



HOSPITALLERS

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR



Jack Pohrer, Chancellor
and Acting President

With Dan Kelly's appointment to a seat on the Government Council in Rome, he resigned as President of the American Association in June and I, as Chancellor, assumed the additional role of Acting President. I am honored and humbled to serve as acting President. Some of the biggest news is that almost 200 members and guests, including the Grand Master and other dignitaries from Rome, gathered in Long Island for our Biennial National Membership Conference. This year's conference focused on Christian-Muslim relations and individual spirituality. Following the conference, the Grand Master planned to visit the New York area and then travel to visit the Federal Association area as well.

I would like to quickly update you on what has happened over the last several months and about upcoming events you won't want to miss:

■ We held the second annual reception for our Bishops on June 17th in San Antonio, attended by about 75 Bishops and several Cardinals. Our sponsors were Cardinal O'Malley of Boston and Archbishop Dolan of New York.

This is our opportunity to meet and educate the bishops regarding the Order of Malta and what we do. They were very receptive and several have invited us to their diocese and offered to help in recruiting Knights and Dames.

Special thanks go to Jim O'Connor for organizing this event; to Paul Durnan for his presentation of the new Catechism DVD project of the Defense of the Faith and Education Committee; to Joe Metz for showing our new DVD on Works and Ministries; to Ken Craig for representing our Membership Committee; and to Dan Kelly, for moderating this successful outreach.

■ The Strategic Plan Committee Chairs presented implementation reports for the September BOC meeting. This will allow us to go forward in 2010 with a "blue print" for action including the following areas:

- Lourdes Pilgrimage
- Membership
- Works of the Order
- Communications
- Governance

We will review progress in implementing the plan each year as it is realistically a "work in progress."

■ The first Prison Ministry Symposium will be held on October 16 & 17, 2009 at the Renaissance Hotel at the Newark Airport. Dinner will be on Friday evening (October 16th) with the Symposium being held on Saturday. Bob Fredericks is organizing this effort. Please see the American Association website for more information.

■ We hope you are planning to attend the Association Investiture and Mass on November 13, 2009. We are very pleased that his Excellency, Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York and Principal Chaplain of the American Association, will preside and celebrate the Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral at our Investiture. Archbishop Dolan will be our principal speaker at our Investiture Dinner that evening.

■ The time period for submitting grant requests in 2010 will be from January 15 to March 15, one month earlier than in the past. This change is being made to allow the Grants Committee additional time to study the grant requests and to prepare their recommendations for the Board of Councilors at their May meeting.

■ The Lourdes Pilgrimage is one of the three most important works of the Order. The year 2010 will be the 25th annual pilgrimage of the American Association. Gail and Joe Berardino, our 2010 Co-Chairs, are already hard at work to make the 25th Anniversary Lourdes Pilgrimage another grace-filled success. Invitation materials are already in the mail.

■ I'm delighted to report that Ken Craig and Charlotte Williams will be the 2011 Lourdes Pilgrimage Co-Chairs.

■ Joe Metz has been elected as Regent for the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes, replacing Frá John Dunlap who was elected to the Sovereign Council of the Order.

■ Congratulations to the new Area Chairs from New Jersey and Boston. In New Jersey, James B. Hamerschlag replaces Robert J. Fredericks and in Boston, Suzanne W. Downing replaces Joseph H. Feitelberg. Many thanks to the outgoing chairs who served with such distinction and good luck to the new area chairs.

■ Congratulations to the new area hospitallers:

- from New York City: Daniel Foxx replaces outgoing co-hospitaller, Frá John Dunlap.
- from Fall River, serving the Cape Cod area is John L. Allen.
- from Vermont, Deacon William F. Glinka has been appointed.
- from New Hampshire, Joseph F. Kane has been appointed.
- from Boston, Kevin J. McCullough replaces Suzanne W. Downing.

Our thanks to these new appointees and to all who are willing to serve the Association. Please contact me or any Board member if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your dedication and continued work for the Order of Malta. ✠

God bless you.

Jack E. Pohrer

Jack E. Pohrer

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2010 Renewing our Vocations

by Joseph and Gail Berardino



Joseph and Gail Berardino

“Lord Jesus, thou has seen fit to enlist me for thy service among the Knights and Dames of Saint John of Jerusalem...” So begins our Daily Prayer.

Each year, during the first weekend in May, the members of the Order of Malta from around the world gather in Lourdes, France to minister to the sick and give witness to our faith. In 2010, our American Association will sponsor its twenty-fifth pilgrimage to Lourdes. Further, our Holy Father has pronounced 2010 a year of prayer for vocations. For the American Association pilgrimage in 2010, we have chosen the theme of “renewing our vocations,” which reflects the congruence of the calendar and the reality of our every day lives.

Approximately 6 million pilgrims trek to Lourdes each year. The Church has proclaimed 68 miracles since Bernadette's visions of 1858. However, for those who have made this pilgrimage, we witness miracles every day as we... “practice charity towards our neighbors, especially the poor and the sick” (our Daily Prayer continues) and we witness the profound impact of the pilgrimage on our guests whom we call “malades”. One could say that the illness, visited upon each malade and their caregivers, has become their vocation.

We all have more than one vocation. In the first instance, we are joined in community by our vocation to the Order of Malta. We have families and many of us are parents or grandparents. We have our careers and our other charitable works. We are caregivers more than the one week a year in Lourdes. Indeed, we have many vocations.

From the outstanding homilies we absorb each year during our pilgrimage, at least one will remind us that we all go to Lourdes as malades. We may dress in our uniforms and capes. We may assign ourselves tasks — to push and pull voitures for our malades to and from the domain; we may serve as medical professionals; we may serve as clergy; we may process as a group of 400 pilgrims among thousands to events every day. But we are malades, and our service provides special healing...which is our more than ample reward.

This is the first of a series of messages we will be sharing with you as we invite you to join the “Lourdes 2010” pilgrimage. Please mark April 28 to May 4, 2010 on your calendars. An invitation to join the pilgrimage, along with the reservation form and related fulfillment information should have reached your home by now. If you plan to join the pilgrimage, we encourage you to return your reservation as soon as possible as logistics are complicated for a journey of this magnitude.

As in past years, we have arranged a charter flight and will supplement the charter with commercial flights that will have reasonable connections departing from Boston and New York. The commercial flights' arrival and departure times in Lourdes will be coordinated with the charter. We expect the charter to be able to accommodate over 300 pilgrims. We will need firm commitments by December 1, 2009 and will implement a “No Cancellation Policy” after March 1, 2010 (travel insurance will be available).

When we were candidates to become Knights and Dames, we committed to seriously consider making a pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this spiritual journey, we ask you to seriously consider joining us this year.

For those who have conflicts with the date or who might not be physically able to travel and work with us in Lourdes, you can still “join” us in many ways. You might consider sponsoring a malade who you believe would benefit from this pilgrimage. This should be someone you know very well. We host approximately 50 malades and nearly as many caregivers each year.

We have a “malades in spirit” program to include malades who are unable to join us physically on the pilgrimage but who are actively remembered in our prayers each day. Please consider recommending malades in spirit to us.

In a later communication, you will see that we depend heavily on contributions from members of the Order to sponsor malades and underwrite our costs. And most important of all, we ask for your prayers as we make our journey. Our Daily Prayer implores God to “Give me the strength I need to carry out this my resolve, forgetful of myself, learning ever from the holy Gospel a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion...”

As the Holy Father asks us to pray for more vocations for our church, we will also use this week in Lourdes to pray for our Order and its many works in all our communities which occur 24/7 and 365 days a year. Among the words of Our Lady to Bernadette in 1858 she said “Go and drink from the spring and wash yourself there.” For 152 years, tens of millions of pilgrims have followed that missive. For 25 of those years the American Association has enabled thousands of our dear malades and their families to “wash” themselves before returning home refreshed to their vocations as malades or caregivers.

This pilgrimage is core to our vocation as members of the Order of Malta. It is also a privilege. Please join us and witness our daily miracles.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. ✠



Mass in the Rosary Basilica



Boot Camp for Knightly Service

by Christopher J. Godfrey, Area Chair for Northern Indiana

To combat the “dictatorship of relativism” as identified by Benedict XVI, we need to be prepared. As a philosophy that ‘recognizes nothing as absolute, and leaves only the “I” and its whims as the ultimate measure of all things’, the challenge of relativism to our Order should be apparent.

To this end, the Auxiliary of the Northern Indiana area recently met with Professor Emeritus Charles Rice of the University of Notre Dame Law School. “Charlie is the most capable guy I know of when it comes to fighting the good fight with intelligence and charity,” said Area Chair Chris Godfrey. “Not only did he teach Jurisprudence and Constitutional Law, he has been a national figure for many years in the defense of human dignity.”

Professor Rice conducted the session in the rigorous Socratic method familiar to law schools. He began with the questions: “Is there a right and wrong? And if so, how do you know?” These are two questions our Auxiliaries will face when they return to their respective universities this fall. While the Latin word for truth, “veritas”, is inscribed in many college seals, its search is limited to that which can be scientifically observed. In other words, spiritual concepts are off-limits for academic inquiry.

But this also makes the concept of human dignity unknowable and the mission of our Order unreasonable. “What’s to keep us from voting to have our friend Michael here ‘plugged into the wall?’” Rice challenged. To their credit, his friends rose to his defense, but they soon realized that their efforts would be inadequate if relativism framed the terms of the debate. Even though relativism can be a useful dodge in difficult situations, choosing the easy way over the truth often has lethal consequences.

“Relativism results in legal positivism where the ‘rightness’ or ‘wrongness’ of something is determined by consensus,” said Rice. “If the majority follows the proper legislative procedures, a law is deemed good and valid. So if we all voted to exterminate Michael, he would be history.”

Professor Rice cited the present debate over healthcare as a further example. Having read all 1017 pages of the dominant House healthcare bill being considered at the time of the meeting, Rice warned that many of our freedoms and protections would be threatened by the relativism present in the bill, and likely to show in its subsequent regulations. “All of the ethical criticisms being leveled against this bill are valid,” Rice said.

Our aging population is a particular challenge, because there are fewer young people to support them. The declining birth rate is undoubtedly caused by another consequence of relativism — contraception and abortion. Nevertheless, our Auxiliary has been trying to alleviate some of this pressure. Many of them help the retired Holy Cross Brothers living in South Bend.

“As Catholics, we are at a great advantage,” said Rice. “We come to know the truth by both Faith and reason. While there are many self-evident truths about our nature, the teaching Magisterium of the Catholic Church is key. It helps us to form our conscience, which helps us to make good judgments. Because of this help, it is near impossible for a Catholic to do wrong with a clear conscience.”

Although it was a demanding session, the Auxiliary loved it. As a parting gift, Prof. Rice gave everyone an autographed copy of his book *Where Did I Come From? Where Am I Going? How Do I Get There? Straight answers for young Catholics* published by St. Augustine’s Press. ❄



(left to right) Olivia Brach, Katherine Remley, Chris Godfrey, Bob Cassidy, Tess Godfrey, Prof. Charles Rice, and Michael Thomas.

Homeless Family Center Can Now Take Clients for a Ride

The Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta in Vero Beach, FL have generously donated the funds for the purchase of a vehicle that will be used to provide transportation to the clients of the Homeless Family Center.

Peggy Lyons and Bill Ahrens of the Vero Beach area presented a check for \$23,600 to the Homeless Family Center Executive Director, Julia Keenan. An additional grant for \$7,000 was provided by the American Association as part of the 2009 Grants Program.

“The Homeless Family Center is grateful for the support to provide transportation for clients to and from employment, school and case plan appointments. Currently, the public transportation system is in need of more routes, buses and hours of operation. Having a vehicle to provide transportation to clients will increase opportunities for employment and assist families to become independent members in this community,” said Julia Keenan, HFC Executive Director.

The Homeless Family Center is a non-profit organization that provides emergency (short-term) and transitional (long-term) housing for homeless families in Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee Counties. They provide more than just a roof overhead, partnering with a dedicated group of individuals to provide services for clients such as children’s programs, employment training, and mental health counseling.

The Mission of the organization is to provide opportunities for homeless families to end homelessness by achieving self-sufficiency through education, living wages, and permanent housing. The Homeless Family Center has been providing services for the homeless since 1991.

The center is located at 720 4th Street in Vero Beach. For more information or to find out how you can help the Center, you can visit their website at www.homelessfamilycenter.org or call Julia Keenan at (772) 567-5537. ❄

This article was written by Connie Utter, Executive Assistant at Homeless Family Center, Inc. For more information on the Homeless Family Center, visit their website at www.homelessfamilycenter.org





THE HOSPITALLER'S REPORT

by Joe Metz, KMOB, Hospitaller



Joe Metz, Hospitaller

In these days of early Fall 2009, you can rest assured that our Knights, Dames, and Auxiliary, some 2,000 strong, are doing their daily “Malta Works” with dedication and self-sacrifice. We celebrate the diversity of their works and the many ways the Order takes up the call to serve the least of our brethren.

As I prepared to write about our works, I asked our Area Chairs and Area Hospitallers to prepare a reflection on one or two of their “special” works and to tell us why they are so proud of them. I know that you will find their reflections as beautiful as I did because they come from the heart.

The works reported below call to mind the message of Pope Benedict XVI's recent Encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate,” a letter on integral human development in charity and truth. The Holy Father writes: “Love-caritas is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement...” This is what the men and women of our Order are doing on a day-to-day basis. These are only a few of the many beautiful stories I have received.

1. From Cincinnati, from a story of Ivan Voloder as told by Bill Burleigh:

Ivan was born in Sarajevo with a serious colorectal malformation. There was no effective treatment available in Europe. The Order of Malta's role in bringing Ivan to Cincinnati for surgery began, appropriately, in Lourdes where President Dan Kelly was told by officials of the Order from Bosnia/Herzegovina that Ivan's parents had managed somehow to locate the world's leading doctor in this field at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Dan contacted Bill, and through the efforts of many Malta members and supporters not one, but two operations were done successfully. During this entire time, Ivan and his family were lovingly cared for by members of the Order. Bill writes: “Ivan's odyssey isn't quite finished but his journey has amply demonstrated Malta's international reach to the sick and needy.” (see full story on page 5)

2. From Michigan Area Chair Tom Larabell:

“I am most proud of our Malta Medical and Dental Mission in the Detroit Area. This was the culmination of an effort that began with our staffing a soup kitchen and then being asked by a bishop to begin treating the homeless in the area. After we began treating the people, we were told by the medical professionals that a huge health problem was the lack of dental treatment. As a consequence, we are the only clinic in Detroit that provides a complete range of dental services, including dentures and partial dentures. The person who has spearheaded the entire effort has been Lou Mahoney, KM. He has been a tireless worker on behalf of the sick and the poor.”

3. From Philadelphia Area Hospitaller David Ermine:

“The Philadelphia Area meets monthly, generally on the first Saturdays, followed by mass, following breakfast, we assemble the pre-prepared components of approximately 16 meals for freezing and transport to the Aid for Friends program freezers at a nearby church. The program, which has a number of freezer locations throughout the area, delivers meals to shut ins. I believe we are the largest single contributor of meals to the local freezers, so our contribution is vital (especially in the summer months when so many people are away). This ministry began in February and our goal is to also involve members in the actual delivery of meals to shut ins. We were blessed in June to be joined by His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali...we doubled our usual attendance of 10 and increased our meal output to 36!”

4. From Connecticut Area Co-Chair Jean Tisdale and Auxiliary Coordinators Jen and Mitch Mitchell:

“How would you like to serve the sick while sitting in your own living room, while chatting with a friend or even at the beach? Now you can.” The Connecticut Malta Auxiliary and their “graduate” Dames have created a wonderful new ministry called the “Kennedy Rosary Project.” The rosaries are hand-knotted from fishermen's twine and are MRI-safe. The mission of the ministry is to make twine knotted rosaries and chaplets, pray them and give them away. The MRI-safe rosaries are placed in special packaging featuring instructions on how to pray the rosary...” and are delivered to local hospitals. (see full story on page 7)

5. From Minneapolis Area Hospitaller John Dick:

“One of our ministries is working with the residents of a local nursing home. It is very rewarding to spend time with people who often have no one or a few visitors and are so appreciative of someone to talk with. Over the years we have gotten to know some of them quite well...one of the few men in our Rosary group recently died after battling cancer. Since he was no longer able to come down to the Rosary, afterwards I would visit and pray with him and his wife who was also a resident. It was incredible to sit with this 90+year old farmer of amazing strength and hold his hand as he gripped it while enduring immense pain. We are now working on a project where the nursing home will contact volunteers from our parish when they know someone is close to dying so that they may have someone with them.”

6. From Chicago Area Chair Tom Reedy:

“I am very proud and humbled by the Knights, Dames and volunteers who participate in the Tuesday Night Supper. We serve fresh, hot meals to 130 homeless, hungry and poor people. This is made possible the third Thursday of every month through a generous grant from the Order of Malta. There is wonderful participation...”

7. From St. Louis Area Chair Ron Aylward:

“A very special project is one that originated a few months ago. My sister has had Alzheimer's disease for about 12 years... the neighbor across the street has had Alzheimer's for about 15 years and has forgotten how to walk. When you visit an Alzheimer's ward in a nursing home, most of the residents are asleep in wheelchairs. Most observers are of the impression that residents are not capable of getting up and walking, but they are! I have solicited and received my sister's nursing home's participation in a pilot exercise program for the 37 Alzheimer's residents. Each resident who agrees to participate will be evaluated by a physical therapist, his doctor and cardiologist to determine their physical capacity. Students in the local community college physical therapy class have volunteered to assist. If this program is successful, it could become a national program, applicable to all residents in nursing homes, not just Alzheimer's patients.”

8. From Rhode Island Area Chairs Joan and Bob Arrigan:

“Our summer project has been the Jamestown Community Farm (a miracle farm with no irrigation). We pick up the vegetables every Tuesday evening and deliver them to the Franciscan Center in Providence. It is so rewarding to see how excited the people are who are there to receive the veggies. The numbers have increased from last summer. Also, to see all the volunteers who plant and harvest the garden in Jamestown. Great spirit.”

9. From Albany Area Chairs Dave and Lillian James:

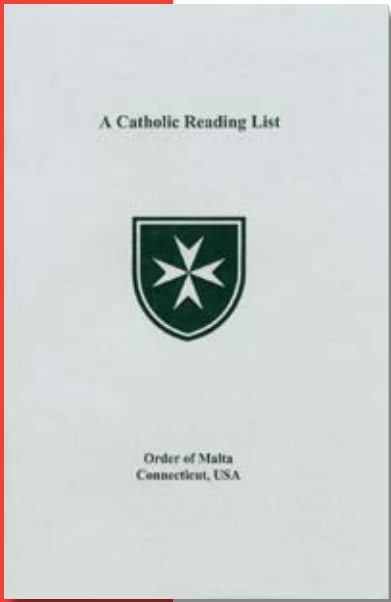
“The ministry closest to our heart is Alpha Pregnancy Center. It is a safe place for women who go for help in having their babies rather than having an abortion. We sort diapers into packages and mark size and number to be given to the mothers when they come for childhood education classes. We also sort children's and infants' clothing. We bring one Dame who is unable to drive but who thoroughly enjoys coming to the “Diaper Brigade.” It gives her the ability to “do something” to help others, where she can still be an active and contributing member.”

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Spirituality Activities in Connecticut

By William J. Fox, KM



Since the founding of the Connecticut Area in the late 1980's, the leadership has understood that hands on works and ministries would not be sustainable in the long term without the nurturing and care of the members' spiritual formation. It is the spiritual growth of the members that has enabled the growth in the active ministries. As faith begets charity, spiritual growth begets works and ministries.

Just as no single active ministry appeals to all members, neither does any one spiritual activity speak to everyone. With an increasingly diverse membership, a wide array of spiritual interests arises. This was affirmed by a questionnaire survey sent to the membership — there is no one size that fits all. The challenge is to broaden the range of spiritual offerings.

With a view toward sharing our experiences with other Areas of the Order, here are the spiritual programs and undertakings that have been well received in Connecticut — some new, some unique and some now established traditions:

Spiritual Book Club

This began in 2008 with the discussion of three books, at 10 AM and 7:30 PM at a parish hall. We had a leader for each book: Seven Story Mountain by Thomas Merton; Maurice and Therese by Bishop Patrick Ahern; and, Confessions of St. Augustine. We have gotten very favorable feedback about having small groups interacting with a knowledgeable discussion leader. Some did not read the book beforehand, but still found the discussion worthwhile and generally found reading the book afterward even more rewarding.

Email Prayer List

Since 2002, Michael O'Rourke has been sending an Email Prayer List three to five times per week, listing people who are sick or otherwise in need of prayer. The email ends with an uplifting spiritual quote or other insight and is now sent to over 1,500 people. Michael extends an invitation to all members of the Order to be included or to submit a prayer request; you can email Michael at: orourke@optonline.net.

A Catholic Reading List

Because books change lives and Catholic writings have transformed the spirituality of people since the first century, Msgr. Kevin Wallin and Bill Fox compiled a listing of many of the classics of Catholic literature spanning 21 centuries. This collection by 120 writers of 160 works of Catholic wisdom is categorized from Scripture to fiction including some works about the Order. Copies of the list are available in the New York office.

Eucharistic Ministry Training

For many years, Msgr. Wallin has provided a six-hour training session on Eucharistic Ministry for those ministering at hospitals or nursing homes as well as in parishes. Eucharistic Ministry continues to be the largest ministry in the Area; many have found it to be the most rewarding.

Spiritual Post Card

For nearly ten years, one member, Don Wiesen, has been providing a monthly post card with a short biblical passage or other quote from spiritual masters offering spiritual nourishment. It is sent to all on the Connecticut mailing list and others. It was initiated with the intent of encouraging all to spend time daily in prayer and to provide a suggested monthly prayer theme.

Retreat at Enders Island

Mystic CT Recently, based on input from our survey, we held a weekend retreat for the first time in nine years. One of our Chaplains, Fr. Paul Carrier, S.J., led us through reflections with a focus on the spirituality of the Order. Once again, we had favorable feedback in having a small group gathering of members with the meal time discussion often about active ministries and works.

Healing Mass

For many years, the Area has gathered annually at a healing Mass and Lourdes Reunion for the sick held in the fall.

Malta House Pro Life Mass

On the first Wednesday of each month, a Mass for Life is celebrated in the Chapel of Malta House in Norwalk; the mass is followed by a light dinner.

White Mass

Co-sponsored with the Diocese of Bridgeport, this liturgy is celebrated each spring for medical professionals and all involved in health care. It is followed by brunch with prominent speakers on current bio-medical/ethical issues. As we are all caregivers to the sick, all non-medical members in the area are encouraged to attend.

Mornings of Recollection

On a Saturday morning in Advent and again in Lent, the area hosts a morning of recollection and mass with the Bishop of Bridgeport or other Chaplains of the Order.

Education + Parish + Service (EPS)

This 31 year-old program founded by a Sister of Notre Dame at Trinity College in Washington DC offers scripture, theology and spiritual development for adult Catholics enabling them to understand their faith so they can live it and share it. Since the start of EPS' Program in Connecticut in 1992, it has been enthusiastically embraced by our Area members with over 60 graduates to date. This has been a formidable program for the Area: spiritual and religious training by expert faculty leading to active ministry. See their website at: www.eps.trinitydc.edu.

Well there you have it, an overview of the spirituality program in Connecticut at present — the list of works continues to evolve. We do a lot but we can still do more. We have learned that no one is interested in all that we offer and no matter how much we offer, some will not partake; each person's interest changes as the individual's circumstances change. Small numbers of turnout sometimes yields better quality participation. Most important of all, we have learned never to underestimate the impact of offering spiritual nourishment. As faith begets charity, spiritual growth begets works.

St. Teresa of Avila reminds us that Christ has no hands and feet but ours. If we nourish our hearts and souls with generous time for reading and prayer, we will have the energy to be the hands and feet of Christ in our weary world. ✠

Bill Fox is a member from the Connecticut Area. If you have questions, you can contact Bill at FOXWJFOX@aol.com.

Hospitallers Report (con't)

(continued from page 3)

10. From Worcester, MA Area Hospitaller Gerry Powers:

"We are a small group of Knights and Dames but we have a ministry to McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys. All of our boys have behavioral problems and most have learning disabilities. "Nazareth teaches the boys to trust and shows them the love of God in their lives. The Nazareth Program warms the heart."

11. From Indianapolis Area Chair Hans Geisler:

"Margie and I are especially proud of one project, Indy Catholic Radio, 89.1 FM. Two of us, George Maley and I, are on the Board of Directors and our Indianapolis Area Malta Chaplain, Msgr. Schaedel, is also the Chaplain for Indy Catholic Radio. Those members and auxiliary who are not on the Board help to support it by their prayers and contributions."

12. From New York City Area Chairs Camille and Rory Kelleher:

"The Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center is a unique institution in its combination of nursing home and hospital units for severely disabled children, for Huntington's Disease patients, and for those afflicted with the HIV virus. Members of the Order are Eucharistic Ministers, Friendly Visitors, and they transport residents and patients to Sunday Mass. These ministries are supplemented by the monthly sing-along in the pediatric unit and the annual Malta Circus for the children. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, knights and dames volunteer to assist in serving dinners and socializing with the residents and their families, and at Christmas, organizing brightly wrapped gifts to be distributed by a knight dressed as Santa." ✠

Closing the Gap on a 5,000 Mile Bridge of Love

Ivan Voloder's Story

Cincinnati members of Malta unexpectedly received a special gift of serving the sick and poor in the summer of 2009. A young boy from Bosnia/Herzegovina named Ivan Voloder was coming to Cincinnati to have surgery.

This is a truly international Malta story that began appropriately enough in May during the annual Lourdes Pilgrimage. It was there that Christof Fritzen, Malta ambassador to Bosnia/Herzegovina, spoke to the Erich Lobkowitz, President of the German Association, about the challenges facing Ivan Voloder. Ivan was born in Travnik, near Sarajevo, with a serious colorectal malformation and repeated visits to the leading pediatric clinics of Europe had failed to produce much hope for seven-year old Ivan ever to enjoy a normal life. But there had been word of a break through and that Cincinnati Children's Medical Center in the U.S. had the surgeons and medical facilities ready to perform the delicate colorectal surgery required. There were two immense problems — the cost of the surgery, even though the hospital had offered a greatly reduced discounted price, and a place for the parents to stay during the boy's expected three month's treatment. The Sarajevo Catholic community and their friends from other faith communities had raised money to help out and the family borrowed substantial funds. Buoyed by an unshakable faith in Our Lady of Medjugorja, the Voloders were headed for Cincinnati and forwarded \$79,000 to the hospital, the money they had collected.

While at Lourdes, Erich Lobkowitz contacted Dan Kelly, then president of the American Association, inquiring about Malta's presence in Cincinnati. Dan then contacted Bill Burleigh and Declan O'Sullivan, past and current area chairs of the Cincinnati area and asked what could be done. It so happened that a fellow knight in Cincinnati, Tom Cody, serves as a very active chair of the Children's Hospital board of trustees. He arranged a meeting with Scott Hamlin, the very capable and sympathetic chief financial officer. However, he doubted the financial gap could be further bridged due to the great number of needy international patients coming to the hospital for its renowned care. In the ensuing discussions, a compromise was somehow found viable — the hospital and doctors would be willing to reduce the cost of surgery by half. Besides, temporary housing was arranged for the parents in the Ronald McDonald House adjoining the hospital campus, which was willing to accept however little the family was able to pay. The Voloders eagerly accepted the offer and Malta members kept e-mail circuits busy with messages back and forth to Sarajevo with Chris Fritzen, the ambassador, acting as intermediary. The hospital then wired back to Sarajevo that part of the payment (\$29,000) that the Voloders had borrowed from friends. Thus the stage was set for the surgery.

The nine-hour operation took place June 2, and it went very well — thanks be to God. Ivan Voloder was born with Hirschsprung Disease that occurs when some of the nerve cells that are normally present in the wall of the intestine do not form properly during fetal development. Absent the nerve cells, normal food movement in the intestines does not occur. Consequently, stool backs up, causing either partial or complete bowel obstruction. The successful operation was performed by the celebrated Mexican surgeon, Alberto Pena, adding another international dimension to the saga.

The drama wasn't quite over, however. While Ivan's procedure corrected the problem, a second surgery would be required 90 days later. The hospital said it would be a relatively simple operation to close off a temporary colostomy and could be performed back in Sarajevo. But the Voloders were so dedicated to Ivan's doctor and the skill of the Colorectal Division of the hospital, they

insisted on staying, even though their funds were depleted. Again Tom Cody and Scott Hamlin rose to the occasion. The hospital would agree to perform the second operation without charge (\$46,600) so long as the family could find lodging on their own in the long summer interim.

At this point, the local Bosnian community in Cincinnati stepped up to the plate to provide housing and when the "Bosnian Family Story" circulated among Malta members, the phones began to ring asking, "What can we do?"

The most immediate need was for a computer equipped with camera and Skype software so that the Voloders could communicate daily with a 10-month old baby left behind with grandma in Sarajevo. They could see his daily progress and speak to family members. Declan O'Sullivan, KM, and Rosemarie, DM, gifted the computer. Mary Clare Clauder, DM, and Susan Tew, wife of Dr. John Tew, KM, purchased Rosetta Stone English-Slavic language software and promptly began weekly lessons. The Voloders have acquired a working proficiency in English.

When the Diocese of Covington (Ky) celebrated the opening of the Year of the Priest with Malta members participating, Bill Burleigh, KMOB, and his wife Anne, DMOB, arranged a special blessing of healing from Bishop Roger J. Foys.

A trip to Lexington Kentucky was arranged by Elizabeth Clay, DM, and her husband Catesby, to their famous Runnymede thorough bred horse farm. Ivan met the Clay grandchildren. They played together, rode around in toy cars, fed carrots to the mares in the barns and petted the new born foals. It was a "magical" day to be remembered by all. Upon

leaving, the Clay children presented Ivan with a big bag of toys — it must have seemed like Christmas in August!

Robert Castellini, KM, and his wife Susie, DM, owners of the Cincinnati Reds hosted the Voloders at a baseball game. His grandson Luke, John Paul Tew, grandson of John Tew, KM, and Ivan sat behind home plate. The red carpet was rolled out for the 7-year olds. They were treated to hot dogs, ice cream, soda, shirts, baseballs and pictures with the team mascot and more. The presence of the Voloders was a good omen, as the Reds won an exciting game with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Cliff Roe, KM, Area Hospitaler, and his wife Mary Jo, DM, have offered to host a picnic and boat ride on the Ohio River as soon as Ivan has recovered from the second operation in early September.

Meanwhile back in Sarajevo, Cardinal Puljic celebrated mass in his cathedral with Christof Fritzen, KM, and the other members of Malta on the feast of St. John the Baptist, our patron. He offered special prayers and thanksgiving for the Voloders and the Bosnian neighbors and Cincinnati Malta who helped them.

Soon the Voloders will be departing for home, thanking God for the skillful surgeons at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and their new found friends in Malta from Cincinnati, Lourdes, Germany and Bosnia.

The presence of the Voloder family among the knights and dames of Cincinnati Malta has been a great blessing. It has bonded us anew as we endeavored collectively to meet the need. It also made us aware of the international scope of Malta and its institutional capacity to meet an emergency. ❄️

Declan O'Sullivan, KM, Area Chair for the Cincinnati area



Declan O'Sullivan and Catesby Clay with Ivan and grandchildren

Let Us Build a House

Westchester Knights Embrace Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center

by Jane Boyle

Five Westchester Knights and one New York City Knight are helping Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center build a permanent home in Yonkers, NY to provide medical, nursing, rehabilitative and palliative care for New York children who are among the sickest and most vulnerable anywhere.

The project, called "Let Us Build a House," will create a 137-bed, 165,000 square foot, four-story, healthcare and educational facility for medically fragile children who have extremely severe medical, physical, and cognitive challenges. The Center is presently located in 90,000 square feet of leased space in Manhattan and must vacate that space by 2011.

Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center was founded in 1987 by the Sisters of Charity as the medical affiliate of The New York Foundling to provide long term care to children with extremely complex medical conditions and multiple disabilities — children for whom there was simply no other place to go for the level of care required. It is the only pediatric specialty nursing facility in New York State dedicated to long-term care and the only one with a pediatric ventilator-dependent unit.

After a recent tour of the Manhattan Center, Jim Gill stated simply: "This is God's work." The Center serves children from infancy through age 21 who are admitted with premature birth complications, cerebral palsy, congenital heart disease, chronic lung disease, chromosome disorders, metabolic disorders, respiratory disorders, muscular and neurological diseases, and immunodeficiency syndromes.

- 75% need long-term care
- 96% have cognitive impairments
- 90% must be tube-fed
- 82% are unable to walk
- 50% have tracheotomies
- 99% qualify for Medicaid

More than 80% have life-limiting conditions and many require Palliative Care at some stage of their illness. On average, a child will reside at the Center for 3½ years. "I have never been involved in anything more compelling than this cause," said B.J. Harrington who invites all interested Knights and Dames to join him and his committee in embracing the children of Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center.

To learn more, visit Setonpediatric.org or to arrange for a personal tour, contact Jane M. Boyle at 646-459-3632 or jane.boyle@setonpediatric.org. ❄️



Aviona, a resident at the Center, creates "Wheel Art"



By-Laws Approved

The members of the American Association and the Sovereign Council have approved the recommended changes to the American Association By-Laws. The revised By-Laws are now in effect and a copy of the approved by-laws is included with this Hospitallers mailing; the by-laws can also be found on the Association website.

Deceased Members January 1, 2009 — Present

Ann-Marie Blute	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
Paul R. Brenner	Bronxville, New York
Martin Joseph Caserio	Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
Thomas G. Conway	Kingston, New York
Frank Crippen	Coral Gables, Florida
Jerome A. Earley	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
George H. Fearons III	Stowe, Vermont
Thomas Joseph Francis Ford	Manhasset, New York
James L. Garrity	Rye, New York
Edward J. Gerrity Jr.	Rye, New York
Kevin G. Langan	Menands, New York
Clyde Augustine Lewis	Plattsburgh, New York
Elizabeth Harrington McCoy	Vero Beach, Florida
Mary E. McGee	New Vernon, New Jersey
Joseph D. Moss	Maywood, New Jersey
Charles P. O'Donnell	Providence, Rhode Island
James A. Phelan	Huntley, Illinois
Thomas J. Quigley	Seaside Park, New Jersey
Carl A. Schwarz Jr., Esq.	Hempstead, New York
Robert V. Trainer	Ocean City, New Jersey
Iris Paine Webre	Houston, Texas
William J. Williams	Cincinnati, Ohio

Web-only articles:

Click on "News & Events." Click on "Association Newsletters." Click on the "Web Only Articles" under the Fall 2009 issue of Hospitallers to read a wonderful article about an annual celebration sponsored by the Order of Malta that brings together an international group of handicapped guests and Auxiliary for a wonderful week of friendship, activities and spiritual community.

Members of the Board of the Malta Human Service Foundation

In the 2008 Annual Report for the American Association which was mailed with the Summer edition of the Hospitallers, the names of the Board Members of the Malta Human Services Foundation were inadvertently left out. They are included here for your information:

Hershel F. Smith, Jr. <i>President</i>	Peter C. Krause*
William M. Kearns, Jr. <i>Vice President</i>	Scott C. Malpass
Mary Kay Farley <i>Secretary</i>	Mary C. McCooey*
Bernard P. DiFiore <i>Treasurer</i>	Joseph G. Metz*
William H. Besgen	John R. Mullen
Thomas F. Carney, Jr.*	P. Declan O'Sullivan*
Robert J. Fredericks *	Jack E. Pohrer*
	Howard V. Redgate*
	James L. Ryan
	John R. Sise*

* member of the American Association Board of Councillors

Spiritual Reading

by Rev. Msgr. James P. Cassidy, Assistant Principal Chaplain



Msgr. Cassidy

In the last issue, we discussed Archbishop Timothy Dolan's book, *To Whom Shall We Go?*, where the Archbishop gives us a life-size view of the great Saint Peter. This is the "Year for Priests" which Pope Benedict declared as a time to recognize and pray for our priests. As part of this year, there will be in many areas a focus on the work of the seminaries which train candidates for ordination. There will also be a great deal of thought and prayer focused on increasing vocations. Archbishop Dolan wrote a book in 2000 which fittingly has just been released again in paperback, titled, *Priests for the Third Millennium*. The book is a compilation of talks which the Archbishop shared with the seminarians at North American College, the American seminary in Rome, when he was the rector there.

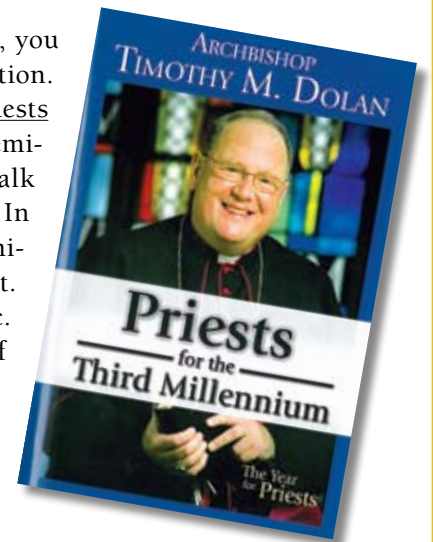
The book is divided into two sections; *Part One: Living the Christian Life* contains fifteen chapters, most of which are devoted to specific virtues. In the first chapter, titled *Faith*, you will find a very moving example, in real life, of a bishop challenged by the faculty at the seminary in 1968 to show up so they could present him, in public, with a list of their demands. The bishop's comment that there were, even in the tumultuous days following Vatican II, clear and consistent truths that had to be taught to future priests were greeted with scorn. The skeptical and somewhat discourteous faculty spokesman challenged the bishop to state what could be taught to students that had not changed or would not change. The bishop's answer was the response of a simple man of faith — he recited the "Apostle's Creed".

If you read *To Whom Shall We Go?* by the Archbishop, you know that his writing style reflects that of a casual conversation. You can hear the voice of the Archbishop in the pages of *Priests for the Third Millennium*, as well. You can imagine the seminarians, waiting for every word, and probably wishing the talk was not over because the author leaves you wanting more. In the chapter on *Hope*, the archbishop tells the story of a seminarian who was severely injured in an automobile accident. He comes back to speak at the seminary as a quadriplegic. He provides a definition of hope that comes from the story of Christ and the Apostles in the storm at sea; "Hope is the gift that keeps us going when we think Jesus is asleep."

In *Part Two: Living the Priestly Life*, we are inspired by the focus on the importance of the Eucharist in the life of a priest. Archbishop Dolan says, "...a passionate love for the mysterious presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is the driving force in the life of a priest." He challenges the seminarians, priests and all of us to recognize that the spirituality of the diocesan priest "has to be centered on the daily celebration of the Eucharist." He adds further that if the Eucharist is not the heart of the day for a seminarian, it is a sign that he is not called to be a priest.

In the chapter on the Sacrament of Penance, we again find the Archbishop talking to seminarians, priests and all of us about the possibility of a 'rediscovery of the beauty and power of the sacrament of penance.' In an interesting anecdote that can open the eyes for all of us, we hear of some seminarians who tell Padre Pio that they were disappointed that they did not get to go to confession to him. His response is revealing of the true nature of the sacrament, "Go to confession back in Rome," the sainted priest told the seminarians, "It's the same thing there." The Archbishop reminds his readers, "Christ is the confessor... the priests are only His instruments."

If you want insight into the mind and heart of our Principal Chaplain, by all means, read the book. If you are looking for greater insight into our Church, what we believe, how we can live more faithfully to the words of Jesus, then this book could be a great help to you. ✠



Corrections to Hospitallers' Summer Insert

Three grant amounts were incorrectly stated in the Summer insert to the Hospitallers newsletter. The correct amounts are as follows:

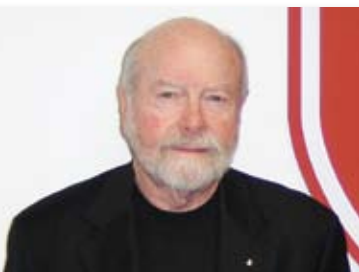
The New Life Ministry, Old Lyme, CT	received a grant of \$2,500
Saint Catherine Academy, Bridgeport, CT	received a grant of \$10,000
Shepherd's, Inc., Bridgeport, CT	received a grant of \$5,000

We regret the errors and apologize for any confusion.



The Little Engine That Could

by Hershel F. Smith, MHSF President



Hershel F. Smith, MHSF President

We all know the child's story of the little engine that was challenged to pull a heavy load up the mountain. The obvious moral of the story, meant for children but applicable to all of us, is that major tasks with which we are confronted are best tackled with a positive attitude. When the little engine is pulling the heavy train up the mountain, he repeats to himself, "I think I can." As he reaches the crest and starts on the way down, he rewards himself with the positive affirmation, "I thought I could."

Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta are constantly confronted by large tasks. It is no surprise, given Jesus' reminder that we would always have the poor with us. The challenge does not go away. Hunger, sickness, abortion, droughts, hurricanes, and wars are part of the landscape of the world. And we find great challenges in our own backyards.

Elsewhere in this issue, Joe Metz reports on a number of works and ministries going on out in the Areas of the American Association. Much of this work which you are involved in goes on every day, quietly and without fanfare. When you see someone hungry, you give them to eat. And when you see someone sick, you nurse them to health. No headlines, no nightly news stories. Just good Catholic Knights and Dames, committed to the charism of their Order and cognizant of their promise every day, taking up the crosses of His brethren and carrying them.

The Association has challenged itself to build the financial resources of the endowment so that there will be on-going financial support for the works and ministries of the Order. This major campaign has all the earmarks of a challenge for the little engine, the one it turns out who "could." And I am convinced that we can!

But we can't be successful without your support — you are the key. We have had a good start to the campaign and I am happy to report that we already have commitments exceeding \$2.7M at this point. I have no doubt that we will be successful. If your Area Chair or another member of the leadership team of the Association invites you to a reception where the Capital Campaign will be discussed, please come. And bring your friends too. Your presence will provide the moral support needed for this great challenge.

Henry Ford is often quoted as saying, "If you think you can or if you think you can't, either way, you are right." I think we can and I am asking you to prove that the membership of the American Association is willing to focus on the future support of our many works and ministries. I hope you will take the time to consider your role and show your support in the coming months to this important appeal. The long-term impact of what we are doing now will make a difference for years and years to come. ✖

The First Class, the Second Class and the Subpriory: What's It All About?

by Robert J. Fredericks, K.M.Ob.

The Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes was established by the Grand Master and Sovereign Council in Rome on June 21, 2006 and installed in New York on November 11, 2006. The membership of the Subpriory is to be drawn from the American and Federal Associations. Many questions have been raised since about the role and mission of the Subpriory, particularly with respect to the interaction of the Subpriory with the Federal and American Associations. Questions also have been raised as to the role, functions, and admittance to the First and the Second Class. The purpose of this article is to respond to these questions.

What is the purpose of the Subpriory?

Let no one be doubtful on this. The purpose or objective of membership in our Subpriory is solely the spiritual growth and enhancement of its members. Under no circumstances should it be construed as a means for advancement in the Order. Anyone who desires membership in the Subpriory to add another line item on his or her Malta resume is making a serious mistake.

There are three classes of membership in our Order. In the United States, most of us are invested into the Third Class as Knights and Dames of Magistral Grace. Since 1998, the Second Class — Obedience — is open to both Knights and Dames. The procedure to enter the Second Class and become a Knight or Dame in Obedience is described below under "Who can join the Subpriory?"

The First Class, restricted to Knights, encompasses those who have taken vows — poverty, chastity, and obedience. Men in the First Class are celibate and are full religious. They are friars in that they are religious who go out into the world. A knight wishing to enter into the First Class communicates his intention to the Grand Commander in Rome. If approved, he will enter a period of Aspirancy for three to twelve months and then the Novitiate for one to two years. Upon successful completion, he will take temporary vows. The Professed Knight can remain in temporary vows for a period of three to nine years. If approved, he will then take his final, permanent vows. He then assumes the title "Frā" (for Frater, the Latin word for Brother).

(continued on backcover)

Kennedy's Rosary Project Helping People in Tight Places to Pray

by Mae Tighe, M.D., D.M.

When Kennedy Snyder was 2½ years old, she was diagnosed with an anaplastic astrocytoma, a cancer involving her cervical spine. She has endured several surgeries and chemotherapies yet continues to struggle with this malignancy. Despite this, she is a magnetic, spunky, smart 9 year old girl who loves to read, ride horses and ski. Kennedy has been to Lourdes twice, first as a malade with the Order of Malta and again with her family. Kennedy's mother, Kristy, has been dedicated to the Order since that initial contact, becoming a Dame in 2007, returning to Lourdes annually and now running the Children's Program on the pilgrimage. Kristy has inspired many through her spirituality.

One night, while praying the rosary at the Grotto at midnight, Kristy mentioned her desire to create a project whereby patients having MRIs can have "safe" rosaries for use during their test. Kennedy has an MRI every three months and is not allowed to take her beads into the suite because they are metallic. Out of this idea, Kennedy's Rosary Project was born.



Kennedy Snyder

The Connecticut Malta Auxiliary and their "graduate" Dames have created this wonderful project. The rosaries are hand-knotted from fishermen's twine and are MRI-safe. Included with the rosaries are instructions on how to pray the rosary, and each box containing the rosaries features Kennedy's story. Boxes are located in the Saint Raphael MRI Center in New Haven, CT, Fairfield County Imaging, a St. Vincent's facility in Monroe, CT, and will soon be available at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, CT.

The project has become so successful that to date, several hundred rosaries have been distributed. We have had to shift gears to making chaplets, which are a hand-held decade in a wrist size, ideal for MRI use. To quote Annamarie Rose, administrative director of the Saint Raphael MRI Center, "I am so happy to tell you that the patients just absolutely love them. Thanks for all your hard work; it's quite an inspiration for many patients." The hard work has instead been a joy; knotters experience the blessings and peacefulness of creating these chaplets.

Liz Tamarkin, D.M., has created an instructional video about the chaplets (www.youtube.com); enter in "Kennedy's Rosary Project") as well as a blogspot (<http://kennedysrosaryproject.blogspot.com/>). Interest in the project has spread rapidly around Connecticut, with growing ranks of knotters in and outside of the Order of Malta group.

Members of the Order interested in growing this project in your region are welcome to contact Liz (liz_tamarkin@yahoo.com) or Kristy (snyder.kristy@yahoo.com) and view the video and blog. Fundraisers are in the planning stages and donations are being accepted as well.

Kennedy's Rosary Project is a novel way to observe the Order's mission of care for the sick as well as to share the spiritual fruits of the rosary with a larger population.

Dr. Tighe is from Connecticut and will be invested in November at Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

IRA Giving Opportunity

Congress has provided a special opportunity to give in 2009 for those who are at least 70½ and have a traditional or Roth IRA.

You can direct that any amount up to \$100,000 be used to make charitable gifts on a totally tax-free basis. Amounts donated in this way will not be included in your taxable income, even if you do not normally itemize your deductions or would otherwise be subject to adverse tax consequences. When considering the best ways to make your charitable gifts this year, you may find this to be a particularly convenient tax planning strategy.

Note that those over age 59½ who can take withdrawals from retirement accounts without paying a 10% penalty for early withdrawal may also be able to enjoy similar benefits by making charitable gifts using these funds. Check with your plan administrator or other advisors for more information on the best ways to make tax-favored gifts from retirement accounts.

The First Class, the Second Class and the Subpriory (con't)

(continued from page 7)

Who can join the Subpriory?

To join the Subpriory, one must have been a member of the Order of Malta for a minimum of five years. Application to the Second Class is made by addressing a letter to the President of the American or Federal Association, as appropriate. The Association will then vet the applicant. In the American Association this is done by a committee of the Board of Councillors. If the candidate is approved by the vetting committee (more formally known as the "Spiritual Selection Committee"), the President of the American Association then forwards the name to the Regent of the Subpriory for further consideration. After approval by the Council and Regent of the Subpriory, the candidate's paperwork is sent to Rome for further consideration. If approved, the candidate begins a term of preparation of at least one year, placing himself/herself under the direction of a Master of Probation (Spiritual Advisor) — preferably a chaplain of the Order of Malta. The candidate initiates the year of preparation with a five-day retreat and meets periodically with his or her spiritual advisor. Upon the completion of the year of preparation, the candidate makes another five-day retreat. The candidate submits documents to the Regent, attesting to the completion of the retreats with a report from his/her spiritual director, completing the year of preparation. The candidate is then permitted to make the Promise of Obedience. After making the promise, the individual becomes a member of the Subpriory.

When admitted to the Subpriory, what is required of the individual?

As stated above, the objective of the Subpriory is spiritual growth. Members of the Subpriory are encouraged to attend daily mass, recite the rosary on a daily basis and, at least to a degree, say the Divine Office. Praying the office might consist of morning and evening prayers from the four-volume "Book of the Hours" or perhaps by using the publication "Magnificat." In addition, members of the Second Class are required to make an annual three-day retreat; members of the First Class make an annual five-day retreat. The retreats are preferably made with the Subpriory only.

What is the relationship between membership in the Order of Malta and membership in the Subpriory?

The Third Class makes a life-time commitment to serve the sick and the poor through the works of the Order and to give witness to the Catholic faith for the remainder of his or her life. The Second Class makes a solemn promise to enhance spirituality beyond that committed to when entering the Order. The First Class makes religious vows.

It should be emphasized that the members of the Subpriory — the First and Second Classes — remain members of their respective Associations, continuing to participate in Association affairs and events and contributing to the role of the Subpriory in working with the Association in developing its spirituality. ✱

Favorite Prayers: The Prayer of Saint Francis

from the USCCB web site:

"October 4th is the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi, perhaps the most beloved of all Saints. Many recall his pious writings on this day, including the following excerpt from his letter to all the faithful: Let us also love our neighbors as ourselves. Let us have charity and humility. Let us give alms because these cleanse our souls from the stains of sin. Men lose all the material things they leave behind them in this world, but they carry with them the reward of their charity and the alms they give. For these, they will receive from the Lord the reward and recompense what they deserve. We must not be wise and prudent according to the flesh. Rather we must be simple, humble and pure. We should never desire to be over others. Instead, we ought to be servants who are submissive to every human being for God's sake. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on all who live in this way and persevere in it to the end. He will permanently dwell in them. They will be the Father's children who do his work. They are the spouses, brothers and mothers of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow charity; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is error, the truth; Where there is doubt, the faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; and Where there is sadness, joy. O, Divine Master, Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love; For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Guidelines for the Sale of Malta Merchandise

Guidelines have been developed and distributed to Area Chairs regarding the sale of "Malta" merchandise, including the sale of merchandise in Lourdes. See your Area Chair for information. A copy of the guidelines is also posted on the web site in the Members Only section. Please become familiar with them if you are involved in any way in the sale of merchandise at Order of Malta and American Association functions.

Association Forms Available On-Line

Many of the necessary forms including the Association Admissions application, the Auxiliary Admissions application, the Lourdes Pilgrimage forms, Grant applications, and on-line donation access are available on the web site. All members are strongly encouraged to retrieve forms from the web site since it is less costly. By using the web to obtain the necessary forms, it eliminates the need to store, handle and mail forms, saving both time and money. Forms are in the "Members Only" section of the Association's web site at www.maltausa.org.

Prayer of the Order

Lord Jesus, Thou hast seen fit to enlist me for Thy service among the Knights and Dames of Saint John of Jerusalem.

I humbly entreat Thee through the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin of Philermo, of Saint John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard and all the saints and blessed of our Order, to keep me faithful to the traditions of our Order.

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

Give me the strength I need to carry out this my resolve, forgetful of myself, learning ever from the Holy Gospel a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion, striving ever to promote God's glory, the world's peace, and all that may benefit the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. Amen.

2009 Important Dates:

Election Ballots for American Association President and Board of Councillors mailed by October 15th

Prison Ministry Forum, October 17th, New Jersey

Election Ballots returned to New York Office by November 6th

Malta Human Services Board, November 12th, New York City

Board of Councillors, November 12th, New York City

New Member Orientation, November 12th, New York City

Annual Meeting, November 13th, New York City

Investiture of New Members, November 13th, New York City

Annual Dinner, November 13th, New York City

Mass and Presentation, November 14th, New York City

Our Mission:

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

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Change of address (physical or virtual)?

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

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