Fellow members of the American Association:

We began with a dinner at the Sky Club on the 5th of January. All of the members of the Board were in attendance on our first meeting of the year, and, besides socializing during cocktails and a fine dinner, we welcomed the three new members of our Board: Anne Burke DM, Joe Hagan KHDOb, and Jack Pohrer KM. They are outstanding members of the Order, and will be great contributors to the deliberations and work of the Board. (The cost of such dinners is covered by special contributions of Board members.)

At the Board meeting on the 6th, we:

• Held elections for two officer positions: Fran Hardart was reelected to the position of Hospitaler (for 3 years), and Carl Schwarz was reelected to the position of Secretary (for 3 years). As a result of the completed survey, our officer team remains the same as it has been since May, 2003.
• Appointed the various Committees of the Association for 2005, which are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. As we have seen recently, the work of our Committees, as well as that of our officers, is absolutely critical in our efforts to attain the goals and objectives of our strategic plan.
• Approved a grant of $100,000 to the Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta (ECOM), to support the work of the Order’s disaster relief teams in their efforts to assist the victims of the tsunami in Asia. (See below.)
• Approved a grant of $50,000 ($25,000 in 2005, $25,000 in 2006) to the Grand Magistry, to assist in the restoration of the Order’s archives and remodeling of the library and archive storage facilities in our headquarters in Rome. Overall, this is an $850,000 project.
• Reviewed a preliminary Comprehensive Communications Plan for the Association, a product of the Communications Committee led by Tom Flood. A major factor in this plan is the further development and utilization of our website, an initiative led by John Bycraft. The potential to improve both our internal and external communications through the very cost-effective use of the website is unlimited.
• Reviewed plans to establish a new entity within our Association—The Malta Auxiliary Corps. This initiative, led by Paul Durnan, would produce an Association-wide force of volunteers of all ages who would assist us in carrying out our mission.
• Received a report on steps taken to establish the Sub-Prisy of Our Lady of Lourdes, which would have as members our American Association conferees who are in the First and Second classes of the Order. A petition to form this sub-pris is now being sent to Rome, for consideration over the next several months by the Grand Master, the Grand Commander, and the Sovereign Council.
• Received a report on the recent activities of the Board of the Malta Human Services Foundation. The results of the recent survey of our members regarding the Foundation and its development plans will be published in the next issue of Hospitallers.
• The Tsunami Disaster and ECOM:
The Tsunami that hit the southern shores of Asia and the eastern shores of Africa on December 26th was the worst natural disaster of our lifetimes. At the time of this writing, the death toll exceeds 230,000, and there are countless injured.

Almost immediately after the initial impact of the tidal waves, the Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta (ECOM) (soon to be renamed “Malteser International”) went into action. ECOM teams were in place in both India and Thailand within a day, and in Sri Lanka soon after. At the same time, the Grand Hospitaler, Abrecht von Boeselager, sent out an appeal for financial support to all of the Order’s Prisies and National Associations. In turn, we sent out an appeal for contributions from our members.

The response to Abrecht’s request has been very generous. So far, over $27 million has been donated to support ECOM’s work, including over $25 million of contributions from certain European governments. The sum of over $600,000 has been contributed by the three U.S. Associations, including $313,000 from the American Association (the $100,000 grant mentioned above, plus another $213,000 generously contributed by our members). As a result of this support and the deployment of hundreds of relief workers, now just two months later, the officials of ECOM report that its work to directly assist survivors of the “tsunamiquake” and to begin the rebuilding process has been tremendously successful. They also estimate, however, that ECOM will be operative in tsunami relief and re-building efforts for three to five years.

In discussing the Order’s emergency relief efforts with the Presidents of the two other associations in the U.S., we agreed that we have not done enough to inform our members of the presence and work of ECOM. It’s a “well kept secret.” In view of this, we will report on the activities of ECOM on our website, as well as in future issues of Hospitallers.

Best regards,
Daniel J. Kelly, KM
President

Message of His Holiness

By John Paul II

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

1. Each year, the Lenten Season is set before us as a good opportunity for the intensification of prayer and penance, opening hearts to the docile welcoming of the divine will. During Lent, a spiritual journey is outlined for us that prepares us to relive the great Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. This is done primarily by listening to the Word of God more devoutly and by practicing mortification more generously, thanks to which it is possible to render greater assistance to those in need.

2. This year, dear brothers and sisters, I wish to bring to your attention a theme which is rather current, well-illustrated by the following verse from Deuteronomy: “Loving the Lord...means life to you, and length of days.” (30:20). These are the words that Moses directs to the people, inviting them to embrace the Covenant with Yahweh in the country of Moab, “that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord, your God, obeying his voice, and cleaving to him” (30:19-20). The fidelity to this divine Covenant is for Israel a guarantee of the future: “that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give to them” (30:20). According to the biblical understanding, reaching old age is a sign of the Most High’s gracious benevolence. Longevity appears, therefore, as a special divine gift.

It is upon this theme that I would like to ask you to reflect during this Lent, in order to deepen the awareness of the role that the elderly are called to play in society and in the Church, and thus to prepare your hearts for the loving welcome that will always be reserved for them. Thanks to the contribution of science and medicine, one sees in society today a lengthening of the human life span and a subsequent increase in the number of elderly. This demands more specific attention to the world of so-called old age, in order to help its members to live their full potential by placing them at the service of the entire community.

The care of the elderly, above all when they pass through difficult moments, must be of great concern to all the faithful, especially in the ecclesial communities of Western societies, where the problem is particularly present.

2. Human life is a precious gift to be loved and defended in each of its stages. The Commandment “You shall not kill!” always requires respecting and promoting human life, from its beginning to its natural end. It is a command that applies even in the presence of illness and when physical weakness reduces the person’s ability to be self-reliant. If growing old, with its inevitable conditions, is accepted serenely in the light of faith, it can become an invaluable opportunity for better comprehending the Mystery of the Cross, which gives full sense to human existence.

The elderly need to be understood and helped in this perspective. I wish, here, to express my appreciation to those who dedicate themselves to fulfilling these needs, and I also call upon other people of good will to take advantage of Lent for making their own personal contribution. This will allow many elderly not to think of themselves as a burden to the community, and sometimes even to their own families, living in a situation of loneliness that leads to the temptation of isolating themselves or becoming discouraged.

It is necessary to raise the awareness in public opinion that the elderly represent, in any case, a resource to be valued. For this reason, economic support and legislative initiatives, which allow them not to be excluded from social life, must be strengthened. In truth, during the last decade, society has become more attentive to their needs, and medicine has developed palliative cures that, along with an integral approach to the sick person, are particularly beneficial for long-term patients.

3. The greater amount of free time in this stage of life offers the elderly the opportunity to face the primary issues that perhaps had been previously set aside, due to concerns that were pressing or considered a priority nonetheless. Knowledge of the nearness of the Cross, which it is possible to render greater assistance to those in need.

Precisely because of this condition, the elderly person can carry out his or her role in society. If it is true that man lives upon the heritage of those who preceded him, and that his future depends definitively on how the cultural values of
American Association Launches
New Website: www.maltausa.org

As a part of the strategic plan developed by the Board of Councillors, the Communications Committee under Tom Flood accepted the responsibility of improving internal and external communications in a number of ways including a quarterly newsletter and a revised website.

The members of Tom’s Committee were assigned to various projects and John Bycroft offered to work on the website. John is a member of the Board and the Indiana Area Chair from South Bend.

He began the project last summer by drafting a white paper on what the website should cover. The document went back and forth among John, Tom and members of the Board who added their comments as the document was refined. He then identified a highly qualified consultant, Villing & Company (www.villing.com). They distilled the ideas into an outline for the website, printed elsewhere in this newsletter, and prepared a proposal which the Board approved.

A number of people helped flesh out the outline and the project was completed, under budget, in roughly three months. The new site made its debut at the annual business meeting in New York City on November 12.

In an early January mailing, all members were informed of the new website and given their personal usernames and passwords needed to gain access to the Members Only section of the website where all confidential information is posted.

The new website can be reached by any computer in the world with internet connection and was specifically designed to be accessible with a wireless personal digital assistant (PDA) or internet capable cell phone.

In the short time the new site has been up and running, it has already proven its value to members seeking to learn more about the Order, to candidates considering the Order, and to potential Malades and their Caregivers who want to know more about the Lourdes Pilgrimage. It is also an excellent public relations tool to reach the general public. It is easy to tell anyone to visit our website for an understanding of who we are and what we do. The projects listed under Works & Activities and the pictures of the Malades and Caregivers in the Photo Gallery from the 2004 Lourdes Pilgrimage tell a wonderful story.

The statistics gathered by the monitoring system show that through the end of January, just the first two and one-half months, we have had over 38,000 page views (individual pages viewed) or an average of over 400 pages viewed per day. There have been roughly 3,500 visitors to the site who have spent an average time of 19 minutes per visit. Excluding the home page, the most popular pages are News & Updates, Members Only, Works & Activities, and the Lourdes pages.

Looking ahead, the website and e-mail will be used to quickly and efficiently communicate with the membership and reduce our expense for postage and printed materials. For example, the News & Updates section includes the 2005 schedule for submission of grant requests along with other news items such as the article about two of our members who have recently taken vows and are now Professed Knights of Justice—the first in the history of the American Association. The latest Malta Emergency Corps’ reports on the tsunami disaster is also posted. We will work to keep this section current and encourage all members to visit it frequently.

It is very important that the American Association has a correct e-mail address for all our members. The new website is an easy place to find them, add them or correct them. To provide service to the Membership, documents like the latest Association By-Laws can be referenced on the web or printed in their entirety. The complete Charter & Code and the By-Laws of the Foundation are also available. All grants approved in 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 are posted. Some Major Projects such as our hospitals have their own special pages.

Lists of the High Charges in Rome, The Sovereign Council Members, American Association Board Members, Board Committee Members, Area Chairs and Foundation Board Members are all readily at hand.

In the password protected Members Only section, Audited Financials are posted and there is a Membership Directory with a utility that allows members to confirm their e-mail address and revise their listing if anything has changed such as new phone number or new address. Forms such as the Membership Application, Lourdes Reservation, Lourdes Uniform Order, Malade Recommendation, and Grant Application can by downloaded and printed.

Locate the outline of the website printed on this page and read the Frequently Asked Questions article for some operating tips. Get on line. You will be rewarded. Bookmark the News & Update page and come back frequently. Send your comments and suggestions by clicking on the Contact Us tab on the main menu.
Questions and Answers about the Website: www.maltausa.org

Q: Where can I find our new website?
A: The American Association website can be found at www.maltausa.org on the internet with a computer. It has also been designed to be accessed with a wireless personal digital assistant (PDA) or an internet capable cell phone. A separate article in this newsletter has an outline of the website contents.

Q: What is the purpose of the website?
A: To provide a readily accessible source of information about the Order of Malta both on a worldwide basis and here in the United States that is beneficial to the Order and provides excellent public relations. There is a great deal of historical information and links to Malta websites around the world.

It will provide service to our membership as a fast, inexpensive communications tool. Members are encouraged to visit the News & Updates section frequently to see important announcements and news about the Order. There is a Membership Directory, a Lourens photo gallery that can be downloaded, a copy of our By-Laws you can read and print, a new member application form, a grant application form and much, much more. It was designed for everyone; members, non-members, Catholics and non Catholics. It should be particularly useful to potential new members who seek information about the Order including the Works & Activities of the American Association.

Q: Who can view our website?
A: Anyone in the world who has access to the internet; however, our website also has one section called “Members Only” that is available only to American Association members with their personally assigned usernames and passwords.

Q: What is in the Members Only section?
A: It has confidential information like the Membership Directory, Audited Financial Statements, and items that are useful to the membership like the grant application form, Lourens reservation forms and an application for membership.

Q: How do I enter the Members Only section?
A: The Members Only section is a small part of the new website that requires you to enter your personal username and password which were sent by mail to all members of the American Association. Do not share them with anyone.

Q: What happens when I enter the Members Only section?
A: The first time you enter this section with your username and password you will be asked for your e-mail address which is very important as the means to recover your username and password if you forget them. You will also have a chance to change your password. Finally, you will be encouraged to review and correct your directory listing.

Q: What if I forget my password or username?
A: Please do not call the office! Just click on the “Members Only” tab in the main menu and then click on, “Lost your password?” You will be asked to enter your e-mail address. If your entry matches the e-mail address in the directory, your username and password will automatically be sent to you by e-mail. The system will tell you if it does not match. Try again, but if it still does not match, there is no quick, easy solution. Go back to the main menu and click on “Contact Us.” Tell us your problem and be sure to give us your preferred e-mail address. As time permits, the webmaster will send you an e-mail with your username and password.

Q: What if I move or have a new phone number or a new e-mail address?
A: Whenever you are in the Members Only section you always have an opportunity to update your complete directory listing including a new address, phone number, e-mail, and business listing. You can also change your password, but you cannot change your username. Please keep your listing current as the best means of updating our office records.

Q: How does the Membership Directory work?
A: The Directory is in the password protected Members Only section. It is a fast and useful alphabetical tool that provides the most current contact information for members of the American Association. You will be asked to enter the member’s last name. If you are not sure about the spelling, enter only the first few letters. If you click on a member’s e-mail address, the website can automatically address an e-mail form through Microsoft Outlook if your computer uses it. You can print a copy of a member’s listing but for security reasons you cannot print a continuous copy of the entire directory.

Q: What is under News & Updates?
A: Keep your eye on this section for the latest announcements and important news. Make it one of your Favorite Places (bookmark it) so you can visit it frequently.

Q: How would I submit something to the News & Update section?
A: Send a brief, newspaper-type article, complete with a headline, to our Executive Director, John F. Shine. Ideally, it would be a Microsoft Word file sent as an attachment to an e-mail.

Q: What about things like grants?
A: The website is a good place to learn about our grants program and to refer someone who wonders if their project might qualify for a grant. Go to Works & Activities from the main menu and then click on Grants Program. You will find a description of the program, the very important Grants Guidelines, and a multiple year history under Approved Grants. Click on a year then on the name of an individual grant recipient for a complete history of the grants they received over the past four years. There is a link to download a grant application form that can be completed on a computer. It is in the Members Only section so it requires a username and password.

Retreat for First and Second Class Members
For the first time, American Association members who are in the First and Second Classes made a retreat together. On the weekend of January 28, 29 and 30, fourteen members prayed together at Fairfield University, in Fairfield, Connecticut under the direction of Father Paul Carrier, S.J., a Magistral Chaplain of the Order. Members who participated were: John Dunlap and Hreinn Lindal, members of the First Class who took their first vows in December; John Paul Reiner; Marylee Reiner; A. Patricia McCarthy, Hope E. Carter, Desmond McCarthy, Victor Coudert, Robert Fredericks, James O’Connor, Joseph Hagan, and Oscar de Rojas, a member of the Venezuelan Association, members of the Second Class. Also present was Lenny Jarrett, a candidate for admission to the Second Class.
In the midst of Miami's rural heartland sits a humble little place where hearts are filled and spirits nourished. It is a place where mothers and fathers find a safe haven, away from the sweltering heat of the agriculture fields to feed their families and soothe their souls.

The place is St. Ann's Mission, founded by Miami's legendary Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll in 1961 to bring the Gospel, as well as worldly goods, to underprivileged migrant farm workers in Southern Miami. It is operated and supported by private donations through the Archdiocese of Miami.

For the past six years a Catholic priest, Reverend Pedro Garcia, a Cuban exile, has headed St. Ann's with a handful of workers and volunteers. "We are presently serving about 400 migrant families with pastoral services," say Father Garcia. "This includes evangelization, care, and even assistance with their funeral bills. Their needs are great because of their meager earnings in the agriculture fields."

The going rate paid by South Florida farmers during the September to May crop season to collect a bucket full of tomatoes, squash, pole beans or other vegetables is 60 cents. That adds up to an average weekly salary of about $150 per worker to labor for seven-days-a-week from sunrise to sunset. And that's when the delicate crops are not wiped out by natural disasters, such as storms, floods or freezes.

With those low wages, the migrant workers have to cover rent for a crowded trailer or a small home at the four residential labor camps amid the fields in South Dade County, plus utilities, food, and clothing for their families.

Twenty-six year old Maria Perez, a Mexican immigrant who, unlike many of the other workers does not migrate to other states to follow the harvests, has come to receive the food the Mission is handing out on this rainy summer morning. She, her husband and three children, live year round at one of the camps. "The Mission helps me feed my children and give them decent clothes to wear to school; it fills the gap when we don't have what my family needs."

There is cause for celebration on this day; a benefactor has come bearing gifts. It is a check for ten thousand dollars from the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta, an ancient religious Order of Chivalry in Christianity, dating back to the Ninth Century. The mission of this religious confraternity is to aid the sick, poor and needy worldwide.

On this day, Hershel F. Smith, KM, personally delivers the donation check to Father Garcia. The donations from the Order of Malta's American Association headquartered in New York City and the South Florida Area now add up to $45,000 with another $25,000 grant expected this year.

The Order of Malta, which reaches out to victims of natural disasters and war, and ministers to the spiritual development of the needy globally, has also donated tens of thousands of dollars to other South Florida Catholic-based charities. Benefactors include Providence Place, a transitional residential shelter for women and children in Fort Lauderdale as well as Genesis House, a residential facility for AIDS patients in Miami.

A toddler who plays with her prized cache from St. Ann's donation room, a colorful picture book and a stuffed animal, is oblivious to the generosity of strangers that will make life easier for her. But Esther Garza, who for the last year has served as St. Ann's Director of Social Ministry understands all too well how the funds can improve the quality of life for the migrant workers.

"My dad would pick me and my brothers and sisters up from school and would feed us a snack before taking us out to the fields to help him pick crops till sundown. I lived in those camps and know what these people are going through." That was eighteen years ago. Now she counsels other migrants. "I tell them they can make it too. I have my teacher's assistant certificate now and it's my turn to give back."

Several Catholic churches also share their parishioners' bounty with St. Ann's. The Church of the Epiphany in South Miami underwrites a yearly baby shower for all the pregnant migrant women donating gifts for all the future mothers at a festive occasion that has become legendary at the migrant camps.

Led by Ana Maria Hernandez, Epiphany parishioners also collect toys and food for the migrant families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. St. Kevin, St. Agnes, St. Richard and the all-girls high school, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, also make regular donations of food and clothing.

"We see our faith in action in these acts of kindness and generosity, and we would not survive without our donors," says Father Garcia.

Certain of his sincerity and gratitude, Father García's truths echo loudly for those of us observing on this day. But a moment of purity and innocence chases away the stark reality of a people whose life depends on public goodness and charity.

As I train my eyes on the walkway leading out of St. Ann's donation room, I watch as a little girl comes out smiling, a new spring in her step. In her hands she cuddles the precious gift she has received.

Her prized possession is a stuffed toy, likely handed down from a child born into more which she happily twirls for all to see.

It is a poignant example of faith, hope and love and I suddenly wonder who the real benefactors are at this humble little place in Miami's heartland where God and Goodness are celebrated everyday.
As of this writing, we are at T minus about 70 days to the start of our 2005 Lourdes Pilgrimage. It is almost unbelievable that the year has gone by so quickly. So much has happened and so much of it is good. Let’s start with a very good happening.

Malades-in-Spirit Program

Our Lady of Lourdes speaks to us in various ways. One possible way is through another person. We believe such a message came to us through a malade who took part in the 2004 Lourdes Pilgrimage. The malade, a young woman, had a very successful Pilgrimage experience and was filled with grace and strength from the Pilgrimage. As she considered her good fortune to have been able to come on our Pilgrimage, she thought about a close friend who was so ill that a trip to Lourdes was unthinkable and who, therefore, would not be able to receive the spiritual benefits from the Pilgrimage.

We believe she was inspired by Our Lady to do something by consideration for her friend that she told one of our Dames about this concern and asked specifically what our Order might be able to do for people such as her friend. We took this question as really coming from Our Lady and established a committee which developed the Malades-in-Spirit or MIS program as our response to that question. We will introduce it during the 2005 Pilgrimage.

The MIS program is a spiritual program which will be integrated into our regular Pilgrimage format. Each MIS will be a person so ill they cannot come with us to Lourdes. A Knight or Dame will be assigned to each MIS. That Knight or Dame, called a host, will be primarily responsible for ensuring a successful spiritual Pilgrimage for their MIS. The duties of the MIS host will be to personally represent their MIS and to advocate for the spiritual benefit of their MIS while in Lourdes. The host will engage other members of their Team to participate in these spiritual activities. The host’s duties serving as a spiritual advocate will include knowing enough about the MIS to be able to pray for that person’s intentions in a serious manner and to try to pray with the same intensity, fervor and emotion as if they were the MIS.

One of the messages Our Blessed Mother gave to Bernadette at the Lourdes Grotto was, “I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other.” Just as our programs in Lourdes are built on the reciprocal nature of the relationship between members of our Order and malades, the MIS program will likewise bring special grace to both the MIS and those advocating for them.

After all, isn’t that part of why we go to Lourdes, to help us attain eternal salvation?

Our MISs in 2005 will be people who are too ill or too confined or too involved with treatments involving equipment or medicines to come to Lourdes. We have many such people who applied to be malades in 2005 and cannot come due to the undue medical risk the trip would entail. Also, we have many more applicants than we have room or personnel to accommodate in 2005. The malade candidates who cannot come with us will constitute the foundation of our MIS program for 2005.

General Update

Almost 100 malade candidates have been recommended for 2005. We hope to be able to take 50 along with about 35 caregivers. We have many children and teens, people in wheelchairs and the list of illnesses these people suffer from would make a strong person simply cry. There is more illness out there than can almost be imagined, this is a tough world and we all can really use the grace which flows from Lourdes. We currently have over 225 registered pilgrims and are moving towards achieving our goal of 350 pilgrims. Many Knights and Dames and Candidates-in-Preparation have signed on; however, we can easily accept more so don’t hesitate if you feel you want to come with us.

Our major personnel soft spot is sourcing the younger and stronger, that is, the Auxiliary and Auxiliary Volunteers. We need more of them and will continue to need them virtually right up to departure time. If you can suggest a reliable person, over 20, who can serve, please send their name and phone number. Our Auxiliary Committee Chair will contact them.

The 2005 Pilgrimage represents a truly special anniversary, the twentieth. Twenty years of anything is wonderful but twenty years of consistently and faithfully serving the sick and the poor in the very location where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette, well, that’s simply marvelous!!! We are planning a commemoration of this special anniversary on the Friday evening of the Pilgrimage. We expect our Grand Master, members of the Sovereign Council and officers and board members of our Association will be present to help us celebrate. Many past Chairs and Co-Chairs are also planning to attend and we will appropriately honor them for their fine work in starting and fostering our wonderful Pilgrimage.

Our Lady of Lourdes—Pray for us.

Public Expression of Christianity Banned? “Laus Deo”

I thought that you and others may like to see this. In DC, there can be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument.

With all the uproar about removing the ten commandments, etc... This is worth a moment or two of your time. I was not aware of this historical information.

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington DC, are displayed two words: Laus Deo. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there.

So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say “Praise be to God!”

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, Laus Deo—Praise be to God!

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles L’Enfant. a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the north. The Jefferson Memorial is to the south, the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west.

A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution. So, read on. How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who bother to notice.

Praise be to God! Within the monument itself (continued on page 13)
The First International Meeting of Members of Hospitalities (Première Rencontre Internationale des Hospitaliers et Hospitalières) took place in Lourdes, November 26, 27, and 28. My wife, Elissa, and I, at the invitation of Dan Kelly, represented the American Association. The sunlight along the River Gave and in the Domain had turned a bright yellow, the skies were clear blue, and the smell of burning leaves in the air made the Conference almost surreal, adding to the esprit de corps among the 4,000 hospitaliers.

Members of the Order of Malta from several countries were among the hospitaliers who came mostly from France and Europe for a symposium around the Lourdes’ theme, “Come to me all you who sorrow.” Hospitaliers representing over 100 official Lourdes pilgrimage groups exchanged information, socialized, and prayed together.

Registration for the Conference was on Friday morning in the St. Bernadette Chapel. Folders and badges were distributed with registration. Tables were set up in French, Italian, Spanish, German, and English. After Mass in the Grotto, the Conference was officially opened by Monsignor Raymond Zambelli, Rector of the Sanctuary. M. Philippe Tardy-Joubert, a Hospitalier de Notre-dame de Lourdes and of the L’Hospitalité Nationale du Rosaire, was Coordinator of the Conference.

In his opening remarks, M. Tardy-Joubert spoke on the theme of “the uniqueness” and “differences” among the Lourdes hospitaliers, 4,000 of which were present for the Conference. (100,000 volunteers come to Lourdes with the sick every year.) M. Tardy-Joubert told the audience:

What are our hospitalities?

- Quite often simple diocesan associations
- But also international hospitalities (Order of Malta), national (Rosary, Montfortain, N-D du Salut), or specific (Lourdes Cancer Espérance, Voir ensemble, HCPT)
- Particularly in Italy, important national organizations. Those big hospitalities are very well known in the country. This helps to improve communication and to welcome a number of new initiatives.
- Some hospitalités are very concentrated on their own charisma, only accompanying sick people to Lourdes.
- Others are very open to some other Church services for the young and the sick.
- Some hospitalités are also very committed in the life of their civil community, helping in different projects.
- Young hospitalités open to young people and open to change.
- Hospitalités representing sometimes nearly 1% of the population of the diocese. Here you can have simple diocesan services; elsewhere it can be associations having a real civil status, Associations under the 1901 law in France, charities in the UK. Basically they are the same with only slight differences of organization. Our civil laws and the Church rules are quite compatible. While making notes of all those differences, our preparation team has been able to measure the importance of the enrichment we can expect from this first meeting. The different ways we have become involved in this great Church association are also very different:
  - First of all we are not the same age, and we belong to different professional and social backgrounds, in this way we are an image of the Church itself.
  - Some of us came here when we were very young and we saw the importance of Lourdes in our parents’ life. We are aware of how blessed we have been, to be able to discover the values of the Gospel with our families, and how important it is to pray and to serve together.
  - Others came when they were older and they are good members of hospitalités too; they wish to share this experience with younger generations.
  - Some of us have come already with a strong commitment to the Church and involved helping sick and handicapped people.
  - Others have decided to become involved where they live, after having experienced the Lourdes service first.
  - Others have known sick people among their close family or friends before becoming hospitaliers, whereas others have been able to face their own health problems, or the health problems of people close to them, more easily because they were already “hospitaliers.”

We had only to glance at the Conference program to marvel at the rich diversity of the pilgrimage groups represented by the 4,000 in attendance, the “Hospitaliers Diocésains” from 52 cities in France; the Hospices of England and Scotland; the Hospices of Spain and Germany.

As representatives of the American Association, we took note of the place of the Order of Malta among the Lourdes pilgrimages as one of only two “international” pilgrimages (the other being the Hospitalité Notre-Dame des Armées). The Order of Malta was well represented at the Conference in the “Village of Hospitalités,” representing sometimes nearly 1% of the population of the diocese. Here you can have simple diocesan services; elsewhere it can be associations having a real civil status, Associations under the 1901 law in France, charities in the UK. Basically they are the same with only slight differences of organization. Our civil laws and the Church rules are quite compatible. While making notes of all those differences, our preparation team has been able to measure the importance of the enrichment we can expect from this first meeting. The different ways we have become involved in this great Church association are also very different:

First International Meeting of Members of Hospitalities
Joseph G. Metz KM
Q. What's new in the American Association?
A. The “ageless” Malta Auxiliary Corps! That’s what’s new! The American Association Board of Councillors, at its November 10, 2004 meeting authorized a brand new entity which will be called the Malta Auxiliary Corps. They appointed Paul H. Durnan, KM of Long Island to be the first National Auxiliary Corps Director. “This is an exciting new effort for our Association,” said Daniel J. Kelly, KM, President of the American Association. “What we are doing here is to formalize and institutionalize the wonderful experiences and activities that have been present in the various auxiliary efforts in some areas of our Association. Although this is a brand new effort it will take from the past experiences the good charisms and successes and, with the support of the Board of Councillors, will augment and sustain those successful experiences in every area of our Association.” During ensuing weeks after the board meeting Mr. Durnan asked James F. O’Connor, KMOB of the Boston Area, if he would consider being the Assistant National Director. The Board of Councillors approved this recommendation and appointed Jim to that position.

Q. Who is eligible to join new “ageless” Malta Auxiliary Corps?
A. Any exemplary Catholic lay person, from the age of 18 to 65 (+?), in good standing who gives or would like to give outstanding church or community service and is willing and able to commit fully to the Mission of the Order.

Q. What are some of the criteria for Auxiliary Corps members?
A. All Auxiliary Corps members are asked to fulfill the following criteria:

- Learn about Malta history, spirituality and Malta Works, Projects and Ministries.
- Attend some Malta spiritual and educational events in their respected areas.
- Volunteer in Malta ministries and projects especially those locally sponsored ministries including those approved for grants by the Order of Malta.
- Be willing to consider participating in an annual Lourdes Pilgrimage.
- Explore the possibility of a lifetime commitment to the mission of the Order of Malta by considering becoming a Knight/Dame.
- Seek personal projects they feel will fulfill the mission of the Order and develop their own spirituality.
- Give a small initiation fee and pay annual dues.

Q. Who can be an Auxiliary Corps sponsor and what are their responsibilities?
A. Lay members of the Order of Malta in good standing may sponsor candidates for the Auxiliary Corps. Sponsors explain the Order, the Association, introduce Auxiliary Corps Mission, the works of the Order. From time to time they should accompany the Auxiliary Corps member to Area and Association events. The sponsor should introduce candidates to Area members and other Auxiliary members. They assist in the application process and assure that all applications are fully and neatly completed and submitted to the Auxiliary Corps National Director.

Q. What is the specific governance structure of the Malta Auxiliary Corps?
A. While it will be a new and separate entity, with its own Bylaws and Rules, the Auxiliary Corps under the leadership of the National Director, the Assistant National Director, and the National Board of Advisors, will answer directly to the newly formed Auxiliary Corps committee of the Board of Councillors. The Corps leadership, mission, and direction will be continually overseen and approved by this Board.

Q. What is the history of the Auxiliary Corps in the Order of Malta?
A. Throughout the 900 year history of the Order of Malta there has always been a distinct and involved presence of the Auxiliary Corps, mostly throughout the European countries. These auxiliaries have carried out the spiritual and service apostolate of the Order even though they are not Knights or Dames. In Ireland, for instance, the entire national emergency ambulance system is organized and operated by the Irish Malta Auxiliary Corps. Also in Germany the Auxiliary Corps for centuries has lived out the Order's mission to serve the sick and poor.

Q. What about the history of the Auxiliary here in the American Association?
A. Throughout recent years, in some but not all Malta areas, there have been wonderful and selfless works performed by various young Auxiliaries, mostly sons and daughters of Knights and Dames. Their volunteering ranged from working at soup kitchens, visiting nursing homes, tutoring the underprivileged and even serving Thanksgiving dinners. In addition, in some cases auxiliaries would serve as Eucharistic Ministers for shut-ins and hospital patients. Of course, the most well-known activity was the Auxiliaries valuable assistance in the “heavy lifting” during the annual Lourdes Pilgrimage. Various social gatherings rounded out the Auxiliary experience. A great deal of charity and pastoral service was accomplished by these young Catholics. Practically speaking though, as one or two of the area Auxiliary leaders would get married, move or in some instances become Knights or Dames, often times the Auxiliary activity in that particular area would either sputter or cease to exist until perhaps another young person would take over the leadership roll. There was little, if any, contact among even the active auxiliary areas throughout the American Association.

Q. What is different about the new Malta Auxiliary Corps?
A. The new “ageless” Malta Auxiliary Corps will take the best of the past Auxiliary experiences and continue them and augment them in a sustained way through the leadership of the National Director, Assistant National Director and the National Advisory Board. There will be a “cross-pollinization” of all the auxiliary experiences which will result in the strengthening and deepening of these experiences throughout the Order. First and foremost—it is ageless—open to any exemplary Catholic man or woman from age 18 to 65 (+?). Secondly—There doesn’t necessarily have to be a need or desire to eventually become a Knight or Dame of the Order. Although this will be encouraged, it will appeal to those apostolic (sons, daughters, nurses, malades, friends, volunteers, caregivers, parishioners) who at their juncture of their lives are unable or do not want to make a full commitment to being a Knight or Dame. They will be able to participate in all of the Area spiritual and ministerial activities which not only benefit them personally but also the life of each Area.

(continued on page 14)
Two Members Take First Vow in First Class

John R. Mullen, President

For the first time in the history of the American Association, two members made their first vows as Knights of Justice. John Dunlap and Hreinn Lindal, both of New York City, made their First Vows before Fra' Elie de Comminges, a member of the Sovereign Council who represented Fra' Andrew Bertie, the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

Dunlap, a member of the American Association since 1996, is a Canadian citizen. He graduated from the University of Ottawa with Honors and the University of Western Ontario Law School. He is a Solicitor of Her Majesty's Court and a Barrister at Law of Osgoode Hall. He is an Attorney and Counselor at Law in the State of New York. He has worked tirelessly at the Terrence Cardinal Cooke Health Center helping the sick.

Hreinn Lindal has been a member of the American Association since 1994. On December 8, 2002, he made the Promise of Obedience before Fra' James-Michael von Stroebel in the Lady Chapel along with John Paul Reiner, Mary Elizabeth Reiner and Daniel Desmond McCarthy. Heinn was born in Iceland and spent many years as an opera singer. He now spends a significant amount of time assisting at the Permanent Mission of the Order of Malta to the United Nations along with a commitment to assist those in need at The Cardinal Cooke Health Center. (Please read the letter from Fra' Andrew Bertie on the First Class on the left sidebar.)

Malta Human Services Foundation

John R. Mullen, President

Just after the first of the year, the Board of the Foundation met to continue its work of planning to increase the size of the Foundation's portfolio as a way of fulfilling its responsibility of providing funds to the American Association for grants. The Board of Directors ratified an action of the Investment Committee to replace one of its managers. It spent considerable time hearing an oral report form Donahue and Smith, the organization enlisted to research attitudes and positions of members of the Association about the feasibility of embarking on a planned program of giving. The Board received a formal report with specific recommendations at its meeting in mid-February. It is hopeful that the recommendations offered will provide options with which to consider how to build the value of the Foundation and be supportive of the Association as it grows and becomes more effective in meeting the challenges of its mission.

As required by the By-Laws of the Foundation, the Board re-elected John R. Mullen as President, Mary Kay Farley as Secretary, and Bernard DiFiore as Treasurer. The Board also elected Herschel Smith as Vice-President, a position which did not exist during the first year of the restructured Foundation, but contemplated by the By-Laws approved by the Board of Councillors of the Association in 2003.

The Board of Directors, as you know, is made up of nine (9) members of the Board of Councillors and eight (8) members of the Association who are not elected members of the Board of Councillors of the Association. These Knights and Dames have been faithful to the task of finding the proper place of the Foundation within the American Association. They understand that, for the charism of the Order to be fulfilled, resources must be available. They have demonstrated their commitment to this task and will continue to develop a plan based upon the information obtained from personal interviews with members of the Board of Councillors, its own members and the data received from the survey submitted to the entire membership of the Association.

We have ever reason to believe that 2003 will see the development of a plan which in the long run will provide support to the Association.
**Rosalie Hall**
*President of Rosalie Hall*

Rosalie Hall was founded in 1887 in New York to care for single pregnant women. The Misericordia Sisters, who founded Rosalie Hall, continue to care for the young women in need.

Over the years, Rosalie Hall has provided a safe haven for thousands of young women and their children. The hall is a place of community, support, and hope. It is a place where young women can find a safe place to stay, receive medical care, and get the support they need to make the best choices for themselves and their children.

In addition to caring for young women and their children, Rosalie Hall offers programs to help young women transition to independence. The Peer Educators Program trains young women to share their experiences with other girls in the community. The program is designed to help young women make informed decisions about their lives and to prevent pregnancy and other negative outcomes.

The Sisters of St. John are dedicated to providing a loving and caring environment for all who seek help. They work tirelessly to ensure that every woman and child receives the care and support they need. Their dedication to the mission of Rosalie Hall is an inspiration to us all.

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**Investiture and Annual Meeting**

The Investiture and Annual Meeting in 2005 will be held on Friday, November 11, 2005. The Mass of Investiture will be held at the Cathedral of St. Patrick at 2:00 p.m. (Please note the change in time) The Reception and Annual Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. The Association anticipates investing over 100 members again this year. On November 12, 2004, one hundred forty (104) new members were invested by President Daniel J. Kelly representing Fr. Andrew Berti, Grand Master of the Order of Malta. His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan consecrated the Mass of Investiture with Archbishop Sean O’Malley, Archbishop of Boston, Archbishop Angelo Acerra, Prefate of the Order of Malta, Archbishop Couse de Mavrille, Archbishop Emeritus of Manchester, England and Principal Chaplain of the British Association, Archbishop Stephen Soroka, Archbishop of Philadelphia (Ukrainian), Bishop William Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport, Connecticut, Bishop William Murphy, Bishop of Rockville Centre, New York, and 28 priests. Seven hundred fifty (750) members and guests attended the 2004 dinner on November 12 and heard Archbishop Sean O’Malley from the Archdiocese of Boston give a most inspirational talk. (See the Winter Edition of the Hospitaliters for Archbishop O’Malley’s talk.) The Rev. Richard John Neuhaus, Editor of First Things Magazine, gave a highly esoteric talk on the Catholic circumstance in America today.

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**A note received from Joan Orie Melvin**

A Newly Installed Dame and a Justice on the Pennsylvania Superior Court.

Jeff,

In the spirit of fellowship could you send me the addresses of the PGH Malta Knights & Dames so I can send Christmas cards to them.

Also I will be returning to St. John Neuman. A little boy named Jake hugged at my heart strings when he told me with a tear in his eye that he didn’t understand why Santa didn’t give him the only thing he’s asked for the last two years—models of different ocean fish because his dream is to be a marine biologist when he grows up. While I was Christmas shopping the other day out of the blue I found a kit that has 50 different models of ocean fish!!! God works in mysterious ways & sends such beautiful signs.

Hopefully Jake’s Christmas magic will be renewed and some day in the future he will be the next Jacques Cousteau!!!

Until we meet in the Eucharist,
Joan

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**De Profundis**

Brian O’Loughlin KM is a member of the faculty of St. John’s Preparatory School

Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord hear my voice…” This is the prayer to which so many Americans have responded since the natural disaster hit south Asia. But one group in particular that responded immediately, which is close to my heart, is the school community of Saint John’s Preparatory School located in Danvers, Massachusetts... a Xaverian Brothers sponsored school for boys.

When asked to give to a charity, the boys at St. John’s are given a day in which they wear the clothes of their choice instead of the school uniform for a fee of $2.00. At the end of the day about $1500.00 is usually collected and sent to a local charity.

After the tsunami hit south Asia during our Christmas vacation and the boys returned from a restful holiday, the wheels were set in motion for a collection to help the poor and the sick in the devastated region. No request was made at St. John’s Preparatory School. In a matter of days over $14,000 was collected with the intention of sending it to Catholic Relief Services, the Order of Malta and the Consul General of Thailand (Joseph Milano KM SJP ’62). I am pleased to announce that a check for nearly $5,000.00 was sent to the Order of Malta to help the helpless in south Asia.

What comes to mind during this holy season is that there is so much holiness in our youth, a holiness that is often ignored—replaced by the negative headlines that sell many more papers. Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, puts much faith in our young people in the belief that they will lead the Church in the 21st century much as the missionaries did in early America, South America and all nations, centuries ago. This act of charity by the boys from the “Prep” has convinced me that His Holiness is right and the future of the Church is indeed bright.

Let us continue to pray for our young people and ask Our Lady of Lourdes and her Son to continue to watch over them.
### Unrestricted Grants by Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount Granted</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Connecticut Area</strong></td>
<td>Malta House of Good Counsel Newhall, CT</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Grant to support their programs for unwed mothers and their babies. This is a project of the Connecticut area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shepherds Inc Fairfield, CT</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To be allocated towards scholarships and Program Support of Shepherds Recruitment and Mentor Training Activities and support of five partial scholarships at Notre Dame of West Haven. This is a project of the Connecticut area.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Connecticut Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Miami, Florida Area:</strong></td>
<td>Genossi Program, Inc. Miami, Florida</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>Grant to assist their programs for individuals living with AIDS. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marian Center Opia Logia, Florida</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Grant for cable, telephone and fiber optic installations in their buildings which need to be wired for phone service and cable. It will also be used for internet service in the adults day training program. Marian Center educates and trains mentally handicapped and disabled children and young adults. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marian Center Opia Logia, Florida</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>Grant for their programs to educate and train mentally handicapped and disabled children and young adults. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Homes Boca Raton, FL</td>
<td>$9,000</td>
<td>Grant for their programs to assist the mentally handicapped. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Homes Boca Raton Florida</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>To allow this family assisted group home for the mentally handicapped to send qualified professionals into family homes to train them to achieve the highest level of independence possible. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>New Hope Charities Inc. West Palm Beach Florida</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To provide adequate space for counseling. New Hope Charities Inc. West Palm Beach Florida also provides counseling to the homeless and emotionally ill. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Ann's Mission Naranjo, Florida</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To support its medical service clinic, which is operated year round, for the benefit of impoverished migrant farm working families. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Ann's Mission Naranjo, Florida</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>Grant for its medical service clinic, which aids impoverished migrant farm working families. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Safe Haven for Newborns Miami, Florida</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>Grant toward the total estimated cost of $40,000 to produce, print and distribute throughout the state of Florida an awareness/education video saving children, focusing on middle school, high schools, colleges and universities, both public and private. This is a project of the Miami, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Miami, Florida Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$390,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vero Beach, Florida Area:</strong></td>
<td>Homeless Family Center, Inc. Vero Beach, Florida</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To assist this homeless shelter to help families achieve the goal of returning to self-sufficiency by meeting that they have appropriate levels of qualified staff to provide current services. This is a project of the Vero Beach, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Our Lady of Good Counsel/Catholic Mission Felllmore, Florida</td>
<td>$7,900</td>
<td>To provide part of the youth minister’s salary for their programs for kids from economically disadvantaged families. This is a project of the Vero Beach, Florida area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Vero Beach, Florida Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$17,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Chicago, Illinois Area:</strong></td>
<td>Port Ministries Chicago, Illinois</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>To help provide funds for their “Restaurant of the Poor.” This is a project of the Chicago, Illinois area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Chicago, Illinois Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indiana Area:</strong></td>
<td>Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic Fort Wayne, Indiana</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>To purchase test strips for diabetics to assist these individuals in their own care. This is a project of the Indiana area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total IN Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Massachusetts Area:</strong></td>
<td>Cape Cod Free Clinic in Falmouth Falmouth, MA</td>
<td>$7,900</td>
<td>To allow this clinic to purchase inhalers and strips to distribute to individuals with asthma and diabetes. This is a project of the Boston, MA area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic Charitable Bureau of the Archdiocese of Boston—Boston, MA</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To provide stipends for the Counseling-in-Training within the program that provides tutoring and counseling services in their after-school programs. This is a project of the Boston, MA area.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Congregation of Holy Cross North Easton, MA</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To continue to expand the current services offered by the parish based health care clinics in Lima, Peru and to rebuild the main companion clinic located in the parish center. This is a project of the Boston, MA area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Redcapsky House Hyde Park, MA</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>To enable their Alternative Education Program to continue operating and expand to serve more clients. This is a project of the Boston, MA area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sacred Heart Home New Bedford, MA</td>
<td>$8,000</td>
<td>To support the cost to purchase a handicapped accessible van, which will be used to transport residents to and from the facility for doctor’s appointments, special medical testing and for social outings and events. This is a project of the Boston, MA area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Anthony’s Wellness Center Boston, MA</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To enable them to help fund health programs for the poor and indigent. This is a project of the Boston, MA area.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total MA Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$75,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Michigan Area:</strong></td>
<td>Angles Place Southfield, MI</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>Seed money for the Christian Compassion Program, with focus on culturating a corporate culture of Christian commitment. The program will integrate and nurture relationships based on ethics and integrity amongst all levels of the organization, from donor to caregiver, volunteer to resident. Angles Place provides group homes and training for the mentally challenged. This is a project of the Michigan area.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hope Medraic Clinic, Inc. Sperlanti, MI</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To assist in funding a full time Clinic Coordinator at this facility for the poor and working poor. This is a project of the Michigan area.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rose Hill Center, Inc. Holly, Michigan</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To develop programs, purchase materials, fund field trips and other activities and provide healthcare and dental services for individuals with mental illness so they may be able to successfully achieve independence. This is a project of the Michigan area.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total MI Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$75,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>St. Louis, MO Area:</strong></td>
<td>St. Patrick Center St. Louis, Missouri</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To help fund its Mobile Outreach Program, the Women’s Night Program and the Rosati Transitional Living Center for the homeless and emotionally ill. This is a project of the St. Louis, Missouri area.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total St. Louis, MO Area:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Jersey Area:</strong></td>
<td>Birth Haven, Inc. Newton, NJ</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>To assist in the expansion of the existing house purchased in 1995 to more adequately accommodate the programs offered for pregnant and homeless women. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First Village Paterson, NJ</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To help fund its Half the Ashes program in Paterson for parents and youth. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Barnabas Hospital</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
<td>To assist in financing a stipend for a Senior Chaplain at the hospital to bring the Eucharist to hospital patients. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Luke Institute Silver Springs, MO</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>To underwrite chemical and alcohol treatment costs for clients without sufficient financial resources. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless Solutions Worcester, MA</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
<td>To assist in housing the indigent and settle them in homes. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mount St. Joseph’s Children Center New Jersey</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>Grant for their programs for children. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Several Sources Foundation (Ladies Rest) Ramsey, NJ</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>To assist them with the programs of the daytime shelter for homeless and abused women in Newark, New Jersey. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Several Sources Foundation (Pro-Life Shelter) Ramsey, NJ</td>
<td>$13,000</td>
<td>To assist in keeping pro-life shelters open and continuing the 24-hour toll free helpline for women who are contemplating abortion. This is a project of the New Jersey area.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total New Jersey Area:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$65,000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Reach New York, New York</td>
<td>$29,500</td>
<td>To help with proposed program to work with New York City area schools and affiliated community partners to reach 1,000 at-risk students and 250 parents from September through December 2004 to increase the number of youth between the ages of 12-18 who commit to a lifestyle of abstinence until marriage. This is a project of the New York City, New York area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosalie Hall, Inc. Bronx, NY</td>
<td>$25,500</td>
<td>To aid one of their programs for pregnant abused mothers to provide realistic prospective on teen pregnancy and motherhood and to prevent first pregnancies by having teen talk to other teens about their own experiences. This is a project of the New York City.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expectant Mother Care Yonkers, NY</td>
<td>$25,500</td>
<td>To help expand current ultrasound services from two to six locations this year; adding three used sonogram units in Brooklyn and the Bronx. Two part-time technicians will be expanded from part-time to full-time status and will operate out of six different locations. Services will also be added to Queens this year. This is a project of the New York City, New York area.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total New York, NY Area:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$100,000</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart of the Hamptons Southampton, NY</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To provide medical transportation across town lines and into New York for children. This is a project of the Nassau and Suffolk Counties, New York area.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Haven, Inc. Cold Spring, NY</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
<td>To continue to provide free legal advice and representation to the poor and consultation and training to the staff of the various parishes of the Sisters of Mercy and other kindred agencies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rising Star Program (Located at Molloy College) Rockville Centre, NY</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>To assist in incorporating faith-based practices into the Rising Star Program, which was set up to host 60 children per summer at its summer camp for economically disadvantaged children.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Nassau/Suffolk Counties:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$30,000</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart and Hand Community Center Providence, Rhode Island</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>In partnership with St. Francis Hospital, the Order of Malta in Rhode Island will initiate a health and wellness agenda in their area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total Rhode Island Area:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$10,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education for Parish Research Washington, DC</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>To provide educational programs of educating lay Catholics on the teachings of the Church so they may assist the clergy to better serve the needs of the Catholic population and support the defense of the faith. This is a national project of the American Association.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Defense of Faith:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$25,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Samoa College—Pago Pago, American Samoa</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>Grant to provide scholarships for American Samoa exchange students to attend Catholic colleges and universities in the United States. This is a project of the American Association.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total International:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$563,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td><strong>$2,109,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grand Total - Unrestricted Grants:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$521,000</strong></td>
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</table>
Restricted Grants by Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waverly Care Center</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted income for the programs of this healthcare facility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order of Malta</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted donation to the Boston area for their Boston College Fund.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order of Malta</td>
<td>$2,300.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted donation given towards the New Jersey area's annual White Mass in memory of Mrs. Roberta Ferguson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source Cardinal Cooke Health Care</td>
<td>$48,394.51</td>
<td>Represents restricted grant to support their programs for disabled children and individuals afflicted with AIDS, kidney related diseases and Huntingtons disease. This is a project of the New York City Area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph's Seminary</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted contribution towards their Diocesan Formation Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus Clinic</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted contribution towards their programs for the poor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Association for the Holy See</td>
<td>$4,000.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted donation to their fundraising event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish of Sacra Famiglia</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>Restricted grant for the good works of the Parish of Sacra Famiglia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pontifical North American College Rome, Italy</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted contribution towards their programs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reaching the Unreached</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
<td>Restricted contribution for their good works helping the sick and the poor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sovereign Military Order of Malta Rome, Italy</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted donation to the SMOM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sovereign Military Order of Malta Rome, Italy</td>
<td>$55,000.00</td>
<td>Represents restricted donations for the restoration of the Archives of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Restricted Grants Disbursed</td>
<td>$130,869.51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ministry To Appalachia

Each year at Christmas time, Tom Pecora, K. M. of the New Jersey Area leads a caravan to the poorest town in Appalachia. The following is an account of this journey.

Every year at Christmas time, Tom Pecora, K. M. of the New Jersey Area leads a caravan to the poorest town in Appalachia. The following is an account of this journey.

Located in the North East corner of Kentucky is one of the poorest counties in the United States. Magoffin County has over 90% unemployment with not much hope of change due to the almost non-existent coal-mining industry. The Mines have been closed for forty years and generations have not worked at all for years.

In many instances, the people of this area (many of Irish and Scottish decent) live in abandoned office trailers and hand made shacks. There is no water, indoor plumbing, electricity and especially heat. They live day to day with not much hope for tomorrow.

Religion is the exception, not the rule. Not many people practice religion of any kind, and sadly, Black Magic and ritualistic sacrifice are gaining ground.

Twenty four years ago, Fr. Giles Hayes, O. S. B., of the Delbarton School, a preparatory school for boys in Morristown, New Jersey, run by the Order of Saint Benedict made his first trip to Magoffin County. He has returned every year since and is personally responsible for collecting five trailers filled to the roof with toys, blankets, food, hygiene products and warm clothes.

Three of the trailers are sent to a Christian Center for distribution and the remaining two are used directly in the town of Salyersville in Magoffin County. Salyersville is the poorest town in Magoffin County.

On the Wednesday before Christmas, approximately two thirds of the Junior Class of the Delbarton School board two buses at 6:30 a.m. and begin their journey. It is a fifteen hour trip. Two hours before their final destination, the group picks up four minibuses. The minibuses are needed to gain access to some dirt roads that larger trucks cannot reach. There is one more stop before the end of the trip to pick up five fifteen foot or twenty four foot trucks. These trucks are used to deliver all of the products to a local firehouse, general store and one other location in the middle of nowhere.

Some time between 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. the people begin lining up. Each person is greeted with a smile and handshake. After receiving clothing, each child gets his or her picture taken with Santa Claus.

Each morning starts with Mass at 6:30 a.m. Selected readings reflect in some manner the work being done. Mass is celebrated in the upstairs hallway of the motel that is completely taken over by this project. Work begins at 7:30 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. loading all the products from the two large trailers to the smaller fifteen foot or twenty four foot trucks.

The first morning the group visits the J. T. Arnett School with toys. Each grade files in and lines up to meet Santa. By wireless microphone, Santa is told the child’s name. The look on the child’s face when Santa calls him or her by name is a heartwarming experience. The children are told that the toys are a gift from Santa and the group.

On the second day, the group visits a Christian Center for distribution. The rest of the group visits a school for boys in Morristown, New Jersey, run by the Order of Saint Benedict. This school has sadly, Black Magic and ritualistic sacrifice are gaining ground.

On the third day, the group visits the J. T. Arnett School with toys. Each grade files in and lines up to meet Santa. By wireless microphone, Santa is told the child’s name. The look on the child’s face when Santa calls him or her by name is a heartwarming experience. The children are told that the toys are a gift from Santa and the group.

(continued on page 15)
### SMOMAA Committees 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Audit Committee</th>
<th>Auxiliary Committee</th>
<th>Catholic Action Committee</th>
<th>Defense of the Faith/ Education Committee</th>
<th>Disciplinary Committee</th>
<th>Executive Committee</th>
<th>Finance/Budget Review Committee</th>
<th>Grants Committee</th>
<th>Honors Committee</th>
<th>Legal and By-Laws Committee</th>
<th>Membership Committee</th>
<th>Nominating Committee</th>
<th>Spirituality Committee</th>
<th>Works Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
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### Questions & Answers

#### Q: How is the officer of the Association elected?

**A:** A candidate for president is nominated by the Board of Councilors. Other members of the board may stand for election with the submission of a petition with 50 members supporting their nominations. The membership at large elects the President for a term of three years. The other officers, the Chancellor, the Hospitaller, the Treasurer and Secretary are elected by the members of the Board of Councillors for three year terms or until their terms as Councillors expire.

#### Q: What are the responsibilities of the Chancellor?

**A:** The Chancellor is the senior officer of the Association following the President and is an ex officio member of all committees established by the Board except for the Audit Committee and the Nominating Committee. The Chancellor fills the office of the President whenever a vacancy occurs and has the power as Acting President until a duly elected President can assume office. In the event of a temporary inability of the President to serve in his office, the Chancellor becomes the Acting President and has the powers to perform all the duties of the office of president until the President can resume his role. The Chancellor undertakes other duties that are assigned by the Board of Councillors and the Executive Committee or the President.

#### Q: Who are the Area Chairs?

**A:** The Board of Councillors has established regional areas of the Association and has provided a process for their election. Essentially, the elections for Area Chairs mirror the process for Board of Councillors. Members are informed that an election will be held and are invited to suggest possible names to a local Nominating Committee. Members not nominated may stand for election by submitting a petition. An Area Chair is elected for a term of three years and is eligible to serve only for two consecutive terms. The election of an Area Chair does not become effective unless the Board of Councillors ratifies the election. The election of Area Chairs is not subject to the rules of other officers of the Association.
First International Meeting of Members of Hospitalities

(continued from page 6)

As Fra’ Albrecht explained:

Lourdes is synonymous with the renewal of the Order; the many hospitalier activities of the Order around the world that have developed over the past 30 years have their roots in Lourdes in one way or another.

I would like to make another point. Many of our assistants come from the finance world, while others come from the world of business; the majority of our helpers are young people at the beginning of a hopeful professional career. Here they encounter a world where the Christian values of charity and service, respect for human dignity in every human situation are not just obligations to respect but tangible realities that we take seriously. In a world where illness, disability and suffering are so visible at the same time they experience a world that is full and at peace, where the capacity for love and charity is alive. This is a wonder that takes place day after day. The real attention given to the sick, the tradition of Lourdes to give them the place of honour, lead to another horizon of experience where a meeting with Jesus Christ takes place, whether it is in a conscious way or, as in the majority of cases, under the form of a contact that brings healing, that breaks the deviations in individual life and leads towards redemption. Thus the conversion that the Blessed Virgin demanded at the Grotto takes place not through heroic actions but in the form of self-giving.

Fra’ Albrecht explained to the hospitaliers that the Order of Malta is a relative newcomers to service in Lourdes. The first Malta pilgrimage group came from Germany in 1949, and the first International Pilgrimage of the Order of Malta was in 1938. Albrecht noted that each May the worldwide Order of Malta brings over 5,000 pilgrims to Lourdes from all five continents.

Those who have been to Lourdes know fully well that the Lourdes pilgrimage energizes us and that we bring the message of the Blessed Mother home in performing our service here or elsewhere. This energizing impact of Lourdes service to the sick was noted at the Conference: As Father Liam, the English Chaplain in Lourdes, told about 400 English-speaking hospitaliers at Mass on Saturday in the Crypt of the Basilica, “We see Christ in our malades and our malades see Christ in us, when we return home things are not as easy. But our Lourdes experience allows us to return and become people we never thought we could become!”

The Conference offered a comprehensive program. Workshops were held at various locations in the Domain on subjects such as “accompanying the sick or disabled pilgrims today with their families.” “communication between hospitaliers,” “pilgrimage by rail, coach and plane,” and “how to pass-on hospitality experience and knowledge.” Video presentations provided by different hospitaliers were shown in the Hemicykle (second floor of St. Bernadette Chapel). This added a contemporary feeling to the Conference.


The first international “Rencontre” of hospitaliers provided a chance for dialogue and a new sense of fraternity among Lourdes hospitaliers. We believe that the presence of the American Association of the Order of Malta was greatly appreciated and showed our brothers and sisters that we see ourselves as are part of a greater “Lourdes family.” The Conference set the stage nicely for the Lourdes theme for the year 2005, “caring for our beloved malades.”

Breaking News!

(continued from page 7)

Thirdly—Each Area will have an Auxiliary Director appointed by the Area Chair. This person will be responsible for recruiting and sustaining Auxiliary membership and for providing programs and projects for Auxiliaries in conjunction with the Area Chair. The Area Auxiliary Director will be under the direction of the Area Chair and supported by the Malta Auxiliary Corps leadership. Fourthly—The American Association Board of Councillors has created an Auxiliary Committee of the Board which, for the first time, will commit itself to the continuous development and strengthening of an ongoing Auxiliary Corps throughout all the areas. This committee is chaired by Paul H. Durnan, K.M.

Q. Where are we now in the formation of this new Malta Auxiliary Corps?

A. This is an exciting, vibrant and energetic work in progress! In January 2005, the Board of Councillors accepted a formal Malta Auxiliary Corps Strategic Plan which stated as its goal: “By the September 2005 Malta Membership Conference in Fairfield, Connecticut, to have in place a new entity—the Malta Auxiliary Corps—throughout the American Association.” Collectively and individually the Board Auxiliary Committee, the National Auxiliary Corps Director, the Assistant National Director and the National Auxiliary Corps Advisory Board are performing in adherence to the interim timelines of the adopted Strategic Plan. The goal outlined above is well within reach. They ask for your continued prayers. If anyone is interested in joining this terrific and evolving implementation or if anyone has to offer new and different ideas, please contact Paul H. Durnan.

(a) (516) 764-4000
(b) (516) 516 678-6633
(c) (516) 808-3802
paul@durnangroup.com
Deceased Members Masses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Date Deceased</th>
<th>Mass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warren Jerry Ashley, KM</td>
<td>Bloomfield Hills, MI</td>
<td>1/28/05</td>
<td>Monday, 2/28/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suzanne C. Graham, DM</td>
<td>Miami Beach, FL</td>
<td>3/13/04</td>
<td>Monday, 3/14/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John E. Stoddard, KM</td>
<td>Pennington, NJ</td>
<td>10/17/04</td>
<td>Tuesday, 3/15/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyle A. Wilson, KM</td>
<td>Vero Beach, FL</td>
<td>4/2/04</td>
<td>Friday, 4/01/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbert Pett, Jr., KM</td>
<td>Cutchogue, NY</td>
<td>4/7/04</td>
<td>Thursday, 4/7/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph J. Harkins, KM</td>
<td>Ponte Vedra Beach, FL</td>
<td>5/11/04</td>
<td>Wednesday, 05/11/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Fowler Wilson, DM</td>
<td>Wynnewood, PA</td>
<td>6/29/04</td>
<td>Wednesday, 06/29/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis A. MacKenzie, KM</td>
<td>Birmingham, MI</td>
<td>8/11/04</td>
<td>Wednesday, 8/10/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Edward F. Keefe</td>
<td>Greenwich, CT</td>
<td>9/20/04</td>
<td>Tuesday, 9/20/2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Anniversary Masses and Monthmind Masses are scheduled for members who have died recently. Masses are scheduled at the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral of St. Patrick. Family and friends of the deceased members are invited.

Public Expression of Christianity Banned? “Laus Deo”  
(continued from page 5)

are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. Praise be to God!

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848 deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. Praise be to God! Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy. “One Nation, Under God.”

I am awed by Washington’s prayer for America. Have you never read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on!

“Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United states at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Laus Deo!

When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation’s capital, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. You may forget the width and height of “Laus Deo” , its location, or the architects but no one who reads this will be able to forget its meaning, or these words: “Unless the Lord builds the house its builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.” (Psalm 127:1)

It is hoped you will send this to every child you know; to every sister, brother, father, mother or friend. They will not find offense, because you have given them a lesson in history that they probably never learned in school. With that, be not ashamed, or afraid, but have pity on those who will never see.

This piece was sent by Victor Coudert KMor.

Ministry To Appalachia  
(continued from page 12)

name is something that brings tears to one’s eyes. Each child has an “Elf” who sits with him or her and plays with the new toys for about fifteen or twenty minutes.

On other mornings small trucks and minivans take some of the products and go to remote areas where Santa visits as well.

During this time of year especially, it is an opportunity to visit and help in some small way the poor of Appalachia. If not for this project, the people of Magoffin County would not have a warm jacket, blankets, gloves for their children, and toys as well as a picture with Santa.

Over three thousand people are served directly through this project and another five thousand at the Christian Center. They know someone cares about them in a place where they believe there is no hope.

Time and time again, in the eyes of little children or in the smile of the elderly, you see the face of Jesus Christ and hopefully, they see the same.
Message of His Holiness (continued from front)

his own people are transmitted to him, then the wisdom and experience of the elderly can illuminate his path on the way of progress toward an every more complete form of civilization.

How important it is to rediscover this mutual enrichment between different generations! The Lenten Season, with its strong call to conversion and solidarity, leads us this year to focus on these important themes which concern everyone. What would happen if the People of God yielded to a certain current mentality that considers these people, our brothers and sisters, as almost useless when they are reduced in their capacities due to the difficulties of age or sickness? Instead, how different the community would be, if, beginning with the family, it tries always to remain open and welcoming toward them.

4. Dear brothers and sisters, during Lent, aided by the Word of God, let us reflect upon how important it is that each community accompany with loving understanding those who grow old. Moreover, one must become accustomed to thinking confidently about the mystery of death, so that the definitive encounter with God occurs in a climate of interior peace, in awareness that He “who knit me in my mother’s womb” (cf. Genesis 1:26) will receive us.

Mary, our guide on the Lenten journey, leads all believers especially the elderly, to an ever more profound knowledge of Christ dead and risen, who is the ultimate reason for our existence. May she, the faith of the elderly, to an ever more profound knowledge of Christ dead and risen, who is the ultimate reason for our existence. May she, the faith of the elderly.

My Blessing to All!

John Paul II

Questions and Answers about the Website (continued from page 3)

Q: What are the Major Projects?
A: Also under Works & Activities on the main menu is a tab for Major Projects, a list of Malta projects that have their own special page on our website. While viewing one of them, click on the page and it will move you to their homepage on their website. If you are involved in a project you think might qualify to be included here, contact our Hospitaller, Fran Hardart. Her e-mail address is in the Membership Directory.

Q: Can our website help me explain Lourdes to a potential Malade?
A: Potential Malades and Caregivers can learn a great deal about history of our Order. Then they should go to Lourdes Pilgrimage on the main menu for a general description of the Apparitions and the Pilgrimage. If they click on 2004 Pilgrimage and then on the top of the page click on Photo Gallery, there are photos which will give them a good idea about the Annual International Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Q: How does the 2004 Lourdes Photo Gallery Work?
A: When you go to this section, you will see small thumbnail photos on each page. There are several pages and about 100 photos. If you click on a particular photo, it will get larger. You can e-mail it, print it, or file it on a disk so you can save it or have it printed on photo paper at your local photography store.

Q: Will a Photo Gallery of the 2005 Pilgrimage be available?
A: Yes, as soon after the Pilgrimage as possible. Suggestions or Comments are welcome. On the main menu, click on “Contact Us.”

Prayer of the Order

Lord Jesus, Thou hast been 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 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 to promote God’s glory, the world’s peace, and all that may benefit the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. Amen.

The Beatiudes

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.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
Blessed 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.

Board of Councillors Meetings

The following is the schedule for Board of Councillor Meeting for 2005:

January 6, 2005
March 11, 2005
May 19, 2005
September 16, 2005
November 9, 2005

In conjunction with the Membership Conference at Fairfield University
In conjunction with the Annual Investiture and Dinner

Check the News and Update Section www.maltausa.org

The News and Update Section on our website is a current resource for what is happening with the Order. Also under Works & Activities on the main menu is a tab for Major Projects, a list of Malta projects that have their own special page on our website. While viewing one of them, click on the page and it will move you to their homepage on their website. If you are involved in a project you think might qualify to be included here, contact our Hospitaller, Fran Hardart. Her e-mail address is in the Membership Directory.

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