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A Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, tells the story of a tattooed young man who arrived at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. As was his custom, the Bishop asked the young man what brought him to the shrine. The young man said he saw the sign on the highway pointing the way to the shrine; he wanted to see what it was all about so he followed the signs and found himself in front of the small church that centers the attention of travelers along the country road that passes right by the shrine. Bishop Ricken asked the young man if he got anything out of his visit — the tattooed young man responded, “Peace, man, peace!”

If peace is what you seek, you will not be disappointed when you visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Unlike some major apparition sites around the world such as Guadalupe, Lourdes and Medjugorje, Champion, Wisconsin is a rural, agricultural community *(continued on page 6)*

www.
orderof
malta
american.
org

Association Web Site

Be sure to visit our Web site at: www.orderofmaltaamerican.org to find the latest information about the Association, forms needed for new members and new auxiliary members, Area Web sites and much more information about the Association and the Order of Malta. Links are also available to other Association Web sites and the Sovereign Magistry's Web site.



What a great summer, so many wonderful things have happened for us as Dames and Knights of Malta.

MALADE YOUTH CAMP

To begin with, we've been looking for a camp in the U.S to take malade children that cannot travel abroad for the Order's camp in Europe. We've found our answer. Not far from the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin, in another small village in the Diocese of Green Bay is Camp Tekakwitha. Run by the diocese and with the support of Bishop David Ricken, we believe this camp offers the alternative we have been seeking. More work needs to be done but we are hopeful that, if everything falls into place, we will work with the Camp's staff and the Bishop as they identify disabled children in the Green Bay diocese who might benefit from an opportunity to go away to camp. We expect that something will be in place for 2017. This first venture, sponsoring children from the local Diocese in a camp run by the Diocese, will hopefully create a solid framework on which we can build in future years. I will keep you informed about our progress.

OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP

I'm so happy to report about our pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help outside of Green Bay in a small farm land area called Champion, Wisconsin, a location very unlike Our Lady of Lourdes appearance which was in an established town in France.

One year after Our Lady of Lourdes appeared in France to Bernadette Soubirous, she appeared to a 28 year old Belgian immigrant named Adele Brise. She immigrated to Wisconsin in 1855. In early October of 1859, Adele reported seeing a woman clothed in white and standing between two trees, a hemlock and a maple. Adele described the woman as surrounded by a bright light, clothed in dazzling white with a yellow sash around her waist and a crown of stars above her flowing blonde locks. On the third and final appearance young Adele asked, "What more can I do, dear Lady?" Mary's direction was simple: "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation." Adele spent the rest of her life spreading Mary's good news and her commitment continues to inspire thousands of visitors that journey to the Shrine every year.

Please see the cover story on this Summer's pilgrimage where forty-eight pilgrims from the American Association (including four Malades) joined seventy-eight pilgrims from the Federal Association to journey to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT JOHN PAUL II

In August, the Association sponsored a Pilgrimage which followed in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II. Twenty-six members of the Order traveled through Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria, to Krakow, Prague, and the lovely city of Vienna.

Poland is a remarkable country with Ancient Castles, Churches and Cathedrals that are beautiful beyond belief. The Polish people are very friendly, extremely Catholic and have an extraordinary history that was unknown to me. Pope John Paul II obviously is revered by his countrymen and they have done an extraordinary job of show casing his history from boyhood to Papacy. The Czech Republic is also populated with beautiful Castles, Churches and Cathedrals but unlike Poland, the Churches are empty and sixty percent of the people are reported to be Atheists. This is probably because after World War II, Poland was liberated by the Americans but Czechoslovakia was "liberated" by Russia, hence the end of Religion and the beginning of Atheism for 60 years. The city of Prague is a beautiful and vibrant city with buildings that are from the middle ages.

Then on to Austria and Vienna which is a vibrant and beautiful city filled with history, beautiful buildings, Churches and the Royal Hapsburg Castles.

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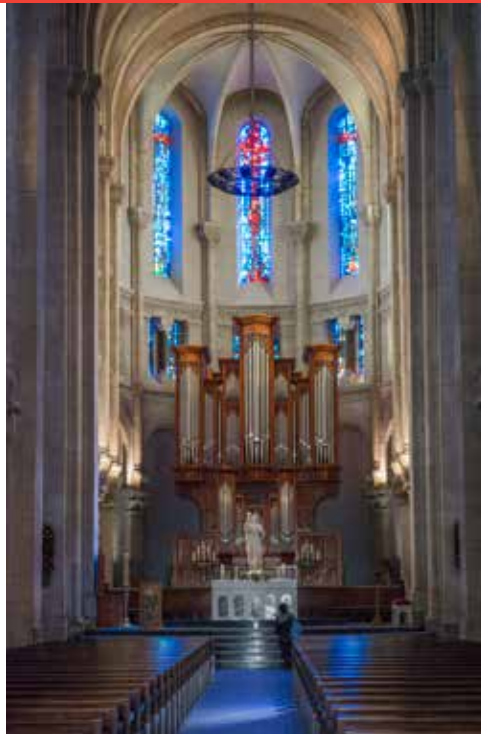
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A Lourdes Pilgrimage changes lives of all who make the journey

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As a member of the Order of Malta, you know about our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. You know the pilgrimage is a spiritual and joyful experience. What you may not know is that each time you go to Lourdes to serve our malades and their caregivers, you return a different person. Witnessing the strength of these pilgrims will remind you of your own blessings and you will come away from the experience with a renewed commitment to make better use of the gifts and talents our Lord has bestowed upon you. Having made the pilgrimage many times ourselves, we too, have been renewed and refreshed in the spirit of God's love.

We invite you to join us for the 2017 Pilgrimage. When you journey to Lourdes with the Order of Malta, you will witness the many ways your fellow pilgrims experience the grace of Our Mother Mary. You will see that grace while caring for our malades with your fellow team members throughout the week. Each team will include malades, caregivers, knights and dames, auxiliary members, clergy, medical staff, and volunteers. At Lourdes, you will feel the grace of Mother Mary as you help our malades and caregivers experience the healing waters, the beautiful liturgies, prayer gatherings, visits to the Grotto, the spirit-filled processions, and the deeply moving Marian candlelight procession. We hope that you will be as deeply inspired as we have been by the many examples of faith and devotion you will witness.

To share just one example from our pilgrimage last spring, we were blessed to journey with a malade from Philadelphia coping with late-stage cancer. His caregiver was his younger brother, himself a two-time cancer survivor. Our malade had been away from the Church for many years and it was his brother's deeply held desire that his brother find peace in his heart, in order to prepare for his journey home. After making his confession, going to the baths, and being anointed at a healing Mass, the malade went through a

profound transformation. He came to feel God's peace and an understanding that he was not alone, and fully accepted the path ahead in a radiant and beautiful way. He died shortly after his pilgrimage, wrapped in God's love and secure in the knowledge that he was at peace.

When you make this pilgrimage, you show our malades and caregivers that they are not alone. You walk with them as they experience a deeper sense of emotional and spiritual peace, and we promise that you will leave feeling you have received, as much if not more, than the pilgrims you have served.

You should have already received a letter and registration form. We encourage you to return the registration form as soon as possible but not later than December 1, 2016. When your registration is approved, you will begin to receive logistical information for the 2017 Pilgrimage. If you would like to sponsor a malade, please complete and return the appropriate form by December 1, 2016.

If you are unable to make the 2017 Pilgrimage, you can still be an important part of this life-changing experience. Each of our malades and caregivers travels to Lourdes free of charge and we rely on the generosity of our fellow members to make their journey possible. We ask that you prayerfully consider contributing to the Pilgrimage Foundation to provide support for this most important work of the Order. To donate, please go to www.pilgrimagefoundation.org.

Please join us! The Lourdes Pilgrimage is a faith and hope filled journey, and by participating, you will be part of the Lourdes miracle, caring for malades and caregivers who are seeking healing in body, mind and spirit. And through the grace of Our Mother Mary, you will return as the beneficiary of a life-changing experience.

Craig Gibson, KM
Co-Chair

Nancy Gibson, DM
Co-Chair

Lourdes: A Pilgrimage of Grace

By Sr. Maureen Fitzgerald, ASCJ, Office of Mission Advancement



Recently I had the great grace of going on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, with the Dames and Knights of Malta as well as those who were sick and infirm. I was, indeed, blessed to be among them. It was an experience that is quite difficult to put into words, and yet I will attempt to communicate what this sacred time has meant to me. The sharing of Eucharist,

the Rosary processions, the opportunities for celebrating the Sacraments of Penance and the Anointing of the Sick, the gathering for morning prayer, the Stations of the Cross, the experience of washing in the waters of Lourdes...each of these was a deeply emotional occasion to thank God and Mary for their presence among us.

During this pilgrimage, those of us who were sick (Malades) also had the opportunity to gather for times of sharing. These opportunities to listen to the stories of others were perhaps the most blessed of times. Each Malade shared a story of redemption gained through the challenges they faced; MS, ALS, cancer, paralysis, and other illnesses. It was apparent that through these struggles came great spiritual clarity. I don't know that there were any physical miracles in our midst, but I can testify to miracles of faith and friendship. The bonds that were formed during that short week were indeed miraculous. I witnessed so much giving...so much concern...so much compassion...so many living selflessly. There was such great joy in the midst of so much sickness, so much pain, so many challenges.

When I had the opportunity to reflect during one of our times of sharing, I encountered an image that has stayed with me. I imagined Mary, our Blessed Mother, gathering her children around her. Like a good mother, she made sure there was

enough to eat, a place to sleep, and experiences that would call us together in prayer. When all was ready, she called each of us to Lourdes with a simple request... "Enjoy your brothers and sisters." And that we did. Whether it was being swept up in the grace of the liturgies, the awe experienced being in the midst of hundreds of people in candlelight procession singing "Ave Maria," or being immersed in the waters of Lourdes, I did not celebrate alone, for I was surrounded by my brothers and sisters in Christ. We prayed together, we processed together, we ate together, and we sat at table together and reveled in stories that brought both laughter and tears.

As we prepared to leave the pilgrimage I heard more than one person reflect on returning to the "real world." I could only smile as I mused that the world we were returning to was not the real world, rather the experience of Lourdes was the real world. It was this sacred experience that we were commissioned to share. While at Lourdes, we entered into each other's joys and sorrows. We responded to the needs of others. We sought solace in prayer. If only we could live like this in the world to which we were returning.

This leaves me where I began. Unable to express in words the experience of Lourdes... but perhaps that's exactly where I need to be. Mary did not call me to Lourdes to capture in words what my heart came to know, but rather to share what I experienced with others in deed. I believe this is a call that each pilgrim received.

The Order of Malta quietly focuses on providing for the sick and poor and they do it so well. I remain grateful to these men and women for becoming brothers and sisters in God's great family along with my fellow Malades. May each of us...all of us...share Mary's message of compassion and care for one another. For only then will the "real world" that we live in be one of great peace and love.



(continued from cover)

Our Lady of Good Help

whose cows likely outnumber its citizens and the fields are filled with cornstalks. There has been no surge of growth surrounding the Apparition site where, in 1859, the Blessed Mother appeared to a young woman, Adele, and told her to instruct the children in the Faith. In 2010, after a team investigated the claims and reported to Bishop Ricken, he studied and prayed over their report and, on December 8, 2010, the Bishop declared the apparitions to be worthy of belief. In 2016, the USCCB declared the site to be a National Shrine.

In August, forty-eight pilgrims from the American Association and seventy-eight pilgrims from the Federal Association in search of grace, understanding and peace, traveled on their own to join together on the pilgrimage to this sacred space surrounded by cornfields and grazing livestock, sixteen miles outside of Green Bay, Wisconsin. They traveled to the place where Our lady appeared to Adele and told her, "I am the Queen of Heaven." She said to "gather the children in the wild country and teach them what they need to know for salvation." Mary was specific, "Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments."

The pilgrims from the American Association included four Malades. Father Joseph Johnson, a Magistral Chaplain

The Church of Saint Joseph and the National Shrine in his honor are a special setting for the Anointing of the Sick

from Minnesota, brought ten students whose incredible musical talents brought all the pilgrims closer to God and His Blessed Mother, inspiring all with the voices and their special music selections.

The opening Mass on Thursday was celebrated at the Cathedral in Green Bay. The beautiful and magnificent Cathedral of Saint Francis Xavier provided the perfect setting to begin the prayerful journey that lay ahead. As the Msgr. Edward Dillon, the scheduled homilist for the opening Mass, was delayed, Bishop Ricken, the celebrant, preached a wonderful homily, welcoming the pilgrims to this special place.

Father Peter Stryker, previous Rector of the Shrine, spoke at dinner on Thursday evening about the history of the Shrine. (You can go to the website of the Shrine, www.shrineofourladyofgoodhelp for an easy to read history.)

On Friday morning, the pilgrims made their way by bus through sixteen miles of mostly country roads to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. The small church at the Shrine holds fewer than two hundred people, a far cry from the underground basilica in Lourdes;

the Bishop was the celebrant, joined by the other chaplains who had accompanied the pilgrimage.

Bishop Ricken spent a great deal of time with the Pilgrims, helping them to focus on the spiritual aspects of the Pilgrimage by celebrating Mass at the Shrine on Friday morning and leading the group in the afternoon to the National Shrine of Saint Joseph at Saint Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin. At this beautiful shrine, nestled within the tree-decorated college campus, Bishop Ricken led a Holy Hour





of Adoration and service that included the Anointing of the Sick. The Church of Saint Joseph and the National Shrine in his honor are a special setting for the Anointing of the Sick; the peace and spiritual healing of the Sacrament must have been delivered to Saint Joseph personally by his foster Son and the Blessed Mother.

On Friday evening, Father Edward Looney, a chaplain from the Federal Association, spoke about Mary as the recipient of God's mercy, using the corporal and spiritual works of mercy as a framework for exploring Mary's special connection to God's mercy. Father Joseph Johnson's "choir" ended the evening on a high note, presenting a series of classical and contemporary pieces in quick session, including an encore that was much requested and much appreciated. An enthusiastic standing ovation from the grateful audience was directed to the young pilgrims as they completed their final number. Father Johnson, an American Association chaplain from Minnesota, brought the talented students on the pilgrimage and it was clear to all that they added much to the beauty and prayerfulness of each liturgical service.

On Saturday morning at breakfast, Msgr. Frank Bognanno spoke on mercy and forgiveness. It is hard to imagine a breakfast that was more spiritually enriching. Throughout the pilgrimage, the chaplains provided the opportunity for confessions. During this Holy Year of Mercy, pilgrims had multiple opportunities to go through the Doors of Mercy at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, at the Cathedral in Green Bay and at the National Shrine of Saint Joseph.

Following breakfast, another short bus trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help brought the pilgrims to Mass which was again led by Bishop Ricken. Lunch followed in the Shrine's

dining facilities including a tent that had been erected especially to accommodate the group. After lunch, the Rosary was said in procession, as the Pilgrims made their way through the outdoor pathway. The Shrine provided the perfect location for the recitation of Mary's prayer. Along the way, the Pilgrims in prayer passed the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes and Bernadette.

On Saturday evening, the closing dinner at the Titletown Brewery gave the pilgrims a special chance to share a relaxing time with friends, old and new. Mr. Robert Signorelli, organizer of the pilgrimage from the Federal Association, thanked all those who worked to make the pilgrimage a great success. All present agreed that the pilgrimage was a remarkable journey, a blessed event and an example of what can result from cooperation across Association boundaries.

Planning for next year's Pilgrimage is already underway. Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 3rd to Sunday, August 6th — see you in Wisconsin. ■

The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin, has now become a national shrine. The Most Reverend David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, announced on August 15, 2016 that the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion has been designated as a National Shrine by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The announcement was shared during the Mass celebrated at the Shrine for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15, 2016.



Ruah Woods and the Catechesis on Human Love

by Emily Macke, M.T.S., a Theology of the Body Curriculum Specialist at Ruah Woods.

Tony Maas, a member of the Order of Malta since 2010, was driving through the west side of Cincinnati, OH in 2007 when a house and plot of land for sale caught his attention. Having been recently introduced to St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body at a meeting with members of the Order of Malta, Tony had a vision of beginning a ministry dedicated to this teaching, and this former home in the woods seemed to be just the spot.

Little did Tony and his wife Barb realize the reach that this new ministry would have in the nearly ten years since the idea first began percolating. In 2009, Ruah Woods — named for the Hebrew word for the “spirit” and “breath” of God used in Genesis 2 — opened its doors to the people of Cincinnati, offering various classes and programs for high school students and adults. Now in 2016, Ruah Woods has embarked on a new mission to bring the Theology of the Body to K-12 classrooms across the country.

The mission of Ruah Woods is to help men and women live their vocation to love, according to God's plan, as informed by the Theology of the Body.

For several years, this has been accomplished primarily through classes, talks in parishes and schools and a Catholic counseling practice (Ruah Woods Psychological Services) that seeks to develop and provide services that integrate the best of psychological science and the truths of the Catholic faith.

When the Archdiocese of Cincinnati began revising their curriculum standards for grade school and high school classrooms, a new door was opened to Ruah Woods and founder Tony Maas eagerly pursued the opportunity to develop materials to teach St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body in an engaging, compelling, authentic manner. The project has been underway for four years and initial materials have been released this summer.

Depending upon one's understanding of the Theology of the Body, teaching the concepts to young children might be surprising. Although one aspect of Theology of the Body addresses sexual morality, its broader work as a catechesis on human love encompasses many topics that are foundational to understanding what it means to be a human person. St. John Paul II's

work — as he termed it an “adequate anthropology” — contains concepts so elemental and compelling that even preschoolers can begin to comprehend them.

Ruah Woods' Pre-K-5th grade curriculum explores these fundamental concepts through delightful, popular children's books. Discussion questions, activities, parent-child connections and conversation starters are provided in each teacher workbook, giving young children an opportunity to glimpse the beautiful mystery of God and His creation. This innovative approach conveys Theology of the Body in an age-appropriate way through beauty, truth and goodness.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which now includes Theology of the Body as a required “strand” of learning in its Graded Course of Study for elementary school students, is piloting the beginnings of the Pre-K-4th grade materials on a massive scale. Over sixty schools and the same number of parish religious education programs representing nearly 1,000 educators have agreed to use one storybook lesson per grade during the current school year. The educators' feedback will provide guidance to the author as she continues to create lessons for the official debut of the curriculum next summer.

The freshman and sophomore lessons of the high school curriculum, “Called to be More” were launched this summer and will continue to be developed during the next two years. “Called to be More” is an online curriculum, though teachers are encouraged to engage with their students in person within the classroom rather than relying on technology for all of their interactions. Each lesson includes several modules — a written portion accompanied by beautiful photography, discussion questions, activities, video clips, personal reflection questions and a testimony video featuring various young adults.

“Called to be More” provides 7-10 lessons for each of the semesters within the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' *(continued on page 9)*



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curriculum framework for high school students. This approach weaves St. John Paul II's "adequate anthropology" throughout one's secondary education, allowing students to contemplate the gift of being created in God's image and likeness with a depth that undergirds challenging questions of life and love today.

When asked how he would recommend St. John Paul II's catechesis on human loved be shared with others, Bishop Jean Laffitte said in an interview with the Catholic News Agency:

"It is essential to present these teachings with reverence, with meditation, with silence. We're dealing here with an endeavor in genuine education, not merely a strict transmission of knowledge.

The Catecheses of which we speak are not a 'gnosis' only understood by an elite, but rather they serve as an extraordinary deepening of human understanding, in what every man and woman is called to experience.

Every single person within any culture can understand the questions: 'What do you want in your life? What are your deepest desires?'

The transmission must be a holistic one — it means being conscious of the

nature of the person. You wouldn't speak to a 15 year-old in the way you would a 20 year-old, or a married couple or an elderly couple. But all of them can understand the nature of the mystery."

Ruah Woods Press has endeavored to articulate this mystery in a beautiful way and in an age-appropriate manner that authentically presents the teaching of St. John Paul II. The lessons have been reviewed by multiple theologians and educators to ensure that these objectives are met.

The Order of Malta has been instrumental in supporting this project. Three other Knights serve the Ruah Woods' board of directors — Tom Gruber, George Molinsky and Tom Ruthman. Additionally, the Order's national grant in 2014 and multiple local grants

have assisted the commencement of the curriculum development, which seeks to defend the faith through the words and vision of St. John Paul II.

Tony Maas' vision of a ministry dedicated to teaching the Theology of the Body has expanded far beyond his initial goal of permeating the Cincinnati area with the logic of the culture of life and the civilization of love. Within the next few years, Catholic schools, parishes and parents throughout the nation — and eventually the world — will be able to guide children in understanding the gift of their creation, redemption and call to eternal life through the words and witness of St. John Paul II.

More information about Ruah Woods' curriculum development is available at www.ruahwoodspress.com. ■



Kindergarten educational materials



Tony Maas, KM, Founder of Ruah Woods

■ HIGHLIGHTS

What is Theology of the Body?

Theology of the Body is the popular term given to a collection of 129 general audiences given by St. John Paul II from 1979-1984 at the beginning of his pontificate. The late Holy Father referred to the catechesis as an "adequate anthropology, which seeks to understand and interpret man in what is essentially human" (TOB 13:2). Theology of the Body explores what we can learn about the human person through creation, after the Fall (both before and after Christ came to redeem us), and in view of the resurrection of the body. These thoroughly Scriptural reflections explore what we can learn about who we are, where we came from and where we are going — questions that each human person grapples with throughout the entirety of his life.

In the second part of Theology of the Body, St. John Paul II delves

more deeply into the Sacrament of Marriage and the nature of love as total and fruitful. He explores the concept of the language of the body — that our bodies speak the language of love. Consequently our bodies, including their masculinity or femininity, matter. Our bodies reveal God's love to the world.

St. John Paul II treats several main themes in his work, including love, gender, self-gift, vocation, creation, redemption, purity, covenant, sacrament and the relevance and dignity of the body. Theology of the Body aims to touch the deepest roots of being human, exploring the intrinsic relationality (to God and to others) with which we were each created. Consequently, Theology of the Body explores the roots and reasons for sexuality, morality, vocation, a covenantal relationship with our Creator and Redeemer, the nature of love and many other pertinent topics to all human persons.

American Association Provides Volunteer Medical Teams to Support Year of Mercy Pilgrims

The Order of Malta has been involved in the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis. The Order's members and volunteers have been assisting pilgrims in St. Peter's Square and in the four major basilicas (Saint Peter, Saint John Lateran, Saint Paul and Saint Mary Major). Twenty-five million pilgrims are expected to visit Rome during this Jubilee.

The volunteer medical teams have been responsible for managing the influx of pilgrims and for first aid care. Over 2,400 men and women of the Order of Malta will be offering their time and commitment over the twelve months of the Jubilee to assist pilgrims, the Order's traditional mission since the Middle Ages. The American Association has provided nine volunteer teams as part of this effort.

The following article was written by Shateara Hall, an Auxiliary from Boston Area and a volunteer on one of the American Association medical teams that served in Rome.

It was truly a blessing to be part of the Jubilee Year of Mercy as an Order of Malta medical volunteer. Our time in Rome was filled with service, inspirational art, and comradery. One cannot summarize an experience such as this in so few words, but key highlights give a peek into our time living out the charism of the Order with our group and international members. Our American Association team, made up of Maureen Considine, Dennis Dawgert, Shateara Hall and Arnold Traupman with the addition of Italian Carabinieri Gianluca Mergola and his wife Sandra, served from July 29th through August 6th.

Upon arrival, we were given a day to explore and get acquainted with one another. In preparation for service, our team first ventured to St. Peter's Basilica as pilgrims. The Holy Door opened a world of remarkable art, sculptures, and architecture crafted by famous Renaissance artists. Michelangelo's Pieta and Bernini's Gloria were two iconic pieces that exuded themes of Mercy and left powerful impressions. Our own personal experiences in St. Peter's that Saturday reminded us of the privilege we had to support the pilgrimages of others by being available to ensure their medical safety. Thankfully, we did not have any

serious medical disasters but were gratefully able to assist those suffering minor injuries during their visits to the basilicas.

Our coverage included St. John Lateran, St. Maria Maggiore, and St Paul Outside the Wall basilicas, each with its own character, Holy Door, and opportunity to encounter the rich history of the Church. Members of our team also encountered moments for spiritual reflection at the Scavi, the Vatican museum, and other churches and basilicas in Rome. As a team, we had a beautiful shared experience serving at St. Maria Maggiore on the Feast of Our Lady of Snows. We witnessed the beautiful showering of flowers on churchgoers at the morning services, while some members of our team remained to see the snow shot from cannons that night. St. Maria Maggiore was also where Arnold had the opportunity to see Pope Francis on his return from World Youth Day in Poland. While each basilica had something special, the time spent at St. Maria Maggiore left a memorable impression.

The opportunity also lent time for getting acquainted with the Austrian, Italian, and German teams. Many great friendships were built during our service. We often dined with our colleagues, sharing stories and great places to tour. Guanluca and Sandra were a lovely addition to the American Association team. They were not shy about helping us interact with the locals and patients. Their knowledge of Rome and unique sites enabled us to see cloisters, museums, and restaurants unknown to the average pilgrims.

In addition to a medal service, we were thanked with a visit to the Order of Malta headquarters in Rome and tour. Although it was not a first for some members of our team, it was a great reminder of the Order's work. As our daily prayer states, we care for the sick and the poor. We practice charity towards our neighbor, and we defend the faith. In offering our time during the Jubilee Year of Mercy, each member was able live out the charism of the Order with his and her own contributions to the team. ■



Medical Team 1: From left to right: Arnold Traupman, MD, Shateara Hall, Maureen Considine, Dennis Dawgert, MD, and Gianluca Mergola at the entrance to first aid station at St John Lateran Basilica.

2017 Pilgrimage for Life

Some people remember the planned March for Life in 2016, because so many people were unable to get there. One headline proclaimed “As DC Shuts Down for a Blizzard, a Small, Faithful Crowd Still Joins the March For Life.” Though the blizzard of 2016 kept hundreds of thousands away — the city and surrounding states had declared a state of emergency — a contingent of thousands representing the voices of millions and the cries of the unborn arrived on the scene and stepped into the snow-covered streets to proclaim what the movement has always been about, an unequivocal stand for life, for the protection of those most vulnerable and for the mothers who carry those children.

Snow did not dampen the commitment to the issue that became an immediate cause following the 1973 Supreme Court ruling, *Roe versus Wade*. And the issue will not go away because the right to life is one of the most fundamental and sacred rights of humanity. Saint John Paul II said in his letter, *Christifideles Laici*, that “The inviolability of the person which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and funda-



mental expression in the inviolability of human life. Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture— is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”

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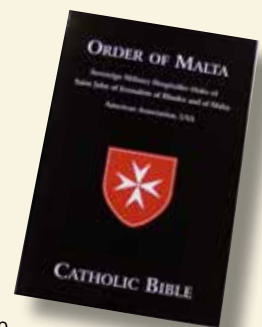
■ HIGHLIGHTS

Inmates and the Bible

Sometimes, we may wonder if anything we do has an impact. Does all the time, effort and money produce any results? What happens when an inmate receives a Catholic Bible provided through the American Association’s Prison Ministry efforts? These are just a few comments from volunteers who work with the incarcerated:

- Many of the inmates speak about how they have discovered or rediscovered the Bible since they landed in jail.
- Quite a few have Bibles that are well-marked or that have numerous bits of paper stuck in them with various go-to verses
- Those who have received an Order of Malta Bible say how much they appreciate having the footnotes and the introductory material to each book of the Bible; these enrich their understanding of the Bible and help them grasp difficult passages
- Having the Association’s Catholic version of the Bible leads to interesting and informative conversations about the differences between “Protestant” and “Catholic” editions of the Bible, about the history of the Bible, about different approaches to translation, and so on — in fact, just this morning, a question about Maccabees and why it’s in some Bibles but not others led to a journey from the Hasmonean

Dynasty through the Protestant Reformation to current efforts at reconciliation among various Christian denominations and also how this history can help us think more carefully and compassionately about our relations with Muslims. The Word of God is indeed active!



- Catholic inmates like the Association edition of the Bible because they match the readings on Sunday and the footnotes are better than those in other Bibles.
- Inmates appreciate receiving the Bible and it becomes part of their personal property. Many do not have much to call their own.

According to Dr. Robert J. Fredericks, Ph.D., GCMOb, the North American Prison Ministry Apostolate is now the largest Catholic outreach to the incarcerated and their families in the world. In 2006, the American Association’s Prison Ministry effort started with 5 Knights in a conference room at 1011 First Avenue; now there are about 2,500 Knights, Dames, Auxiliary, and Volunteers involved across the American, Federal, Western and Canadian Associations.



(continued from page 11)

The American Association will participate in the 2017 March for Life which is scheduled for January 26-27, 2017. Materials have been sent to members regarding the scheduled events, which will be coordinated with the Federal Association. Nancy Graebe, co-chair of the 2017 Pilgrimage for Life for the American Association, noted that the issue has never been more current and the cries of the unborn more haunting. “Like so many others, if you missed the 2016 March because of the snow, 2017 offers another chance for your voice to be heard.”

Mrs. Nancy and Dr. Robert Graebe join Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky as co-chairs of the 2017 Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, DC. Mrs. Karen Dutkowsky, who focused attention on and coordinated the Association’s participation in the March for Life for several years passed away in March 2016. Her inspiration and energy in seeking to raise a voice for those who are defenseless are carried forward in the Association’s 2017 Pilgrimage for Life.

If you need more information or would like to register, you can contact Maria DiGiacomo in the New York office at 212-371-1522 or maria@orderofmaltaamerican.org. More information is also available on the Association’s website. For more information on the Dignity of Human Life, follow this link to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/>

mental expression in the inviolability of human life. Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to

home, to work, to family, to culture- is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.”

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■ HIGHLIGHTS

Major Blizzard Strikes the Northeast in January 2016



From January 22 through 24, 2016, a major blizzard produced up to 3 ft (91 cm) of snow in parts of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast United States. On January 20-22, the governors of eleven states and the mayor of Washington, D.C. declared a state of emergency in anticipation of significant snowfall and blizzard conditions. Approximately 103 million people were affected by the storm, with 33 million people under blizzard warnings. More than 13,000 flights were cancelled in relation to the storm, with effects rippling internationally. Seven states observed snowfall in excess of 30 in (76 cm), with accumulations peaking at 66 in (170 cm) on Mount Mitchell, North Carolina.

■ A PRAYER

The Daily Prayer of the Order of Malta

Lord Jesus, thou hast seen fit to enlist me for thy service among the Knights and Dames of Saint John of Jerusalem. I humbly entreat thee through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin of Philermo, of Saint John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard and all the Saints and blessed of our Order, to keep me faithful to the traditions of our Order. Be it mine to practice and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, the Roman faith against the enemies of religion; be it mine to practice charity towards my neighbors, especially the poor and the sick. Give me the strength I need carry out this my resolve, forgetful of myself, learning ever from the Holy Gospel a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion, striving ever to promote God's glory, the world's peace, and all that may benefit the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. Amen.

Year of Preparation Formation Program

The Year of Preparation (YOP) Formation program contains a series of eight modules which are designed to give YOP candidates basic information about the Order, the requirements for membership and the meaning of the path that members follow in their search for spiritual growth. The material in the YOP Room which is located on the Association's website on the left navigation bar can help many members who may have forgotten some of the basic information or may never have been exposed to it.

As the Investiture is coming soon, it might be a good time for all members to remind themselves of the deep and beautiful message contained in the Daily Prayer of the Order. Module three in the YOP Room focuses on that extraordinary prayer.

"You are seeking to become part of an Order which spreads around the globe. Knights and Dames become conscious of the geographical universality of the Order of Malta. Recitation of the Daily Prayer of the Order reminds us all that there are fellow Knights and Dames around the world reciting the same prayer each day.

The core of the spirituality of the Order is to grow in a life of prayer, formed in community, and actualized in the service of the poor and the sick. The call to community is both compelling and challenging. Communities of men or women religious, and other small intentional communities, actually live together. But members of our Order almost never live together. And yet there is a yearning for community."

This brief segment taken from one of the Order's Journals of Spirituality (number seven on the Ecclesial dimension of the Order of Malta) focuses on the universal nature of the Order and the link that prayer creates among all the members of the Order around the world.

In Module Three, the Daily Prayer of the Order of Malta is discussed in detail. By breaking the prayer down into its individual sections, hopefully you will find it much more meaningful as you pray it in unity with the thousands of Knights and Dames of the Order who are saying the prayer with you every day.

By reviewing module three at this time of the Association's Investiture, you can renew your commitment to the words you say every day and be reminded why you say it. ■



Communications in the 21st Century



The American Association is keeping up with the times and responding to members' request. Over 85% of our members have an email on file and enjoy the following benefits:

- 1) Members with email addresses receive early notification of events such as retreats, pilgrimages, the Investiture, and other Association activities.**
- 2) The monthly issues of the "Spirituality in Action" newsletter are only distributed by email.**
- 3) Many notes from President Jack Pohrer only go by e-mail.**
- 4) Requested forms that could be sent quickly by e-mail will be sent by regular mail, often delaying your receipt for days.**
- 5) Notices of member deaths and Malade deaths are only sent by e-mail.**
- 6) Even when hard copy notices are sent regarding events and activities, reminders are generally sent only by email.**
- 7) News of immediate interest (such as a TV broadcast that might be appealing) are sent by email.**

In addition, the cost of mailing a hard copy letter is rising and can often exceed a dollar including postage, paper, envelopes, printing and labor. Emailing costs are counted in pennies.

Christopher Poch, Chair of the American Association's Communications Committee, indicates that much of the Association's Communications Strategy going forward will include the use of technology. He noted, "We will continue to adopt new technology to enhance the member experience and meet the rising requests for information and enhanced communication. Emails are a part of the story and we want everyone to get the full benefits."

If you would like to add your email address to your record in the Association's database, you can send an email to staff@orderofmaltaamerican.org asking that your email address be added to your record or you can call the New York Office 212-371-1522 and provide the information. Don't miss out — there is more to come!!!

Deceased Members: January 1, 2016 — Present

William H. Ahrens, KM	Vero Beach, FL
Joseph G. Bill, Jr., KM	Indianapolis, IN
John A. Brunetti, MD, KM	Brooklyn, NY
Philip J. Burguieres	Houston, TX
Geraldine Donnelly Chapey, PhD, DM	Belle Harbor, NY
Thomas L. Doyle, MD, KM	Forest Hills, NY
Karen L.S. Dutkowsky, DM	Cooperstown, NY
Sheila Dunne Feitelberg, DMOB	Boston, MA
Martha Downard Fusz, DM	St. Louis, MO
Honorable Marie Louise Garibaldi, DM	Weehawken, NJ
Peter M. Guida, Sr., MD, KM	Lloyd Harbor, NY
Robert E. Ix, KM	Greenwich, CT
Peter E. Johnson, KM	Spring Lake Heights, NJ
Paul J. McNamara, KM	Chestnut Hill, MA
Joan M. Mooney, DM	Needham, MA
Dolores Josephine Morrissey, DM	New York, NY
Sheila Walsh Murdock, DM	Hamden, CT
Anne M. Murray, DM	New Canaan, CT
William Howard O'Brien, KM	Boynton Beach, FL
Peter A. Piscitelli, KM	Riverdale, NY
Mary Flanagan Rigaut, DM	Fair Haven, NJ
Eugene E. Vilfordi, KM	Dallas, TX
Suzanne W. Wright, DM	Palm Beach, FL

(continued from page 2)

INVESTITURE WEEKEND

It is with great joy that we anticipate the arrival of the Grand Master to attend the Investiture in St. Patrick's Cathedral and as our guest speaker at the Investiture dinner. In addition to those venues, Frá Matthew Festing will attend the Mass and ceremony where Frá Richard Wolff will pronounce his final vows as a First Class Knight on the Sunday of Investiture weekend.

In honor of the Grand Master's attendance, the weekend will begin with a free Peace Concert on Wednesday, November 9th that will be presented to an expected full house in St. Patrick's Cathedral at 7:00 PM. The concert will be led by Composer Maestro Joseph Vella and Music Director Maestro David Hayes with the New York Choral Society and Orchestra, the St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir and Maestro Dr. Jennifer Pasqual, Director and Organist. There will be thirty-three Dames and forty-nine Knights invested. I personally look forward to seeing you in New York for the Investiture.

For 89 years beginning in 1927, the Waldorf Astoria has been our "Home," serving as the site for many of the activities for our Annual Investiture Weekend including meetings, the Annual Cocktail Party and our Annual Dinner. The Waldorf Astoria will be remodeled and scaled down, with some of the space converted to luxury apartments. This transformation will take several years to accomplish. We will be celebrating our 89th year in the Waldorf and 89 years as the American Association.

Let's celebrate this remarkable journey as we move to the American Association's 90th year in 2017 and our 904th year since Pascal II's papal bull establishing Blessed Gerard's work as a religious order of the Church, under the protection of the Pope. We've come a long way from the beginning for the American Association and we look forward to continue the work of the Order, serving the sick and the poor

and giving witness to our faith.

Next year, we will have our Investiture in St. Patrick's Cathedral and our Investiture dinner at the New York Hilton Midtown Hotel until we are able to return to the remodeled Waldorf Astoria.

LOURDES

We are blessed to have begun the planning for the 2017 Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Materials for registering and for sponsoring Malades have been distributed. The 2017 Co-Chairs, Nancy and Craig Gibson, will be leading us on the Association's thirty-second Pilgrimage to Lourdes next May. Under the patronage of Our Mother Mary, Full of Grace, we will bring our Malades to Lourdes in search of grace and peace. Pray for the success of the Pilgrimage; please register early as our pilgrimage is one of the most important activities of the Order of Malta.

BOARD ELECTION

The American Association's Board of Councillors election is underway. As you know, the Association has introduced an opportunity to vote electronically along with the traditional paper ballot options. Whichever way you choose, I hope you will take the time to study the candidates' bios and pray to the Holy Spirit to guide you in selecting your choices from the excellent set of candidates who have generously offered to serve the Association on the Board of Councillors.

God have mercy on all of us as we approach the end of the Papal Year of Mercy.

God Bless,



HIGHLIGHTS

Election Process is Underway in the American Association

You may have already received your electronic ballot and your regular paper ballot for the Board of Councillors election. If you received both, you may choose which one to use. The polls are open until Friday, November 4th. Please take the time to study the slate of candidates and pick those you believe will serve the Association and the Order best. Every vote is important. Eight Knights and Dames will be chosen in this election to serve from January 2017 through the end of 2019.

The voting period will open on October 11th at 9:00AM ET and end on November 4th at 11:59PM ET. Ballots which are returned by regular mail must be received by Intelliscan by the close of business on November 4th. Electronic balloting will be closed at the 11:59PM deadline. Results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Friday, November 11th.

Chancellor Richard D. Milone, MD, KM, is overseeing the election. He noted in his cover letter with the ballot package, "We hope you will take this opportunity to familiarize yourself with the slate and take part in electing the eight members of the Board of Councillors...casting your vote takes only a few minutes and is a significant way for you to participate in the Association's future."

Should you have any questions about the election, please contact Ray LaRose, Assistant Executive Director at rlarose@orderofmaltaamerican.org or 212-371-1522. Should you have any technical questions about the voting process, please contact Keith Wier at Intelliscan, our consultant, at kwier@intelliscaninc.com or 610-935-6171.

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

October 10

Board of Councillors Election
Ballots distributed

October 13

Blessed Gerard, Founder of
the Order of Malta

October 14-16

Illinois
Association Retreat in Mundelein

November 1

All Saints' Day

November 4

Board of Councillors Election
Ballots deadline

November 8

US Election Day

November 9-12

New York City
Investiture Events

November 9

New York City
Concert at Saint Patrick's Cathedral

November 10

New York City
Board of Councillors Meeting

November 11

New York City
Annual Meeting, Investiture,
Annual Dinner

November 12

New York City
Mass for Malades,
Mass for the Sub-Priory

November 13

New Jersey
Final Vows for Frá Richard Wolff

November 20

Christ the King,
closing of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

November 24

Thanksgiving

November 27

Advent begins

December 8

Immaculate Conception

December 25

Christmas

January 11, 2017

Board of Councillors Meeting

January 26—27 2017

Washington D.C.
March for Life

March 17-19, 2017

Lutz, Florida
Association Retreat at
the Bethany Retreat Center

Our Mission

The American Association of the Order of Malta, carefully observing the centuries-old tradition of the Order, has as its mission, to enhance the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, through dedication to and defense of the faith and the Holy See and through service to our fellow man, especially the sick and poor.

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Kathleen L. Lyons
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for Member Services

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for Major Events

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newsletter should be mailed to:

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*Photos for this issue have been graciously provided by
Michelle Babyak, and others.*

Change of address (physical or virtual)?

Please notify the New York office of all
changes of address.

If your primary mailing address or your e-mail
address changes, please be sure to notify the
American Association's administrative team. Just
send a note to the New York office or send an e-mail
to Miquan@orderofmaltaamerican.org or call
our office at **212-371-1522**. Maintaining correct
addresses ensures that you will receive mailings
on a timely basis. It can also save the American
Association a significant amount of time and money.