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L O U R D E S P I L G R I M A G E 2 0 1 6

American Association's 2016 Pilgrimage

*“Sacred Vulnerability and Solidarity
 in Faith and Service”*

As three hundred and forty pilgrims arrived at John F. Kennedy Airport on April 27th for our Pilgrimage to Lourdes, we received a wonderful welcome and support from our own Malta airport departure team, our travel agent and charter airline representatives, and from Transportation Security Agency (TSA) and Port of Authority airport officials. All joined in support of our pilgrimage mission and they extended themselves in service to our malades and their caregivers. It was a wonderful send off and our arrival in Lourdes was equally smooth, thanks to the efforts of our advance team.

We began our pilgrimage with the Tri-Association Mass in the Rosary Basilica, celebrated by Bishop Robert Deeley from Portland Maine, a first time pilgrim with our group, who spoke about how humbled and honored he was to participate. He was our only Bishop on the

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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.



As I begin writing the Summer Hospitaller article, I am always in high spirits and happy because we have just returned from Lourdes.

As always, the Pilgrimage is so uplifting, special and packed with sweet memories.

Our Malades were exceptional, as always, and from their Lourdes experience they ignite the energy and all the wonderful graces that flow to the Dames, Knights, Auxiliary, Volunteers, Care Givers, Doctors, Nurses and Clergy to insure another successful, memorable Pilgrimage. My thanks and gratitude to the Chairs, Donna and Tom O'Brien and to everyone who was fortunate to attend this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage. If you have never made the Pilgrimage, I invite you to sign up early for next year's Pilgrimage. I guarantee

you it will change your life!!

Michael Castine has been on the leadership team of the Lourdes Pilgrimage for the last thirteen years. He has decided that it is time to step down as Co-President to allow someone else to assume that role. Michael has been exceptional and remarkable in the Co-President's role. His leadership style is low key, always ahead of the problems and he has a true gift and talent in problem solving without anyone ever realizing that there was a problem. Thank you Michael for so many years of perfection!!

Next year's Co-President will be Ken Craig who has been a Co-President for the past three years with Michael and I am very pleased to announce that Knight FJ McCarthy will join Ken as the new Co-President for the 2017 Lourdes Pilgrimage. Congratulations to FJ and Ken as the Co-Presidents for next year's Pilgrimage.

AREA CHAIR HOSPITALLER MEETING IN NYC

On June 15th and 16th, the Area Chairs and Hospitallers of the American Association met in NYC to exchange ideas, look for new and more effective ways to help our Dames and Knights to fulfill their vow and grow in works and spirituality. These meetings in the past have been extremely valuable. The response from the Area Chairs and Hospitallers has been very positive, providing an opportunity to learn from each other, share success stories, and discuss important issues affecting the Order, the Association and our members.

I am most grateful to all the Area Chairs and Hospitallers for the work they do in their Areas and for the leadership they provide. They are the back bone of our Association.

THE LAWSUIT

We are in the deposition stage of the lawsuit which will take some time to complete. From the depositions of the plaintiffs, I have heard nothing that is damaging or that involves the American Association as culpable in the lawsuit. The other good news (which has been my goal since the first lawsuit) is that our loan to pay for the settlement of the first lawsuit was paid in full in 2015.

The costs of defending the Association and paying off the debt were covered through member donations specifically for that purpose, including contributions from some very generous anonymous donors. There has been no money taken from the Annual Contributions of our members to cover the expenses of the lawsuit. Thank you to these very generous members who have helped us achieve that goal!

THE GRANDMASTER'S VISIT TO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION DURING INVESTITURE WEEKEND

It is official; the Grand Master will be our guest and featured speaker at the 2016 Annual Dinner. This will be the first time in many years that the Grand Master has attended the American Association's Investiture weekend. This is a great privilege and honor for us to be his host.

FRÁ MATHEW FESTING, PRINCE AND GRAND MASTER

The Grand Master will also attend and conduct the investing ceremony of Richard Wolff as a First Class Knight on Sunday of the Investiture weekend. The ceremony will take place at the Queen of Peace Church, in North Arlington, New Jersey.

Next year (2017), the Waldorf Astoria will be closing to renovate different areas of the hotel. Unfortunately, the ballroom where we have celebrated our Annual Dinner since 1927 will not be available. The dinner will take place at a different venue until we return to the Waldorf when the renovation is completed. More information on this as the timeline unfolds.

I wish everyone a wonderful and restful summer. Enjoy God's summer gifts of sun, sea, water, family and friends.

God Bless,

Jack

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American Association's 2016 Pilgrimage

trip, but he did the work of many as he was ever present and engaged with all in our group. He was supported by an amazing group of Chaplains, coordinated by Msgr. Ritchie, who provided our liturgies, opportunities for reconciliation, facilitation of our spiritual reflections groups, and being available for one-on-one conversations. Their presence, as always, strengthened the central spiritual purpose of our pilgrimage.

As those who come to Lourdes know, the pods and teams, so carefully planned by Dick and DeDe Milone, are the way we are organized and where we realize most clearly that our experience is under the watchful gaze and care of Our Blessed Mother. Strangers meet and connect in ways that offer indescribable blessings and often long lasting relationships... malades are supported by hosts who are Knights or Dames, and volunteers and auxiliary; first time pilgrims are

mentored by experienced Knights and Dames, Chaplains and medical team members; and all have their faith strengthened by the malades and their caregivers. Our dedicated nurses and doctors are proactive in anticipating problems, and ever ready to spring into action as needed, whether it is a nightly bath for a wheel chair bound person, or providing 24 hour coverage for someone in need. Their presence in caring for the medical needs of the pilgrims allowed all to participate as fully as possible in this spiritual journey.

Behind the scenes, the complicated pieces of a trip like this are supported by our superb American Association staff, the Lourdes Pilgrimage Co-Presidents and a Core Logistics team who work tirelessly day and night to keep all on track. Many others fulfill special roles that are so important for the pilgrimage such as our musicians, malades-in-spirit team, photographer, and of course our Auxiliary.

This year, we acknowledged thirteen years of service by Pilgrimage Co-President Michael Castine, who has decided it is time to let someone else *(continued on page 4)*



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step into his role. We are most grateful to him as, over the years, there appeared to be no problem he was unable to resolve while always remaining a steady and calm presence. His mark on the pilgrimage will surely be lasting.

As Co-Chairs, we not only had the responsibility and honor of contributing our own time and expertise to the process, we had the opportunity to observe first-hand the work of others and the interactions and events of the pilgrimage as it all unfolded. Charles Bosk, in his classic book on the training of physicians, *Forgive and Remember*, describes such an opportunity as a “gift relationship” that includes “giving, receiving and reciprocating and in the process creating solidarity among participants.” We have been the recipients of such a gift – by being in the presence of our malades and caregivers during what one of them described to us in a letter we received after the trip, as a time of “sacred vulnerability.” And in this Special Jubilee Year of Mercy, having the privilege of seeing God’s inexhaustible Mercy, displayed through actions and interactions, creates a solidarity in faith and service among so many wonderful and selfless individuals.

We thank all involved and ask for the continued blessing of Our Lady Mother of Mercy on our 2016 pilgrims.

Our Lady, Mother of Mercy, pray for us.

Tom O'Brien, KM
2016 Lourdes Pilgrimage Co-Chairs

Donna O'Brien, DM



A Reflection from a Malade on the 2016 Lourdes Pilgrimage

God had to take extraordinary measures to get my attention. It took becoming disabled to feel the same love and fellowship you all do so effortlessly. You have held up a mirror in front of me and shown me how I look through your eyes. And I don't see a hunched over handicapped woman. What looks back at me is a malade, a caregiver, and even a Dame of Malta. We all are malades and caregivers and benefactors. Each of you has been telling us how we are gifts and that's a beautiful way to see us. Just as beautiful, though, is the gift you have given us. I'm not talking about the gift of being able to come here and take part in this extraordinary pilgrimage, that goes without saying. I'm talking about the gift of allowing us to be able to give something back to you, allowing us, in some small way, to be your benefactors. So many of us feel burdensome or irrelevant or, as I half-jokingly like to say about myself, a parasite, only taking, never giving back. But that's an extremely narrow view of gift-giving. My gift to you is my fellowship, my love, my dependence on you and my trust in you. My gift to you is allowing you to help me without apology, without guilt, without feeling unworthy but just feeling blessed. My gift to you is myself, freely given, fully given, as we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. We are all children of God.

Peace,
Jennifer Wyman

2016 Lourdes Pilgrimage — Morning of Reflection

THIS REFLECTION WAS GIVEN BY MSGR. DENNIS SHEEHAN, CHC, FROM THE BOSTON AREA ON FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 29TH AT THE NOTRE DAME CHAPEL IN LOURDES



As a title and summary of my reflections this morning, I take the title of a recent work largely by Pope Francis; *The Name of God is Mercy*. Those of you who have read this little work will hear echoes of it in much that I say today.

On the Sunday after his election in 2013, Pope Francis gave his first Sunday homily to parishioners of the Church of Saint Anna just inside the gate of the Vatican City. “The message of Jesus,” the Pope said, “is mercy. For me — and I say this with Humility — it is the Lord’s strongest message.”

The first and only step needed to experience mercy — the Pope added — is to acknowledge that we — all of us — are in need of mercy. “Jesus comes to us when we recognize that we are sinners.”

That message is harder for us to hear than we like to admit. The Pope told of his conversation with a man on the mercy of God. “Oh, Father, if you knew my life story, you couldn’t talk like that. I’ve done so many terrible things.” The Pope’s reply, “All the better! Go to Jesus. He likes to hear about those things. He forgets. He has a special knack for

forgetting...he forgets, he embraces you and says what Jesus said to the woman caught in adultery, “Neither do I condemn you. Go and from now on, sin no more.”

The journalist whose interviews are the heart of *The Name of God is Mercy* tells a revealing story. He and the Pope had talked about the difficulty most of us have acknowledging ourselves as sinners. In the first draft, he recorded the Pope as saying, “The medicine is there if only we take the first step.” The draft went to the Pope. The Pope asked for an addition, “...or even have just the desire to take the first step.”

Small wonder, then, that the Pope on the Sunday after Easter formally established a “Holy Year of Mercy.” We are here in this holy place in that Holy Year. How can our thoughts, then, not center on the mercy of God?

You know what a Holy Year is. Its observance dates from the fourteenth century, a period of plague, violence and turmoil in the world and in the Church. The Pope at that time declared 1300 to be a “Jubilee Year.” The Year of Jubilee in the Book of Leviticus was to be observed every 50th year. Debts were forgiven, land and goods that had been forfeited were to be returned and prisoners released, a Restoration, Renewal and New Beginning. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus in the Capernaum Synagogue reads from Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord.” The person, the gospel, the mission of Jesus is to realize the hopes of the Jubilee — to renew the world with mercy, freedom and reconciliation.

In church history, Jubilees, or Holy Years have been celebrated at different intervals — more recently, every 25 years. Pope Saint John Paul II also invoked a special or “extraordinary” Jubilee to mark the anniversary of the Lord’s death and resurrection. This year, 2015-2016, is such an “extraordinary” or special Holy Year.

Why now? As one astute observer of Pope Francis noted, it is clear that the Pope sees a need for change - not change in the sense of doctrine or moral teaching. The Pope is looking, the observer noted, to change the Church’s agenda. That to me is helpful. The agenda of a meeting determines what is important, what is central. At various times in her long history, we can say that the Church has operated with a number of different agendas: the Crusades, the Reformation, doctrinal clarity, moral guidance, devotional practice. Pope Francis is convinced that “Mercy” is the agenda of the Church for our age.

“Too much mercy,” say some voices. “The Church must condemn sin and evil.” Hear the voice of Pope Francis on this: “The Church condemns sin because it has to relay the truth. But at the same time, it embraces the sinner who recognizes himself or herself as such — it welcomes that sinner — it speaks to him or her of God’s infinite mercy — we must go back to the Gospel. We find the Gospel speaks of welcoming and forgiveness — it speaks of the ‘feast’.” “Mercy,” says the Pope “is the joy of the feast.”

So now, to the Church. What

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does the Church look like when mercy is high on its agenda? What do Catholics and other Christians look like when mercy is at the head of their faith? Listen again to Pope Francis, “The Church does not exist to condemn people but to bring about an encounter with the visceral love of God’s mercy... “I like to use the image”, says the Pope, “the image of a field hospital to describe this Church...it exists where there is combat, it is not a solid structure...it is a mobile structure that offers first aid and immediate care so that soldiers do not die. It is a place for urgent care, not a place to see a specialist.” It is clearly Pope Francis’ hope that as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy, that we pay ever increased attention to the wounded, those who need understanding, forgiveness and love.

The Pope tells this story. “I used to carry a pastoral staff made of olive wood. It was fabricated in a rehab project for drug addicts and prison inmates. Jesus Christ was God but also man and we see human mercy in His person. Where there is mercy, justice is more just. This does not mean we should open prisons and let criminals loose in society. It means we work to help the fallen people back up. It’s very hard to do but we can’t prefer just to lock someone up with no effort to rehabilitate.”

A mother once sought from Emperor Napoleon mercy for her son. The Emperor replied that it was the man’s second offense and justice demanded his death. “I don’t ask for justice,” said the mother. “I plead for mercy.” “But,” answered Napoleon, “he does not deserve mercy.”

“Sir,” cried the mother, “it would not be mercy if he deserved it and mercy is all I ask.” Well, then,” said the Emperor, “I will have mercy.”

A “Year of Mercy” will eventually bring up a sometimes forgotten piece of Catholic teaching, namely the Seven Corporal and Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy. As Pope Francis said, at times they may need translation to modern situations but they are never more important than today. Listen to the Pope:

“What should we do for the homeless man camped on the street, the hungry man, the family who can’t make it to the end of the month without help? How should we treat the immigrants who come to our country? How shall we care for the elderly who have no one?”

I dare to add that this pilgrimage to Lourdes is a living expression both of corporal and spiritual works of mercy. Look around you in these days and behold the human face of God’s mercy for us all.

That human face of God’s mercy that people found in Jesus finds expression also in the face of Christ’s Church. A brief word on the Church’s Sacrament of Reconciliation: The Sacrament is not a sign of judgment. We judge ourselves and

seek God’s mercy. The Sacrament has been called “confession”. It involves our acknowledgement that we are sinners and need God’s mercy. But it more recently – and more authentically – has been called Reconciliation. Think of the Father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. He is waiting. With the appearance of the wandering son, he runs in welcome. Reconciliation is that embrace, that joy that the prodigal has returned. At the heart of the Sacrament is the joy of mercy.

A story of mercy: a sculptor had the ambition to mold the greatest statue of Jesus ever made He shaped the model of a regal, triumphant figure. The head was raised and arms outstretched in a gesture of great majesty. This is how Christ should be: strong and dominant.

The sculptor completed the clay model. But that night, a heavy fog rolled in and sea spray crept through an open window. The moisture acted on the clay and in the morning, the sculptor was shocked to look at his masterpiece.

Droplets of moisture gave the impression of bleeding. The head drooped. The face changed from triumph to compassion. From arms upraised, the arms now stretched in welcome. The ‘regal Christ’ became the ‘wounded Jesus.’ The artist wondered first about repair. Then the message struck. This is the real Christ. He then left the wounded masterpiece be and he carved these words in the base, “Come to Me.”

We are here in Lourdes because we seek mercy. We are here in Lourdes because God’s mercy has touched us. We bring our bodies and our souls to this place where mercy waits for us. May Mary, the Mother of Mercy be comfort and strength to us through this pilgrimage and in our lives. ■

We are here in Lourdes
because we seek mercy.
We are here in Lourdes because
God’s mercy has touched us.



■ HIGHLIGHTS

American Association to Participate in Pilgrimage to Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

This year, the American Association will be joining the Federal Association on a Pilgrimage to Champion, Wisconsin to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is the site of the only Marian apparition in the United States approved by the Catholic Church. Approval was received on December 8, 2010 by Bishop David Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay. He also approved the Chapel at the site as a shrine.

Also included in the Pilgrimage will be a visit to the National Shrine of Saint Joseph, located at Saint Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.

The pilgrimage will take place from August 4th to August 7th. There will be sixty pilgrims from the American Association including Malades, Knights, Dames, Clergy, Medical and Volunteers. It is the American Association's first pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help; the number of participants will be limited this year. There will be no charter plane; participants

will arrange their own transportation and will meet together in Green Bay to begin the Pilgrimage.

The Grand Master, having recognized that the Pilgrimage to Lourdes can be very taxing and very expensive for Pilgrims from the US, has agreed that this pilgrimage will meet the requirements for attendance at a Marian Pilgrimage during the year of preparation or in the first three years of membership, in lieu of going to Lourdes.

Please pray for the success of this Pilgrimage which will give those who cannot go to Lourdes an opportunity to experience some of the benefits of a pilgrimage to a Marian shrine with Malades while also providing an opportunity for those who have been to Lourdes to visit another Marian shrine where Mary appeared.

If you are interested in participating, there may still be limited space available at the time of this publication. Contact the New York office for more information.

■ HIGHLIGHTS

2nd Annual Chaplains' Convocation — A Gathering in New York

When Dr. Richard Milone, Chancellor of the American Association, reported to the Board of Councillors on the Second Annual Chaplains' Convocation that was held in New York City on April 4th and 5th, he said the highlight of the meeting were the talks given by the new Prelate of the Order, Bishop Jean Laffitte. Dr. Milone said the chaplains were uplifted by the Prelate's talks — he was a star. The Prelate commented that he hoped he would be invited to the next convocation. Dr. Milone said that some of the presentations were among the best that had been given.

There were two deacons, twenty-three priests, two bishops and four Frás in attendance. In addition three members of the Board of Councillors were in attendance. On Monday evening, Dr. Joseph Metz, Regent of the Sub-priory of Our Lady of Lourdes, spoke to the gathering about the Sub-priory, the spiritual regulations for all members and the specific requirements and duties of the second class. On Tuesday, the day started with 7AM Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, followed by a full day of talks and discussion at the Marriott Hotel in mid-town Manhattan.

The Prelate of the Order, His Excellency, Bishop Jean Laffitte, spoke twice; in the morning, the Prelate spoke about the

Spirituality of the Order and Expectations of Chaplains. In the afternoon, he spoke further about spirituality. The Prelate remarked that he was most grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Chaplains of the Association.

Other speakers included the good friend of the Association, Frá James-Michael von Stroebel from the Federal Association, who gave a talk about the Knights of Justice. Mr. Brad Babbitt, Esq., provided an update on the legal issues of the Association; Msgr. Ritchie spoke about the role of the Chaplains on the Lourdes Pilgrimage and Father Joseph Cavoto spoke about spiritual counseling for Malades and Caregivers. Mrs. Gail Berardino spoke about the work of the Order, Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem; other talks included a brief discussion led by Dr. Milone about things that Areas would like the chaplains to be involved in. Dr. Trexler spoke about the planned pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. A brief video brought the Grand Master to the room with a special message for the Chaplains.

Dr. Milone closed the meeting by thanking all in attendance and saying that based on the success of the first two convocations, he felt confident recommending to the Board of Councillors that the Convocation be held again next year.





The Sovereign Order of Malta's Participation at World Humanitarian Summit 2016

Istanbul 24 May 2016

After 2 years of worldwide consultations, 9000 participants came together in Istanbul between 23 – 24 May 2016 for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit to reshape the field of humanitarian action. Altogether 173 United Nations Member States, 55 Heads of State and Governments, some 350 private sector representatives, and over 2000 people from civil society and non-governmental organizations took part in the two-day summit.

Reaffirming the principles at the heart of humanitarian action – humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence – was one of the main goals of the participation of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Since the onset of the WHS process, launched by the UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-moon,

the Order of Malta has been actively engaged in the consultations, and by organizing the symposium “Religions Together for Humanitarian Action” at the UN headquarters in Geneva in May 2015, it took the lead in emphasizing the special role of faith-based actors in providing humanitarian assistance. A theme that was widely acknowledged during the summit in Istanbul, and that took a prominent role becoming the focus of a number of events such as a Special Session and a Side Events, to which the Order of Malta's contribution was key.

During the WHS the Grand Chancellor spoke both at the Plenary and at the WHS Special Session on Religious engagement- the contributions of faith communities to our shared humanity. Concerned with the declining disregard for humanitar-

ian principles, the Grand Chancellor addressed the issue at the summit, “I call on faith-based organizations to promote the rules of international humanitarian law and invite the international community to discover the benefits of faith-based actors, to make better use of their unique qualities.” The Special Session focused on the role of faith based institutions and organizations in promoting peace and providing relief in areas of conflict.

The Sovereign Order of Malta participated at the event along with other leaders of religious communities and representatives of different faiths. The Outcome document that emerged reflects the process initiated by the Order which has led to a general acknowledgement of the pivotal role played by Faith-based institutions,

During the two-day summit, the Order of Malta together with Malteser International, its worldwide relief agency, participated in side events and contributed to the discussions by endorsing the key commitments of the WHS and by renewing its humanitarian mission to save and assist people in need and to use its diplomatic network to promote dialogue and compliance with the international humanitarian laws.

The link to this article was posted on May 31 on the Association website in the Latest News section on the right side of Home Page. Use the link to get more information on the conference and the role of the Order of Malta at the conference and in the field of humanitarian aid throughout the world. Here is the link: <http://www.orderofmalta.int/2016/05/31/96014/> ■



Association Board of Councillors Election To Use Electronic Ballots

As the summer runs its course, the Nominating Committee will be working hard to identify a slate of candidates to recommend to the Board of Councillors at its September meeting for the Board election in the Fall. Dr. Anthony Gagliardi, Chair and the rest of the Nominating Committee (Joseph J. Frank, Marion E. Glennon, Peter J. Maloy and Christopher F. Poch) are working with the Area Chair Advisory Committee (Dr. William Fessler, Peter Gandolfo, and Carl Kuehner) to review member recommendations and to develop the best possible set of candidates to present to the Board.

Dr. Gagliardi said, “This election, as all elections, presents our membership with the opportunity to impact the future of the Association. As the challenges ahead are significant, so must be our commitment to elect those most capable of dealing with those challenges. I am confident that the Nominating Committee, with the advice and counsel of the Area Chair Advisory Committee, and the Board of Councillors will do their jobs. Then it is up to the members, Knights and Dames, to do their job in the election process.”

President Jack Pohrer announced that the Board of Councillors had approved the use of an electronic balloting process to streamline the process and bring current technology into play. All members will be sent an election packet in the mail. Members with an e-mail address on file will also receive an electronic election notification. Members will have the option of choosing between using a paper ballot or voting electronically. All returned ballots (electronic or paper) will be

tracked to ensure that only one ballot is returned for each member. Because each member has a unique Member ID that is contained in the Association’s database, the process will automatically match the ID with the e-mail address or the returned paper ballot. Since every member has this unique “Member ID”, the process will include the inspection of each ballot to ensure it comes from a valid member and that no one votes twice. The anonymity of each voter will be preserved as the tracking will be on ballots returned, and not on which candidates are selected on a ballot.

Members who do not have a valid e-mail address on file may use the paper ballot and the appropriate return envelopes.

Mr. Matthew LaRose, IT Systems Manager for the Association, will be working directly with the consultant, Intelliscan, Inc., to develop and deploy the balloting process. Intelliscan, Inc., is a nationally recognized provider of election services with 25 years’ experience delivering accurate, secure and cost-effective election results. Mr. LaRose will be testing the system and

process, well prior to our launch, to ensure that the Association’s database is 100% accurate. Mr. LaRose said, “The end-result will be that each Knight or Dame who responds with an electronic ballot will be the person in our file at the e-mail address.”

The Association’s Secretary, Karol Corbin Walker, Esq., commented on the plan to deploy the electronic process, “The Association is deploying a current state-of the art process that will simplify the balloting process. For those who have e-mail addresses on file, which is more than 85% of our membership, it will be a simple and convenient process, with easy directions and an ability to vote efficiently in a timely manner. For those who choose to use the paper ballot, the process will be very similar to the process that has been used for years in the Association. This process will ensure accurate results with minimal additional costs. The Board believes that this is a small but important step as we move to utilize technology in our election process. Many organizations using an electronic process have seen an increase in voter participation; we are hoping that this process will result in more of our members taking the time to study the candidates and vote in the election.”

Ballots will be distributed in October. Election results are announced at the Annual Meeting in November. ■

2016 ELECTION TIMELINE

Candidates determined in **September**

Ballots distributed by **October 15th**

Polls close on **November 4th**

Results announced at annual meeting on **November 11th**

Lord, Teach Us How To Pray Association Retreat Offers Opportunity of Time and Space To Pray



Do you want three good reasons to register for an American Association Retreat?

- 1) Outstanding Retreat Masters.**
- 2) Convenient registration process and great locations.**
- 3) An opportunity to get in a quiet space to pray.**

And for some additional reasons: the chance to be with other Knights, Dames and Year of Preparation Candidates in a prayerful setting; the chance in the Fall to be in the Midwest and in the late winter to be in the warm South; the chance to open your hearts and minds to the voice of God.

And one more reason: the Order of Malta highly recommends that every member attend an Annual Retreat. The Order does this for a very good reason: Everyone needs the opportunity to take time to focus on the spiritual aspect of life. Sometimes, in the regular setting of ordinary life, this is very difficult to do. The retreat provides an ideal opportunity in an ideal setting to focus on our own commitment to spiritual growth. An Association retreat brings that spiritual growth into focus through the lens of the Order's charism and the commitment Knights and Dames have made to live that charism.

The American Association's Fall Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of October 14 to October 16 at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, in Mundelein, Illinois. Father Eric Hollas, a familiar face to many of our members, will once again bless us as our Retreat Master. Mundelein, Illinois is about a forty-five minute drive from Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

The weekend will begin with check-in on Friday evening, October 14 and will end on Sunday morning, October 16, 2016.

If you would like to register for the Fall 2016 retreat, please contact Maria at the NY office. Telephone: 212-371-1522, Email: maria@orderofmaltaamerican.org, Fax: 212-486-9427. The registration form is also available on-line in the Members Only section of the Association's website (www.orderofmaltaamerican.org).

Another Retreat is scheduled for March 17-19, 2017 at the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida. Bishop Frank Caggiano will be the retreat master.

There are several recordings on the Association's website from past retreats. The links to the recordings are in "Association Retreats" in the Spirituality Section – just click "Past Retreats" to find the links to the recordings.

The February 2016 Retreat was in the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida. The theme was "The Gift of Mercy," and our retreat master was the Most Reverend Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport.

The February 2015 Retreat was also at the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida. The theme was "Discernment of Spirits according to St. Ignatius Loyola," and our retreat master was Reverend Joseph W. Koterski, S.J.



St John the Baptist, Patron of the Order of Malta, Patron of the Sovereign Order of Malta

(Translated from the Italian)

Since our Sovereign Order took the name of St. John the Baptist at its very outset and nominated him as its Patron Saint, I think that every member of the Order, Knight and Dame, would be interested in learning more about his life and the unique role he was called on to play in the history of salvation.

John is the only saint, besides Mary, Mother of Our Lord, for whom the Church celebrates the date of his birth within this material world (24 June) and the date of his call to the glory of the Saints in Heaven through martyrdom (29 August).

Precursor of Christ, he was born to the world six months before Him. His birth is described by St. Luke the evangelist at the beginning of his gospel. He was born in a village some seven kilometers from Jerusalem, today identified as Ain Karin. His parents, already advanced in years, had given up hoping for a child. The Angel Gabriel appeared to his father Zechariah, a priest, while he was burning incense inside the temple and announced that Elizabeth would bear him a son. Zechariah was not only surprised but also incredulous and, as punishment, he was struck dumb until the child was born.

When Elizabeth was in her sixth month her young cousin, the Virgin Mary, newly pregnant and betrothed to Joseph, of the house of David, arrived from distant Nazareth after travelling for several days. Entering the house of Elizabeth, she is greeted with these words: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord!" (Lk 1.42-45).

St. Luke then recounts the birth of the child, the decision to name him John on his eighth day and the return of speech to his father Zechariah who, with tongue loosed and full of the Holy Spirit, prophesied: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and he has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David..."; then turning to the newborn baby he exclaims: "and you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give

knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins."

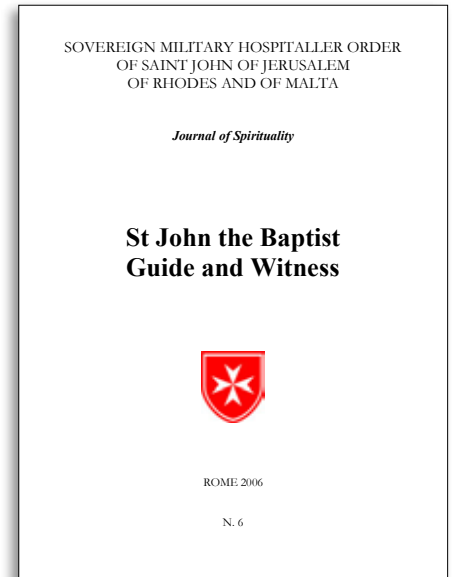
John's mission began after he came of age in the "wilderness" to where he had withdrawn. Descriptions of his food, clothes and habits create an image of a young, austere and rigorous penitent. "Now John wore a garment of camel's hair, and a leather girdle around his waist," as St. Matthew the evangelist tells us, "and his food was locusts and wild honey" (Mt 3.4).

Normally the Precursor stopped to preach on the banks of a river and this is why the Synoptics speak explicitly of the river Jordan. St. John the evangelist, who was among the Baptist's disciples, together with Andrew, brother of Simon Peter, mentions other places such as Enon, near Salim and "beyond the Jordan", where there were springs of water. "Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins" (Mt 3.5).

His preaching was strong and direct like that of the prophets, summed up in a simple phrase: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 3.1-2). The Precursor directed everything to this kingdom. His general exhortation was charity: "and the multitudes asked him, "What then, shall we do"? And he answered them, "He who has two coats, let him share with he who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise" (Lk 3.10-11). He also gave practical advice to individual groups: to the tax collectors he recommended justice; to the soldiers, not to do violence and the exact fulfilment of their duties. And he had fierce words against the Pharisees: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'we have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham."

An external sign of inner purification is washing with water; the Precursor also claimed that the Messiah, "he who is coming," would effect a permanent revolution in souls, because he will not give only an external and transient washing but "he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire, his winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary" (Lk 3.17).

His humility and consciousness of being only "the one who goes before and prepares the



(continued from page 11)

way” is stressed on the day in which John, while he was baptizing in Bethany beyond the Jordan, “saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me’” (Jn 1.29).

From that moment he is destined to disappear, to give way to “he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie” (Lk 3.16); the group of disciples who had gathered around him—including Andrew, brother of Simon Peter and the young John, son of Zebedee — begin to scatter. When Jesus starts out on his public life, the Precursor raises his voice to condemn the tetrarch Herod “because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done” (Lk 3.19): he is put into prison for this.

While in prison, John receives the highest tribute from Jesus. Addressing the crowds, Jesus proclaims: “What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by

the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.’ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than he.” (Lk 7.24-29).

At Herodias’ macabre request, King Herod Antipas has John beheaded during a frivolous feast during which, Salome, daughter of the adulterous queen, had given a dance to the consternation of the king and his guests. Mark the evangelist recounts that John’s disciples, “came, and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.”

Written by His Eminence Cardinal Pio Laghi, the late Cardinal Patronus of the Order of Malta

This essay was originally published in the Journal of Spirituality, volume Six. All of the Order’s Journals of Spirituality can be found in the Members Only section of the Association’s website. ■

■ HIGHLIGHTS

Access the “Members Only Section” on the Association’s Website Open the Door to a Wealth of Information

The American Association has a valuable but, for some, a secret hiding place for a great deal of information that many members find useful. The Members Only Area on the upper right side of the homepage on our website at www.orderofmaltaamerican.org contains all of the following information and more!!!

- **Forms for retreats, pilgrimages, grants, membership applications**
- **Access to the Member directory where you can search for contact information**
- **Auxiliary, Merchandise**
- **Spirituality in Action Resource Book (2013)**
- **Recordings of the “Distance Learning Calls”**
- **The Order of Malta’s Journals of Spirituality**
- **The Association’s By-Laws**
- **The Order’s Constitutional Charter and Code**
- **The Regulations and Commentary - Membership in the Order of Malta**
- **The Order’s Annuaire (Directory of Order of Malta Offices around the world)**

As a Knight or Dame of the Association, you can access this valuable resource right from the home page with your USER ID and your Password. If you do not know your ID or Password, you can go to the website and click on the “Forgot Password?” link which will take you to a simple screen to retrieve either your ID or your Password.

Of course, there is always a catch. The “system” will require you to know the current e-mail address you have on file with the New York office. It will be the last e-mail address where you received any notice from the Association’s New York office (for example, on which of your e-mail accounts did you receive the June 2016 issue of “Spirituality in Action”? That will be the e-mail address you will need to retrieve your ID or Password.) If you don’t have an e-mail address on file, now would be a good time for you to put one in your file.

Sound too complicated? Call the New York office at 212-371-1522 and tell them you want help to get into the Members Only section of the Association’s website. Several of the staff will be able to help you. Don’t have a phone? Send an e-mail to staff@orderofmaltaamerican.org. Either way, you will get a prompt response (during normal business hours).

Happy Treasure Hunting!!!!



HIGHLIGHTS

Hospitaller Newsletter Returns to Print Version

Most of the readers of the American Association's newsletter, The Hospitallers, have been receiving it in its electronic format. So why the change? Why is everyone receiving a printed copy of the newsletter, beginning with this issue?

A recent survey of the members of the American Association revealed that the overwhelming majority of members prefer to receive much of their Association communications electronically BUT you said you wanted to receive the newsletter in hard copy. While there is some additional cost associated with delivering a printed version to every home, the costs have been managed effectively. Our printer, Service Printers, Inc. from Indiana, has our non-profit mailing permit on file — a large cost of mailing has been substantially reduced by using the permit for mailing certain items directly from our printer's post office. A number of years ago, the format of the newsletter was changed, reducing the size of the pages which also brought the costs of printing an issue down.

We hope you are happy to receive the printed version of the newsletter. An electronic version of this issue (and every past issue) is available on the Association's website in the "News, Events and Calendar" section.

IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members: January 1, 2016 – Present

Joseph G. Bill, Jr., KM	Indianapolis, IN
John A. Brunetti, MD, KM	Brooklyn, NY
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
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

HIGHLIGHTS

2016 Investiture Events — Time to Mark Your Calendar



Time flies when you are having fun! Hopefully, the summer months will bring you joy, peace, and time with family and friends. Before you know it, though, the Association's Annual

Investiture and all the surrounding events will be upon us.

The traditional events that form the heart of the Investiture include the Annual meeting, the reception and Annual Dinner at the Waldorf, and the central event — the Investiture at Saint Patrick's Cathedral. This year, we are blessed to have Cardinal Dolan, our Principal Chaplain, scheduled to say the Solemn Mass of Investiture on Friday afternoon, November 11th. More than seventy

new members are expected to be invested at the Mass.

We are pleased to report that the Grand Master, Frá Matthew Festing, will join us for the Investiture and will be our speaker at the Annual Dinner on Friday evening. He will also participate in a special Mass on Sunday, November 13th where Richard Wolff will make his final vows as a Knight of Justice.

On Saturday morning, November 12th, we will continue a tradition begun several years ago of inviting past Malades and Caregivers to join us for Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral where all of our past Malades will be remembered. The Mass will be followed by a reception, sponsored by the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation.

There are more activities during this special time. Watch for the invitation and the Order of Events which will be coming out at the end of the summer.



ORDER OF MALTA: AREA GRANTS FOR 2016

GRANTEE	LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
Angel's Place	Southfield , MI 48034	\$2,000	Retreat for disabled
Archdiocese of Indianapolis	Indianapolis, IN 46202	\$1,349	Food pantry & kitchen serving meals to homeless
Avila Foundation four Spiritual Foundation		\$3,000	Scholarships for Priests
Benedictine Health Foundation, Inc.	Kingston, NY 12401	\$2,067	Provide financial assistance for cancer patients
Birth Haven	Newton, NJ 07860	\$7,893	Provide critical skills to young mothers
Cabrini	NYC, NY 10002	\$1,500	New refrigerator
Caritas of Port Chester, Inc.	Port Chester, NY 10573	\$3,000	Food pantry equipment
Catherine McAuley Center	Scranton, PA 18505	\$1,798	
Catholic Charities of Dallas, Inc.	Dallas, TX 75243	\$6,293	Tuition for summer camp for underprivileged children
Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc./New Covenant House	Stamford, CT 06904	\$6,000	Upgrade new food pantry
Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis	Minneapolis, MN 55403	\$4,400	Kitchen supplies for new of Dorothy Day Center
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago	Chicago, IL 60654	\$5,014	Tuesday night super program
Catholic Guardian Services (CGS)-Rosalie Hall	New York, NY 10022	\$5,000	Assist in services at Parenting Resource Center
Christ the King Prep	Newark, NJ 07104	\$3,000	Provide "Power School" software
Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc.	Naples, FL 34102	\$16,205	Assistance in salaries for 2 ultrasound technicians
Criminal Justice Ministry	St. Louis, MO 63104	\$4,000	Support direct services for formerly incarcerated reentry
Diocese of Paterson — Catholic Family & Community Services	Paterson, NJ 07505	\$5,000	Provide 240 food backpacks to low income children
From Houses to Homes	Tabpr. NJ 07878	\$4,000	Provide medicine to poor Catholic families in Guatemala
Genesis of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, PA 15202	\$1,124	Purchase cribs
Good Counsel, Inc.	Harrison, NY 10528	\$4,050	Assist in purchase of van
Heart of the Hamptons D/B/A Human Resources	Southampton, NY 11968	\$4,087	Purchase software for accessing records regarding outreach efforts
Homeless Solutions Inc.	Morristown, NJ 07960	\$5,000	Provide supporting services to homeless shelter
I am Ministries dba The Source	Vero Beach, FL 32960	\$4,726	Computer, chairs and software
Immaculate Conception Seminary	South Orange, NJ 07079	\$5,000	Provide training for missionary candidates to Africa and Haiti
International Institute for Culture	Philadelphia, PA 19151	\$1,911	Promote re-evangelization through lecture series
L'Arche Chicago	Chicago, IL 60301	\$1,000	Renovations for group home
Let's Start, Inc.	St. Louis, MO 63104	\$4,000	Sustain women support groups
Life's Athletes, Inc.	South Bend, IN 46637	\$3,821	Lourdes in a day Pilgrimage
Little Sisters of the Poor of Chicago, Inc.	Chicago, IL 60614	\$5,014	Grease trap project
Little Sisters of the Poor-Jeanne Jugan Residence	Bronx, NY 10465	\$3,000	Purchase kitchen equipment
Little Sisters of the Poor-Queen of Peace Residence		\$3,500	Purchase sterilizing equipment and oxygen concentrator
Malta House, Inc.	Norwalk, CT 06855	\$7,900	"Earn while you learn Program"
Malta Justice Initiative, Inc.	Southport, CT 06890	\$5,000	Nielsen-Harris Survey to CT Employers for former inmates
Martha's Kitchen	Houston, TX 77003	\$2,248	Purchase supplies for soup kitchen
Milford Jesuit Retreat Center		\$2,000	Spiritual retreat for Homeless
Mothers' Home	Darby, PA 19023	\$1,911	Care & maintenance of Home
New Hope Charities, Inc.	West Palm Beach, FL 33401	\$14,000	Food assistance for migrant workers and their families

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(continued from page 14)

GRANTEE	LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
New York Common Pantry	New York, NY 10029	\$5,000	New software for easier ordering for client access
Notre Dame Cristo Key High School	Lawrence, MA 01840	\$15,800	Purchase computers for school library
Our Lady's Inn	St. Louis, MO 63144	\$4,000	50 days of support for homeless
Parish of Mary Immaculate	Monroe, NY 10950	\$1,200	Prayer cards and Bibles
Part of the Solution	Bronx, NY 10458	\$1,000	Food for pantry
Pregnaancy Care Centerof the Merrwyck Valley	Haverhill, MA 01830	\$12,810	Assist in funding satellite location equipment
Pregnancy Help, Inc.	New York, NY 10011	\$5,000	Provide cribs, strollers and car seats
RSHM Life Center, Inc.	Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591	\$3,500	Assist in purchase of van
Ruah Woods		\$5,000	Support curriculum for K-12
Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs	Fairfield, CT 06825	\$6,000	Life skills learning class
Saint Joseph Parenting Center	Stamford, CT 06902	\$6,000	Assist in expenses for expanding services
San Miguel Academy	Newburgh, NY 12550	\$2,500	Purchase rain coats and boots
Shepherds, Inc.	Bridgeport, CT 06604	\$6,000	Training of Mentors and recruitment
Sisters of St. Josoph	St. Augustine, FL 32084	\$4,945	Replace carpeting in the residence of the Elderly
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Archdiocese of St. Louis	St. Louis, MO 63103	\$4,000	Support Day Treatment program for Mentally Ill
Spirit of Assisi Foundation, Inc.	Loudonville, NY 12211	\$2,588	Assists needy in job placement
St Ann's Place	West Palm Beach, FL 33401	\$6,004	Feeding homeless
St Francis House	Boston, MA 02116	\$10,502	Replacement of tableware for homeless shelter
St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters	New York, NY 10123	\$2,590	Holiday Xmas party for needy families
St. Martha's Social Ministry Outreach	Uniondale, NY 11553	\$5,000	Purchase supplies and software to prepare IDs for Haitian immigrants
St. Patrick Center	St. Louis, MO 63101	\$4,453	Provide mattress sets
Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center	New York, NY 10029	\$5,000	Sunday liturgical music
The Dwelling Place of NY, Inc.	New York, NY 10018	\$5,000	Support part-time case worker
The Knights and Dames of Malta Medical Dental Clinic of Michigan	Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236	\$7,900	Assistance for expansion of services
The Montfort Academy	Mt. Vernon, NY 10552	\$2,500	Provide program equipment
The New Life Prison Ministry of Old Lyme	Old Lyme, CT 06371	\$4,046	Start re-entry program for the formerly incarcerated
The Quest for Grace Foundation	Rexford, NY 12148	\$3,886	Provide clothing & essential for foster children
The Sisters of Life	Suffern, NY 10901	\$15,000	Renovate convent for unwed mothers
Women's Care Center, Inc.	Milwaukee, WI 53202	\$4,000	Client care supplies
Totals of All Areas 2016		\$322,034	

BOARD APPROVED GRANTS

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation

Washington DC 20036

Order of Malta Priority

Order of Malta — Amercian Assoc. Prison Ministries

New York, NY 10022

Association Approved Ministry

Order of Malta Worldwide Relief — Maltaser Int'l Americas

Coral Gables, FL 33134

Order of Malta Priority



ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

June 24

Saint John the Baptist

August 4-7

Wisconsin

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help

August 15

Assumption of Our Blessed Mother

August 24-September 2

Pilgrimage to Poland, Austria,
Czech Republic, Europe

September 8

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

September 8

Our Lady of Philermo

October 13

Blessed Gerard, Founder of the
Order of Malta

October 14-16

Illinois

Association Retreat in Mundelein

October

Election Ballots distributed

November 1

All Saints' Day

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 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

March 17-19, 2017

Lutz, Florida

Association Retreat at the Bethany
Retreat Center

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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.

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.