



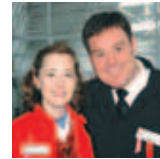
HOSPITALLERS

VOLUME 7 FALL 2010



Outpatient corridor at Holy Family Hospital

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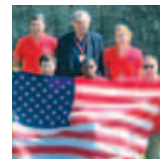
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The Order of Malta's Holy Land Hospital to reach significant milestone

By Colleen B. Marotta, Executive Director of the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation

After twenty years of operation, Holy Family Hospital will be reaching a significant milestone this year... its 50,000th birth since inception! Holy Family Hospital, the Order of Malta's maternity center in Bethlehem, the West Bank, continues the tradition of Christian love born 2000 years ago with Our Lord Jesus Christ and carried on a thousand years later for "our lords the poor and the sick" in the Order's first hospice in nearby Jerusalem.

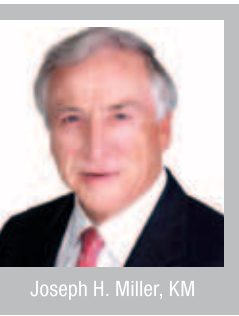
In the place where there was no room in the Inn for our Savior and His mother, Holy Family Hospital is the modern-day Inn which turns no one away. Like the first knights whose hospice included a maternity ward, Holy Family Hospital welcomes all mothers and babies without regard to religion, nationality, or economic status.

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www.maltausa.org

Web-only articles:

Be sure to go our web site at www.maltausa.org. Click on "News & Events." Click on "Association Newsletters." Then, click on the "Web Only Articles" under the Fall 2010 issue of Hospitalers to read a note from Dr. Henry J. Zielinski, KM, reporting from his base of operations in Afghanistan. He has also included a moving reflection on the death of a soldier.



Dear Fellow Knights and Dames,

The American Association is heading into one of its busiest times of the year. The fourth quarter is packed with Association events at the national and local level. With major holidays and holy days, it is an important time for many members and their families and for the Association.

In June, Barbara and I visited the Grand Master in Rome at the request of the Grand Chancellor. I had the opportunity to meet with the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council and to attend Mass on the Feast of Saint John the Baptist. It was a great experience to have had the opportunity to meet with the leadership of the Order of Malta and we came home with very positive feelings about our Order.

During the visit, I had the opportunity to present the many activities of the American Association and to hear the key items that the High Charges hoped we would focus on. Among the many topics we discussed was that we continue to ensure that the candidates we propose for membership in the Order are fully aware that they are joining a religious order and that they are making a lifetime commitment. I am proud of the work that you do in identifying strong, practicing Catholic men and women who are ready, willing and able to make the commitment to the charism of the Order, to assist the sick and the poor and to give witness to our Catholic faith.

Another area where the Grand Chancellor suggested we focus was to link the work we do to the Order of Malta. To that end, we are exploring ideas and ways that our works, ministries and activities can be identified as works of members of the Order.

The Grand Master has invited the officers of the three US associations to visit him and the High Charges in Rome in early November. The Grand Chancellor, H.E. Jean-Pierre Mazery, said that the November meeting will be the first time the Grand Magistry has ever had “a meeting of this significance.” The meeting will provide the forum for a healthy discussion and positive moves forward for the Association and the Order.

The Board of Councillors met in September and covered a number of important topics including a report on the American Association’s Haiti earthquake relief fund. It is a source of pride that we raised over \$900,000 from the generous donations of members and friends of the Association. Over \$800,000 has been disbursed to Crudem, Hope for Haiti, the Haitian Health Foundation and Malteser International. The remaining balance has been directed by the Board to assist the children of Haiti.

Hôpital Sacré Coeur continues to serve in the post-earthquake environment. Its Board recently approved plans to maintain a 120 bed hospital, essentially doubling its pre-quake capacity. The hospital has recently opened a prosthesis laboratory to deal with injured patients who lost arms and/or legs during the earthquake. Many disabled Haitians are benefiting from this state of the art lab which can help them lead a more normal life.

The Board approved the establishment of a second new Area this year, in Scranton, PA. Carl and JoAnne Kuehner have been named Area Chairs. The Board had earlier approved a new Area in Northeastern Florida with Bill Koenig as the Area chair.

The Investiture weekend will run from November 11–13. We hope you will join us for the entire weekend. Our guest speaker at our Annual Dinner will be Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, S.V., Superior General of the Sisters of Life. The Sisters of Life is a religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O’Connor for the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life. We also look forward to seeing you at the Solemn Mass of Investiture at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral where over 100 new Knights and Dames will voice their commitment to the Order’s mission.

The 2010 Election process is underway. Shortly, you will be receiving a ballot where you will be asked to select eight Board members for three year terms and one candidate to fill a one year vacancy. Please carefully review the candidate biographies in the election brochure when you receive it. The Board members you elect will help provide the future leadership of the American Association.

God bless you for all you do for the sick and the poor and in defense of the faith.

Joseph H. Miller
Joseph H. Miller, KM

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Lourdes Pilgrimage 2011: *Life with Christ through Mary*

by Kenneth Craig, KM and Charlotte Williams, DM
Co-chairs, 2011 Lourdes Pilgrimage

One of the first tasks on which the chairs of the American Association's annual pilgrimage focus is the selection of a theme for the pilgrimage. After much consideration and prayer, we have chosen 'Life with Christ through Mary'. Our hope is that our prayerful journey to Our Lady's grotto in 2011 will bring us closer to her Son.

The scriptures tell us that Mary willingly submitted to whatever was asked of her. From the ridicule she faced when found to be with child to the pain she suffered as her Son was scourged and crucified, she willingly accepted her role in the Father's plan, never questioning, never doubting, and always living according to His will. What better role model could we have? Who could more perfectly illustrate the manner in which we are called to lead our lives? Who could bring us closer to Christ?

(continued on page 4)

We invite you to join us in 2011 as we travel to Lourdes with our beloved malades to once again follow the requests of Our Lady to Bernadette — pray the rosary, attend Mass, and process. We encourage you to open your hearts so that Our Lady may bring you closer to her Son. We invite you to join us as we look for the face of Christ in the malades we bring with us on this journey.

The 2011 pilgrimage will depart on April 27th and return on May 3rd. Our intention is to accommodate approximately 350 Knights, Dames, Malades, Caregivers, Auxiliary, Clergy, Medical team and Volunteers. As always, we will be striving to bring with us as many as 50 malades. Arrangements are being made for pilgrims to travel on either a charter flight from Newark Airport or a commercial flight from Boston. This year we are endeavoring to avoid the need for a commercial flight from JFK.

Within the last few weeks, you should have received additional details about the pilgrimage, including an application, a malade sponsorship application, our cancellation policy, travel insurance, and other pertinent information. This year's journey will be slightly smaller than the past few so we encourage you to submit your application no later than December 1st.

The Lourdes Pilgrimage is a signature work of the

If you have been to Lourdes, then you already know of the profound life-changing nature of this special journey.

worldwide Order of Malta. In identifying the pilgrimage as one of his highest priorities, the Grand Master simply said, "We are at our best in Lourdes." If you have been to Lourdes, then you already know of the profound life-changing nature of this special journey. If you have not yet had the opportunity to participate in this spiritual journey,

we ask you to consider joining us this year. This journey is a tremendous opportunity to live the charism of the Order by assisting the sick and the poor and giving witness to the faith.

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. Perhaps you could sponsor a malade who you believe would benefit from this pilgrimage or propose someone to participate through our 'Malades in Spirit' program. As you are aware, the pilgrimage is heavily dependent on contributions from members of the Order to sponsor malades and underwrite our costs. Perhaps you would consider supporting the pilgrimage with a financial donation? Regardless of how you participate, we are confident that your rewards will be many!

We are enthusiastic about our role in this pilgrimage and look forward to a prayerful and enriching journey with you!

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us!



Charlotte Williams and Kenneth Craig



Pilgrims assemble in the Pius X Basilica

Living Will: Yes or No?

By Hans E. Geisler, MD, KM (Certified in Health Care Ethics)

The 1991 federal Self-Determination Act (PSDA) requires hospitals receiving federal dollars from Medicare, Medicaid or any other source, to have their admissions personnel question all patients, admitted for health care, whether they have or would be willing to sign a “living will” or “advance directive.”

Either of these instruments, depending on the language they contain, could potentially give the health care provider, in charge of the patient’s care, the ability to forgo the administration of life sustaining measures, such as artificially administered nutrition and hydration (ANH), even though that was not the patient’s intent. In fact, according to Rev. Benedict M. Guevin, O.S.B., (Ethics and Medics, vol. 35, number 3, March 2010), when he asked his local Catholic hospital for a copy of their advance directive, he found to his surprise, both under a section entitled “Living Will” and another one captioned “Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care,” that the patient could authorize that “medically administered nutrition and hydration not be started, or if started, be discontinued,” if “the only way to allow me to die is to discontinue the ANH.”

In August 2007, in response to a question from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) stated that “the administration of food and water even by artificial means is, in principle, an ordinary and proportionate means of preserving life. It is, therefore, obligatory to the extent to which, and for as long as, it is shown to accomplish its proper finality, which is the hydration and nourishment of the patient. In this way, suffering and death by starvation are prevented.” A further part of the response indicated that this obligation holds even if the patient is permanently unconscious. The CDF’s response must be considered morally obligatory for Catholics, since it is considered a pronouncement of the ordinary magisterium of the Church, consisting of the bishops speaking in concert with the Pope on a matter regarding faith and morals.

Note that the CDF’s response concluded that administering hydration and nutrition, even by artificial means, is ordinary and proportionate care, as long as the recipient can assimilate it “without causing significant physical discomfort.” No longer can an ethical case be made

for the withdrawal of water and food when a patient is dying, whether conscious or unconscious, as long as water and food can be absorbed and digested by the patient. This is true whether the fluids and nutrition are given orally, intravenously or by a tube placed in the stomach of the patient. The obligatory nature of this opinion was published in the latest 2009 edition (#5) of the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services.

In issuing its view on this matter, the Holy See made a definitive declaration reiterating that the Church holds all human life to be sacred even when the end is near for that life. The CDF made clear their position that no one can assume the authority held by God alone and make a decision to end any human life prematurely.

As Catholic Christians, we must understand that today’s secular society has in many instances no inhibitions concerning any type of morally aberrant behavior. Such a society, by its very nature, morphs rapidly into a culture that glorifies and promotes death. In an interview, published in 1997, the then Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, was quoted as saying, “The idea that ‘nature’ has something to say is no longer admissible; man is to have the liberty to remodel himself at will. He is to be free from all the prior givens of his essence. He makes of himself what he wants, and only in this way is he really ‘free’ and liberated. Behind this approach is a rebellion on man’s part against the limits he has as a biological being. In the end, it is a revolt against our creatureliness. Man is to be his own creator – a modern, new edition of the immemorial attempt to be God, to be like God.”

Therefore, rather than signing a “living will” or similar instrument, which cannot foresee circumstances under which the administration of ANH might be necessary to preserve life, it behooves us, as Catholics, in case such an eventuality were to occur, to have delegated a judgment regarding the administration of hydration and nutrition to someone, who, we are certain, will follow the 2007 guidelines of the CDF in making their decision or to have signed an advance medical directive as published by The National Catholic Bioethics Center (<http://www.ncbcenter.org?NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=347>).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 15

Election Ballots for American Association Board of Councillors mailed

November 1-3

Officers of American, Federal and Western Associations and Subpriory Regent meet with Sovereign Magistry (Rome)

November 5

Election Ballots returned to New York office by 4PM ET

November 11

Malta Human Services Foundation Board Meeting (NYC)
Board of Councillors Meeting (NYC)
New Member Orientation and Reception (NYC)

November 12

Annual Business Meeting (NYC)
Election Results Announced
Solemn Mass of Investiture (NYC)
Reception and Annual Dinner (NYC)

November 13

Mass and Presentation (NYC)
Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes Mass (NYC)

The Order of Malta's Holy Land Hospital to reach significant milestone

(continued from cover)

The hospital began in 1895 as a large general hospital operated by the Daughters of Charity. Insufficient funding forced the hospital to close in 1985. The Order of Malta, responding to an acute need in the region, reopened one wing as a maternity unit in 1990. The hospital is a critical project the Grand Master asks all knights and dames world wide to support.

In twenty years of operation, Holy Family Hospital has gone from 1,000 births annually to over 3,000. Its outpatient clinics have grown from 3,600 consultations, a year, to over 22,000 consultations.

During this time, the hospital built and maintains the only neonatal intensive care unit in the region — annually saving the lives of 400 premature and low-birth-weight infants. Holy Family Hospital has trained nearly 90 midwives — the entire number working in all hospitals in the entire West Bank.

Now, as the Holy Family Hospital prepares to celebrate its 50,000 birth, this November, we thought it would be exciting to check in on the first baby born at the hospital.

On February 26, 1990 Dina Atik was the first baby born at the newly opened Holy Family Hospital.

It was a first time pregnancy for her mother, Marlen and father, Edward who had been married a year earlier at the Church of the Nativity. And as all soon-to-be-parents they were looking forward to their new arrival. When their family doctor and close family friend Dr. Tabash — who was the director of administration at the hospital — suggested she give birth to their first child at the newly inaugurated Holy Family Hospital they followed his advice...though a bit apprehensively, Marlen admits now with a smile.

She laughs at the thought of being apprehensive about giving birth at Holy Family Hospital, because indeed, she says, the hospital has become the premier maternity hospital of the Bethlehem district and today most local women prefer to give birth there. But at the time, 20 years ago, it was an unknown hospital and as a first time mother she felt uneasy about going to a hospital with no proven record. "I was afraid, first of all because it was my first delivery and then of going to a new hospital which had just been opened," The staff was very nice and everybody was calming me down," she said. "When Dina was born, everybody was so happy."

"Now I feel special. I was the first of 50,000 babies. I was the first one and I will give birth there too," she said. "It is my hospital."



Dina Atik and her mother

Marlen recalls Dina's baptism which was held in the hospital's garden with the French consul given the honor of being named Dina's godfather.

When she was younger she didn't think about the significance of being the first

baby born at Bethlehem's Holy Family Hospital, said Dina.

"Now I feel special. I was the first of 50,000th babies. I'm the first one and I will give birth there too someday," she said.

"It's my hospital."

Now, the hospital's first baby is preparing to embark on her own new adventure: as a second year student in business administration at Bethlehem University and newly engaged.

We hope you will track the 50,000 births at www.birthplaceofhope.org. You can participate in this exciting event for the Order of Malta by adopting the hospital as a charitable project for your parish, school or prayer group.

Pilgrimage to Jerusalem: April, 2010

Melinda R. Meister



Pilgrims meet with doctors at the Holy Family Hospital

In April, Knights and Dames of Malta and friends joined Monsignor Kevin Wallin on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Arriving in Tel Aviv, our journey began with Mass in Jaffa. After a visit to the ruins of the palace of Herod the Great in Caesarea, we drove through the lush Jezreel Valley, Israel's breadbasket, to Tiberias, on the Sea of Galilee.

The next morning we sailed north on the sparkling sea. Landing on the shore beneath the hill where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, we climbed to the garden of the Church of the Beatitudes. Celebrating Mass, Monsignor reminded us that the Beatitudes form the core of our faith. From the church we saw the coastline familiar to Jesus, its rocky outcroppings defining the sacred places of His public ministry and His appearance to Peter after the Resurrection.

At the foot of the Golan Heights, we ate St. Peter's fish in the Kibbutz Ein Gev, and then traveled to Capernaum, where we saw St. Peter's house, an excellent example of first century urban landscape. One could imagine Jesus visiting Peter in this tiny stone dwelling.

While in the Galilee area, we renewed our baptismal vows in the Jordan River, visited Nazareth and its monumental Basilica of the Annunciation, and tiny Cana, where couples renewed their marriage vows. The following day took us to Mt. Carmel, Elijah's cave in Haifa, and finally, Acre and the massive underground remains of the Crusader city of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John.

Leaving Israel on the 10th, we crossed into Jordan, meeting a new bus and driver. That afternoon, after a tour of the splendid Greco-Roman city of Jerash, we headed toward Madaba, where, sadly, fellow traveler, Digby Barrios, succumbed to a heart attack. After making arrangements for Digby's widow, Anita, Monsignor determined that we should continue our trip. We drove on to Petra on the King's Highway, the lonely desert road traveled for centuries by holy men, warriors, caravans and pilgrims.

Petra's magnificent rock formations, architecture and glimpses of Bedouin culture were worth the long hike into the Siq. The next day we traveled to Mt. Nebo, 2,680 ft. above sea level. Like Moses, we viewed

the "Promised Land," and then crossed the narrow Jordan to the West Bank area. After Mass in Jericho, we headed to a hotel on the Dead Sea, 1,300 feet below sea level, the lowest place on earth. From here we visited the dramatic Herodian fortress of Masada, and Qumran, home of the Dead Sea Scrolls.

On April 15 we entered Jerusalem from the West Bank, going immediately to the Mount of Olives for our first view of the walled city, with its shining Dome of the Rock. Monsignor described the final hours of Jesus' life. In the days remaining, we would "walk" with Jesus from where He celebrated the Last Supper, was betrayed, arrested and imprisoned, condemned, crucified and entombed.

As with the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, buildings, decorations, and quarrels often

obscure Jerusalem's sacred sites. Readily apparent, however, is the location of the sites and the distances between them. Like Jesus, we stood and looked into the Valleys of Kidron and Gehenna. We stood next to the ancient olive trees that very likely shaded Him in Gethsemane. We stood on the gouged pavement where His trial took place.

On April 17 we drove to the walled town of Bethlehem, a town of little hope for Christians. What is hopeful is the work of the Holy Family Hospital, a maternity hospital run by the Order of Malta. We had witnessed the former presence of the Knights of St. John, from castle ruins to their fortress in Acre. No walls surround Holy Family. Open to women of all faiths and economic levels, the hospital delivers 3,000 babies each year. It also provides gynecological care to women in remote areas of Palestine.

Earlier we had joined Jewish visitors at the Western wall, and on the 18th we toured the Temple Mount above it. The 32-acre esplanade, once the site of the first two temples, now contains the Dome of the Rock and El-Aqsa Mosque. This peaceful area belies its violent history.

We walked down the stepped terrace to the Fountain of Bethesda and sang a hymn in the nearby Crusader Church of St. Ann. Later we visited the birthplace of John the Baptist and viewed the Dead Sea Scrolls in the Shrine of the Book.

The Holy Land is more than a collection of sacred sites. It represents an opportunity for Christianity, Islam and Judaism to see beyond holy possessions to the very essence of all three faiths: a loving God. If we as pilgrims learned anything, it was that the survival of the Holy Land depends on the realization of this opportunity.

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Working With the Children of the Incarcerated

*Joseph W. Sokolowski Jr., M.D., KM; Msgr. Michael Mannion, STL;
Kelly Jernegan, BSW; Judyann Gillespie, MSW, LSW*



The geographic focus of the ministry of the Order of Malta is the city of Camden, New Jersey situated across the Delaware River from Philadelphia. In the past, Camden was a thriving metropolis with New York Shipbuilding Corporation, RCA Victor and Campbell Soup providing substantial employment and resources for the community. Today Camden is a city of despair, poverty and crime fueled by the illicit drug industry. The current population is at 79,000 documented residents and possibly an additional 10,000 undocumented. It is reported that 20% of the residents (2008 Census data) do not have health insurance and 44% live below the federal poverty level. New Jersey is reportedly the wealthiest state in the nation, but Camden is the poorest in New Jersey and the nation.

From 2002 to 2010 the State controlled Camden City government as well as its police department and school system. In 2003 the Morgan-Quitno report described Camden as “the most dangerous city in the U.S.” Since then it has ranged between #1 to #5 despite the State Police, the Camden County Sheriff’s Department, the Camden City Prosecutor’s Office, the Federal Marshall’s Service and the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency supplementing the activities of the under-staffed Camden City Police Department. In 2008 the “Safe Surrender Program” of the U.S. Federal Marshall’s Service registered 2500 felons with outstanding warrants in a three day program, which was second in number only to Detroit.

Camden City, NJ is currently facing an educational crisis, with more than 65% of the eligible candidates entering high school dropping out on an annual basis. Research findings have shown that 45% of those aged 18-24 in Camden City are without a high school diploma. All of these problems are compounded by a deteriorated economic/industrial base which has led to severe poverty and an alarming high crime rate as indicated above. In addition to the apparent risk factors many Camden City youth face, a vast number of these youth also face the added stressor of an absent parent due to imprisonment. On any given day, over 1.5 million children in this country have an incarcerated parent.

Data identifies that the children of the incarcerated are at risk for future incarceration, depression, physical aggression, and homelessness, poor school performance with truancy, financial instability, and drug/alcohol addiction. It is variously reported without statistical evidence that 10-70% of the children of the incarcerated will become imprisoned themselves. The opportunity exists in Camden where crime, poverty and limited access to healthcare are endemic, to provide an opportunity for its children to choose lifestyles that are at variance with those selected by their parents. Mentoring has proven to be a tool to aid at risk children to lead more successful lives. According to an Impact Study of Big Brothers

Big Sisters, children matched with a mentor are 52% less likely to skip a day of school, 46% less likely to start using illegal drugs and show a reduced incidence of violent behavior.

The Order of Malta in conjunction with other social agencies in Camden developed a collaborative program, Project C.O.P.E. (Children Obtaining a Positive Environment) whose goal is to empower the youth of Camden with one or more parents incarcerated to make positive life choices to maximize their potential. This is a hybrid program since it is in part a Faith-Based Initiative as represented by the Order of Malta. Thanks to the support received from a number of organizations, Project C.O.P.E. has grown tremendously. Project C.O.P.E. mentors have successfully helped more than 250 at-risk youth live happier and more fulfilled lives over the last six years.

Mentors are trained jointly through the Camden City Mentoring Institute, which is led by the Center for Family Services and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Burlington, Camden and Gloucester Counties (NJ). Mentors provide an on-going one-to-one relationship with a young boy or

girl, ages four to eighteen, serving as a positive influence while participating in mutual activities and building self-esteem and motivation in the youth to achieve academic and career goals. The mentor makes a one year commitment to spend a minimum of four contact hours per month. The obligation includes an initial training session and subsequent group events, mentor support groups and program recognition ceremonies. The mentoring program includes establishment of goals, building trust, recognition of cultural diversity, reliance on staff for support and recognition of accomplishments. Prior to assignment to a youth the mentor has a background check and provides appropriate character references. Currently 175 mentors have been trained and 95 assigned to children.

Taiyon is just one example of C.O.P.E.’s positive influence on children. After being placed on a waiting list for almost six months, Taiyon began to feel discouraged. At the same time, Barry was completing the necessary steps to become a mentor. Even though a lot of time and consideration goes into every match facilitated by C.O.P.E., no one could have imagined the effect this match would have had on either the mentor or mentee. Prior to making the match, Taiyon was having extreme difficulty reading and as a result was afraid to speak in public. Taiyon’s grades were suffering, as well as his behavior and self esteem. After only four months of spending time with his mentor, Taiyon’s grades have improved dramatically and he spoke at a recent C.O.P.E. event. In Taiyon’s public thank you to his mentor he stated, “Thank you for teaching me how to be a man.” With tears in his eyes, Barry responded by stating, “No... thank you!”

It only takes four hours a month to make a change that lasts forever.

On any given day, over 1.5 million children in this country have an incarcerated parent.

Blessed Charles of Austria

Emperor, Husband, Father, Catholic

By John Dick, Hospitaller, Minnesota Area

As we approach the November elections we invariably find ourselves voting for the candidate who is “better than the other guy.” It would be a nice change if we could find a politician who truly reflects our Catholic ideals and values.

The S.M.O.M. is privileged to have in its calendar a blessed that reflects the ideals of not only a model statesman but also an exemplary husband and father. Blessed Charles of Austria, who died in exile on the island of Madeira, will be regarded in secular history as the last ruler of an antiquated political system. He was the only world leader to heed Pope Benedict XV’s call for peace during World War I and worked tirelessly to bring an end to the brutal war. Yet at its end he was treated unjustly by the countries of the Entente and the empire he selflessly served.

Blessed Karl’s character was formed by his deeply held religious beliefs and the chivalric spirit he possessed. As a child he was kind and compassionate, performed chores to raise money for the poor. He was devoted to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and prayers to the Sacred Heart were among his favorite. He prayed the Rosary and went to confession regularly. The interior disposition of his soul inspired him to obey God’s will at whatever cost, a fact beautifully demonstrated during the last days of his life when he peacefully accepted a cross of intense suffering as a sacrifice for Austria and its people. Was it this sacrifice that spared Austria from destruction during WWII and the Soviet occupation of the rest of the old empire afterwards?

When he planned to marry he sought out a young woman he remembered from his youth. Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma was beautiful and especially devout and a perfect complement to Charles. He proposed to her at the famous shrine of Mariazell in front of the Blessed Sacrament, placing their engagement under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The evening before their marriage Charles told Zita, “Now we must help each other get to Heaven.” Together they lived a simple life raising their children while Charles pursued his military career. This soon changed as he became the heir apparent after the assassination of his uncle Franz Ferdinand.



Karl led various military actions with valor and honor incorporating his moral convictions into his battle plans in victorious efforts on the eastern and southern fronts. In Italy, he commanded his officers to avoid needless bloodshed, render prompt aid to the wounded, and forbade stealing, plundering and wanton destruction; keeping in mind that “every soldier in the 20th Corps must be filled with the conviction that we are bearers of culture, even in the land of traitors.” For Karl, the culture was Christianity, and in the face of being in an immoral war he insists that he and the army act morally.

As Emperor he began secret peace negotiations through his brothers-in-law, Prince Sixtus and Prince Xavier who smuggled letters from Karl to the Entente leaders in France and England. These negotiations failed when a new government in Paris put a halt to the talks.

During the latter stages of WWI the Germans sought to win the war in the east by fomenting revolution in Russia and Italy. They conspired to send the Communist revolutionaries, Lenin and Trotsky, by sealed train into Russia and others into Italy. Blessed Charles knowing the dangers that communism presented not only to the Faith but also to society refused to allow their passage through Austria into Italy and argued vehemently with the Germans to give up this plot. They ignored Charles, sent the revolutionaries to Italy by an alternate route and the destructive results are well known to history.

A second attempt at negotiating peace likewise failed and the resulting scandal harmed Karl’s reputation and ability to act as an intermediary in future peace efforts. When the U.S. entered the war, he was no longer recognized as a legitimate ruler by the Entente. *(continued on page 15)*



(left) Statue of Mary Immaculate. Bishop John Snyder (Ret.) Bishop of St. Augustine, Albuno Aragno, Director, Knights, Dames, Candidates and Friends. (right) Chapel built by the boys.

American Association Grant Supports the Community of the Cenacle in Northeast Florida

On Saturday, August 7, 2010 outside the nation's oldest city of St. Augustine, members and friends of the newly commissioned Northeast Florida Area gathered at Mary Immaculate Boys' Home of the Comunita Cenacolo to present a grant in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Here, several young men have found refuge, healing and fellowship in the Community of the Cenacle that is dedicated to restoring hope and meaning in their formerly wayward lives.

Founded in Italy in 1983 by Sister Elvira Petrozzi, the community serves both disillusioned young men and women who live in desperation seeking to fill the emptiness with drugs, alcohol, and other vices.

Trusting unwaveringly in the direction of the Holy Spirit, Sister Elvira proclaims to all those who live in darkness that only Jesus Christ can heal and transform their shattered lives, changing despair into hope, sadness into joy, hatred into forgiveness, and death into life.

Comunita Cenacolo is a Public Association of the Faithful and the community family consists of consecrated religious brothers and sisters, married couples, single men and women, and children. This is an international community with more than 50 houses around the globe.

There are four locations in the United States. Our Lady of Hope (St. Augustine) serves as the motherhouse in America with Our Lady of Joyful Hope in Alabama and Mary Immaculate (men) and St. Maria Goretti (women) in and near St. Augustine, Florida.

At this site, the grant will be used to fund a carport, a storage shed for tools, a woodshop, and a basketball court. No strangers to hard work, the young men have renovated and constructed their own buildings and quarters, as well as an on campus chapel. They grow their own food, do all the landscaping, and are becoming self-sustainable. These are challenging assignments, which many of the men are unprepared for, but with some encouragement from their brothers they learn to respect the dignity of work in its most fundamental form.

According to Sr. Elvira, "As we build exterior structures, God builds the inner man. Hard work helps us to build the interior discipline we have always lacked. It combats our fears and our laziness, both of which have prevented us from persevering with difficult challenges. It builds our will which has always been weak, and bridles our passions, which have always ruled our lives." Appropriately then, the community is also well known as the "School of Life."

Because of the Community's strong Eucharistic focus and Marian devotion, the men participate in Adoration in the chapel they've built and can say the rosary under the large statue of our Blessed Mother that graces the grounds.

While many of the young men have spent most of their time here at Mary Immaculate, some in residence have lived at the community's houses in Lourdes, Medjugorje, and Spain. With its Italian roots, the men are required to learn to speak Italian and also come to know multiple languages by way of their travels.

The young men spend anywhere from two to three years "in community" before reentering society at large. Some may attend college, others might consider a vocation within the community itself, and some will return to their families and careers, having been enriched by this new way of life.

The community relies entirely on Divine Providence, so if you are interested in supporting this work of mercy, please visit www.comunitacenacolo.org and www.cenacoloamerica.org or call (904) 471-8453.

In attendance at the presentation were Bishop John J. Snyder (retired), Area Chair William Koenig, KMOB, Area Hospitaller Darryl Blatzer, KM, Area Treasurer Jim McCue, KM, Patricia Koenig, DM, Anthony Hamaty — Candidate, Linda Del Rio — Candidate, Beth Gutman, Ron Hamaty and Chris Shea.



Albany Area Chairs David and Lillian James in Lourdes

Focus on the Albany, NY Area

By Lillian and David James, Area Chairs

The Albany Area is a large geographic Area. We cover the Area from Kingston and surrounding towns to the Canadian border. Going west we have members in Buffalo and we touch the border of Massachusetts on the east and move on to the Vermont border. Some members are so far flung that we rarely see them. Many of our members are involved in many and varied ministries.

We have two members who volunteer in Hospice — David James and Janet DiFabio.

We have at least 6 members who do hospital ministry, bringing Holy Communion to those hospitalized and praying with those who cannot receive. Roberta Ryan, Joan Kehoe, David James, Lillian James, and Bob Griffin are all involved in this important ministry. Eucharistic ministers Joan Kehoe and Lillian James bring the sacrament to residents at nursing homes. Several Knights and Dames and Auxiliary members participate regularly in Perpetual Adoration. One Knight and Dame spon-

sor and give retreats for teens. They also work with deaf children.

Several Albany Area members, Jim Furlong and Joseph DeBergalis, work with veterans who are suffering physically and mentally from the wars in the Middle East through Wounded Warriors.

Two Area physicians, Drs. James Hoehns and Franklin Nocilla, travel to underprivileged countries to help the sick and the poor. Our attorneys support the poor with legal matters, pro bono. We have some Knights and Dames who volunteer at Our Lady of Hope Residence (a home for the indigent elderly); some work helping with office work reducing costs for the Sisters; Knights Jack Sise and Peter Maloy can be found painting rooms and doing structure repair work.

Knights Albert Gruner and Frank Reis work with cancer patients needing help to get through their treatments, providing air conditioners, gas cards, groceries, and other essentials.

Our auxiliary sponsors monthly birthday parties for the residents of Our Lady of Hope. One of our auxiliary,

Rick Field, is involved with the Albany Diocese prison team.

Knights and Dames sponsor an annual BBQ for Mercy House (a home for women in transition — homeless, no job skills, getting clean from drugs or alcohol). We talk with the clients encouraging them to work and continue getting their lives together.

Alpha Pregnancy Center is another of our projects. The Center provides counsel for pregnant young women to help them to keep their babies. They rarely lose a baby. They provide ultra sounds, classes for the expecting moms, clothing baby food diapers, parenting classes, scripture teaching, cribs, high chairs, and other necessities. We have a diaper brigade monthly packaging diapers into size category and sorting baby clothes and additional activities. A number of Knights and Dames are involved in this wonderful ministry.

Two Auxiliary members, Judy Farrell and Kathy Underwood, collect personal care items and distribute them to the homeless in Albany.

Another Auxiliary member, Maureen Lynch, collects and distributes children's winter items for North Country Ministries in Warrensburg, NY in the Adirondacks. Many poor families live in the area and this is the only way they can clothe their children for the harsh winter climates

There are many other individual Ministries, too many to mention, that our area is involved with on a one to one basis.

As area chair we are very proud of the members in the Albany Area.

ALBANY AREA

34 Knights

17 Dames

4 Clergy

11 Auxiliary

6 New Members (2010)

HIGHLIGHTS



Nursing Home Residents Enjoy Day in the Sun

By Sylvia W. Kravis Phillips, D.M.

On July 14th, 2010, the Albany area's Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta and auxiliary, hosted a traditional American barbeque picnic for 33 residents of Our Lady of Hope Nursing Home, Latham, New York, and St. Joseph's Residence, Enfield, Connecticut. The Little Sisters of the Poor represent both nursing facilities and a number of young and dedicated volunteers assisted with the event.

It was a beautiful, clear summer day for the picnic which began at 11 a.m., chaired by Robert P. McCarthy, K.M. along with 14 Knights and Dames cooking and serving the residents attending. Wonderful burgers, hot dogs, assorted salads, bountiful home-made desserts, along with ice tea and lemonade were enjoyed by all!

The setting was uniquely magnificent because the event was held at the lovely Wiawaka Holiday House, on the beautiful east shore of Lake George, New York, in the Adirondack Mountains.

Wiawaka Holiday House is a non-profit retreat center for women, founded in 1903 by Mary Fuller of Troy, New York. She saw a need for affordable vacations for immigrant women working in local textile and collar factories in the area. Spencer and Katrina Trask deeded Mary Fuller the land for Wiawaka House for one dollar and a bouquet of flowers! Wiawaka Holiday House, Inc. is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a place where women made history.

Wiawaka Holiday House is a beautiful location for the picnic for the residents of two of the Little Sisters of the Poor locations — Latham, NY and Enfield, Ct. Wiawaka is on the east shore of Lake George, one mile above Lake George Village. There is a one hundred yard long lawn from which visitors can see fifteen miles of Lake George.

Wiawaka's history is one of serving less advantaged women which makes it particularly appropriate for most of the residents of The Little Sisters of the Poor locations. It was established in 1903 by two women benefactors as a charitable non-profit retreat center for women working in the shirt factories around Troy, NY. The Native American word "Wiawaka" translates to "The Great Spirit in Women".

A number of nursing home and assisted living residents have enjoyed coming to Wiawaka each year and the Knights and Dames hope to continue the picnic here for many years.

This special day was at a place in time where great memories were made for all who attended the picnic.

The Little Sisters of the Poor at Our Lady of Hope Residence is one of the Albany Area projects which our Knights, Dames, and Auxiliary serve throughout the year.



Welcome to the inaugural 'Auxiliary Spotlight' column which is intended to draw your attention to the works of the Auxiliary Corps across the American Association. In this issue we highlight the Auxiliary's participation in the Orders' 'International Summer Camp', held this past summer in Wales. Mark Cachia, KM, initiated our involvement in the Camp several years ago and has steadily increased our level of contribution — 2010 saw the Association sponsor its first malade!

If you are aware of an Auxiliary activity that the Association should be aware of please let us know (kencraig.smoma@hotmail.com) so that we can put the Spotlight on it!

All You Need Is Love

This Beatles hit was chosen as the theme for the annual International Holiday Camp, sponsored by the Order of Malta. This year the camp was hosted for the first time by the British Association and was held from July 10th to July 17th at the Bluestone Holiday Village in Pembrokeshire, Wales.

The camp brought together over 450 participants, including guests, with a range of physical and developmental challenges, together with their helpers, from 20 different countries. The American Association was represented by Team Leader Mark Cachia, KM, and Auxiliary members Brian Chan and Brian Quilter. For the first time, the American Association sent a guest to the camp, Kingsley Joseph, a 23 year old paraplegic from Queens, NY. The American Association was joined by Bridget Bottoms, from Santa Barbara, California who has relatives in the Western Association.

The Opening Mass was celebrated by His Excellency, Archbishop Angelo Acerbi, Prelate of the Order of Malta. Immediately following the Opening Mass, the Opening Ceremonies featured the Parade of Countries, ending with the delegation from the country of Malta, the first time that this country, with so long a history with the Order, has sent a team to the camp.

Our Grand Master, Fra Matthew Festing, joined the camp for a few days, and met with our team to encourage our efforts. He was delighted that a team from the USA was participating. Also visiting the camp were Grand Hospitaller Albrecht von Boeselager, who joined Team USA for dinner one evening, and other members of the Sovereign Council.



The Grand Master led our pilgrimage to St. David's Cathedral, a 12th Century structure, where Mass was celebrated by Dom Anthony Sutch, OSB, a well known priest and speaker in the United Kingdom. Dom Anthony compared the camp, with its variety of people and languages, to the first Pentecost. The Spirit was certainly present among us.

While there are too many highlights to list, one memorable experience was the trip to Haverfordwest Air Center, where both guests and helpers were able to fly in Piper and Bulldog prop planes over Pembrokeshire National Park and along the Southwest coast of Wales. Our guest, Kingsley, was even able to take the controls of a plane!

Another impressive day was the trip to Pembroke Castle which dates back to the 11th Century, and was the birthplace of Henry Tudor, father of the infamous Henry VIII, and grandfather of Elizabeth I. The scarlet uniformed Welsh Guards Marching Band, traveled all the way from their Headquarters at Buckingham Palace to perform for us.

Among the other activities during the week were a Village Fete, on-site Disco, and a day at Oakwood Amusement Park. However, the greatest part of the week was sharing these varied experiences with so many wonderful people from so many different backgrounds. Through it all, our guests and their helpers learned, despite the challenges in weather and abilities, that love is all you need.

For more information on the Malta International Holiday Camp, please visit its website at <http://www.maltacamp2010.org.uk/UK/background>, or contact Brian Quilter at blquilter@yahoo.com

Deceased Members January 1, 2010 – Present

Robert J. Alerding, KM	<i>Indianapolis, IN</i>
Donald J. Bainton, KM	<i>Boca Raton, FL</i>
Digby W. Barrios, KM	<i>Ridgefield, CT</i>
Francis P. Brennan, KM	<i>Winchester, MA</i>
Joseph P. Decaminada, KM	<i>Scarsdale, NY</i>
Martin DeMatteo, Jr., KM	<i>Hingham, MA</i>
Arthur F. Flaherty, KM	<i>Scituate, MA</i>
Catherine Vance Gaisman, DM	<i>Greenwich, CT</i>
Elizabeth K. Gammino, DM	<i>Wakefield, RI</i>
General Alexander M. Haig, Jr., KM	<i>Palm Beach, FL</i>
William Francis Harrington, KM	<i>Pound Ridge, NY</i>
John J. Loughlin, KM	<i>Sea Island, GA</i>
Elizabeth Anne MacKenzie, DM	<i>Birmingham, MI</i>
John E. Maloy, Sr., KM	<i>Loudonville, NY</i>
John L. Vorbach, Jr., KM	<i>Mt. Pleasant, SC</i>
Robert J. Wormington, KM	<i>Overland Park, KS</i>

Web-only articles

Be sure to go our web site at www.maltausa.org.

- You can find the collection of Malta Minutes in the “Malta Media Ministries” section on the web site. You will also find a listing of the stations where the Malta Minutes are being broadcast. Broadcasts are available in English and Spanish.
- In the “Members Onl”y section, you can find the forms necessary for signing up for the 2011 Lourdes Pilgrimage as well as forms for recommending a Malade for the pilgrimage. These were mailed at the end of September but are available on the web as well.
- Click on “Lourdes Pilgrimage” on the left hand navigation bar and open the “Pilgrimage Videos” section. There is a very moving video that features some of the 2010 Malades. A second video features the some of the past Pilgrimage Chairs.
- Some areas are looking for volunteers to help build their web pages on the Association’s web site. It is an easy process and you can get help from the New York office. Ask your Area Chair if he or she needs a volunteer.
- Open the “Spiritual Reflection” tab on the left navigation bar for this week’s Reflection on the Sunday’s reading(s). Also find the archive of the previous weeks’ reflections.

Blessed Charles of Austria

(continued from page 10)

In addition to his military duties he was also concerned with care and suffering of his people. Upon his accession to the throne, he granted a general amnesty, organizes soup kitchens, uses the palace’s horses and carriages to deliver coal to the Viennese, fights against usury and corruption, and gives away his personal wealth — distributing alms beyond his means. He was the first world leader to establish a Ministry of Social Welfare to deal with youth welfare, the war-disabled, widows, orphans, social insurance, labor rights and protection, job placement, unemployment relief and emigration protection and housing.

Spiritually, Emperor Karl shared in the same privations as his people, and ordered the palace to observe food rationing and smaller portions. He invoked the name of God in all decrees and governmental acts, created a Catholic press, and planned the building of more churches in Vienna to serve the growing needs of the faithful.

On November 11, 1918 the war ended and with it the concord of the Habsburg Empire. Karl refused to abdicate, believing his crown was a sacred trust from God and that nothing could betray this Divine commission. Coerced to withdraw from personal participation in government the family went into seclusion in Eckartsau and was later exiled to Switzerland by the new socialist government in Austria.

In time Karl was encouraged by many of his subjects to

return to his Hungarian Kingdom. Two attempts to regain his throne were thwarted by the betrayal of his regent, Admiral Horthy who illegally retained power. After the second attempt he was sent as a prisoner along with Zita into exile on the island of Madeira. They were left penniless and depended on the generosity of others for even a modest existence. After several months their children were finally reunited with them but their joy was short-lived.

A few weeks later Karl became ill with pneumonia and influenza. He prayed and suffered for several days, saying: “I must suffer like this so that my peoples can come together again.” When he realized he is dying, he called his son, Archduke Otto, to his bedside to say goodbye and show him “how a Catholic and Emperor conducts himself when dying.”

On April 1, 1922, he whispered to Zita, “I long so much to go home with you. Why won’t they let us go home?” She held him in her arms for most of the morning, and he received Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Dying. The Eucharist was exposed in his bedroom, and Karl tried to hold a crucifix in his hands. Shortly after noon, he tries to kiss the crucifix and whispered: “Thy Holy Will be done. Jesus, Jesus, come! Yes — yes. My Jesus, Thy Will be done — Jesus.” He whispered “Jesus” a final time and expired. The Peace Emperor, husband, father, and man of faith, was dead at the age of 34.

For more information and a greater study of this saintly man visit the website for his canonization cause at <http://emperorcharles.org>

DEFENDING THE FAITH

Tuitio Fidei – A Basic Commitment of a Knight or Dame

In the introduction to the Journals of Spirituality (no. 3), **“Tuitio Fidei”** and **“Obsequium Pauperum”** today, published by the Order of Malta in 2003, Pope Paul VI references both elements of the charism of the Order in his Apostolic Exhortation “Evangelii Nuntiandi.”

“The proclamation and the service of charity give a joint witness to the faith that is active in Christian love.” Archbishop Acerbi goes on to say that “the task of defending and extending the faith in Jesus Christ and in his Gospel (tuitio fidei) and the work of raising people from sickness, need and suffering (obsequium pauperum) have always been perceived in our Order as ideals that stand in intimate conjunction. These two tasks were set out clearly by Blessed Gerard for the Order he founded, which has come through the centuries guided by the same inspiration.”

Cardinal Pio Laghi writes in the same Journal that “the obligation to defend the faith (Defensio Fidei) that each Knight and Dame assumed at the moment of being admitted to our Sovereign order requires, first of all, that we have not only a good understanding, but a profound and solid understanding of the truths of the faith in Christ which we profess.”

The Cardinal exhorts the members of the Order further when he says, “Every member of the Order, Knights and Dames, of whatever rank, beginning from those who occupy offices of guidance and of responsibility, has the duty to nourish the flame of faith in him or herself. Otherwise, if the faith is not actively nourished, with the passage of time, it weakens, just like a fire to which no combustible material is added.”

We are enlightened by Cardinal Laghi’s explanation. “There are a number of ways in which we grow in our faith. Of these, I mention three of the most essential: prayer, study, and the practice of the virtues.”

Archbishop Maurice Couve de Murville puts it simply. “As members of the Order of Malta, we have the privilege of being at the service of the Faith. The tuitio fidei is an important part of our service of mankind, because faith helps to see human beings at their true value, to see them as God sees them. That is why faith leads to love, and love leads to holiness. The Order puts many means of holiness at our disposal. It is good to renew our intention of making the best use of them.”

A limited number of copies of the Journals of Spirituality, No. 3, **“Tuitio Fidei”** and **“Obsequium Pauperum”** today are available in the New York office. If you do not have a copy and would like to receive one, please send a note to staff@maltausa.org or call the New York office at 212-371-1522. Be sure to include your mailing address in your request.

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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