GEISLER
INDIANA

ANGELO GRIMA
NEW JERSEY

MARY GRACE GUYOL
MISSOURI

RICHARD HAFFNER
MISSOURI

COLIN HARRIS
NEW JERSEY

MARGARET HAYES
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

CORNELIA KELLEY
BOSTON

WILLIAM KOENIG
FLORIDA - NORTHEAST

PATRICIA LYNCH
NO AREA

JOHN MACKINNON
BOSTON

ANDREW MCKENNA
ILLINOIS

RAYMOND MCRORY
NEW YORK - NASSAU & SUFFOLK COUNTIES

VIRGINIA MORIARTY
NEW JERSEY

PASQUALE MUSUMANO
FLORIDA - NAPLES

AGNES NOLAN
NEW YORK - NEW YORK CITY

JAMES O'CONNOR
ILLINOIS

RICARDO PINES
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

WILLIAM PLUNKETT JR.
NO AREA

JOSEPH PRICE
FLORIDA - NAPLES

THOMAS REEDY
ILLINOIS

MICHAEL RICATTO
NEW YORK - NEW YORK CITY

COLETTE ROE
NEW YORK - NASSAU & SUFFOLK COUNTIES

OWEN SMITH
NEW YORK - NASSAU & SUFFOLK COUNTIES

ANTHONY VALLACE
BOSTON

JOHN VAN KOOTEN
FLORIDA - NORTHEAST

DONALD WIESEN
CONNECTICUT - S, W, N

PATRICIA WILLETT
NO AREA

JOHN WILMSEN
MISSOURI

IN MEMORIAM
DECEASED MEMBERS

JANUARY 1, 2024 - APRIL 10, 2024

LOUIS CAPPELLI
NEW YORK - WESTCHESTER

RAYMOND CLARK
OHIO

ROBERT DONOHUE
MISSOURI

MARIE DOYLE
MICHIGAN

LAURENCE FELL
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

REDMOND HOGAN
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

JOSEPH MATTONE
NEW YORK - NEW YORK CITY

MARY MURRAY
NEW YORK - WESTCHESTER

JOAN TRACEY
BOSTON

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 30 – MAY 7
LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
LOURDES, FRANCE

MAY 9
ASCENSION THURSDAY

MAY 15 – 16
BOARD OF COUNCILLORS
DINNER AND MEETING
NEW YORK CITY

MAY 22
PATH TO PEACE DINNER
HONORING THE GRAND
MASTER
NEW YORK CITY

JUNE 21 – 23
SUMMER RETREAT
DE PERE, WI

JUNE 23 – 28
MALTA CAMP USA
LOUDONVILLE, NY

JUNE 24
FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE
BAPTIST

AUGUST 8 – 10
CHAMPION PILGRIMAGE
CHAMPION, WI

AUGUST 15
ASSUMPTION THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 8
FEAST OF OUR LADY OF
PHILERMO

SEPTEMBER 12
BOAD OF COUNCILLORS
MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20 – 22
FALL RETREAT
MEDWAY, MA

OCTOBER 13
FEAST OF BLESSED GERARD

NOVEMBER 1
ALL SAINTS DAY

NOVEMBER 14 – 17
INVESTITURE WEEKEND
NEW YORK CITY

NOVEMBER 14
BOARD OF COUNCILORS
MEETING
NEW YORK CITY

NOVEMBER 15
ANNUAL MEETING, SOLEMN
MASS OF INVESTITURE,
ANNUAL DINNER
NEW YORK CITY

NOVEMBER 16
MASS FOR MALADES,
CAREGIVERS, AND MALADES
IN SPIRIT AND SUBPRIORY
MASS
NEW YORK CITY

NOVEMBER 17
WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

DECEMBER 8
FEAST OF IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

DECEMBER 13 – 15
BABY STEPS CAMINO
JACKSONVILLE, FL

JANUARY 23 - 24, 2025
PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

On Sunday evenings at 7PM ET, there is a live Rosary conference call.
Call 1-800-442-5794 and enter passcode 656886#.

Visit our website calendar on www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/events/ or see the Sunday issues of the Spirituality in Action email for more information regarding upcoming events.

SECRET GEMS

A TREASURE-TROVE OF SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS

Not everything that is broadcast is worth saving. Cleaning an attic or basement or the “junk drawer” often unearths items that generate the age-old question, “Why on earth did I save this?”

That question never comes up when one goes through the Spiritual Outreach Calls archives on the Association website. The March 2024 Spiritual Outreach Call marked the one hundredth call in the series that began back in 2012 when Mrs. Sheila Feitelberg told members they should “call in and be inspired.” That message still resonates.

While the first few calls were not recorded for posterity, the website offered the perfect resting place for the calls and, beginning in 2013, the reflections have been faithfully recorded and posted to the website, often on the same day as the call. Three times over the course of those one hundred calls, the speaker was unable to make the call – twice, generous chaplains stepped in and filled the gap, including the first call in the series back in 2012. You will notice a missing call in the recorded list in November 2021 when a replay was pulled from the archives to fill in for a speaker who became unavailable at the last minute. The topic, perfect for an early November call, was about “Praying for the Souls in Purgatory.” The replay was not counted in the “first 100” although it was a gem. (Two times, the author of this article failed to press the record button and each chaplain graciously agreed to re-record the message. The author is no longer trusted to do the recordings!)

In 2017, recognizing that the Spirituality Committee, who has ultimate responsibility for these calls, was only put in place at the first Board of Councillors meeting of the year, a decision was made to begin having a 14-month calendar to ensure continuity through the first two months of the year. This simple move has kept the calendar full without missing a beat since 2018.

Due to scheduling issues, several of the calls had to be pre-recorded and played “live” at the assigned time which has been at 11AM ET on the first Wednesday of the month. On rare occasions, a holiday on the first Wednesday of the month has caused the broadcast date to be moved one day. Some people may know that the original plan for the calls was

intended to give a “spiritual boost” with a periodic call to members who might have difficulty getting to Area and Association events and activities. Soon after the first several calls were broadcast, Mrs. Feitelberg recognized that the messages being shared were relevant for everyone and the invitation was expanded to the entire membership to call in.

The calls are moderated by a member of the Association’s Spirituality Committee. Most calls last only twenty minutes or so but pack a powerful message in a short period. Calls cover a broad range of topics, often suited to the liturgical season, or focused on one of the feast days of the month. Advent and Lent presentations provide insight and inspiration. Talks on feast days of the month provide historical background, insight into what a saint might be famous for, and takeaways on how we might behave as a reflection of their lives. Insights on sacraments, devotions and guardian angels can all be found in the recorded library. Our Blessed Mother is a frequent subject.

As you undoubtedly know, these reflections do not grow on trees – they come from the hard work, insight, training, and genuine love for all of you from Association Chaplains. The schedules are developed in the fourth quarter each year and chaplains volunteer to take one of the months. If you listen on the call or listen to the replay, you will be amazed at the high quality of the presentations. Saying thank you to a chaplain takes just a moment but lets them know that someone was actually benefiting from their efforts. Forty-five different presenters over the years have volunteered their time and talent to make this program an enduring and endearing part of the Association’s spiritual landscape.

This year’s recordings can be found on our website at www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/spiritual/spiritual-outreach-calls. You can also find the archived collection of recorded Spiritual Outreach Calls on our website when you visit www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/spiritual/spiritual-outreach-calls/call-archive. No login is required – just click the link “and be inspired.”

2024 SPIRITUAL OUTREACH CALL CALENDAR

On the first Wednesday of each month, there is a Spiritual Outreach call at 11AM ET. At approximately 10:55AM, dial 1-800-442-5794. When prompted, enter passcode 656886# to listen live.

MAY 1ST

**MARY, SERVANT AND HEALTHCARE WORKER
REV. PHILIP-MICHAEL TANGORRA, CHD**

JUNE 5TH

**SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST
MOST REV. PETER ROSAZZA, CHC**

JULY 3RD

**INDULGENCES
REV. IAN JEREMIAH, CHM**

AUGUST 7TH

**THE VENERABLE, BLESSED AND SAINTS
OF OUR ORDER
MSGR. SYLVESTER CRONIN, CHM**

SEPTEMBER 4TH

**SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER (LABOR DAY)
MOST REV. GERALD WALSH, CHC**

OCTOBER 2ND

**PREPARING FOR THE WORLD DAY OF THE POOR
REV. DAVID CARON, OP, CHM**

NOVEMBER 6TH

**THE GOSPEL OF LUKE AS THE GOSPEL
OF GREAT MERCY
REV. MR. JOHN SHEA, CHDD**

DECEMBER 4TH

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
MOST REV. PETER ROSAZZA, CHC**

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

A SPRING UPDATE



As the war continues to rage on in Gaza, Bethlehem is increasingly suffering the effects. Since the economy is very dependent on the pilgrimage industry, 90% of the workforce is without salaries. Inflation is rising, especially for fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat. Work permits for most workers in Jerusalem have been cancelled leaving tens of thousands from Bethlehem without work.

Hotels are shuttered and most restaurants are closed. Many businesses have failed or simply closed for the duration of the war. Beggars, never seen before, are cropping up in the streets. Patients are unable to contribute to their care as they once did in the past. While many services are free of charge (Mobile Clinic Care, Menopause Clinic Care, Gestational Diabetes care), all others are subsidized by 50%. The two social workers meet with the poorer patients and can offer sliding scale coverage all the way down to services at no charge. These services are covered by the Poor Case Fund.

Requests for Poor Case Fund coverage have increased by about 50% or more since the beginning of the war. The situation is such that patients choosing to have medical care are often foregoing meals, heating or electricity. Medical care has become a luxury few can afford. In response, we have increased the funds available to help subsidize services for all patients.

Palestine rents the New Israeli Shekel from Israel and cannot print cash to help suffering citizens. There is not a governmental safety net to keep people out of poverty. Instead, families make their tables longer and one salary is now regularly covering over 20 people. The Pastor at the local Catholic Church reports that poverty is increasing at 20% per month. Household financial reserves were wiped out during the Covid Pandemic and 18 months was not enough to replace them. It is estimated that it would take a decade to recoup the losses in Bethlehem.

The war has no end in sight. Israeli Army and Security Forces enter Bethlehem most nights. They search the 3 local refugee camps and often arrest men and sometimes women and children taking them away for unknown amounts of time. There is an air of fear which deepens at night.

There are frequent clashes with heavily armed settlers and the villages and rural roads are not safe. The Mobile Medical Clinic was unable to make its rounds in Area C among the Bedouin and isolated villages from October 8 through February 11. While the security situation has not improved, the Mobile Clinic is back in service using goat paths and back roads to avoid settlement areas and military checkpoints.

The employees are dedicated to serving those with barriers to care and they could no longer bear the lack of access to care for those in Area C.

Holy Family Hospital is adapting to best meet the needs of the families of greater Bethlehem. The employees have been working 12-hour shifts to avoid travelling in the nighttime hours. The Hospital is supplied for three months and has procured two new generators to fully supply the Hospital with electricity and a backup generator in case of need. A new diesel fuel tank with twice the capacity has been installed and water storage capacity has increased. Operating under wartime conditions is not new to Holy Family Hospital as it has survived 5 wars and the Intifadas. The employees are knowledgeable about disaster plans and the staff willingly adapt.

Patient statistics demonstrate the economic and security difficulties of the war. The number of deliveries has decreased because patients coming from the south are less able to travel. Women used to regularly pass other hospitals to seek the higher level of care at Holy Family Hospital. This is no longer prudent. Some women have delivered at home rather than using the roads at night. *Continued on next page.*

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL

CONTINUED



NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) admissions have spiked. In January, 17% of babies born at the Hospital were admitted to the NICU. In February, it was 16%. In 2022, the percentage of NICU admits was 12%. This represents about a 30% increase so far this year. The length of stay in level III care is 68% greater than in 2022. The babies in the NICU are sicker and more fragile and require longer NICU stays.

Clinic visits at the Hospital for prenatal care have fallen as have pediatric visits. In contrast, the Mobile clinic experienced a surge in visits for February since it reopened, increasing patients by 48% even though it was not operating the first 10 days of the short month.

The drop in overall Hospital census, namely deliveries and morning clinics, is partially due to the security situation of the roads and partially due to the lack of cash on hand for patients to contribute to their medical care. This means delayed care as we saw during the pandemic, which resulted in lower levels of general health for women. Specifically, we witnessed an increase in detection of later stage cancer in women.

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One clinic with increased usage is the Well Women or menopause clinic which has experienced a significant increase of 28% month over month for February due to increased messaging about the importance of care for women beyond the childbearing age.

The clinic staff have made presentations to women's unions, refugee camps and church groups to increase awareness of the need for checkups and preventative care. These efforts have resulted in the increased census of the clinic.

On the bright side, The Hospital's expansion and renovation project is progressing, albeit slowly. This work includes the updating and expansion of surgical facilities, overnight doctors' quarters, classrooms and administration. The expansion will add an additional 2000 square meters and a renovation of 1000 square meters. This work is a welcome addition to the Bethlehem streetscape and a project which will house decades of care for the mothers and babies of Bethlehem. Additionally, the project currently employs dozens of workers and sources supplies and materials locally. It provides economic leaven in an otherwise stalled economy.

No one knows how long the war will last and what the extent of the economic fallout will be. Holy Family Hospital will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the mothers and babies of the region to the best of its capabilities.

The Hospital no longer has any cash reserves. Reimbursements for contracts with UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority are largely unpaid. As poverty grows, the demand for services will increase and cashflow will diminish. Holy Family Hospital is seeking new sources of funding immediately to meet the needs of patients and the very hardworking dedicated Hospital staff.

MALTA CAMP USA HIGHLIGHTED IN WORD ON FIRE



Malta Camp USA, a summer camp for young adults with disabilities, is preparing for their largest program to date – with over 100 participants, coming from California to Massachusetts to Florida, this summer’s program will continue to build the Malta Camp community into a robust year-round support system for all who attend.

Recently Malta Camp Director Mary Delaney, AUX sat down for an interview with Mark Bradford, the Word on Fire Fellow for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Below are a few highlights from their conversation. To read the full interview, you can visit www.wordonfire.org/articles/what-can-i-do-mary-delaney-and-malta-camp-usa/ for the full interview.

Mary, you’re the Director of Malta Camp USA which is a camp for adults living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Tell us a bit about the camp – how long it’s been in existence, who started it, and how many campers are involved each summer.

Malta Camp USA is a relatively new program, started in 2022. Building off a similar program run by the Order of Malta in Europe for 40+ years, Malta Camp USA seeks to create a lifelong community for those with and without disabilities. Each summer, Guests with disabilities and volunteers spend a week together at camp – going on adventures, doing activities, and having lots of dance parties! But building community takes a lot more than a week, so throughout the year our group stays connected through FaceTime calls, reunion events (both virtual and in-person), and texts.

Since our founding, we’ve been growing quickly, roughly tripling in size since our first program 2 years ago – this summer’s program will include over 100 participants, and we hope to continue growing!

I’m curious about your personal journey from MIT where you received degrees in chemical engineering and biology, to Associate Partner at McKinsey, and then to the Malta Camp USA. What are you willing to share about that incredible journey from high level academic and professional work to running a camp for people with disabilities.

Anyone who knows me well, knows that I love math! I was the kid reciting digits of pi and doing math puzzles in my spare time. That passion set me on an academic and professional trajectory where I sought to use my math skills to help others – whether as a cancer researcher in college or helping companies improve efficiency at McKinsey.

I’ve had an incredible career surrounded by amazing people, and yet when I paused to reflect, I found that I was also very lonely at times. I spent a lot of time in settings where your value was your intelligence, and beyond the information or skillset someone brought to the table, you often didn’t have the space or time to connect on a more personal level.

That’s one of the things that I, and I think many of our participants, love most about camp. People are seen and loved as they are. There is no expectation that you need to be the most impressive person in the room to be valuable – just being there, creating space for genuine connection with others, is what makes every member of our Malta Camp family so important. In a world that can feel increasingly isolating, especially for young people of faith, Malta Camp is a reminder of the joy we can find through genuine connection with, and acceptance from, others. *Continued on next page.*

MALTA CAMP USA

CONTINUED



Having fallen in love with our Malta Camp family and each member of it, I feel so privileged to be able to use my love of numbers, and all of the other skills I have picked up throughout my academic and professional career, to grow this amazing program and create a loving community for our Guests and volunteers.

Can you reflect a little on the experience of the camp both from the feedback you've received from the campers, but also from the volunteers. We often hear that spending time with those living with disabilities can be transforming. Have you seen that in your own life, or in the volunteers that give their time to assist you?

Malta Camp has absolutely been a transformational experience for me, as well as many of our Guests and volunteers.

We hear from many of our Guests that camp is a highlight of their year – often the only week they spend away from home, it is a unique opportunity to take risks, try new things, and learn about themselves alongside a safe and caring group of peers. One Guest gave a particularly moving reflection that has really stuck with me – she talked about camp as a family that has chosen her – recognizing that most of the people in her life, while they love her deeply, did not ask for a child, sibling, or neighbor with a disability. But at camp, she feels a unique sense of love and acceptance because everyone has chosen to participate and build a community with her.

Each summer, I am struck by how cohesively our group comes together – each person bringing the gifts that they have to make the camp the best it can be for everyone. While there are officially Guests and volunteers, each person helps in the way they are able, whether that means holding someone's hand who is nervous to try something new, making sure everyone has someone to sit with on our bus rides, or sharing an infectious laugh that brings joy to the whole group.

The Order of Malta's charism is to serve the sick and the poor to give witness to our Catholic faith. At camp, it is so easy to see God in each of our Guests. And it serves as a reminder that when we go beyond those things we can immediately see or might assume about a person, and allow ourselves to see the whole person, each is a perfect reflection of God.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved in this summer's camp, which will take place June 23-28 at Siena College in Albany, NY, please reach out to Mary Delaney, AUX at info@maltacampusa.org.

LIVING WATER:

BECOMING A BETTER CATHOLIC THROUGH KAIROS TRAINING AND MINISTRY



Can you give one example in Scripture where God was merciful to a murderer? A Chaplain pulls this question from a basket and reads it out loud to inmates, volunteers and correction officers. He is introducing Jesus' teachings on the third day of a Kairos prison retreat. Who is this Christ figure? As the Chaplain answers these questions, most everyone in this room behind iron bars and steel doors experiences a sense of being united.

The History of "God's Special Time"

A three day course in Christianity given in a Florida prison over forty years ago has morphed into Kairos programs involving over 30,000 volunteers serving in 400 correctional institutions. Today they are active in 37 U.S. states and nine countries. Knights in the Order of the Malta's American and Federal Associations, Doug Sandvig (Houston), Mike McGarry (New Hampshire) and Bill Mattison (Florida), among others, participate in Kairos Inside's nine week mandatory training course every time they volunteer in a four day retreat inside of their area's prisons.

Combined, Doug, Mike and Bill have been serving through Kairos prison ministry for over three decades. They have also individually signed its statement of faith: *Friendship with God is a free gift, for God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. In the Trinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the deity, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

Nine old men, as they affectionately called themselves, redesigned the Christian method originally named Cursillo to align more closely with the needs of inmates. All of the Kairos prison ministry programs are ecumenical: Inside, for the incarcerated, Outside, for the women whose partners are serving time, and Torch for the young (under 25). The plurality of participation, Doug Sandvig believes, makes it effective.

"All denominations are our brethren here," he says. Many of the incarcerated with whom Doug ministers have a Catholic background, but often have had negative experiences with the Church which have led to indifference to religion. He sees anger as the better alternative. Opposition against the Church is an opportunity for healing.

The Riverbank

Those who drink of the water that I give them will never be thirsty. John 4:11

The Kairos motto of "Listen, Listen, Love, Love!" is the volunteers' call to action. During the nine weeks of Kairos training totaling 36 hours, volunteers are expected to read and know the "Manual," a 334 page instruction book containing information on the history of Kairos, how to get along with the Chaplain and warden, selection process and roles of the core team and leader, the syllabus of the talks during the four day retreat and the instructional and monthly reunion. It also includes how to address issues that the imprisoned face internally and externally.

Rigorous structure must remain consistent because, as Mike McGarry points out, they are all guests in the warden's house. Corrections officers need to know what to expect. "If anything is out of step with the edicts learned during training, one can be sure you will be corrected," says Bill Mattison, KM, who serves in Florida prisons. Bill is also a member of the American Association Prison Ministry Committee and is responsible for Bible distribution in his Area.

The Kairos manual stresses a prerequisite of an impactful retreat involving attendance by both "positive and negative leaders." The prison Chaplain and warden choose which inmates are able to participate - believers and non believers. Kairos training is about becoming teachers. The most effective retreats are the ones when we function as a team," says Mike. Doug and Mike work as weekend leaders in core teams. They were selected by a Kairos advisory council and approved by the State Chapter Committee to plan and prepare every detail.

"The manual, and all of the well-executed instructional videos available online reinforce one message: Jesus Christ is the living water and Kairos was created from the well of the living water. The Kairos methodology is also referred to as 'living within the riverbanks.' The foundational practices found inside the manual are based on a range of theological and liturgical Christian teachings demonstrating common ground. Its focus remains singularly on Jesus.

Come for the Food, Stay for Healing

What do these old guys want from us? This sentiment is pervasive through prison populations across the country. Kairos' reputation for offering good food is perhaps the best instrument to initially convince inmates to try and find out what happens during a retreat. Volunteers know this but also learn during training that listening is the most important thing they can do during break out sessions and one-on-one conversations. By this act, they are demonstrating that they don't want anything from the prisoners, least of all the ability to judge. Asking prisoners why they are serving time is not part of the healing process. In fact, says Mike, it doesn't matter as it relates to the work Kairos volunteers are meant to do.

The manual outlines the retreat. During its first day, prisoners are made to feel accepted, safe and secure through volunteers' active listening. On the second day, inmates begin to examine their choices. "It is a stimulating process. The incarcerated are not cowed and are capable of looking inward and realizing that there are no victimless crimes," Doug says. Finally, on the third day, all those participating are helped to acknowledge the love of Christ. Doug continues, "It gets very emotional. The whole team gets united." At once or perhaps like light dawning slowly, there is witness of prisoners' forgiving themselves and those who did them grave harm. This moment of mercy can be triggered by acknowledging serious acts of violence and untold trauma. From there, Doug believes, seeking of forgiveness from others can begin; and from repentance, hope. *Continued on next page.*

LIVING WATER

CONTINUED

What Volunteers Receive through Kairos Training

Upon reflecting how the Kairos training improves being Catholic, both Doug and Mike agree— it does a lot. For Mike, it has helped him as a partner in his law firm. The conscious act of active listening, often also known as the ministry of presence, is a key element of being a successful leader. Doug is also a lawyer nearing the end of his career. “It is not usual to experience epiphanies in my daily life as I get older,” he says. “Almost without fail, being inside Kairos provides new spiritual awareness.” Doug admits he lives a charmed life with plenty of good choices with which to spend his time. But he most looks forward to showing up for prison ministry. Mike also comments on the community of men he resides within as a result of years of Kairos service. He is part of a circle of 72 brothers dedicated to helping those in prison establish or re-establish their Christian lives.

Reunions and Rates of Recidivism

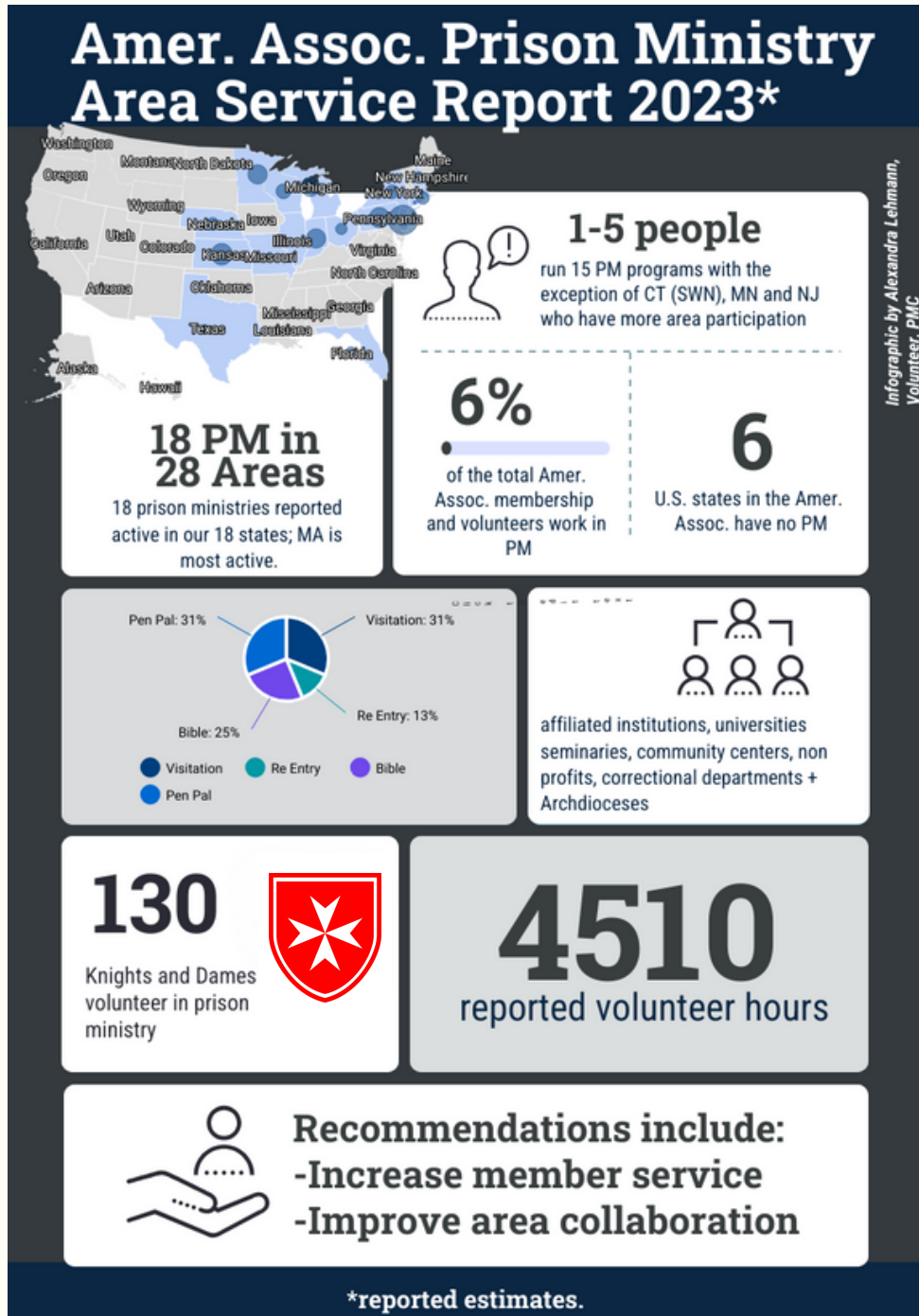
Training also includes follow-up instructions for a weekly and monthly reunion. This is an essential part of the Kairos mission as “Inmates are the Church.” Often those professing their newfound dedication to Christ may be horrifically punished by existing gang systems. Prisoners face this obstacle and also the destructive force of monotony as they wish to stay aligned. Teaching prison leaders to conduct “Prayer and Share” meetings on their own is a central Kairos methodology for setting up further opportunities to help all those living inside continue their faith journeys.

Data found on the Kairos website includes a 1994 study of 505 inmates released from Florida prisons. Their recidivism rate was 15.7% among those who had participated in one Kairos session and 10% among those who had participated in two or more Kairos sessions. The non-Kairos control group had a recidivism rate of 23.4%.

We encourage you to view the infographic for a comprehensive overview of the works of the Prison Ministry Committee last year. You can also visit the following link to read the committee’s 2023 Annual Report: www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/pmreport.

The American Association Prison Ministry Committee consists of Mary Jo Kriz, Co-Chair, Bob Nephew, Co-Chair, Fay Connors, AUX, Grace Dawgert, Steve Hawkins, Bill Mattison, Tim Maynard, and Paul Young. This story was written by Alexandra Lehmann, Prison Ministry Committee volunteer.

For more information about Kairos and/or on joining a prison ministry program in your area, please contact Mary Jo Kriz at Maryjo.kriz@gmail.com, committee co-chair.



SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC

ZOE NGUYEN AND HER JUILLIARD PRE-COLLEGE CLASSMATES SHARE THEIR GIFT OF MUSIC WITH THE CHILDREN OF MOTHER CABRINI HOSPITAL



In 2019, Zoe Nguyen participated in the Lourdes Pilgrimage as a 10-year-old Malade, accompanied by her mother, Thu Nguyen, AUX. Zoe touched the hearts of all our pilgrims; though quiet and small in stature, she impressed everyone with her incredible poise and kind nature — and with her musical talent. Her solo violin performance at Cardinal Dolan’s Grotto Mass was a pilgrimage highlight.

Now a sophomore at Special Music School High School in Manhattan, Zoe continues to deal with ongoing health challenges from having Sjogren’s Syndrome and Immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP). But this hasn’t stopped Zoe from being an active teenager with a heavy school load and the demands of her continuing violin studies (Zoe is in her fifth year on scholarship in the prestigious Juilliard Pre-College program). And despite this strenuous schedule, Zoe wanted to do even more.

Through her mother, Thu, Zoe learned of the NYC Area volunteer activities at the ArchCare at Mother Cabrini Hospital (part of Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Center (“TCC”) in East Harlem), where NYC Area Members work with children and young adults who have severe neurological impairments and other complex health issues. When Zoe heard that there was a need for more volunteers, she said to her mom, “You know, I can come and perform for them and maybe even ask my friends from Pre-College to join too.” A few days later, Zoe approached her mom with the idea of a concert series for the children at Mother Cabrini Hospital, “I was thinking about the kids at Mother Cabrini and how their lives are so limited and isolated, so their world must feel small. It’s kind of sad that if experiences don’t come to them, then their lives are confined to what is offered to them. If people don’t come to visit, then their only community is the hospital. Do you think we can organize something where Juilliard Pre-College

students can come every month to perform their polished pieces? We can have a rotation of students performing all types of performances: solo, chamber music and ensemble. As students, we work so hard to learn and polish our pieces. Much of the music may or may not get to be performed to a live audience. But if we do a concert series for Mother Cabrini, students can visit to perform and share their music. Most of all, the children at Mother Cabrini will have more visitors, who are children themselves, and a chance to hear live classical music performances. The best part is they’ll get so much variety! Not only will they get to hear all the traditional great classical pieces, but they’ll also be exposed to many different sounds from instruments like the harp, tuba, bass, or opera singing! It’s kids helping kids...”

Thu contacted Steve Bujno, KM (NYC Area Co-Chair, who volunteers at Mother Cabrini Hospital and is an ArchCare Trustee), who brought Thu to the Hospital, gave her a tour of the facilities and introduced her to Hospital Administrators and Recreational Therapists. Soon, a plan was in place for Zoe, her twin sister Sophia and several of Zoe’s Juilliard Pre-College classmates to perform for the residents. Thu coordinated the planning with Juilliard administrators, students and parents, who all welcomed this wonderful community service initiative. An initial performance took place in early December and twice monthly performances are underway in 2024. The talented young performers entertain the residents with solo works, chamber music, string ensembles, opera, and percussion ensembles. The Recreational Therapists at Mother Cabrini Hospital use music as an important therapy, and the students’ performances have been well received by the residents, their families and staff. In addition to performing, Zoe and her classmates also meet and greet the residents and assist with their transport to/from the performances. *Continued on next page.*

SHARING THE GIFT OF MUSIC

CONTINUED



Knowing that music is very therapeutic for all ages, the Juilliard Pre-College students gave a Palm Sunday recital for TCC's adult resident population and are looking to schedule additional similar performances. Zoe's example and initiative even resulted in one of her Juilliard instructors looking to engage Juilliard College students and the conductor of her orchestra is on board to figure out how they can possibly bring an orchestra performance once a year. She even sourced a grand piano donation for Mother Cabrini Hospital. And the students at Juilliard Pre-College are also open to performing for residents at other ArchCare facilities.

Zoe says she will remember for the rest of her life the outpouring of care and affection she received from the Order of Malta during her Lourdes Pilgrimage. And Our Lady of Lourdes continues to watch over Zoe, literally — on her desk is an icon of Our Lady that Zoe received from Steve during a recent short hospital stay, along with Lourdes holy water. Zoe is definitely “paying it forward” by sharing her gift of music with the vulnerable children and young adults at Mother Cabrini Hospital, in her beautiful and powerful example of service to the sick.

Zoe's mom shared her story in Lourdes: “It's hard to describe the overpowering feeling of love and warmth. I had never ever felt anything like it before. It truly felt miraculous to be there.” Since, at that time, Malades and their parents were separated to have their own experiences in the Baths at the Sanctuary in Lourdes,

when Zoe rejoined her mom, they hugged tightly, and her mom asked Zoe how she felt. Trembling, Zoe replied, “It was amazing.” So happy and grateful, her mom asked, “So...did you ask for a cure?” With her big eyes, Zoe looked up with a big smile and replied, “No, I asked for Juilliard.” Completely stunned and heartbroken and trying very hard to hold back her tears, Zoe's mom replied: “I don't understand — we talked about this gift given to you to come to Lourdes.” Zoe confidently explained that she spoke from her heart, and that God knows it. The backstory of all this is Zoe had applied to Juilliard Pre-College right before the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Shortly before she boarded the plane for Lourdes, she received notice from Juilliard that she had made it to the audition round. So that occupied her mind most of the time she was in Lourdes, of what a dream come true it would be if she got in!

Zoe's mom shared that for years, during Zoe's dark moments dealing with all the flare-ups, drug trials, endless doctor visits, hospital stays, missed performances, and canceled opportunities due to the unpredictability of her condition; she often couldn't help but wonder what would have happened if Zoe had asked for a cure. But now, as she has been helping Zoe set up this concert series program for the children of Mother Cabrini Hospital, she finally had an epiphany about Lourdes, “It all makes sense now, God's plan for Zoe. Music is the medicine, and her service through music is the cure.”

WITNESSING TO FAITH: THE ORDER OF MALTA AT THE 2024 PILGRIMAGE FOR LIFE



The theme of the 2024 March for Life, "With Every Mother, for Every Child," profoundly resonated with our members. It was a poignant reminder of why we gather annually: to affirm life as a reflection of our devotion to Christ and His teachings. The theme underscored our commitment to the sanctity of life at all stages, intertwining our steadfast Catholic faith with a call to action that extends beyond the March itself.

The March for Life pilgrimage began with morning reflection, Rosary, and music at the Washington Retreat House, which the Sisters of Life hosted. Katy Feeney sang and played original compositions on her harp, narrating the life of the Blessed Mother and her Son, Jesus, and spoke to the assembled pilgrims about her life-affirming work caring for child immigrants. The reflection provided two examples of family-focused faith, in the power of the daily family Rosary and the example of the Ulma family, two parents and seven children, aged eight and younger, including one unborn, for their martyrdom in Poland on March 24, 1944 as a result of protecting the lives of their Jewish neighbors during the Nazi Holocaust.

Following the morning program, pilgrims met with the Sisters for a meal and fellowship, reaffirming our purpose and the power of faith in our mission. A short bus ride brought the pilgrims to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Pilgrims delighted in the many opportunities available, including more fellowship, a visit to the Ulma family relics at the

John Paul II Seminary, Latin Mass, confession and the Basilica gift shop in the undercroft, and the opportunity to observe high school students asking religious about their vocations.

A particularly remarkable aspect of this year's pilgrimage was the significant presence of youth members at the Basilica. Their participation brought a dynamic energy to the event and symbolized our mission's continuity for future generations. Their involvement underscored the importance of educating and engaging the younger members of the Order in our core values and missions. The theme "With Every Mother, for Every Child" was especially poignant in this context, reinforcing our dedication to supporting life at all stages and highlighting our role in nurturing future defenders of faith and servants of the poor and sick.

The Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception was a powerful demonstration of faith in action, grounding us in worship, prayer, and adoration. The homilies by Bishop Sweeney and Bishop Burbidge were touchstones of inspiration, emphasizing the resilience required in our journey. Reflecting on Cardinal John O'Connor's words, "There is no such thing as a merely annual March for Life. Every March is unique with its own excitement," we recognized our pilgrimage as part of a larger, ongoing spiritual journey.

The day of the March saw a significant snowstorm throughout the Washington DC Metro Area.

The city was covered in a blanket of white and school closures added to the feeling of festivity and special purpose.

Amid the solemnity and reflection, joyful camaraderie and lightheartedness set a unique tone for this year's March. The pilgrimage began with an impromptu snow fight initiated by our President Emeritus, Dr. Peter Kelly, Board of Councilors Member, Anne Peach, and one of our younger youth pilgrims, Valentino Nardo. The playful interaction, set against the backdrop of a snow-covered landscape, brought smiles and laughter, highlighting our members' unity, fellowship, and joy. Anne Peach and Jean Molloy contributed to the spirit by making snow angels, adding a touch of hope to the event. These moments of joy amidst our serious mission reminded us of the beauty and wonder of life at all stages.

Supporting Our Cardinal Issues Through the Pilgrimage

The pilgrimage powerfully upheld the cardinal issues of the Order of Malta: *tuitio fidei* (witness to the faith) and *obsequium pauperum* (service to the poor and sick). Participation in prayer, Mass, and the March itself was a vibrant demonstration of our commitment to defending the faith. Standing as witnesses to the sanctity of life, we embodied our Catholic beliefs in a public arena, advocating for the most vulnerable among us. *Continued on next page.*

WITNESSING TO FAITH

CONTINUED



A Pilgrimage Addressing All Three Charisms

The vision for this pilgrimage, inspired by the late Karen Dutkowsky and symbolically passed on to Nancy Graebe, was to address the charisms of the Order: *tuitio fidei* (witnessing to the faith) and *obsequium pauperum*. Karen's vision, embodied in the passing of her cape to Nancy, was a poignant reminder of our broader mission.

This year's theme perfectly captures this vision, emphasizing our role in supporting life at every stage and in every circumstance. By honoring Karen's legacy, Nancy Graebe and Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky ensured the pilgrimage was a march and a hands-on embodiment of our faith and mission.

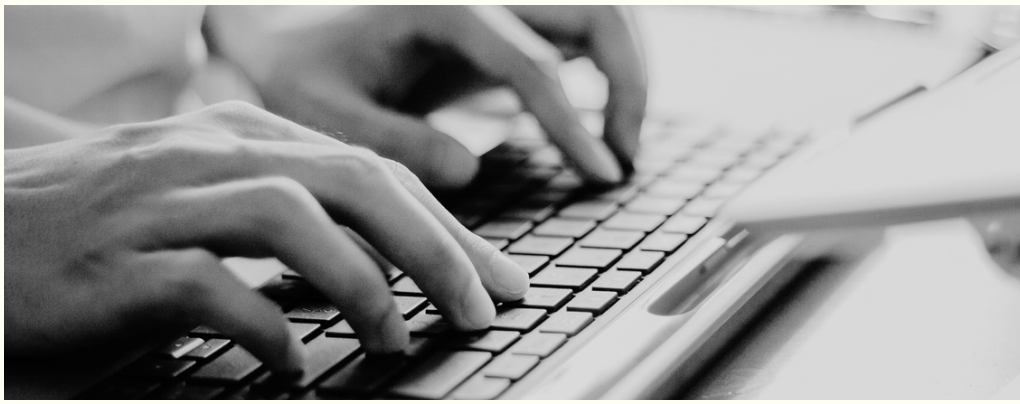
The pilgrimage became a journey of advocacy for life and a testament to our dedication to serving those in need, witnessing our faith, and being witnesses to Christ's teachings. It was a living example of how the Order of Malta embraces its mission in the modern world, advocating for the vulnerable and upholding the dignity of all life.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members participating in the 2024 Pilgrimage for Life. Your presence and commitment were instrumental in making this pilgrimage a profound witness to our faith and mission.

Your dedication to the principles of the Order and your willingness to stand for life in all its stages are truly inspiring.

Looking forward, we encourage all members of the Order of Malta and those who share our commitment to life and faith to consider joining us in next year's pilgrimage. Your participation will be a powerful testament to your faith and a valuable contribution to our collective mission of defending life and serving the vulnerable. Let us continue to carry the light of Christ in our advocacy for life, embodying the spirit of unity and commitment that defines the Order of Malta. Together, let us look forward to gathering again, marching, praying, and witnessing our faith in the 2025 Pilgrimage for Life, embracing both the solemnity of our mission and the joy of our fellowship.





STAY CONNECTED

To ensure that you receive the latest information from us, please make sure your contact information is up to date. You can fill out our online information update form at www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/update, call our NY Office at (212) 371-1522 or send an email with your information to mail@orderofmaltaamerican.org.

Visit our website www.orderofmaltaamerican.org to find the latest information about the American Association, our local Areas, and the Order of Malta.

Download our mobile app for spiritual resources, news, calendar of events, member directory, and push notifications. Search "Order of Malta, American Association" in your Android or iOS app store.

THIS EDITION'S PHOTOS

Photos for this issue have been graciously provided from a variety of sources including Michele Babyak, Steve Bujno, Thu Nguyen, Fr. David Sellery, Holy Family Hospital, and Malta Camp USA.

THE NEXT EDITION

If you would like to submit a story for the next edition of this newsletter, please contact Raymond J. LaRose via email at rlarose@orderofmaltaamerican.org.

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.

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