



HOSPITALLERS

Fellow members of the American Association:



Much of the content of this newsletter is devoted to our most recent and wonderful pilgrimage to Lourdes. I'll just add that, once again, all who participated came home with the satisfaction of having helped our malades benefit from the experience of their lifetime, with a greater devotion to our Blessed Mother, and with enhanced personal spirituality. We appreciate very much the fine work of the many Members who participated on this year's Lourdes Committee, co-chaired by Carl Schwarz and Sue Farrell. It was terrific!

During our stay in Lourdes, I met with the Presidents of the Federal and Western Associations to further the dialog we began last January. The three of us agree that we should be working more closely together to carry out the mission of the Order in the United States, including our assistance to the peoples of Latin America. In several of our Areas, members of the Federal Association join with our members at various spiritual events, as well as on joint projects. Also, at the suggestion of the Federal Association, we are planning a nationwide event for this fall – Masses throughout the country on Sunday, October 24th, where members of all three Associations will congregate in unity to pray for LIFE.

Within the American Association, the Board of Councillors, at its June 22nd meeting, finalized our plans for the next three years. These are the areas we are concentrating on:

- Membership Development, in all Areas, but especially in the Mid-West
- Stimulation of additional Malta Works, especially ones which we would, as the Order of Malta, originate, develop, manage, and maintain
- Education of our Members in the teachings of our Church
- Defense of the Faith – speaking out on issues
- Internal Communications and Public Relations (becoming “known” for the work we do)
- Encouragement of Members to move to the second and first classes of the Order
- Collaboration with the other Associations in the U.S.

At a special dinner on June 21st, at the Union League Club in New York, Msgr. Eugene V. Clark, Rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral, was granted the GRAND CROSS “PRO PIIS MERITIS” OF THE ORDER, PRO MERITO MELI-TENSI. This is in recognition of Msgr. Clark's many years of service to the Order in his capacity of Assistant Principal Chaplain. We congratulate Msgr. Clark, and thank him for all that he has contributed to the success of the American Association.

In early June, I was honored to be invited to the Chapter General meeting of the Order in Rome, representing the American Association. Fifty eight delegates from around the world were there to elect, for five-year terms, the hierarchy of the Order (except for the Grand Master), the members of the Sovereign Council, the members of the Government Council, and the members of the Board of Auditors. Four U.S. Confreres were elected: Anthony Sanchez Corea, (Western Association) was elected to the Sovereign Council; Thomas Carney (American Association) was elected to the Government Council; and Joseph Cianciolo (American Association) and Charles Wolf (Federal Association) were elected to the Board of Auditors.



Chapter General in session

Finally, let me remind you that the next Annual Investiture and Dinner will be held in New York on Friday, November 12th. We expect that, as a result of moving these events to the November time frame, many more of our Members will be in attendance. Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, will attend the Investiture and be our featured speaker at the Dinner. Make your plans to attend now.

Best regards, and have a wonderful, safe, and healthy summer!

Daniel J. Kelly, K.M.
President



Malta Lourdes Pilgrimage

by Peggy Stanton

It was nearly the close of the 2004 Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes when Father Bill Platt delivered the bottom line during Morning Prayer in the basement of the D'Espagne Hotel.

“I lost my brother this past year,” the young pastor told the assembled Knights and Dames, “and I remember so clearly when he said to me.” A dying man counseled a priest. “Stay close to God, Bill, because in the end, God alone matters.”

In a week full of spiritual visions, Father Platt's simple meditation was one of the most penetrating, perhaps because it was confirmed by the attitude of so many of the malades



traveling to Lourdes as guests of Malta. Kevin DiGiammarino made a similar point on the plane ride home to Newark airport. Last year, Kevin came to Lourdes as a malade. Afflicted with a brain tumor, and told by his physicians he had only 2-3 years to live he returned in 2004 as a volunteer to show his gratitude for the gifts he received in Lourdes in 2003. “I've had nothing but great MRIs since I returned from Lourdes,” Kevin said. There are several kinds of healings that occur in the world famous Shrine, he observed, “emotional, physical and spiritual and I realized that the spiritual is by far number one.”



All malades interviewed spoke of the importance of faith, and how witnessing it exhibited in so many pilgrims with illnesses greater than their own helped them put their own problems in perspective. The malades were deeply moved by the religious services they attended throughout the week, particularly the majestic procession down

the esplanade in voitures followed by the Eucharistic Lord encased in a huge monstrance. The procession ended with a massive Benediction service and blessing of the sick in Pius X Basilica. Interestingly, it is reported the majority of physical healings that occur in Lourdes take place during this ceremony.

Another event in the Basilica, the International Mass attended by over 25,000 pilgrims from all over the world, was a much mentioned favorite of the malades. “I loved it all,” said David Harding. “Each day just got better” marveled Anne Peach, a malade and CEO of a cancer hospital in Orlando, Florida.

The outdoor mass at the Grotto is a cherished service as are late night visits with the Lady of Lourdes. One midnight a group of pilgrims spontaneously gathered in front of their hotels and walked over to the Crypt Church for adoration and then journeyed further to the Grotto for the rosary and hymn singing.

The Baths are possibly the most controversial of sites: inspirational, insightful, healing in the minds of ecstatic enthusiasts; the cold water, a penance for those with low thermostats. For either camp, the miraculous water can be a catharsis, a purification. One elderly malade did not find the waters cold. Indeed she felt so warm and comfortable, she had to be coaxed out of the tub.

Sister Delores Rudden arrived in Lourdes with a foot infection that had festered for a year. Though it seemed to be finally on the mend, the wound was still open. The morning after Sister was immersed in the Baths, the sore closed completely. Sister was seen walking

(continued on back cover)

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.



Election

The Nominating Committee, under the leadership of Thomas Flood, K.M. began work in May in preparation for the election for members of the Board of Councillors to be held in November. As required by the By-Laws, Tom wrote a letter to the membership asking for suggestions of potential candidates. He also wrote to the incumbents to learn if each of them desired to be candidates for a second term. In late June and early July, the process outlined in the By-Laws was followed to elect three Area Chairs to serve as advisors to the Nominating Committee. All those suggested by the membership will be contacted to ascertain their willingness to stand for election if they are nominated. The Nominating Committee will interview potential candidates and ultimately seek Board of Councillors' approval to inform the membership of those nominated. Members of the Association who are not nominated and who desire to stand for election will be added to the ballot upon the submission of written support of ten (10) members and received by no later than October 15. Ballots will be mailed to the membership on or before October 31. Those elected will serve three year terms beginning January 1, 2005 and ending December 31, 2007.

Honors Given by Malta Ambassador to the United Nations

His Excellency Jose Linati-Basche, Order of Malta Ambassador to the United Nations conferred on behalf of the Prince and Grand Master, Fra' Andrew Bertie, Honors to Mary Reiner Barnes, D.M. Hreinn D. Lindal, KMOB, and Robert L. Shafer, K.M. for their work at the Malta Mission to the United Nations. Counsel Barnes received the Cross of Merito Melitense in the Official Degree; Attaché Lindal received the Cross of Merito Melitense in the Official Degree; and Counselor Shafer, received the Cross of Merito Melitense in the Degree of Commander.

Ambassador Linati resigned as Ambassador effective June 1, 2004. He has been replaced by Ambassador Robert L. Shafer. (See announcement on page 7)

Update on Hope for Haiti

The recent flooding in Haiti has further devastated the already desperate poorest of the poor. The nutrition program is now seeing extremely malnourished seven to nine year olds, putting the program under even greater demand. The surgical fund is depleted because of increased accidents. The most recent – a 15 year old boy was attacked by bandits with a machete after he had stolen food from a market. The main focus during this time of horror is childrens' nutrition (providing powdered milk and other foods along with large quantities of medications).

Shepherds, Inc.



On a warm spring evening in late May, the Most Reverend William E. Lori joined with sponsors, mentors and benefactors in celebration of the Shepherds Program's past, present and future.

Shepherds has much to celebrate. Six years ago, two Knights of Malta dared to dream of the possibility of a brighter future for inner city Connecticut youths. Since then, the Shepherds Program has grown from five students at one school to fifty-six students across three schools.

This June, inaugural candidates from Trinity Catholic and Notre Dame of West Haven joined with graduates from Kolbe Cathedral to bring the total number of Shepherds students who have earned high school diplomas to thirty. Ninety percent of Shepherds' graduates are currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning. Next Fall, Shepherds students' dreams will continue to come true as they enter the corridors of Albertus Magnus, the University of Connecticut, Trinity College in Washington, D.C. and New York University (just to name a few), on their way to a better life.

Shepherds' mission is to provide disadvantaged Connecticut youth with the opportunity for a quality high school education at a non-public high school and the introduction of a positive role model – a Mentor – in their lives. "Shepherds is designed to help young people overcome circumstances in their lives which are beyond their control," in the words of Brendan Fisk (K.M.), a Fairfield businessman who co-founded the organization with Greenwich attorney, Barnet Phillips IV (K.M.), in 1998. Shepherds' Sponsors and Mentors empower at-risk youth with Knowledge, Opportunity and Vision.

St. Luke wrote: "To whom much has been given, much will be expected (12:48)." These words resounded in the minds of Dame Cathy and Knight Bill Besgen who become the first couple to Answer the Call of two youths in need at Kolbe Cathedral. Cathy reflected that "my four children were now self-sufficient. They had a strong basis to start out from. I wanted to find a way to share and put something back into the world." As Sponsors, they paid their students' tuition and, as Mentors, they also committed their time, energy, direction and support during the four year journey. This past June, Cathy and Bill sat proudly in the Cathedral as their students accepted their diplomas from Bishop Lori and Principal Jo-Anne Jakab. Next Fall, Heather will enter the corridors of Eastern Connecticut University, Curtis will travel north to Storrs as he enrolls at the University of Connecticut and the Besgens have chosen to again Answer the Call as they become a Sponsor/Mentor for an incoming Kolbe freshman.

The success of the students and special relationship between student and mentor are cause for celebration. Jabar Smith, a member of Shepherds' first graduating class, returned to share his experiences. Slated to enter his junior year as Finance major at St. John's University next Fall, Jabar had faced many challenges during his young life with no positive role model to guide him. Strangers six years ago, Brendan assumed the role of Jabar's sponsor/mentor, filling a void in his life. Jabar remarked: "I was among the five (inaugural) students and I was so blessed and proud. Mr. Fisk was my Mentor/Sponsor but Mr. Fisk is so much more to me. Mr. Fisk taught me how to be a real man and how to appreciate the simpler things in life. This philosophy helped me to become more involved, instead of being consumed with self. He showed me that helping people was what we were created to do."

To the Shepherds students, "to whom much has been given, much (is) expected (as well)." Shepherds students demonstrate their commitment by contributing financially to their education and, of equal importance, by "giving back" to better other's lives. A Shepherds' student's commitment to community and sharing of time, energy and spirit are traits that become an integral facet of their character, carrying forward with lasting impact. Jabar embodies the spirit which Shepherds strives to instill in each student. His commitment is evident in his aspiration to follow in Mr. Fisk's footsteps; by one day becoming a Shepherds' Mentor/Sponsor himself:

I watched him balance his precious time between family, work and myself. I was inspired and compelled to do good. My motivation is to some day help someone, the same way Mr. Fisk helped me. One day I will be able to say not only was I a student in the program, but now I am a Mentor/Sponsor. It will take some time till then and we need more caring people to help deserving teens. Please keep this dream alive.

Since inception, close to one hundred benefactors have "kept this dream alive," many of them Dames and Knights of Malta who have openly demonstrated their faith by joining with Shepherds, giving of their time, energy, direction and support – financial and emotional – to those less fortunate.

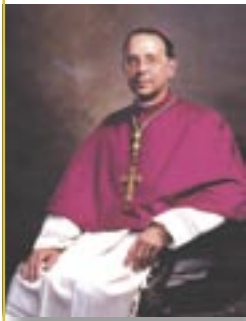
The relationship has had a profound impact on many lives. "Those who participate as Sponsors and Mentors find their own lives enriched in a special way" says Fisk. "The act of assisting a stranger, particularly a young person, and then witnessing the positive effect your efforts have on this individual's life made a marked difference in my life. Simply reaching out to someone is a genuine and profound human gesture."

For more information on becoming a Shepherds Sponsor, Mentor or benefactor, please contact Shepherds by phone (203) 259-8442; email: ShepherdsProgram@aol.com, or visit their website at www.ShepherdsInc.com. ❄️



Chaplain's Column

Bishop William E. Lori, Bishop of the Diocese, gave the following homily to the Knights and Dames of the Boston Area at a Mass in honor of the Feast of St. John held at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Osterville, Massachusetts, on Friday, June 25, 2004.



The first day of summer is the longest day of the year. It occurs just before the Feast of St. John the Baptist's birth. After John's birthday, the warm summer days begin to decrease in length; imperceptibly they become shorter, darker, colder. In six months, we will experience the shortest day of the year. At the time of Christ's birth, after Christmas, the days grow longer, the amount of daylight increases, imperceptibly at first – and then the days grow brighter and warmer leading to springtime. St. Augustine observes that the new positioning of the Feast of St. John the Baptist's birthday and the birth of Christ points to John the Baptist's famous saying: "I must decrease; Christ must increase."

Who was John? As members of the Order of Malta, under the patronage of John the Baptist, we should linger over his figure... for like John, "we must decrease and Christ must increase." His was a mysterious vocation given him from the moment of his conception in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth. Jesus would say of John that no one born of woman had a greater vocation, and indeed the circumstances of John's birth brought wonderment, even a holy fear, to all the residents of the hill country of Judea.

But what was John's vocation? His vocation was to journey into the desert to be alone with God in the wilderness when God first found his people Israel. There, John heard the Word of God in the clarity and purity with which it was first spoken to the people of Israel when the original covenant was made in the desert. John went to the desert so in the power of God's Spirit, he could sum up in himself the essence, the kernel of the covenant God made with the Chosen People. This had to happen because John's mission and identity was to announce the fulfillment of the first covenant through, with, and in a Messiah who would go completely beyond even what John the Baptist expected.

Wooded into the desert, John was given the prophet's mantle not just of Elijah, but of all the prophets. God made John a sharp-edged sword... a polished arrow in his quiver. That is how John became the voice in the wilderness, the prophet of prophets whose baptism of repentance was so attractive.

But John's vocation was not about himself. When, at length, Jesus appeared on the banks of the Jordan, John would come to recognize Jesus as the one toward whom his whole life had been pointing. Asked if he were the Messiah, John replied, "I am not he. Behold one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet." John was the forerunner. Eventually, he was superseded by "the Lamb of God" who takes away the world's sins." John would say of Jesus, "he, who comes after me, ranks ahead of me." John's vocation was to point to Christ in birth, in life and in death.

John's attitude toward Christ should be ours... John's vocation was unique, but he teaches you and me a lot about discipleship, for discipleship is all about our decrease and all about Christ's increase. Discipleship is all about pointing to Christ and not ourselves. After all, Jesus himself taught us, his followers, that the last shall be first; the least shall be the greatest; the one who humbles himself shall be exalted; it is in giving that we receive; it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

And what Jesus taught, he fulfilled, by washing the feet of his apostles and by dying on the cross. The self-effacement of the Baptist is to be foundational to our following of Christ, to our way of praying, our way of relating to one another, and to our way of serving others' needs. As St. Paul says in Galatians: "It is not I who live but Christ Jesus who lives in me."

Early in the last millennium, the Order of Malta took its inspiration from John the Baptist when Blessed Gerard started serving the pilgrims who came to the Holy Land. No one really knows the names of those pilgrims – all we know is that they were poor, sick and often the victims of violent crime. And no one really knows a great deal about Blessed Gerard and his companions except that the Christ in them recognized the Christ in the pilgrims they served. We remember Gerard because in his life, "Christ increased, he decreased."

As member of the Order, we are called to take our discipleship seriously – we are to be serious and committed followers of Christ – men and women of prayer, men and women who foster and defend the faith, who love the Lord's church in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health... And we are called to these self-effacing services of the poor and the sick that says, "Christ is present here!" It is not merely a remnant of chivalry when we say, "My lords, the sick."

Self-effacement is not prized by our culture. Aggressive self-assertion seems to be the order of the day. Yet the service Malta renders at its best is a humble, faith-filled service done in a passion for anonymity! It is ministering to a sick person in Lourdes who cannot say "thank you;" mentoring a poor student who needs someone to believe in him; taking in our arms the child of an unwed mother; reaching out to the imprisoned who may never see freedom; giving our resources so that food and medicine will reach the poor and sick in distant places and benefit people we may never meet.

God's work in the flesh, Jesus, the Lamb of God, took John by surprise. But when Christ appeared, John showed the world its redeemer. He decreased. Christ increased. We have known Christ perhaps all our lives, still he takes us by surprise when he appears in our lives asking for what we never dreamed we would give. If we follow John's example – especially in our commitment as members of Malta, we can rightfully expect that the winter of human frailty and longing will give way to a new springtime in the life of the Church.

May God bless us and keep us in his love! ✠

Bringing New Life Into the World – A Work of the Order of Malta

Holy Family Hospital is a state-of-the-art health care facility with an array of services, which includes pre-natal/post-natal care, mobile outreach clinics, educational programming and pediatric care to children up to the age of twelve. It is expected that the Hospital will deliver two out of the three newborn babies in the Bethlehem District this year

- 30,500 births since 1990
- 13,000 women and children examined in outpatient clinics
- 11% of all deliveries must be treated in neonatal department
- Referral hospital to four UN Relief Works refugee camps
- An average of 18 people are dependent upon each employee's salary

Located just 500 yards from the birthplace of Our Savior, the Hospital serves the extremely poor of the region. Only 41% of its operational costs come from patients' payments. Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation generates financial support from Knights and Dames of the three United States Associations. In order to meet the critical funds required by the Hospital, the Foundation is seeking to raise \$80,000 annually from the members of the American Association. To date, \$40,520 has generously been donated by the Knights and Dames of the American Association.

Investiture and Annual Dinner

The Investiture of new members will be held this year on November 12 at 2:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York City. His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan will preside at the installation and will be the principal celebrant and homilist.

The Annual Dinner will be held at the Waldorf=Astoria beginning at 6:30 p.m. with a reception and receiving line.

The dinner speaker will be the Most Reverend Sean O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston, who will speak about the purpose and mission of the Order of Malta in contemporary society.

Invitations and the Order of Events will be mailed to members on or about September 1, 2004.

Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta will conduct its international pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, in celebration of Jacobean Holy Year 2004 from October 15 to 17. Fra' Andrew Bertie, the Prince and Grand Master, will preside over the pilgrimage and will be accompanied by the High Charges of the Order. Members interested should contact the Association Office at 212-371-1522 to receive information for registration. Registration forms should be returned to the Spanish Association as soon as possible, but not later than September 15.



Our Ministry in Honduras

House of Friendship Children's Shelter, Patricia King, DM

The House of Friendship first opened its doors in December of 1989. As we celebrate our fifteen years of success, it is exciting to look back and remember the children who have passed through and gone on to lead better lives because of this work.

We first met Sister Teresita Gonzales in 1986. In our search to adopt a child, we learned of Sister Tere's work through a friend from St. Louis, MO. Sister Tere is a member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, headquartered in St. Louis, and many people in the area knew of her work placing children with families. We wrote to her in the spring of that year, and in October she called us to tell us that a baby boy had been born and he was ours. How well I remember both the joy and confusion that I felt! We didn't even know where Honduras was at that point and nothing of its people or history. We arrived in San Pedro Sula in early November after collecting all the necessary paperwork and I prepared for the long ordeal of adopting a child in a foreign country. It took four long months to complete the requirements and in that time, I learned so much about the lives of the poor and the work of the School Sisters with the people. Both Henry and I became determined to do something to help.

When we returned in the summer of 1988 to adopt our second child, the opportunity presented itself. We arrived in time to see the people in El Progreso, where the School Sisters are headquartered in Honduras, holding a walkathon to raise money for a homeless shelter for street children. This was something we could do as a show of gratitude for our own children. After another four months, I returned home and we explored ways we could help Sister Tere with her dream of a shelter. We asked family and friends to contribute and mortgaged our home to make up the difference and sent Sister Tere the money to build the first shelter.

Our first group of children, twelve small boys and one little girl, moved in and the work began. Little did we know how deeply involved we would become. Once the shelter was built and the children arrived, we realized that we were committed to this work. We know every child and their families personally. They were a constant source of surprise and tested our resolve at every turn! Every gift we gave them, they ran downtown and sold on the street to put money in their pockets. It took a long time to build up trust and let them know that we were there for the long haul. It took longer to build up that same level of reputation of trying to take over and run things the American way. Henry and I have always tried to stand back and allow Sister Tere and her board to work things out their own way. We had to learn to find joy in the small achievements and not to expect too much too soon! This has been such a valuable lesson and has made all the difference in our day to day lives here in the states.

Today the House of Friendship has six different homes with over 200 children. We also take care of families and children outside of the homes. The law states that we are a house of minors so once a child turns eighteen, we can no longer keep them in the shelter. However, many of these children have been with us for most of their lives and are now ready and eager to go to college. We have informally kept these children with us and work to make sure that their dreams are realized. For a child to come from the streets and from homes of unimaginable poverty and make it to college is a miracle! Other children have lived in the shelters on a temporary basis while their families get on their feet and they then return home. We try to continue to aid those children with school tuitions and supplies as well as counseling for their families.

Education is the key to everything. Without an education, the cycle of poverty will never be broken. I am most proud of the changes that I see in the community as a whole. When we first began, parents would come to the shelters and complain that their children were in school when they should be working and earning a living to help the families. No one had ever seen a child escape poverty through education. None of them had ever gotten that far. Now they see that it can be done and bring their children for that reason alone. A small pebble thrown into a pond can send ripples far out across the water. That is what I see happening now.

At the moment, we have four children at the university level in San Pedro Sula. Two are in the newly constructed Catholic University of San Pedro and two are attending the University of Honduras. Two of them are studying Social Work with the idea of helping children like themselves in the future. What a great gift! In El Progreso, we have six children at Notre Dame High School – this school was built by the School Sisters and uses a demanding American curriculum. Two students are in the bilingual secretarial course, two are studying business and two are in the first year general studies program. At Santa Elizabeth Technical High School, Nelsy is in her third year, and Oneyda, Merlin, Karen and Jackie are in their second year. The rest of the children are in elementary school, three are in special education programs and three are still too small to start school yet.

We have three children's homes in Santa Barbara, a remote area in southwestern Honduras. There children come from some of the most troubled homes and require special care. Six of our children are in high school and the rest are in elementary school, with one kindergarten. In Macuelizo, our newest home houses 36 boys, some of whom are directly from the streets and need special treatment to get a new start in life. The shelter has its own farm and technical school where the children are learning to repair bicycles and other trades in lieu of a structured education. Some of them are simply too old to begin in first grade and try to catch up, so other ways of making them productive citizens are being explored.

The true labor of love has benefited greatly over the years from the Knights of Malta and the Foundation. Our budget is small, approximately \$125,000 a year, so grants we receive go a long way toward helping the children achieve their goals. We are very grateful for this assistance and the children remember all the Knights and Dames in their daily prayers. ✠



Henry and children



Saint Bernadette's Cross

Letter from Sister Mr. Xavier (San Juan Bautista – Ca.)

Mr. Walter Murphy sent word on Easter Sunday that he would like to give us a crucifix, if it were permissible for me to accept such a gift. Thinking it would be a small one, and knowing that you would want me to do anything that might please him, I told him I was sure I would be permitted to do so.

Last Tuesday the crucifix came – a very large one 65” x 36”; it was brought from San Francisco by a Colonel and Lady Sturgess, elaborately packed in cotton and carried by an insurance agent who held a policy of several thousand dollars just made out for the trip from the city to San Juan. From Colonel Sturgess, we got the story which is very strange indeed – not the story, but the fact that a crucifix with such a story has come to Maryknoll.

Originally, it was presented by the Holy Father to Sisters of Charity of Nevers on the entrance date of Bernadette of Lourdes. It was specified “for her devotion,” and it was always known in the community as Bernadette’s crucifix.

Sometime in the late 1880’s a certain General Cappel was able to do some service for the community, which, according to the document, “saved it from extinction.” In order to show appreciation, the Mother General presented him with what she specified was their greatest treasure.

It was passed down from Father to son in the Cappel Family, finally being left to Monsignor Cappel of Paris. He died while on a trip around the world without a will. The Crucifix went to his only living relative, a certain Lady Michaelham. She married the brother of the Lady Sturgess who came here. When that family was obliged to evacuate their home at St. Germain near Paris last summer, they lost many of their art treasures, but this crucifix was in some way smuggled out of France and eventually reached San Francisco where Colonel Sturgess has brought his family for the duration of the war. Evacuation meant the loss of the family fortunes, so he found himself unable to get this crucifix into his country. I am not certain whether it was a case of customs or not. At any rate, he was in need of money and offered it for sale through some art gallery in the city. Mrs. Angus MacDonald, whose husband is president of the Southern Pacific Railroad, knows that Sturgess family, and knows Mr. Murphy. When she heard the story of the crucifix, and its value, she asked Mr. Murphy to purchase it to help the people who owned it. He did so on condition we could accept it here and that it would never become diocesan property.

It is very difficult to describe the crucifix. It is of course very old; it is fragile and exquisite. It is Italian art - the carving and gilding. It is very light; it seems unreal to lift so large a piece and find it scarcely any weight at all.



Tuesday evening, before I had chance to write him, Mr. Murphy phoned us from San Francisco. He wanted to know if I liked it, if it was really devotional as well as artistic, and if it “would find a home” at San Juan. I told him of its beauty, and explained that some day I would ask Father Caffrey to tell him of the link there has been between Maryknoll and Nevers, through Father Price’s devotion to Bernadette. He asked me where it would be hung. I said it was too large for the chapel and he said he thought it would be. He asked about the large room – the living room surely he means. It would require some thought, I said, and study before we could decide what to do. He said to phone him as soon as it was hung and he could come over.

I feel certain that in a year or so, we could easily ask Mr. Murphy if it might not be sent to the Motherhouse. Because it would be so appropriate at the Motherhouse, I do not want to do too much in the way of fixing a place for it here. It is the sort of thing one would build a convent around. In an oratory, with two antique wooden candle sticks, and a pre-dieu it would sublime. It reminds me, each time I look at it, of the crucifix in San Damiano in Assisi. There is a peace and surrender in the face and head that one feels at a glance.

We will put it temporarily on one of the large wall spaces in the living room. If you would like me to ask Mr. Murphy now about sending it on, I will bring it up when he comes to see it. If you think it best to let it stay here a little while, then I will not directly mention any change for it. But I do want you to tell it is one of your feast day gifts, Mother, even if it must delay here a little while before going to you. Incidentally, Lady Sturgess told me Mr. Murphy paid several thousand dollars for it. I would not know to look at it that it had so great money value; I do realize that it is precious because of its association with Bernadette, and because it is so exceptionally beautiful. ❄️

John Roe, a member of the American Association, came across this letter while visiting his sister, a Maryknoll nun. He found the history of this cross fascinating and of interest to the members especially those who have made a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Theology Of The Body, The Cincinnati Project

William Burleigh, Chair, Cincinnati Area

Two years ago members of the Cincinnati chapter of Malta asked themselves what project they could undertake that would have the most telling impact in carrying out the Order’s two-fold mission to help the sick and the poor and to defend the faith.

So a special task force spent six months sifting through scores of ideas. One thought kept recurring. What could a small group of laity do to counter an American culture ever more bereft of the traditional Judeo-Christian reverence for life.

Out of this strategic planning process came an ambitious program to promote Pope John Paul II’s teachings on the theology of the body, which he has spelled out in 130 general audience addresses early in his pontificate. Even though only a microscopic number of the world’s Catholics even know that a “theology of the body” exists, papal biographer George Weigel has written that the Pope’s ideas “constitute a kind of theological time bomb set to go off, with dramatic consequences, sometime in the third millennium of the Church.” The Cincinnati Project aimed at bringing his teachings to a grassroots parish level. If successful, the members reasoned, nothing they could do would be more in line with defending the faith.

The chapter petitioned the American Associa-

tion for a \$20,000 grant to fund the pilot project and raised a matching amount from among its local members. Then the pastors of five large parishes in Greater Cincinnati were enlisted for the experimental first phase of the program. They enthusiastically signed up even though what was being asked of them would tax their resources.

The plan called for the Malta chapter to sponsor a week-long series of appearances by Christopher West, a young Philadelphia-based theologian and dynamic lecturer who has made it his life’s work to promote the Pope’s theology of the body. He would outline the teaching to general audiences from the five parishes and would also devote special sessions to “teaching the teachers” – volunteers who would then lead month-long parish-level classes to study the depth John Paul II’s themes about human sexuality.

Because the Pope’s teachings are still so little known and poorly understood, even by contemporary theologians, a comprehensive plan was devised to spread the word in the five parishes. Approximately 10,000 special CDs and tapes featuring short informational interviews with Dr. West were distributed at Sunday Masses in the parishes to promote the upcoming programs.

Nothing could have prepared the sponsors for

the turnouts that followed. Standing-room-only audiences showed up to hear the West presentations. Notable among them was a significant number of younger Catholics, who said they were anxious to hear alternatives to the contraceptive mentality that they saw corrupting the culture around them.

The Christopher West appearances and the parish programs that followed attracted more than 2,000 participants, a number that surprised their pastors and produced a consensus for a second round of the program.

The initial project took place in the late autumn of 2003 and plans are now being worked out for the second phase to take place in 2004, involving other parishes in Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky.

Declan O’Sullivan, K.M., headed the chapter’s task force that undertook the program and Mrs. John Tew performed yeoman service in arranging the countless details that made the success possible.

Throughout the planning process, the experiment was conceived in ways that could be easily replicated by other Malta chapters in the American Association interested in conducting similar theology-of-the-body programs. Informational outlines can be obtained from Mr. O’Sullivan at 513-421-3100 or at osullivan@osands.com. ❄️



Malta House – 7th Annual Gala is Great Success and Website is Launched!

Over 450 people joined the festivities at Malta House of Good Counsel's 7th Annual Gala, "A Star is Born," on Thursday, June 24th, at Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT. The event, enjoyed by many Knights and Dames year to year, includes silent and live auctions plus cocktails and buffet. Proceeds fund the programs and services of Malta House of Good Counsel located in Norwalk, CT, founded by Michael J. O'Rourke, K.M. with Hope E. Carter, D.M. and opened in 1998.

Malta House serves expectant and parenting single women and their children, all of whom are homeless. It is a unique program in lower Fairfield County, CT because of its target population and the comprehensive services provided – a residential program, life skills programs, educational curriculum, on-site case management, and a follow-up program, all to assist residents, former residents, and women on the waiting list in reaching their full potential. Malta House also offers age appropriate services to every child so that they may establish with their mothers a solid foundation for the future. The average stay in the residential program is 15-18 months, plus one year of follow-up services. Since it opened, Malta House has served more than 120 women and their children.

There were four Honorees at this year's Gala: James L. Claus, K.M. of Wilton, CT, who is the Treasurer of Malta House and also on the American Association's Board of Councillors; Judy Higgins and Maryann O'Rourke, D.M. of Greenwich; and Joana Santos, who has been a participant in the Malta House program since February 2002, is currently enrolled in Nursing School, and just moved into her own apartment with her two-year old son, Patrick.

One highlight of the evening was a presentation to Chiquita Stephenson, the Director of Malta House, by the Honorable Alex Knopp, Mayor of Norwalk, declaring Thursday, June 24, 2004 officially "Malta House of Good Counsel Day." That was a first for Malta House and a proud moment for all involved.

Another highlight was the announcement of the newly launched Malta House website – MaltaHouse.org – marking great progress for the organization as it gives more people the opportunity to learn in more depth about Malta House and the difference it is making in people's lives and in the greater community. Do visit MaltaHouse.org. Or, if personal contact is still your preference, feel free to call for information: 203-857-0088 or plan a visit to take a tour. All are welcome.

The Archdiocese for Military Services

The Sovereign Military Order was founded in 1099 as a monastic community which administered a hospice for pilgrims (read Crusaders) to the Holy Land. At the time, the main reason was to rescue the Holy Land from the infidels. Over the centuries it has grown to be a wonderful eleemosynary organization.

Today, in America, we have a replica of those initial courageous knights. The organization is generically called the Armed Forces of America. America sends her men and women to the far corners of the earth to attempt to bring peace and tranquility to the area denizens.

For us Roman Catholics, the Archdiocese for Military Services is charged with ministering to our military members and their families, our VA hospitals and the members of our foreign consulates around the world. The total population of all Catholics in the AMS is approximately 1,400,000. Unlike every other archdiocese/diocese in America, the AMS has no geographic bounds. Wherever one of the above mention groups is, there is where the AMS is.

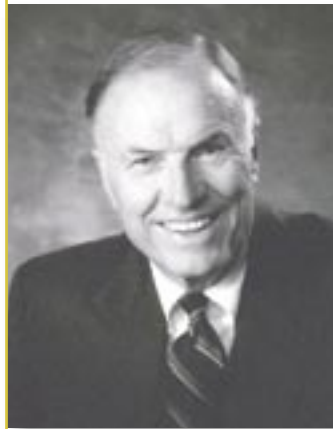
Every archdiocese/diocese but one has areas of wealth from which to draw. The AMS has no such area that is indigenous to itself. In fact, its largest constituency, the military, which serves our country, is constantly being transferred.

It would be logical for Malta to support AMS. Recently, a Knight of Malta hosted a luncheon in Naples for Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien STD, the Archbishop of the Archdiocese for Military Services. Various Knights and Dames from the American and Federal Associations, as well as other concerned Catholics attended. Some \$475,000 was raised for the Archdiocese and Archbishop O'Brien and his programs. Other Areas of the American Association might consider doing something similar. Archbishop O'Brien tells a very compelling story about his work and the work of the Catholic Church for those who serve the United States. If there is any interest, please contact Dennis Lynch at 239-592-0756 or ljdnalpes@aol.com ❄️

Malta Human Services Foundation

John R. Mullen, President

The Malta Human Services Foundation was established in 1993 with a gift of \$1,000,000 from Peter Grace, then President of the American Association. Peter's generosity encouraged a \$5,000,000 contribution from the DeRance Foundation of California. Thereafter, no significant gifts were received by the Malta Human Services Foundation. Its present value is approximately \$8,250,000 in spite of having made grants in excess of 2,827,745 in support of Malta projects and programs over the years.



In November 2004, American Association President Dan Kelly appointed a new Board of Directors of the Foundation in an effort to make it a meaningful mechanism for funding "Malta Projects." I am privileged to serve as its President. Since November, the Foundation has met on three occasions. It is presently preparing to review proposals submitted by Association members and directors of exciting projects in the United States and Central America. We have asked Area Chairs to prioritize proposals coming out of their areas in order to insure that the Association Grants Committee is sensitive to local interests. It is anticipated that the Foundation will contribute approximately 5% of its corpus to the Association to be used with its resources to fund the projects recommended by the Grants Committee.

It is our further hope that the Foundation Board will develop a number of vehicles to encourage Association members and Malta Friends to grow the Foundation corpus to approximately \$30,000,000 over the next six years. Peter Grace's dream was to build this fund to \$100,000,000 and, hopefully, that will someday become reality. In the meantime, we believe that our approach will provide the resources required to fund the exciting and deserving projects which are coming out of the areas which make up our Association. If we are successful, these projects will help to take the Malta name throughout the length and breadth of the United States and remove most of the mystery surrounding the questions, "What is Malta?" "What does it do?"

Some of the approaches which the Foundation may recommend to the Association's Board of Councillors could include Lifetime gifts, Legacies, support of Special Events such as Fundraising Dinners and Golf Outings, Private Foundation underwriting for identified Malta projects and the like. Our objective is to fine tune a six-year program of support to take us to the year 2010. The bottom-line objective is to develop the financial resources to enable the American Association to recognize and support substantially the many wonderful charitable projects which come out of our Area Committees, and which can demonstrate the Malta mission to the world around us.

In future issues and through your area meetings we will keep you up-to-date on the Malta Human Services Foundation's efforts in this arena. ❄️



To The Knights Of Malta June 21, 2004

Remarks made by Monsignor Eugene V. Clark at a dinner held in his honor by the Board of Councillors.

Thank you for coming here this evening. I truly esteem the Order of Malta, and I think you know that. I shall thank the Grand Master for his kind award and thank Mr. Kelly for making that possible and for his pleasant arrangements this evening.

I have often expressed to you and others my admiration for the high purposes and goals of the Order. If I may, I will reflect on the excellence of the essential religious purposes of the Order which are enduring because they are quintessentially Christian. Indeed, their purposes have endured almost a millennium.

Let me consider briefly the abiding purpose of knighthood itself. You are aware that almost all medieval ranks have, in our days, lost their significance. They are honorary or nostalgic.

But knighthood is different because it never enjoyed a purely military or political purpose. The Grand Master of the Order was not a medieval commander except in battle. He was commissioned as a pious Christian to be the first in care of the sick and poor and to defend the faith. Uniquely, the Maltese vow was a personal declared commitment to a vocation for purely Christian purposes, to protect Christian communities from pillage and to respond in Christian charity to any human being in distress.

Such was the integrity of these men that they were begged to be judges, guardians of children, protectors of widows long before there were any reliable courts or lawyers.

I mention this, which you already know, to underline that the knighthood of the 11th century is, and remains, a very personal commitment both as a military reserve and an endeavor to serve the poor and sick and defend and spread the Faith. But this reality resided and resides today in an individual, a Christian person. The vow, at once so fine and so powerful, exists today in a knighthood committed to the poor and sick and to the Faith and remains quintessentially personal.

It is the personal dimension that must never change or be neglected.

This focused commitment among knights to serve where they were needed by the endangered and the sick and the poor, is mirrored incidentally in the Franciscan Revolution which was nearly contemporary to Malta's founding and perhaps the most powerful of all Christian revolutions. One or two Franciscan Friars – thousands of pairs of them – set out to evangelize and help the largest body of Christians living for safety in remote hills, valleys and mountains and almost abandoned by the Church of the cities and monasteries. Again, their focus attended to personal needs of the people they assisted.

Today by geographic accident, you find yourself Maltese knights and ladies, in the structures of our time and place. New York State requires you to be a corporation and to act well as a corporation. You have a treasury and make grants as corporations do, and God will bless you for that.

But I beg you to remember that a corporation acting under the stresses and motions of all corporations, can never be Malta or accomplish Malta's major goal.

The powerful accomplishments and the virtues of Malta must ever reside in the individuals. A corporation, however dedicated, can never accomplish the Maltese commitment to virtue which can adhere only in an individual alert and alive to his or her personal opportunities. And that commitment must assure a personal asceticism that crushes ego even in its trivial manifestations and in that makes way for our commitment mostly to individuals in need – this being the primary accomplishment of your vows. Nor do you have to wonder what you should do. Your eight pointed cross directs you – individually – to the beatitudes. Not beatitudes to which you nod your head as a good exercise, but the beatitudes as a chilling review of you personal conscience and practice in daily life. The Order has asked you to take the beatitudes very seriously.

Of course, Board members must attend to their obligations carefully. You would be arrested if you did not.

Russell Shaw in the June *Crisis* magazine offered many suggestions to the Bishops who were meeting in Colorado. Who hasn't offered them advice? But he wrote sagely and not meanly that there may be another crisis soon. It is that the Church in funding so many great corporate good works – schools, hospitals, myriad charities and minor good works – has drifted into a concentration on finance seeking more and more money to keep the schools and charities afloat. But, Mr. Shaw wonders, if even on the parish level, finance, necessary always, has not deflected us from our first purpose in the sacramental system and personal encouragement of piety and virtue, virtue that is ever individual. There is no easy solution to this, but the importance of focus is clear.

Malta, standing against the failures and vice of the day, remains in its first function, the pursuit of personal virtue by the individual knight and lady to attend to the needs of the weak and confused Christians whom we know; and to the poor in so many ways, who will turn to us if only we offer them what we already have in Christ. In this, Malta exists most powerfully in you, a knight or dame, and your thoughtful, personal commitment to those in need in your commitment to Christ.

Thank you. ✠

News from Naples

The Naples Area has announced its activities for the fall and spring. First Friday Mass followed by lunch will be held each month beginning in November and ending in May with the exception of the month of February. On February 11, Monsignor Dennis F. Sheehan, Malta Chaplain from the Boston Area, Pastor of St. Paul's Church in Cambridge, and Senior Chaplain at Harvard University will lead a retreat of Malta Members. On March 13, the Hope for Haiti Dine Around will be held. For details, contact, JoAnne Kuehner at 239-434-7183.

Masses for Deceased Members at the Lady Chapel Cathedral of St. Patrick

As is the custom, Masses are said by the Assistant Principal Chaplain of the Association for deceased members. The following is the schedule of Masses for August through December:

August 16	Robert F. Callahan
September 7	John P. Garrahan, Sr
October 22	Charles E. Millard
October 25	Luis J. Botifoll
November 11	Eileen G. Manning

All Masses are said at 9:00 a.m. Members of the family and friends are encouraged to attend.

Robert Shafer Appointed Ambassador to the United Nations

Robert Shafer, a member of the American Association, has been appointed Ambassador from the Order of Malta to the United Nations. Ambassador Shafer replaces Ambassador Jose Linati-Bosch who has served in that capacity for the last several years.

Ambassador Shafer, a resident of Rye, New York, has been a member of the Order and the American Association since 1984. A native of Minnesota, Mr. Shafer is the retired General Counsel of Pfizer. Ambassador Shafer's wife, Ellen is a Dame of Malta and the Area Chair for the Westchester, New York Area.



Ambassador Shafer, meeting with Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Malta Lourdes Pilgrimage

(continued from front cover)

all over Lourdes for the rest of the trip with a large smile and no pain.

Dame Pat Koening awed a luncheon assembly when she reported that symptoms of Parkinson's disease had disappeared from her 2003 malade. Father Dave Caron reported that he knew of 2004 pilgrims who had experienced healings from both disease and "dis-ease," the latter being stress, mental or spiritual problems.

For the many Knights, whose professional lives in the United States provides them with service from others, becoming a servant pulling a voiture is a new experience. New York lawyer David Skolbow admitted "it was a challenge to subordinate all your wishes to another, to deal with some of the inconveniences." In other circumstances, one might complain. The difference, Skolbow said, is, "I'm not here to have a good time. I'm here to have a meaningful time. And you know what? I had a good time!"

The invisible but much discussed pilgrim in Lourdes was Mel Gibson whose movie,



"The Passion of the Christ" which had been viewed and praised by almost all the attending clergy added new depth to spiritual exercises. One rainy morning Monsignor Kevin Wallin led Maltese pilgrims up the mountainous Way of the Cross. Aided by the fact that so many of his followers as well as he himself, had seen and been moved by "The Passion," Monsignor Wallin's meditations, some alluding to scenes from the film, were perhaps his most powerful to date.

More than a few moments in Lourdes were more humorous than solemn such as the night the Knights, Dames, Malades and Auxiliary formed a circular gathering in the hotel lounge to solve a murder mystery. The murderer turned out to be a malade, Erin McAloon, who had denied guilt throughout the game with perfect aplomb. "You're not only a murderer,"

accused a Dame, "You're a liar!" No, responded Erin, "I'm a good actress."

Sixteen year old Malade Danny Barnum revealed an equally quick wit, when the motor of his wheelchair went mute. As his caregiver tugged and pulled the immobile Mobile through Lourdes' crowded streets, Danny cracked, "I'm going to make Malades out of all you guys."

Malades uniformly spoke with emotion about the kindness and concern they received from everyone involved with the pilgrimage. "It wasn't scripted," said former malade Kevin DiGiammarino. It was genuine.

Perhaps it was partially motivated by when Dame Peggy Lyons considered a memorable homily delivered by Monsignor Frank Caldwell. His conclusion was an improvisation of the most famous Presidential line from John Kennedy's inaugural address. "Ask not," the Monsignor admonished us, "what your mother can do for you, ask rather what you can do for your mother." ❖

Prayer of the Order

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 tradition of our Order.

Be it mine to practice and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, and the Roman Faith against the enemies of religion; be it mine to practice charity towards my neighbors, especially the poor and sick.

Give me the strength I need to 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.

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Bless are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Bless are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5: 3-10

The Cardinal Virtues

Prudence – act rightly in any given situation.

Justice – give to each what is due to him, beginning with God.

Fortitude – endure difficulties and pain for the sake of what is good.

Temperance – be moderate in the pleasure and use of created good.

SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

Philadelphia Area
American Association, USA

Announces its "Tuitio Fidei" Symposium on
"Just War Theory and the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq"

December 6, 2004
Six O'Clock in the Evening
Union League of Philadelphia

Invited Speakers

Dr. John D. Caputo
Thomas J. Watson

Professor of Religion and Humanities, Syracuse University

David R. Cook
Professor of Philosophy Emeritus, Villanova University

His Eminence, Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J., S.T.D.
Distinguished Visiting Professor of Theology
Fordham University

Dr. Joseph H. Hagan, K.M.
President Emeritus of Assumption College
Chairman, Board of Trustees, John Cabot University, Rome
President, North American Association,
Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George

Col. Jack Jacobs, USA (Retired)
Medal of Honor Recipient & MSNBC Military Analyst
His Excellency, The Most Rev. Edwin F. O' Brien, D.D., S.T.D., K.M.
Archbishop, Archdiocese for the US Military Services
General, US Marine Corps

The Hon. George J. Marlin, K.M.
Former Executive Director, NY/NJ Port Authority
Conservative Political Commentator and Writer

The Hon. Dr. Thomas Melady, K.M.
Former US Ambassador to the Holy See, Berundi, and Uganda
President Emeritus of Sacred Heart University
Senior Diplomat-in-Residence, The World Institute of Politics,
Washington, DC

The Hon. Rick Santorum, K.M.
US Senator of Pennsylvania

Moderator

Dr. Craig J. N. de Paulo, K.M.
Chairman of Philadelphia, Sovereign Military Order of Malta
Assistant Professor, Intellectual Heritage Program,
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