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HOSPITALLERS

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ANSWERING THE CALL TO COME & SEE THE 2024 LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

How is it possible that it has been over a month since we were all together in Lourdes? There really are no words to adequately express what a blessing it was to be there with all of you. Although President Kenneth Craig thanked everyone at our Closing Mass, we thought it would be interesting to make a quick list of all the myriad and daunting details that go into making our beloved Lourdes Pilgrimage look so effortless each and every year.

Remember the duck who looks so peaceful on the surface of the lake while he is paddling eagerly under the surface?

So here is our "short" list of what goes into a Lourdes Pilgrimage; and we apologize in advance for probably missing a few tasks.

Arranging for the charter plane, the airport and the hotels, screening the Malades, Caregivers and Pilgrims, determining seating arrangements for the plane, guest rooms at the hotels and dining hall assignments, coordinating security and transportation, organizing the medical team and the team captains, arranging teams and pods, inviting Chaplains to cover Masses, Reflections, Confessions and other spiritual activities, coordinating the Youth Program, organizing the Malades-In-Spirit program, including the banners in the hotel lobby and mailing postcards back home, meetings of Co-Presidents in Lourdes to determine venues, daily schedules, Mass times and places, use of the voitures, times scheduled for The Baths, the Tri-Association reception and Subpriory Mass. Technology, technology, technology! The daily schedules and photo slideshows in the hotels, the mobile app and notifications and daily summaries sent via email, endless phone calls and emails sent to the NY Office Staff with questions and special requests... the list can really go on. *Continued on next page.*

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ANSWERING THE CALL TO COME & SEE

THE 2024 LOURDES PILGIRIMAGE (CONTINUED)



For each and every one of these projects, there was a team, a staff member, or a couple who dedicated hours of their time to make it all work so seamlessly. Thank you again to every one of you.

Just as everyone asks, “What is Lourdes like?”, we have found another frequent question to be, “Did you see any miracles?”. Remembering Fr. Joseph Johnson’s thoughtful reflection at the Closing Mass, which is available for you to read on page 5, seems to be appropriate on our return home.

What miracles did you see? Was there someone who came as a skeptic and left as a believer? Was there someone who came filled with anger and left with peace? Was there someone who asked for one specific miracle but was given another, totally unexpected one? How about someone who was afraid and is now more trusting? Or someone who was jealous or resentful and is now more forgiving? Or someone who needed to be in control and who is learning to surrender? The list is endless.

Answering the call to “Come and See”, when you really have no idea what to expect, is truly a leap of faith and a great blessing. We are so glad you were able to be there. Sometimes, returning home from Lourdes feels like we were in a time warp or a dream; and, we are now back to reality with countless fond memories to look back on. Wherever this finds you, please know that you continue to be in our prayers, every single day.

We pray that the joy and peace found in Mary’s special place will continue to be with you. May she continue to lead us to her Son, despite the challenges we encounter along the way. O Jesus, we surrender ourselves to you—take care of everything.

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KENNETH R. CRAIG, KM



Dear Friends,

The start of summer usually means things slow down; but, that isn't the case for the American Association. As you will see in this edition of the *Hospitaller*, our members have been very busy. I think you'll find several articles especially interesting including: Fra Richard Wolff's 'What Does It Mean to Belong to a Lay Religious Order?', a reprint of an article that describes the Order's work at Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, and an overview of Malta Camp USA 2024. Please read on!

As I mentioned in the last edition, 80 candidates have completed their year of formation and I am very pleased to report that, during its June meeting, the Sovereign Council approved these candidates for investiture in November. This is very exciting as it is the largest class we've had in many years and demonstrates that the Association is healthy and growing. You should have received a Save-The-Date email, which highlighted details of the November 14th – 16th Investiture Weekend; and, I'm very hopeful that many of you will join us to celebrate the new members and participate in the liturgies at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Annual Business Meeting at the Westin Hotel, and the dinner being held at Cipriani's.

I am also pleased to report that Sovereign Council approved the revised By-Laws submitted by the American, Federal, and Western Associations, as well as those of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes. From the perspective of the Associations, this is a significant milestone as all three worked together to produce a common set of By-Laws, with only slight variations to reflect local laws, that are in alignment with the Constitutional Code and Charter (CC&C) promulgated by the Holy Father in 2022. I am particularly grateful to Wayne Ruth and Ken Olsen, presidents of the Federal and Western Associations, as well as Hugh Dempsey, the acting Regent of the Subpriory, and our Legal and By-laws Committee for their strong collaboration and partnership.

The Summer Retreat, led by our principal chaplain Cardinal Dolan at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin was attended by over 70 members and candidates in formation. The theme of the retreat, 'Living our Eucharistic Faith in These Trying Times' was particularly timely given the upcoming Eucharistic Congress.

In early June, the Stewardship Committee, pictured on the next page, met at the Malvern Retreat Center 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. Comprised of BOC members, current and former Area Chairs, and members with professional experience in philanthropy and fundraising, the committee had very thought provoking and insightful discussions. *Continued on next page.*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED

I'm looking forward to providing more details on the outcomes of the sessions and our plans during the Annual Business Meeting in November.

As this edition of the Hospitaller goes to print, Malta Camp USA has just wrapped up at Siena College in Albany, NY. Led by Mary Delaney, one of our hardest working and most dedicated Auxiliary, 75 volunteers hosted 39 guests with special needs in a week-long sleep away camp that aims to afford the guests an opportunity to try new things, make new friends, and embrace the truth that each of us are "wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). As you will learn, the Camp brings graces and blessings to all involved!

As mentioned during the Town Hall Meeting a few weeks ago, we will be holding elections this fall to continue aligning our board to the CC&C and elect 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 in that the membership, and not the Board, will choose the Officers. Please be on the lookout for the election details and cast your vote.

If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up to attend the annual Champion Pilgrimage which will be held at the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion from August 8th – 11th. This is a unique opportunity to pray and socialize with members of the Federal and Western Associations at the only recognized apparition site in the United States.

As I'm sure you will agree, our Association is active and growing, as evidenced by some of the above and what is reported in this edition of the Hospitaller. However, as has been said before, our true vitality is demonstrated by 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 you enjoy the summer and spend time with family and friends, please remember to 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



A LOURDES SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

BY FR. JOSEPH JOHNSON, CHM



This is an excerpt of Fr. Joseph Johnson's reflection from the Spiritual Orientation on the Lourdes Pilgrimage. To read his full reflection, visit www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/johnson-lourdes-reflection.

Chers frères et sœurs, je m'appelle le Père Joseph...

Do you need a translation? We're in France so I spoke in French! We have to learn a new language.

"Bonjour" = "good day"

"Merci" = "thank you"

"1st floor" = "2nd floor" as they consider ground floor to be "0"

"C" on water faucet in France does not mean "cold" but "chaud" meaning "hot"!

"Defense de stationner" means "no parking" not "defense station"!

Translation is tricky and we can get things really wrong. Moses was artistically depicted with horns on his head because the word in Hebrew for "rays" was mistranslated as "horns" instead. Think how strange Michelangelo's great "Moses" looks because of it!

It isn't just artistic masterpieces which can be spoiled by mistranslation. In fact, there are lots of things in our lives that need translating. God's masterpiece which is the human person can easily get mis-represented and mis-shaped when we mis-translate the things of the spiritual life and remain in confusion where we desperately need clarity.

The theme for this year's pilgrimage is "Come and see." Learning new words helps give us a fresh perspective on things. Hopefully this pilgrimage can aid us to see ourselves, our situations, and God a bit differently. We are taking some time this afternoon to give a little spiritual orientation to start our pilgrimage. It won't be a history of Lourdes and the apparitions of Our Lady. Instead, it will be an overview of some of these basic elements of our spiritual lives which too often get lost in translation.

The word "orientation" itself literally means "finding east" from which we could then also deduce west, north, and south. Finding the one direction holds the key to unlocking lots of other information. Knowing the points of the compass helps us navigate our earthly journeys. In a similar way, getting some basic spiritual matters straight opens the way for us to find the path for our journey through the messiness of life to draw closer to God. *Continued on next page.*

A LOURDES SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

CONTINUED

Let's take a shot at some things that need translating even from English to plain English. Especially in spiritual matters, we can lapse into "Church-speak" and lose most people. For example, in announcements at the end of Mass we often use acronyms such as "RCIA." Growing up surrounded by lawyers and judges, it sometimes sounded to me like the R-I-C-O act (or "RICO") which prosecutes organized crime! Let's use this common parish acronym as an example. (Recently changed to "OCIA" in case there wasn't already enough lack of understanding!)

"RCIA"

1. Rite of Christian initiation for adults—HUH???
2. The process for non-Catholics to learn about our faith and become Catholic—oh, now I understand!

But even more beautifully, it can also be translated or more fully unpacked in definition #3: "an invitation for those seeking deeper meaning in their lives to walk with us and learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that He can answer their hearts' deepest longings and open their minds to the meaning of life; they can then become part of our spiritual family the Church to be nourished by heavenly gifts and bound together by love for one another as we seek eternal life."

Which translation helps you the most??? #1 and #2 simply announce a process leading to an event. #3 proclaims a mystery speaking to us on a whole other level. The Second Vatican Council wanted to help the laity to mature in understanding of our faith and the way we apply it to our lives. Sadly, even highly educated professionals who are experts in secular matters are often relying on an understanding of our faith which they received in 8th grade or perhaps even further back in 2nd grade.

So, let's start re-translating some spiritual things whose deeper and richer meanings may be obscured or forgotten! Some of these definitions are how we normally see things. Some are how others see things. Some are an invitation to see familiar realities in a new way that opens us up to spiritual growth. Can you find a definition that helps you develop a more mature understanding?

"Church"

1. Building where Christians pray
2. International religious organization based in Vatican City
3. Hypocritical bunch of self-righteous and out of touch people trying to ruin modern life with medieval principles (we hear that in the media too often!)
4. The Mystical Body of Christ (dogmatic truth needing much more definition!)
5. My spiritual home where I am closest to God and He is closest to me

"Volunteer"

1. A person who freely steps up to serve in a way which he/she was not strictly obliged to do
2. The person cornered by Father after Mass and strong-armed or "guilted" into taking the job no one in their sane mind wanted and that everyone pretended not to see advertised in the bulletin for the past two months or hear in the pulpit announcements in that special whining tone of desperation
3. The incorrect term often used to describe the disciples of Jesus Christ when in small or great matters they are simply exercising their baptismal dignity taking seriously their responsibility for the mission of the Church

"Miracle"

1. Extraordinary event not able to be attributed to an earthly cause
2. Supernatural overriding of the natural order in a particular instance
3. Manifestation of God's power
4. Gift of God which brings spiritual or physical healing
5. When God's care for us is dramatically revealed instead of its usually hidden but no less real quality

These definitions are simply the lenses through which we see God and our lives. Jetlagged and in a foreign land with an unfamiliar language, maybe we are disoriented enough to re-boot the way we see the spiritual landscape of our lives. God loves us and sent Mary here to invite us to deeper union with Him.

"Come and see!" God has graces waiting for you here. God wants to renew your way of seeing both Him and your own life. Let's be confident that we have been called here by God. We will encounter Him in a powerful way in this place He chose. Trust and be open to a new way of seeing!

ON PILGRIMAGE TO WISCONSIN

THE UPCOMING PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP



As you prepare to enter the summer season, we encourage you to join us on the Our Lady of Champion Pilgrimage in Champion, Wisconsin this August 8th – 10th. The Shrine in Champion is a beautiful, holy place that provides every pilgrim with the perfect setting for spiritual renewal and healing.

It is the site of the only Marian apparition in the United States approved by the Catholic Church. In 1859, Adele Brise, a Belgium immigrant, saw Our Lady three times along a wooded trail near her home. On the third time, Our Lady said, “I am the Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same. You received Holy Communion this morning and that is well. But you must do more. Make a general confession and offer Communion for the conversion of sinners. If they do not convert and do penance, my Son will be obliged to punish them.”

She instructed Adele to teach the children what they should know for salvation. These apparitions began Adele’s mission to become a teacher for the Lord and the Blessed Lady. In 2010, Bishop David Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay, declared the Apparition as worthy of belief. In 2016, the USCCB designated the grounds as a National Shrine. Bishop Ricken is a Conventual Chaplain in the Order and serves as Chaplain for the Northeast Wisconsin Area.

We hope you will consider joining us this summer. The Our Lady of Champion Pilgrimage offers you the opportunity to practice the lifetime commitment you made at your Investiture, to witness to the faith and serve the sick and the poor. Members of the Order may also sponsor a sick or handicapped person to be considered as a potential Special Pilgrim.

This pilgrimage is an ideal summer trip for families and multi-generational groups and a great way to show your family what the Order of Malta is all about. We have extended the registration deadline to Tuesday, July 16th. If you are interested in attending, please visit www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/wisconsin-pilgrimage. Your registration covers the cost of your meals, transportation during the pilgrimage, and the variety of spiritual activities we will partake in. Once you are approved to attend, you will need to book your travel to and from the pilgrimage and your hotel stay, which is made available to pilgrims at a significantly discounted rate when you use our room block. If you have any questions, please contact Carla Gunerard at carla@orderofmaltaamerican.org or call 212-371-1522 ext. 110.

JOIN US AT INVESTITURE WEEKEND

WELCOMING 80 NEW KNIGHTS AND DAMES INTO THE ORDER OF MALTA



Investiture Weekend is an event that many members, old and new, look forward to each year and this year is no different. The 2024 Investiture Weekend will take place Thursday, November 14th – Saturday, November 16th in New York City, with hotel accommodations and meetings at The Westin – New York Grand Central, spiritual services, including the Investiture Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, and the 96th Annual Dinner at Cipriani East 42nd Street.

The Order of Events begins with several meetings on Thursday for new members, Area Leaders, and Chaplains. Thursday concludes with a Mass for the Blessing of the Robes and Capes and Installation of the American Association's new Deputy Chaplains. Following Mass, new members and new chaplains are invited to attend a reception at the hotel before everyone breaks off into groups for dinner. Thursday evening is often reserved for special Area dinners—be sure to communicate with your Area Leaders regarding your Area's dinner details.

Friday will start bright and early with a Spirituality in Action presentation in the morning. All members are encouraged to attend this morning presentation, which is a great way to kick off such a monumental day for our incoming Knights and Dames. All members are then invited to attend Annual Business Meeting to hear from members of Leadership on the American Association and the Order of Malta. Election results will also be announced during this meeting. Up next is the long awaited event, the Solemn Mass of Investiture at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, home church of the American Association.

During this Mass, we will welcome 80 new Knights and Dames into the Order of Malta, who will make their lifelong commitment to witness to the faith and serve the sick and the poor. Members, family, and friends are then invited to celebrate our new Knights and Dames at the 96th Annual Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street. The Investiture Weekend will wrap up on Saturday with a Mass for the Intentions of Living and Deceased Malades and Deceased Members of the Order at Saint Patrick's Cathedral and a Mass of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Church of St. Francis.

We hope you plan to join us this November in New York City to help us welcome the newest Knights and Dames into our beloved Order of Malta. Be sure to visit www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/investiture/ for more information regarding hotel reservations, Annual Dinner Registration, and more.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG TO A “LAY RELIGIOUS” ORDER?

BY FRÁ RICHARD J. WOLFF, PHD



Most members of the Order of Malta would agree that they belong to a “lay religious” order, but the agreement may very well stop right there. A minority may have a full and accurate understanding of what it means to be a lay religious order. Others only partly grasp the fullness of this reality. Still others are entirely mistaken in their assessment of what it means to belong to a lay religious order. There are very likely a significant number of Knights and Dames who do not fully grasp this concept. Therefore, it may be useful to explain briefly what it means to be part of a lay religious order.

From its founding almost 1,000 years ago, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (its original name) was considered by its members to be a religious congregation, a fact which was confirmed in 1113 by Pope Paschal II who granted the Order freedom from the oversight of local bishops. Over time, the independence granted by Paschal developed into territorial sovereignty, an entirely unique feature of the Order which remains to this day. It was, in part, the Order’s decision to add a military function to its original Hospitaller charism that spurred the development of its sovereignty. The recognition of its territorial suzerainty, particularly over Rhodes and subsequently Malta, by secular princes and papal exemptions from oversight by local bishops combined to

form a religious order with an unusual degree of independence from both church and royal authorities.

It is important to note that the Order’s Founder, Blessed Gerard, was a lay religious, as were all his followers. This means that Blessed Gerard was not a cleric. He did not take Holy Orders. He and his followers were not priests. Within a century of its founding, the charisms of the Order had developed into caring for the sick and poor and protecting pilgrims and Christendom from its adversaries. Its members did not join the Order to become cloistered monks. Nor did their vocations lie in administering the sacraments or preaching the Word. They were not called to say Mass for the people, bless their marriages, hear their confessions, baptize their children, or bury their dead. In short, they were not clerics or priests. They were, like the Professed today, lay religious or laymen who lived the “consecrated life”.

In the over 2,000 year history of the Catholic Church, the number of clerics and lay religious has fluctuated significantly. Over the past 50 years, many of us have witnessed this fluctuation in vocations both to the priesthood and to lay religious life. In 1965, there were 7,800 religious Brothers and nearly 200,000 religious Sisters in the United States. Today, those numbers are vastly reduced with only 3,800 Brothers and 45,100 Sisters remaining,

Still, however reduced in number, these lay religious congregations remain familiar to many American Catholics. To name just a few: among the lay religious orders of women, the Sisters of Charity, Sisters of St. Joseph, Madams of the Sacred Heart, and Felician Sisters; while among the lay religious orders of men, the Xavierian Brothers, Irish Christian Brothers, LaSalle Brothers, and Marist Brothers.

There are scores of other lay religious congregations around the world, each with their own individual charisms, apostolates, and spirituality. Despite their obvious differences, they all have one common element. That is, they are lay religious orders. Specifically, the order’s leadership and the overwhelming number of its members are lay religious. If professed clerics are permitted entrance to the order, which is not the norm, they are not eligible to serve as superiors. The lay religious, men and women alike, profess the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in accordance with their congregations’ particular charisms. In contrast, clerical religious orders, like the Jesuits, Dominicans, and Augustinians, are led exclusively by ordained priests.

Of course, this may be a simplification of the situation. Women religious frequently saw their lay religious orders made subject to clerics in the persons of local ordinaries, especially in the years following the deaths of their charismatic founders. *Continued on next page.*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG TO A “LAY RELIGIOUS” ORDER?

CONTINUED

Although these Sisters' apostolates spread across diocesan lines and even national frontiers, male ecclesiastics in Rome attempted to place them under the authority of diocesan bishops. Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton's Sisters of Charity, the first religious congregation founded in the United States in 1809, is a good example of this. Pressured by the hierarchy, the order relatively quickly broke up into separate foundations under independent superiors with their own educational and social ministries. These separate foundations were made subject to the authority of local hierarchs, to whom they owed obedience. Consequently, their status as genuine lay religious congregations were, in some small measure, undermined when they were removed from the oversight of the Mother House in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Leaving aside the treatment of women's lay religious orders, it should be clear that the juridical definition under canon law of a lay religious congregation has nothing to do with combining the laity with the religious to comprise a “lay religious” leadership of the SMOM. Despite large numbers of members who think this is the case, it is false. Very simply, the lay religious, in sum and substance, are the Knights of Justice. It is their existence that makes the Order a lay religious order, and without them the Order would be unable to continue.

As the Order grew and prospered, it began to accept persons as confreres or companions to assist in the works of the Order. These companions or confreres were drawn to the charisms of the Order, but they did not have a religious vocation. This development, however useful in serving the poor and sick, has been the inadvertent cause of much confusion about the nature of the Order.

Confreres, who have been invited to work in the Order's ministries, have been known through the years as donats, knights and dames of the third class and second class, knights and dames of grace and devotion, and knights and dames of honor and devotion. As discussed above, the actual lay religious congregation is comprised of the professed who have invited others to share in the charisms of the Order, to toil in its vineyards, and to seek through it grace and personal salvation.

The involvement of non-religious in the Order has undoubtedly been a blessing of inestimable magnitude. However, because of the large number of non-religious active in the life of the Order, some confusion has arisen not only about its nature, but also in terminology. The term “confreres” (literally meaning “with the Brothers”) signified that these volunteers were not full members of the Order, but they worked side-by-side, whether men or women, with (con) the Brothers or the professed (freres).

Thus, the term, confreres, is not gender specific. It does not refer only to knights of the second or third class or exclusively to males. It refers to all men and women affiliated with the Order who have been invited by the professed to share in the work of the Order and to seek personal salvation through it.

Consequently, the term “consoeurs” (“with the Sisters”) has no meaning in the Order, and it is used erroneously to signify Dames. The term confreres applies to all non-professed, regardless of gender, who are companions to the “Brothers”, “Frates”, “Freres” or Fras in building the Kingdom of God. We are not divided into two groups: those with the Sisters (consuores) and those with the Brothers (confreres). Simply put, we are all “with the Fras” in the Order of Malta.

“With the Fras in the Order of Malta” is a phrase that reflects a striking, even beautiful, reality. The professed are few in number, but we draw courage from the fact that God is with us, and He has shown us His love and mercy for nearly 1,000 years. He has also helped us to grow and develop our lay religious order by relying on the dedication and commitment of our confreres all over the world. We – the Fras and our confreres – have come together under the banners of the Order to serve the poor and sick of our troubled world.

The professed have opened the doors of the Order to men and women, confreres all, who seek holiness through service to the weak and forgotten. They have encouraged men and women to live the Order's spirituality of service and to share in the still evolving 1,000-year-old vision of Blessed Gerard. In many ways, we are blazing the trail for other religious congregations. Notwithstanding the juridical realities of our lay religious order, ours is a shining example of the professed and confreres coming together, “forgetful of ourselves”, to care for others in Christ's name.

A SUMMER REFLECTION ON PILGRIMAGES, PRAYER AND THE POOR

BY VERY REV. ANTHONY M. BARRATT, STL, PHD, EV, CHD



‘The promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father and assistance to one’s neighbor.’ (Regulations and Commentary of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta)

These words remind us of the mission and purpose of the Order and therefore of our calling or vocation within this; that is of “giving witness to the faith and serving the sick and the poor.” We should not think of these two parts of our mission as separate: one, of course feeds the other and leads to the other. As we begin these summer months, it is a good time to reflect on this core of our mission and identity, especially to remember the importance of setting aside a regular time for growing in our relationship with the Lord. It is a crucial part not only of what we must do, but also who we should be, as members of the Order.

Not for nothing, priests, deacons and religious are required to make an annual retreat, as well as to spend time each day in prayer. Pilgrimages are also strongly encouraged. It is perhaps unfortunate that taking time away to focus on prayer and spiritual growth is called a “retreat.” It can imply some sort of escape or fleeing from life and reality. In

fact, a retreat is the exact opposite of this. It is taking time away for what we might call the three “Rs” in a life of faith: to refocus, refresh and renew our faith, so that we return to “normal” life with new vigor and focus. Pilgrimages also help us in the same way, connecting us with the roots of our spiritual life, especially when we go to holy places. Pilgrimages are like a microcosm of the church on its pilgrimage through history: They are intense and amazingly fruitful. When we return from a pilgrimage, the experiences can help us to travel light, to see the wider Church with fresh eyes and to trust in the Lord more. As St. John Paul II noted: “for the Church, pilgrimages in all their multiple aspects, have always been a gift of grace.”

The regulations of our Order also require the same commitment for us. Pilgrimages, retreats and prayer are never simply an obligation, but rather they are gifts; so that we may fulfill our mission and purpose. The Lourdes Pilgrimage, for example, is a crucial part of being a member of the Order. It is a major requirement that new members go on the Pilgrimage, at least within three years of becoming a member. It is a key duty of Area Chairs to organize retreats and times of prayer for the area members...and it is also crucial that area members go to these events! Why are these things so important? A short answer is that we have a model in Jesus and the apostles. As he began his public ministry, Jesus spent forty days in the desert (Luke 4: 1-3): a long retreat indeed. We echo this in our season of Lent, which we might call a forty-day retreat, where we face our demons and renew our faith, aided by God’s grace. Jesus resolutely went to Jerusalem to suffer, die and rise for us: he did all this in the context of a pilgrimage to the holy city for the festival of the Passover.

In the Gospel for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, year B (21st July 2024, Mark 6: 30-34) Jesus and the disciples go away to a deserted place to rest: what we might call a brief retreat! Why did they do this? Well, before this we hear how the disciples had been sent out to preach the good news of repentance and to heal the sick (Sunday 15 Year B, 14th July 2024, Mark 6: 7-13). Now they return full of excitement at all that had happened, but presumably they are also exhausted. Perhaps Jesus wanted them to get away, yes to rest and to recuperate, but also to have some very necessary time to take stock of all that they had experienced. If they did not do this, their first real experience of being missionaries of Jesus would be just that: a raw and undigested experience and so remain at a surface level. Lots of doing, but no real reflecting or thinking! The same need is true for our work and mission in the Order.

We can also understand the necessity of prayer, especially retreats and pilgrimages from a very human perspective. Doctors tell us that rest is very necessary for our physical well-being, not least so that the human brain can process all that has happened to us during the day. In a similar vein, most of us try to have at least one day off each week as well as some vacation time so that we can recharge our batteries and perhaps take in properly things that have happened to us, or maybe plan for the future. There is also that very human and very important need just to be able to stop and to savor life, rather than it rushing past us “untasted” all the time. My spiritual director when I was first ordained used to joke that one must take a day off. “After all”, he would say, “even God rested on the seventh day and remember...you are not God!” *Continued on next page.*

A SUMMER REFLECTION ON PILGRIMAGES, PRAYER AND THE POOR

CONTINUED

Taking this in a more spiritual sense and, as noted above, we also need a time of rest and reflection for our soul and spirit to process all that happens in our lives. This time is essential for us to deepen and grow. In fact, we call this time “prayer”...! We absolutely need to stop and place ourselves in the presence of the Lord and so let the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as wisdom, or understanding, or awe to work in us. If we do not make time for this to happen, then it would be very hard indeed for us to make any spiritual progress. As St. Ignatius of Loyola noted about retreats, they deepen our understanding and knowledge of God’s love for us, they help us listen more attentively to the voice of the Holy Spirit, they take us into a stronger relationship with our Lord and, finally, they enable us to integrate all these gifts into our daily life.

Finally, in reflecting on retreats and pilgrimages, let us not forget the daily need for prayer. Doctors tell us that we need an average of eight hours of sleep a day. So, how much spiritual rest time and reflection time do we need each day? That is hard to say, but dare I suggest at least 10-15 minutes could work wonders. If possible, daily Mass, and/or a time of Eucharistic Adoration would be even better. A very, very busy bishop, St. Francis de Sales famously quipped: “...half an hour’s meditation each day is essential, except when you are busy. Then a full hour is needed.”...!

One last word from St. Bernard of Clairvaux on the essential and fruitful need for prayer, retreats and pilgrimages: “If you are wise, you will be reservoirs and not channels. The channels let water flow away and do not retain a drop, but the reservoir is first filled and then, without emptying itself, pours out its overflow, which is ever renewed over the fields which it waters.”

ADMISSIONS WILL YOU BE A SPONSOR?

If you already read our Investiture article on page 8, you know that a total of 80 Knight and Dames will be invested into the Order of Malta at our Investiture Weekend this November. The Class of 2024 is the largest class of new members that we’ve had in over ten years. This is no small feat, and it could not have been done without the help of our dedicated Area Chairs, Area Membership Chairs, Sponsors, the Admissions Committee, and the New York Office Staff.

As the Admissions Committee was working with the New York Staff to close out the Class of 2024’s Admissions process, they were simultaneously preparing to launch the process for the Class of 2025. With only one day in between the two, we moved swiftly and efficiently to be ready to invite new Knights and Dames into the Order and help their sponsors, Area Chairs, and Area Membership Chairs along the way.

Did you know that any current Knight, Dame, Magistral, and Conventual Chaplain can sponsor a candidate for membership? In addition to the Area Chair, only one sponsor is required to usher them through their Year of Formation. With your Area Chair and Area Membership Chair nearby and the New York Office just a phone call or email away, there is no shortage of assistance available if you know someone who would be a great fit for the Order.

As a member of a 900-year-old lay religious Order, you have an opportunity to share a unique charism from which many Catholics could benefit. Whether it is someone in your family, your friend circle, your job, or your parish, we encourage you to speak to them about the Order of Malta. Talk to them about the activities in your Area and in the Association. Invite them to any recruiting activities your Area may be sponsoring. Ask your Area Chair and/or Area Membership Chair to join you at lunch with the potential candidate.

Lastly, we ask you to pray for vocations to the Order so that we can continue our legacy of witnessing our faith and caring for the sick and the poor. For more information about the admissions process, you can visit www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/membership or contact Maria DiGiacomo in the New York Office via email (maria@orderofmaltaamerican.org) or phone (212) 371-1522 ext. 104.

PRESIDENT KENNETH CRAIG HOSTS TOWN HALL MEETING

On Wednesday, May 29th at 7 PM ET, American Association President Kenneth Craig hosted a Town Hall Meeting. All members of the Association were invited to participate. It was estimated that two hundred fifty people tuned in for the live broadcast. Over one hundred more went to the website to watch the recording which can be accessed at www.vimeo.com/952040091/303aa4b52d?share=copy.

Mr. Craig gave an overview of the many Association events, some concluded such as the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Over three hundred pilgrims traveled to Lourdes including forty-eight Malades and their caregivers.

Mr. Craig told the members that the NY Office had officially moved. The current headquarters building was being sold; with the staff primarily working at home, smaller quarters at significant savings made sense for the office. The location is on Fifty-First Street across from Saint Patrick's Cathedral, above the Cathedral Gift Shop. He said that there would be a reassessment at some time in the future. In regard to the Annual Grants process, Mr. Craig reported that the Grants Committee had added two additional review meetings to expedite the approval process and the distribution of grants to the recipients.

Upcoming events included the Summer Retreat in Wisconsin with Cardinal Timothy Dolan as the retreat master. Malta Camp USA followed right after the Retreat, with expected participation increasing significantly. The event at Siena College, a six day program, has been a great success and it continues to grow. The mission of the camp is to give young disabled adults an opportunity to 'get out of the house' and to bond with people their own age in a supportive environment, building friendships that last well beyond the six-day camp.

Mr. Craig said that the feast of Patron Saint John the Baptist was three weeks away and Areas will be coordinating gatherings with liturgies. The summer events will be capped by the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Champion, a Tri-Association event that provides a unique opportunity to bring the family (across generations) together to the place where Our Blessed Mother appeared to Adele Brise and told her to teach the children how to pray and prepare them for the sacraments.

Fall comes in with a spiritual blessing, a retreat at Betania Retreat Center in Medway, MA, with Msgr. James Moroney from the Boston Area as the retreat master. This retreat will be over the weekend of September 20th to the 22nd. Eighty new members are scheduled to be invested at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on November 15th. Mr. Craig said the Annual Business Meeting would be held at the Westin Grand Central Hotel and the Annual Dinner will be held at Cipriani 42nd Street, easy walking distance to the Westin and to Grand Central Station. Mr. Craig shared additional upcoming events including the Baby Steps Camino in December in Saint Augustine. The Pilgrimage for Life is scheduled in Washington, DC, in January 2025.

Mr. Craig said that the Order had been asked by the Vatican to provide medical service volunteers at the four major basilicas in Rome during the Jubilee Year. Volunteers from the American Association would be covering two weeks in October. Mr. Craig said that, after long years of discussion on the structure and charism of the Order, Pope Francis promulgated a new Constitutional Charter and Code (CC&C) in September 2022. The reforms focused on changes to the governance structure of the Order, the First Class, and the relationship between the Priories and the Associations. As a result of the changes to the CC&C, the Associations were asked to revise their bylaws to conform to the new requirements. The three US Associations have been working together to develop a set of by-laws that will be common among them. The revised Association bylaws were approved by the Board of Councillors at an extraordinary Board meeting in April. Mr. Craig said the draft was currently under review in Rome. (The by-laws were subsequently approved by the Sovereign Council.)

Mr. Craig said that the most significant changes could be explained by comparing the old structure to the new structure. The Board of Councillors will be called the Board of Directors. The old Board had 24 Councillors and the President. In the old system, the President was elected by the members while the other Officers were elected by the Board itself from among its members. In the new structure, all the officers will be elected by the membership. In the old structure, there were four officers in addition to the President; in the new structure, there will be three in addition to the President – a secretary-general (combining the roles of Chancellor and Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Hospitaller. Three members of the third class will be elected to the Board by the members of the third class. Similarly, three members of the second class will be elected to the Board by the members of the second class. All professed members living within the Association territory will automatically be on the Board. The Hospitaller of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes will be an ex officio, non-voting member of the Board. *Continued on next page.*

PRESIDENT KENNETH CRAIG HOSTS TOWN HALL MEETING

CONTINUED

Mr. Craig pointed out that in the old system, the Principal Chaplain was appointed by the Board with the approval of the Prelate and the Assistant Principal Chaplain was appointed by the Board in consultation with the Principal Chaplain. In the new structure, the Chaplains will elect the Chief Chaplain who will be an active member of the Board of Directors. (The Archbishop of New York will continue as the Principal Chaplain.) The Chief Chaplain election will take place in time for the Chaplain elected to take part in a meeting of his counterparts planned for September in Rome.

Mr. Craig said that in the old system, the Board would have at least four regularly scheduled meetings each year; under the new rules, the Board will be meeting at least six times each year. In the new structure, all members of the American and the Federal Associations are members of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is expected that there will be greater collaboration between the Associations and the Subpriory. New to the Association, the President may serve a third term if two-thirds of the members approve.

Mr. Craig noted that another change being put into the by-laws is a long-standing practice of requiring Association President approval for members to serve on Boards or in leadership capacities in entities related to the Order of Malta. The provision to add members to an Association ballot through the signature process has been eliminated. Mr. Craig said that the membership will be requested to submit recommendations to the Nominating Committee for the three officer positions that will be on the ballot in the fall. He encouraged members to respond. Mr. Craig said the remaining Board positions would be filled in the 2025 election in the fall.

The final topic Mr. Craig addressed was the establishment of the Stewardship Committee. He noted that the Capital Campaign successful "Solicitation Phase" had concluded at the end of 2023. The focus was shifting to stewardship; key areas in strengthening and expanding current works with an emphasis on the impact they have, the opportunities for hands-on work they provide, and their sustainability of the work (IHS). The Committee will also determine the opportunities for new works, and explore the possibility for a "Principal Work" that could define the Association. Another focus of the Committee will be to identify what attracts some members to be actively involved in available works, and identify actions that might be effective in increasing the engagement of those not currently involved. The Committee will focus on communicating more effectively the impact of current works. They will consider how to position the Association for its next hundred years.

Mr. Craig opened the floor for questions. Asked for further explanation on possible defining signature works, Mr. Craig said that the Committee would be exploring that question as there is no specific work that he has in mind. He was also asked to expand on how member engagement would be identified or measured. Mr. Craig said there were obvious examples of member engagement such as participation in the Lourdes Pilgrimage or working at an Area soup kitchen. What we generally do not know is the care for the sick and the poor that is being given outside the normal boundaries of the Association or its Areas. Although not under the banner of the Order, they do represent true commitment to its charism of service.

A question was asked whether the capital campaign funds might be used to reduce the costs of the pilgrimage for Knights and Dames. Mr. Craig explained that the funds raised for the Pilgrimage Foundation will be used exclusively to offset the costs of bringing the Malades and Caregivers to Lourdes and will not be used to offset the costs for a member or volunteer to participate. He noted that, if all the pledges are eventually fulfilled, the funding will be there to cover most of the costs of the Malades and Caregivers.

Mr. Craig was asked to clarify the requirement to get the Association President's approval to participate on Boards. Mr. Craig explained that it was only required if the Board was of an entity associated with the Order such as a foundation or other organization. Other Boards are not included in this requirement. A concern was raised about the significant reduction in the size of the Board, given the size and complexity of the organization. Mr. Craig said that the reduced Board size (down from 25 to about 12) would be established and reviewed after several years to determine if it was workable. He noted that one option the Board has is to engage members to serve on working committees without actually having them as voting members of the Board. In response to a series of questions, Mr. Craig explained that the Chief Chaplain would be a working and voting member of the Board. He would be elected by the chaplains who were members of the Order (he noted that Deputy Chaplains were very important to the Association but were not members of the Order). A term would be three years with the possibility to be reelected for two additional terms.

Continued on next page.

PRESIDENT KENNETH CRAIG HOSTS TOWN HALL MEETING

CONTINUED

Mr. Craig said that the Association has requested and expected to receive permission to retain the Archbishop of New York as the Principal Chaplain as a non-Board member. He added that the other two Associations were also requesting that the Principal Chaplain be retained as an honorary position. Mr. Craig said that the Pope has indicated that future chaplains of the Order should not be members of a religious order. He indicated that it was not fully clear what that meant, noting that the Prelate is a Jesuit.

Asked whether a member should consider joining the Subpriory, Mr. Craig said someone considering it should find a person in their Area who is in obedience and discuss what it is like. The next step would be to contact the head of the Subpriory who would put them in touch with the people responsible for the application process, the discernment process, and the formation process. Work is underway to put the process in writing. You can also contact the New York office who can give you the contact information.

Mr. Kelleher, Secretary of the Association, encouraged members to participate in the nomination and election process. He noted that it was new for members to be electing officers and he encouraged members to identify members who would be good candidates for the officer positions. Mr. Craig ended the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, noting that the meeting was recorded and the link to the recording would be posted on the website. He also invited anyone with questions or comments to contact him.

MEMBERS ATTEND SUMMER RETREAT WITH PRINCIPAL CHAPLAIN



The Northeast Wisconsin Area welcomed members, clergy and guests from ten states to the American Association Summer Retreat on the weekend of June 21-23 on the beautiful St. Norbert College campus in De Pere, Wisconsin. We were incredibly blessed to have the master teacher himself, and Principal Chaplain of the American Association, His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, serve as retreat master, and he did not disappoint! Cardinal Dolan provided a series of thought provoking and inspirational reflections worthy of deep meditation on the incredible gift Jesus gave us in His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist.

In addition to the five talks on the Eucharist, the retreat featured a full weekend of liturgical activities in the National Shrine of St. Joseph on the college campus with daily Mass, morning and evening prayer, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction. While plenty of holy water fell from the sky on this rainy weekend, it did not dampen the spirits of those who enjoyed good food and great conversation renewing old and making new acquaintances. A visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion for Mass and lunch on Sunday when the clouds parted and the sun shined brightly was a fitting conclusion to a spiritually enriching weekend. Make your plans now to join us next year on the weekend of June 6-8, for the third annual Summer Retreat which will again be held on the wonderful St. Norbert campus!

FRÁ JOHN DUNLAP, PRINCE AND GRAND MASTER, HONORED AT 31ST ANNUAL PATH TO PEACE FOUNDATION GALA DINNER



On Thursday, May 23rd, the Path to Peace Gala Dinner, in support of the work of the Holy See Mission, honored Frá John Dunlap, Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

Archbishop Gabriele Caccia, Permanent Observer of the Holy See Mission to the UN and President of the Path to Peace Foundation, welcomed over 500 guests to the Gala. Afterwards, the honoree, Frá John Dunlap gave his remarks. Mr. Kenneth Craig, President of the American Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta, served as the Master of Ceremonies. His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, gave the opening invocation.

After the dinner, Ms. Nadja Wolfe, a Negotiator for the Holy See Mission, drew upon her experience as a staff member provided a testimony of her work in negotiations at the UN. His Excellency Archbishop Bishop William Murphy, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Rockville Centre gave the closing Benediction. Frá John Dunlap and Archbishop Gabriele Caccia delivered remarks, which you can read when you visit the links below.

Remarks by Frá John Dunlap available at www.thepathtopeacefoundation.org/acceptance-speech-by-his-most-eminent-highness-fra-john-dunlap.php.

Remarks by Archbishop Gabriele Caccia available at www.thepathtopeacefoundation.org/address-by-archbishop-caccia-at-the-2024-path-to-peace-gala-dinner.php.

The funds raised through the Path to Peace Gala enable the Path to Peace Foundation to help the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See maintain a dynamic presence at the UN and to bring greater awareness of the teachings of the Holy Father on important international questions. The Foundation also focuses on disseminating information and documentation on statements and initiatives of the Holy Father, the Holy See, and Catholic organizations directed toward building a world of justice, charity, and peace. The Holy See Mission would like to sincerely thank all the guests for the successful Gala dinner!

**At the conclusion of the Path to Peace Foundation Gala, members of the NYC Area handed out 500 hygiene kits to gala guests, for distribution to area homeless and underserved. Each bag included a washcloth, socks, body wash, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, hand cream, granola bars, a Dunkin' gift card, and an Order prayer card which included the Beatitudes. Bags for women also included feminine hygiene products. The NYC Area was honored to have the opportunity to participate in this community expression of the Order's service to the sick and the poor. We also extend our congratulations to the Grand Master on his well-deserved recognition from the Path to Peace Foundation.*

MALTA CAMP USA

39 GUESTS ENJOY A WEEK OF FRIENDSHIP AND FUN



From June 23-28, over 100 people, including 39 Guests with intellectual and developmental disabilities, gathered at Siena College in Albany, NY for a week of friendship and fun at Malta Camp USA. Built on the belief that every person is “wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14) in God’s image, Malta Camp USA aims to build community among those with and without disabilities.

From the moment the first Guests arrived, the atmosphere was electric with joy and camaraderie. Balloons, dancing, and an abundance of bubbles set the tone for a week of joy and friendship. Each arrival was met with enthusiastic greetings, transforming the campus into a vibrant community where everyone felt instantly at home. Old friends shared hugs, new friendships blossomed, and the sense of belonging was unmistakable.

The camp’s kickoff was marked by an inspiring Opening Mass, celebrating the feast of St. John the Baptist. Joined by Albany Area members and donors, the service was a beautiful reminder of the unique roles we each play in God’s plan. Guests with disabilities contributed to our celebration as lectors, cantors, and altar servers. Fittingly, the St. John the Baptist liturgy features Psalm 139, setting the tone that each person is wonderfully made and valued. This spiritual beginning set a reflective and inclusive tone for the week ahead.

Following Mass, campers got to know each other through a series of ice breaker games. With common interests found and goals for the week discussed, it was time for some fun! Face paint, tie-dye, and make-your-own toiletry kits started camp off on a creative note, giving each camper an opportunity to showcase their personalities while continuing to get to know each other. Our first evening together wrapped up with a Murder Mystery dinner that had everyone working together to figure out whodunnit!

The first full day saw campers bouncing, jumping, and climbing at SkyZone, a trampoline park where everyone could let loose and have fun. Dodgeball games, foam pits, and zip lines brought out the adventurous spirit in many, while others enjoyed playing cards and games during breaks. Uno quickly became the game of choice, fostering friendly competition and laughter. In the afternoon, campers played mini-golf, raced go-karts, and hit the batting cages, getting out any remaining first-day-of-camp jitters with high-energy activities. Our day concluded with a movie sing-along of *The Greatest Showman*, with everyone joining into the song and dance. *Continued on next page.*

MALTA CAMP USA

CONTINUED

Another memorable day started with a surprise Christmas celebration. Overnight, the lobby was transformed into a festive wonderland with snow, stockings, and a Christmas tree. Campers embraced the surprise, participating in “Reindeer Games,” making their own pizzas for lunch, and enjoying an afternoon at an ice rink. The day concluded with crafts, a Secret Santa gift exchange, and a special vespers service led by Bishop Ed Scharffenberger. Bringing Christmas to camp, a holiday typically celebrated with family, helped to solidify the unique sense of joy and unity that defines our Malta Camp community.

Our next day at Zoom Flume water park was filled with excitement and adventure, as campers explored the splash pad, lazy river, water slides, and wave pool. Feeling more comfortable in our camp community, our morning saw more people breaking off to join new friends who were excited to try the same slides and attractions as they were. In the afternoon, Field Day had teams pitted against each other, drafting members from each team – based on either skill or enthusiasm – to compete in events from a wheelbarrow race to charades. The highlight of the afternoon was a plank-off that ended in a tie after an impressive seven minutes. The theme of the day was teamwork, with the role of cheerleader as important as that of competitor. The sense of achievement and pride was palpable, with one camper declaring, “this was the funnest afternoon of my whole life!”

Our annual talent show was a spectacular mid-way point to an incredible week. With 35 acts ranging from singing and dancing to comedy and push-ups, the stage was a platform for campers to showcase their unique talents. The audience’s enthusiastic support and applause created an atmosphere of encouragement and celebration, boosting the confidence of every performer. The joy and pride on the faces of the campers were a testament to the empowering environment of Malta Camp.

As the week neared a close, our last full day together featured bowling, laser tag, bumper cars, and arcade games. With Special Olympics medalists in our midst, many campers showcased impressive bowling skills, while laser tag battles between Team Fire and Team Ice had everyone running, ducking, and shooting for points. In the afternoon, campers split into groups to visit June Farms, embark on a nature walk, or experience helicopter flights. At June Farms, we fed horses, petted goats, and admired giant pigs. The nature walk offered a peaceful exploration of the woods, with campers spotting butterflies and different types of trees. The helicopter rides provided breathtaking views of Saratoga Springs, a beautiful lake, and distant mountains, giving campers a unique perspective on their surroundings.

When we returned to campus, a reflection activity on the theme “Wonderfully Made” allowed campers to express their thoughts on how each member of our Malta Camp family is wonderfully made through words, stickers, and photos from the week. We created posters showcasing the strengths and beauty within each member of the community. The day ended with an annual dance party, complete with crazy costumes, a photo booth, and a DJ. Campers danced the night away, celebrating the friendships and memories they had made.

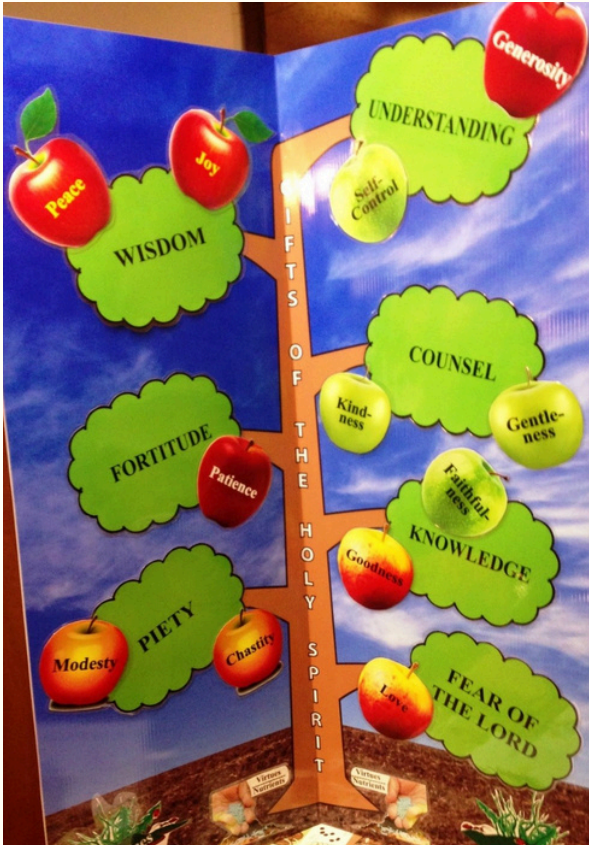
The final day of camp was filled with emotion. Campers packed their bags and prepared for departure, but not before signing the pillowcases they had tie-dyed earlier in the week. The reality of camp ending brought tears and countless hugs, with many expressing how much they would miss the daily activities and the friends they had made. There were promises to return next year, plans for new talent show acts, and ideas for fun costumes. As parents arrived to pick up our Guests, there were lots of heartfelt goodbyes. A tear-filled camper shared, “I don’t know if I’m crying because I’m happy for all my new friends or sad that it’s over”. Many exchanged phone numbers, hoping to keep in touch throughout the year.

Malta Camp USA is more than just a summer camp; it’s a celebration of inclusivity, love, and community that lasts year-round. It’s a place where differences are celebrated, and every individual is encouraged to be their true, wonderful selves. As we look forward to next year, we carry with us the joy, friendships, and cherished memories from this unforgettable week; and we look forward to the reunion events throughout the year that will keep our community going strong. One camper’s comment, “I came here only knowing one friend, and I feel like I am leaving as part of a family,” beautifully summed up the camp experience.

The Malta Camp USA team wants to express their sincere gratitude to Albany Area Chairs Peter Maloy, KM and Jean Maloy, DM, to all those who participated in planning and volunteering at this summer’s camp, and to the American Association, Western Association, Albany Area, Boston Area, and all the individuals whose funding made this summer’s camp possible! If you are interested in learning more about Malta Camp USA, please visit www.maltacampusa.org or contact Mary Delaney, AUX at info@maltacampusa.org.

EPIPHANY BINGO:

BECOMING CHRISTIAN AGAIN IN A JACKSONVILLE PRISON



The Church Inside: We Teach, Not Preach

Epiphany Catholic Prison Ministry has helped over 10,000 inmates in Columbia Correctional Institution restore their faith. CCI houses some of Florida's most violent offenders. There is a constant struggle of survival. Brutal murders, rival gang attacks, rampant drug overdoses and deafening noises plague daily life. It is also a place where clergy from the Diocese of St. Augustine visit three times a week.

Sacraments of Initiation are conferred upon catechumens and candidates by Bishop Emeritus Felipe Estevez. Records are kept of Communions, Baptisms (35+), First Holy Eucharists, and Confirmations (100+). This is important so that the newly released are able to join a Catholic parish immediately. None of this comes easy for either the incarcerated or for those who minister to them. Not only must every inmate overcome his past and make peace with it, the Florida Department of Corrections must approve all ECPM activity, even Lenten and Advent services. The Eucharist is offered on Christmas for men who never receive visits - but only when first permitted. Even though prisoners in the U.S. have a constitutional right to religion, gang-controlled territories and tight security measures also present serious obstacles.

ECPM's prison ministry leader, Mary Tucker, works beside men living inside the unpredictable terror of CCI. For thirteen years, Mary has been serving those willing to choose a different kind of life. When she retired from her position as a CCI correctional officer, Mary realized that

a Catholic presence was non-existent. Despite her husband's protestations - there were other things they could do in their next phase of life - she dedicated herself to building and leading Epiphany Catholic prison ministry.

Today Mary's grown daughter joins her and the other volunteers and clergy at the annex bringing religious education, Mass, Confessions, Communion, correspondence and character forming classes to 1,500 prisoners. Approximately 120 inmates regularly take part in the faith-based instruction where the syllabus includes critical thinking, victim impact, art, and substance abuse classes.

Every prisoner who first enters the parish in the prison annex is asked, "Are you Catholic?" They are asked to be specific about which of the seven sacraments they have received. Reminding them Jesus and St. Peter were incarcerated, they must sign in if they decide that they wish to become Catholic. It will require dedication and education. Together, with the help of chaplain Casey Trigg and others, they begin again by attending weekly mass.

Mary also works with Andy Vissicchio, Jr., KM in the Southeast Florida area. Recently Nina Nolff, DM, with the Order's support helped distribute over 300 rosaries to Florida prisons. Seventy-five inmates in ECPM accomplished the goal of praying 1,000 Rosaries. Many were taught how to do so for the first time. It is a dynamic ministry and provides the opportunities for individuals to hear the Word of God, receive the Holy Eucharist and rejoin the Catholic faith at all levels.

The Fourth Tuesday: Educational Games

"Tuesdays are more difficult than many realize," Mary says about ECPM's Fellowship Days. Homework assignments include preparing for Christian based Bingo, Jeopardy, and Wheel of Faith. Inmates further along in their religious journey assist newer ones in running and playing the games. Groups pick captains. Answers are signaled with whoops, ding dongs, honkers and chargers. Play money is involved or sometimes Mary sneaks in some candy.

Visuals are important tools. It took two years to create the "The Tree of Life" game which features seven branches of gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, fortitude, counsel, piety, knowledge and fear of the Lord. Students are asked to pin 12 apples to the corresponding branches which represent the fruits of the Holy Spirit: peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness, love, chastity, modesty, faithfulness, self-control, generosity, and goodness. *Continued on next page.*

EPIPHANY BINGO:

CONTINUED

EPIPHANY BINGO				
4th Commandment	Guardian Angel	Liturgical Year	Church Leaders	Parts of the Mass
7th Commandment	5th Commandment	Man	Bible	Mary and Joseph
Golden Calf	Christians	EPIPHANY'S TUESDAY BINGO! Free Space	1st Commandment	Holy Days of Obligation
Holy Saturday	Lazarus	Holy Week	Good News	Jesus
Crucifix	Sacraments	Imprimatur	3rd Commandment	10th Commandment

EPIPHANY BINGO - GAME 03

EPIPHANY BINGO				
Transubstantiation	Sacrament of Penance	Abraham	Garden of Eden	Ten Commandments
New Testament	Holy Orders/Matrimony	Holy Eucharist	Cardinal Virtues	Grave or Mortal Sin
Raphael Gabriel Michael	Christians	EPIPHANY'S TUESDAY BINGO! Free Space	God	Corporal Works of Mercy
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	Satan	Capital Sins	Sanctifying Grace	Baptism
Old Testament	Fruits of the Holy Spirits	Spiritual Work of Mercy	Confirmation	Sacraments

EPIPHANY BINGO - GAME 04

“When someone puts the “patience” apple, for example, on the “understanding” branch, and an audience member snickers, that person gets into the hot seat,” Mary too enjoys the comraderie created by learning.

Epiphany Bingo! is the most popular Tuesday Fellowship game. Every inmate gets a packet of 250 Catholic vocabulary words from Absolution to Vow. They are required to study their cards before playing. One of the parishioners reads a definition of the term and in turn, the players shout out the answer. Epiphany Prison Ministry is not only preparing these men for a new life but showing them one.

Becoming Clean Again

Through ECPM, CCI is the only prison in Florida where indigent inmates receive bars of soap and deodorant once a month. The support for this program comes from local parishes like the Epiphany Catholic Church and St. Vincent DePaul. Since many families disown relatives once they are incarcerated, these inmates are aware that one of their most basic needs will be supplied by the Church inside.

Mary concedes she isn't the ideal person to fulfill the role of prison ministry leader. She is seventy-five years old now and a widow. She wishes a young man would step up as he would be seen as a more likely role model. But she doesn't see herself as frail. She sees herself as protected and chosen to do this work. It is often excruciatingly difficult but more rewarding than anything she could ever imagine. Besides, she adds, depending on the age of her parishioners, she is seen as their sister, mother or grandmother.

Last year, Mary Tucker, AUX was awarded the Order of Malta's Presidential Award.

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 and/or to join a prison ministry program in your area, please contact Mary Jo Kriz, Committee Co-Chair, at Maryjo.kriz@gmail.com.

CHRISTIAN KNIGHTS CONTINUE DELIVERING BABIES IN BETHLEHEM AS ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT DEVASTATES HOLY LAND

HOLY FAMILY HOSPITAL
BY TIMOTHY H.J. NEROZZI | FOX NEWS DIGITAL



Bethlehem, West Bank – Just 1,500 steps from where Jesus was born was born, a chivalric order of Catholic knights is working towards a future where no newborn baby in the Holy Land will be denied a bed. The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta (commonly referred to as the Order of Malta) owns and operates the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, West Bank — where locals of all races and creeds seek quality maternity care that is in desperately short supply.

Fox News Digital toured the facility and interviewed those responsible for keeping the maternity center operating despite the grim economic and political situation in the West Bank. Boasting state-of-the-art technology and professionals trained in elite medical programs, Holy Family Hospital offers the quality of care found in some of the U.S.'s most prestigious hospitals.

It is the single most advanced maternity ward and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) in the Palestinian territories and is often referred to as the "jewel" of the Order of Malta. It is also a beacon of hope for Bethlehem natives who find themselves caught in the middle of hostilities going on in the Gaza Strip between Hamas and Israel.

"Each baby who is born is a great sign of hope. Every family rejoices, no matter what their economic situation is," Ambassador Michèle Burke Bowe told Fox News Digital. "Palestinians love children. They celebrate children. The families tend to be bigger, and it's just a huge celebration to have a new child." Bowe serves as the Head of the Representative Office to the State of Palestine for the Order of Malta. Her work focuses mainly on Holy Family Hospital and its management. She performs her job without a salary and usually pays for her own travel out of pocket, as do most ambassadors of the order.

Holy Family Hospital, handed over to the Order of Malta in 1985 by the Sisters of Charity, has delivered over 70% of the babies born in Bethlehem since their first birth at the current facility in 1990. They delivered their 100,000th baby in January 2023.

Holy Family Hospital holds its Catholic identity as sacrosanct — the hospital strictly follows Catholic ethics regarding medical care and offers its services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. Religious imagery and wall crucifixes decorate the offices, NICU, and patient rooms of the hospital. Each baby is swaddled in a blanket and cap bearing the cross and shield of the Order of Malta. The hospital employs over 220 local Palestinians as doctors, nurses, technicians, clerical staff, custodians and more. The jobs are highly coveted in Bethlehem due to their reliable salaries and security. *Continued on next page.*

CHRISTIAN KNIGHTS CONTINUE DELIVERING BABIES IN BETHLEHEM

CONTINUED



Fox News Digital toured the NICU, where doctors and nurses were monitoring premature and low-birthweight newborns around the clock. The hospital regularly deals with high-risk pregnancies such as twins or babies born with genetic disorders. This positive impact of a Catholic institution has helped maintain the longstanding goodwill between local Christian communities and their Muslim neighbors in the birthplace of Jesus. "We are a Catholic teaching hospital, but we are also an ecumenical workplace. So, while the majority of our employees are actually Christian, we employ a lot of Muslims — and most notably, we employ 71% women, which I find very hopeful," Bowe told Fox News Digital.

Bowe continued, "And the women are employed in all ranges of positions and authority at the hospital. We have women as the head of the lab, the head of the pharmacy, the immediate past medical director and the immediate past head of the NICU." Part of the Order of Malta's commitment to Catholic ethics is a refusal to ever turn away patients due to an inability to pay for care.

"We have two social workers at the hospital that work with the patients [regarding] their psychosocial needs, but these social workers can also adjust the expected family contribution all the way down to zero," Bowe explained. "Normally, we subsidize every service which isn't free, like the mobile medical clinic or the diabetes clinic or the menopause clinic. We subsidize by 50%, and so we ask families to contribute 50%. And if that's a hardship, they can see the social workers." But even subsidies for maternal care starting at 50% have proved difficult for Palestinians to meet, leading the Order to try stretching their own dollars even further.

"We've noticed that families are having to choose between groceries and medical care, and the Order of Malta doesn't want to put families in that position," Bowe said. "So starting on April 1st, we increased our subsidy from 50% up to 75% to allow people to retain their dignity — to be able to afford proper health care, especially very important prenatal care and postnatal care and pediatric care." These subsidies and free treatments are not cheap, and although the Order of Malta remains among the world's largest non-governmental providers of humanitarian aid, it does not have deep coffers. The resources necessary to operate Holy Family Hospital at a continual financial loss are often raised via private donations.

"We take care of the sick and the poor from Bethlehem based on the donations that we collect in the United States at Holy Family Hospital Foundation in Washington, D.C., and from many of the European associations of the Order of Malta and even the Association of the Order of Malta in Hong Kong and Australia," Bowe told Fox News Digital. The Holy Family Hospital — by virtue of its refusal to ever deny healthcare and its lack of a for-profit business model — is constantly juggling financial concerns and making hard decisions on where resources can be reallocated.

Bowe told Fox News Digital that the main focus at the moment is simply maintaining the high level of care without terminating positions or cutting employees off from their income. "Right now, I believe that making sure that we can continue to pay our doctors, our nurses [is most important] — our staff is all Palestinian, and they are feeding their extended families. *Continued on next page.*

CHRISTIAN KNIGHTS CONTINUE DELIVERING BABIES IN BETHLEHEM

CONTINUED

So they're really counting on full salaries," Bowe said of managing the finances of the hospital. While the staff is all local, the ownership and highest-level administration of the hospital is mostly overseen by the ancient order of knighthood. The Order of Malta was founded in the early 11th century by Blessed Fra' Gerard, a lay Benedictine brother who gathered Christian volunteers to establish care centers for pilgrims traveling to the Holy Land during the age of the Crusades. This group — formally approved by a Papal Bull in 1113 and established outside an abbey dedicated to St. John the Baptist in Jerusalem — became known as the Knights Hospitaller. Their stated mission was the care for "our Lords, the poor and the sick." As the Crusades raged and threats to Christians within the Holy Land grew, the Knights Hospitaller were forced to take on military characteristics to defend their hospitals and institutions.

Following the collapse of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and centuries of migrating from region to region, the continuously extant Order of Malta now operates as a unique international institution similar in many ways to a nation-state — but without its own territory. It is recognized as a sovereign entity in international law and maintains a non-voting observer role at the United Nations, similar to the Holy See. The order issues its own passports, prints its own stamps, and mints its own currency. It even maintains its own military corps in partnership with the Italian Army.

The Order also enjoys formal diplomatic relationships with over 120 countries around the world. Ambassadors like Bowe represent the Order of Malta and its work and maintain communications with national officials. Knighthood or damehood in the Order of Malta is by invitation only — it requires an extensive period of spiritual formation, commitment to acts of public service, and fidelity to the Catholic faith. In some countries, membership is restricted based on nobility. The religious order is divided into multiple ranks. The approximately 13,000 members worldwide are led by just several dozen professed knights who have taken religious vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience to become friars — known by the title "Knights of Justice." Members of lower ranks are more numerous and do not take religious vows but instead promises or oaths of obedience to the order. The order's highest authority is its Grandmaster, a sovereign prince treated as a head of state in international law. The position is currently held by Fra' John Dunlap, a Canadian attorney and Knight of Justice since 2008.

The traditionally accepted spot in Bethlehem where Jesus is believed to have been born is marked by the Church of the Nativity. It was built in the 4th century by Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great. Greek Orthodox, Catholic, and Armenian Orthodox services are held inside. Bethlehem was once a thriving tourist and pilgrimage destination for Christians from around the world, but the town has seen a near total collapse of the industry since the latest conflict between Israel and Hamas began in the Gaza Strip.

Local Palestinians — used to making ends meet via operating Christian souvenir stores, guiding tour groups, or driving taxis for foreign tourists and pilgrims — are now left without the ability to work. Security measures implemented after the Oct. 7 massacre of Israeli citizens by the Gaza-based terror group have made travel into nearby Jerusalem virtually impossible for most Palestinians in the West Bank. This economic stagnation has led to a massive decline in the Christian population of Bethlehem as young people flee to other countries to find financial stability. Even the Order of Malta's humanitarian work has been compromised by the conflict.

The hospital maintains a mobile care vehicle outfitted with equipment for prenatal check-ups. In previous years, the van would make regular expeditions to communities outside the main city centers, bringing maternal healthcare to those unable to travel to the hospital. Since Oct. 7, the mobile unit has been severely restricted in its movement, and these humanitarian expeditions have slowed to a near halt.

A long-term plan for sustainable peace seems far off, if not impossible, but the Order of Malta and Holy Family Hospital have no plans of leaving the area, regardless of what the future brings. "As a member of the Order of Malta, the first thing I would say is to pray for peace and reconciliation and understanding," Bowe told Fox News Digital. "And to pray for our efforts at the hospital, which are really so beautiful because they are an ecumenical effort." She continued, "And most importantly, you can make a donation that would help to deliver a baby in the Holy Land in Bethlehem, just 1500 footsteps from where Jesus was born two thousands of years ago." Despite the anxiety of managing such a financially and logistically precarious maternity hospital, Bowe remains optimistic about the future.

She attributes it to the hope she sees every day in the new families formed at Holy Family, summarized in one truth she repeats to anyone who will listen: "When you have a job, and you have a newborn baby, you have hope."

EMPOWERING RESILIENCE, CELEBRATING HOPE

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS



As the humanitarian arm of the Order of Malta, our mandate calls us to serve the sick and the poor regardless of faith, gender, ethnicity, or political orientation. Together with our affiliate Malteser International, we have been working in the field of humanitarian relief and development for over 70 years to provide emergency shelter, nutrition, and primary healthcare to people in need. Our mission has never changed: building a life of health and dignity for people in need. Providing aid and relief to refugees and displaced people is one of the core pillars of this mission.

Luisa Peroso, a 28-year-old Venezuelan migrant now residing in Colombia, knew that leaving her country would be a struggle. But she never imagined having to endure the difficulties she faces daily. “It isn’t easy to leave your country and go elsewhere. It’s not easy to leave three children behind in Venezuela and bring three young children to Colombia.”

This World Refugee Day, we are reminded of the resilience and courage it takes to leave one’s home and families behind with the hope that their children will have an opportunity to survive and thrive. Colombia continues to be the country most affected by the outflow of migrants and refugees from Venezuela. Since 2015, 7.7 million Venezuelans have left the country, 2.9 million of whom have made their way to Colombia, straining their healthcare systems.

In the face of increasingly frequent natural disasters, rising insecurity, and environmental degradation, and the threat of war, individuals like Luisa Peroso are increasingly on the move, and the work we do is more essential than ever. We realize that God shares in our moments of crisis and gives us the grace to endure against all odds — thanks to the many who walk in solidarity with us. Guided by our Catholic faith, we supported 63,154 refugees fleeing increasingly unlivable situations and armed conflict in their home countries in 2023. We offered livelihood opportunities to small-scale farmers in rural areas. We gave 5,091 mothers access to pre- and post-natal care to prevent and reverse malnutrition, and we continue to do so every day.

Luisa’s uncertain and perilous journey from Venezuela began with her husband, and her three sons: Emanuel, 5 years old, Esteban, 3 years old, and Abraham, 2 years old. Once they arrived in Riohacha, a remote community in rural Colombia which lacks access to basic health care facilities, they had no assistance and were faced with uncertainties on how to survive in this new land. *Continued on next page.*

EMPOWERING RESILIENCE, CELEBRATING HOPE

CONTINUED

Upon their arrival, Luisa knew her youngest son was having health issues. Fortunately, she was introduced to Nutrition programs supported by Malteser International Americas over the past two years. “We are a low-income family. We don’t have much to give our children. When MIAmerica’s doctor met us, we had nothing. Little by little, we have been able to grow and provide for our children the best we can,” Luisa says.

Abraham, her youngest son, was malnourished when he arrived in Colombia. Luisa shares, “Abraham was weighing 4 kilograms (8.8 pounds) when we arrived at 7 months old. Today, Abraham weighs 11 kilograms (24 pounds). I have God helping me, as well as MI Americas.”

Her other child, Esteban, was also in the program last year due to low weight. Luisa tries to hold back tears as she says, “I am so thankful for the good programs at MI Americas, as well as the help from the nutritionist.”

Johana Barros, Head Nutritionist, leads the nutritional control program. She helped Luisa get her boys on track, including providing the medications they needed to ensure their health. Through Luisa staying in the MI Americas programs throughout the years, she has been able to help nourish her children, as well as provide for their healthcare. Luisa receives the nutrition kits provided by MI Americas to children in this program for 4 months to help with their supplemental needs. “The nutritionist gives me hope. She says to me, ‘Luisa keep going, keep the faith and hope alive,’ and that is exactly what I am doing,” says Luisa.

Today, and every day, we must remember that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph were indeed refugees themselves. They fled to Egypt to escape the violent reign of King Herod much like millions of refugees today who have been forced to flee their country due to persecution, war, or violence.

United by our mission to serve the sick and the poor, we can continue making a difference and uplifting those who need it most.

To learn more about Malteser International Americas and its current efforts, visit www.orderofmaltarelief.org.



IN MEMORIAM
DECEASED MEMBERS

APRIL 10, 2024 - JUNE 30, 2024

FRANCIS OLSON
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

CAROL WILSON
NEW JERSEY

P. DECLAN O'SULLIVAN
OHIO - CINCINNATI

REV. THOMAS KELLY, JR
CONNECTICUT - NORTH EAST

MARIANNE MCBREARTY
MICHIGAN

WILLIAM MATTISON, JR
FLORIDA - SOUTHEAST

MICHAEL CONATON
OHIO - CINCINNATI

ANN PRESTON
NEW JERSEY

ANNE LAURO
NEW YORK - NEW YORK CITY

JULIA WALLACE
NEW YORK - NEW YORK CITY

QUENTIN KENNEDY
NEW JERSEY

JOHN JENNINGS
NEW JERSEY

ALFRED FRONTERA, MD
FLORIDA - NAPLES

MOST REV. DANIEL REILLY
BOSTON

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 7

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH CALL:
THE VENERABLE, BLESSED
AND SAINTS
OF OUR ORDER WITH
MSGR. SYLVESTER CRONIN,
CHM

AUGUST 8 - 10

CHAMPION PILGRIMAGE
CHAMPION, WI

AUGUST 15

ASSUMPTION THURSDAY

SEPTEMBER 4

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH CALL:
SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER
(LABOR DAY) WITH MOST
REV. GERALD WALSH, CHC

SEPTEMBER 8

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF
PHILERMO

SEPTEMBER 12

BOAD OF COUNCILLORS
MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20 - 22

FALL RETREAT
MEDWAY, MA

OCTOBER 2

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH CALL:
PREPARING FOR THE WORLD
DAY OF THE POOR WITH REV.
DAVID CARON, OP, CHM

OCTOBER 13

FEAST OF BLESSED GERARD

NOVEMBER 1

ALL SAINTS DAY

NOVEMBER 6

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH CALL:
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE AS THE
GOSPEL OF GREAT MERCY
WITH REV. MR. JOHN SHEA,
CHDD

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 4

SPIRITUAL OUTREACH CALL:
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
WITH MOST REV. PETER
ROSAZZA, CHC

DECEMBER 8

FEAST OF IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

DECEMBER 13 - 15

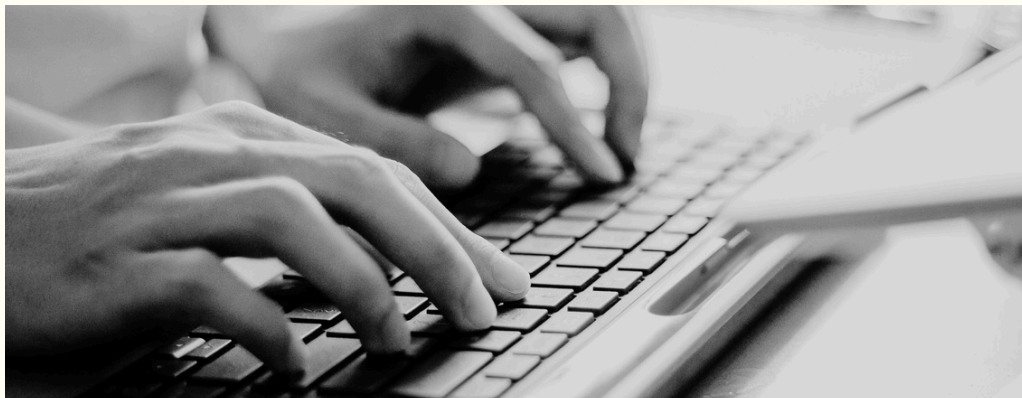
BABY STEPS CAMINO
JACKSONVILLE, FL

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#. The same phone number can also be used for the
monthly Spiritual Outreach Calls listed in the calendar above.

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.



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/directory/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 Malta Camp USA, Malteser International Americas, Path to Peace Foundation, Peter Scudner, Studio Eleven Productions, and Timothy H.J. Nerozzi of Fox News.

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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