

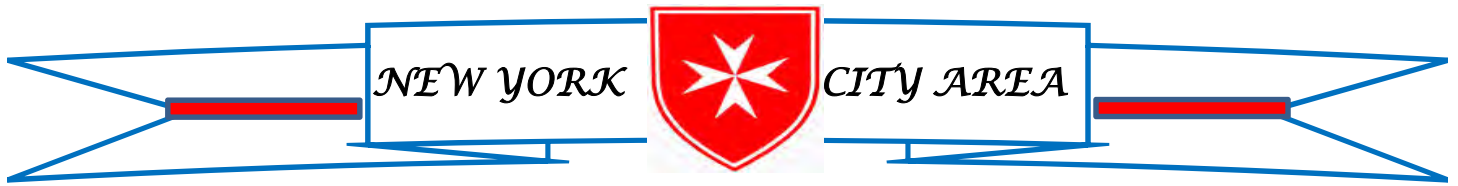
Lenten Reflection with Cardinal Dolan



More than 300 members of the Order of Malta and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre from the tri-state area gathered at Mount Saint Vincent College on Saturday, March 22nd, for a morning of Lenten reflection and to hear his Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, our Principal Chaplain.

Cardinal Dolan spoke about our last three popes on the anniversary of Pope Francis' election and on the eve of the canonization of Pope John Paul II. Cardinal Dolan referred to Pope John Paul as the "soul" of the Church and characterized his life and papacy as one of courage. Pope Benedict XVI represented the "brain" or "mind" of the Church and was more theological in his focus, seeking to infuse clarity in our lives, suggesting that how we act flows from what we believe. Pope Francis, in his brief papacy, has sought to restore the Church as a family with a "heart" and emphasize charity towards our neighbors.

The morning concluded with Mass celebrated by the Cardinal and concelebrated with Msgr. Thomas Gilleece and Fr. Robert Dunn, assisted by Deacon Jeff Trexler.



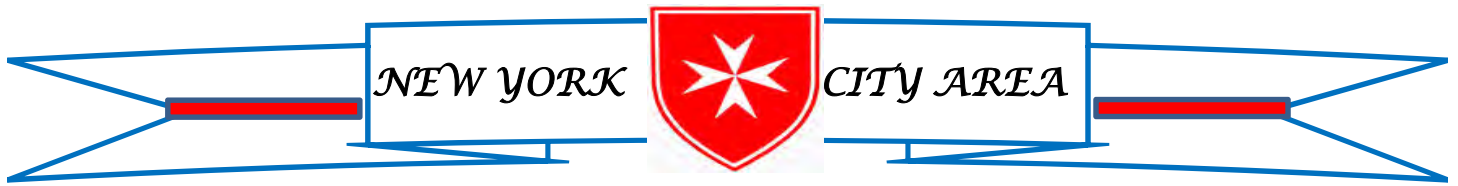
Malta Circus –April 5, 2014



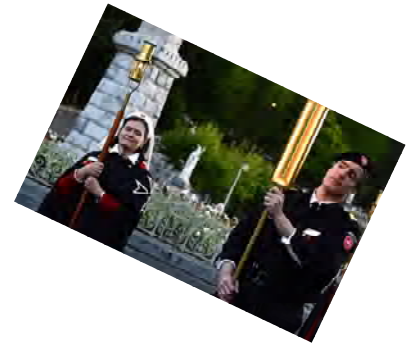
One of the most enjoyable events each year is the circus which Malta-NYC hosts for the severely disabled children of the Terence Cardinal Cooke Healthcare Center.

Although not your usual venue for a circus, the children lack nothing. The auditorium of TCC was festooned with animal balloons; the children were treated to the music of Squeaky Clean and the antics of a clown; popcorn and cotton candy were available for those able to eat; and the children participated in various games including musical chairs and pass-the-parcel.

Our thanks to the staff of TCC for allowing us to host this event--and for their generous provision of lunch for the Malta team beforehand. Thanks to Maggie Ludwiczak, our Ring Master, and to all who came out on a sunny Saturday morning to enliven the lives of these children.



Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes



The NYC Area was well represented again this year on the 2014 Lourdes Pilgrimage. 24 Members and Auxiliary participated this year, assuming roles such as hosts, charioteers, as well as providing medical support or spiritual guidance. NYC member Ken Craig brilliantly performed his inaugural duties as Pilgrimage Co-President. Four malades from the NYC Area, accompanied by their caregivers, also joined our spiritual journey.

An inauspicious start, marked by torrential downpours and plane delays that resulted in a 1:30am departure from Newark instead of 9:00pm, and a wet first two days in Lourdes, could not dampen the spirits of our intrepid pilgrims. Their positive attitude was subsequently rewarded by three days of sunshine and warmth! Thanks to an astute decision by Pilgrimage leadership, who decided to postpone our participation in the candlelight procession from Friday night to Sunday night as a concession to the rain, the major processions within the Domaine took place in warm, dry weather!

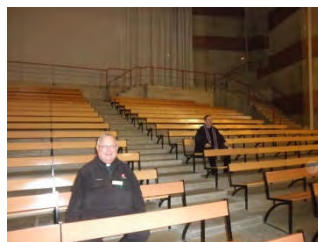
Our malades were treated to a busy schedule of daily Mass---perhaps the most moving, Mass in the Grotta despite the rain; a trip to the Baths; a beautiful Eucharistic procession culminating in Benediction; a candlelight Rosary procession led by the American Association; and sessions of reflection for malades, and for their caregivers, moderated by outstanding clergy. Throughout the entire period, whatever the weather, our malades provided inspiration to us all.

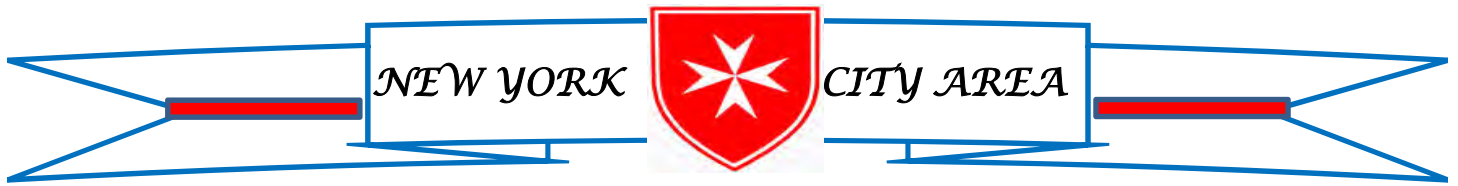
NEW YORK CITY AREA

First-Timers



Back Again



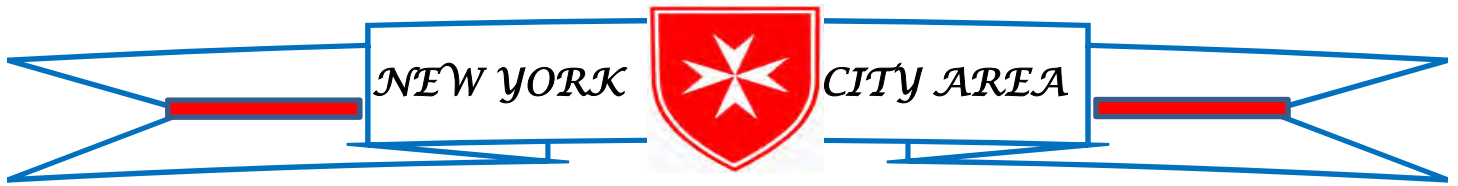


Prospective New Members Reception

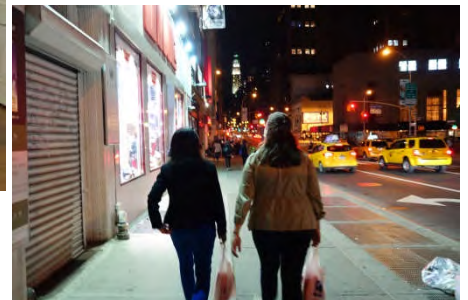


On May 20, 2014, 25 prospective candidates for investiture in the Order of Malta in 2015 attended a reception at the home of Rory and Camille Kelleher, our NYC Area chairs. The reception provided an opportunity for these prospects to learn more about the Order, its history, its activities, and the requirements for membership. The prospects were joined by 12 members of the Order who were able to chat individually with candidates and answer questions. Guest were also able to watch both a video of the Order's activities worldwide and a revolving slide show of NYC Area activities over the last year.

Many thanks to all members who recommended prospects to us. 45 prospects were invited, and although not all responded or attended, the reception was well received and looks likely to have generated another strong class of candidates for the class of 2015.



Inaugural Malta Walk



Our newly establish Malta NYC Junior Committee (for members, candidates in preparation and auxiliary under the age of 40 –and their friends) gathered on May 20th for their first Malta Walk. About 30 people gathered at 8:00pm to assemble packages of food and necessities which they then took out to the streets of Manhattan and distributed to the homeless.

The effort was a great success and will continue on the 3rd Tuesday of each month for the foreseeable future. Contact Tom O'Rourke or Francesca Tempesta for further details.