

KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Fall 2006 Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

Dear members,

As the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays approach, our thoughts remain with the foundations of our faith, which illuminate these holidays and the Advent season. May each of us be a 'good and faithful servant' both in this season and out of it.

In this issue, Fr. Gerald Murray has given us a translation of Pope Benedict's remarks which clarify his statement at the University of Regensburg.

You may remember the essay in the Winter 2005 newsletter about *The Servants of the Truth*, a collaboration between several Knights and the Archdiocese of the Military Services. I am very happy to include a followup article in this issue: Mr. Pavel Reid, Director of Young Adult Ministry in the Military Archdiocese, wrote "*The New Evangelization and Catholics Seeking Christ*", an overview of that endeavor within the military. Also in this issue, Mr. Bertrand De Looz Karageorgiades has given us a transcript of his remarks earlier this year to the United Nations Commission for Social Development.

In addition we have the Order of Events for the

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Pope Benedict XVI Clarifies His Remarks at the University of Regensburg

By Rev. Gerald Murray

The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, gave a lecture at the University of Regensburg on September 12th, 2006 in which he cited the following statement by the 14th century Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus, taken from the Emperor's account of his dialogue with a Moslem learned man from Persia:

"Show me just what Mohammed brought that was new, and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached."

The Pope's citation of this statement by the Byzantine Emperor caused a violent uproar among some Moslems. The Pope used part of his General Audience talk on September 20th to respond to this uproar. Here is my translation of the Pope's remarks:


"A particularly beautiful experience for me was to give a lecture that day before a large audience of professors and students at the University of Regensburg, where I taught as a professor for many years. With joy I was able once again to come into contact with the university world, which for a long period of my life was my spiritual homeland. As my theme I chose the question of the relationship between faith and reason. To introduce the audience to the dramatic nature and timeliness of the topic, I cited some words of a Christian Islamic dialogue of the 14th century, in which the Christian interlocutor – the Byzantine Emperor Manuel II Paleologus – in a manner that for us is incomprehensibly blunt – presented to his Islamic interlocutor the problem of the relationship between religion and violence. This citation, alas, was such as to lend itself to be misunderstood. For the attentive reader of my text, however, it is clear that I did not wish in any way to make my own the negative words spoken by the medieval emperor in this dialogue and that their polemical content does not express my personal conviction. My intention was quite different: starting from what Manuel II subsequently said in a positive manner, with very beautiful words, about the reasonableness which must be the guide in the transmission of the faith, I wanted to explain that not religion and violence, but rather religion and reason, go together. The theme of my conference — corresponding to the mission of the University — was thus the relationship between faith and reason: I wanted to extend an invitation to a dialogue of Christian faith with the modern world and to a dialogue of all

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The New Evangelization & Catholics Seeking Christ

By Pavel Reid

ne of the hallmarks of the pontificate of John Paul II was his clarion call for a 'new evangelization.' But what is 'new' about evangelization? Pope Paul VI taught clearly in his encyclical 'Evangelization in the Modern World' (1975) that the Church's primary mission since the very beginning has been to evangelize. And the Church and her mission have been around for two thousand years. Nothing 'new' there.

So it is neither the Church nor the Good News that she brings to all peoples that are new. John Paul II called the Church to spread the Gospel with a new 'ardor,' with new 'methods,' and in a new 'mission field'. The new mission field is obvious to all of us. In the past, Americans were sent overseas to convert and to baptize. But today, there are many young, already baptized Catholics here at home who have drifted away from the Church, away from Christ. And those in the services know that there are many young Catholics in uniform who rarely attend Mass or practice the Faith. The new mission field is here at home, among our own.

In the good old days, in the great days of Catholic mission work, the Church trained priests and religious sisters and brothers and sent them overseas to reap a great harvest. While because of our baptism, it is the 'right' and 'duty' of all Catholics to evangelize — as John Paul II taught in his encyclical 'Mission of the Redeemer' (1990) — when the Church needed to reach people overseas of different cultures, the best method was to train specialists who could leave home and hearth behind. That was the 'old' method, and it was perfectly suited to that time.

But today, what we need is not a great cadre of professional missionaries able to travel to distant lands. What we need, in the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, and everywhere else in this country, is men and women who will stay right where they are and give living witness to Christ and His Good News. What we need are Americans who are at home in our own culture, who can be missionaries of 'like to like' — Americans who know the life experiences that make up being an American and who can share their own experiences of faith with other Americans. What we need are lay people prepared to exercise our right and duty to spread the Good News, with new ardor and better methods right here at home.

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The Pope's Remarks...

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cultures and religions. I hope that on different occasions during my visit — for instance, in Munich when I stressed how important it is to respect that which is sacred to others — my profound respect for the great religions, and in particular for the Moslems, who "adore the one God" and with whom we are engaged in "defending and promoting together, for all men, social justice, moral values, peace and freedom" (Nostra Aetate, 3) was clearly apparent. I therefore trust that, after the reactions of the first moment, my words at the University of Regensburg can constitute an impulse and an encouragement for a positive, even self-critical, dialogue, both between the various religions and between modern reason and the faith of Christians."

— The Rev. Gerald E. Murray

Pastor

Member, New York
Area Knights of Malta
Spiritual Committee



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Investiture Ceremony on November 10, as well as some photos from the 'Taverns on the Terrace' celebration at the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center. You will also find a few other announcements (and invitations) for your review.

I hope you will find this issue inspiring and uplifting.

Sincerely,

Bill Dinger
Communications Committee
Chair

Statement to the Commission for Social Development

By Bertrand De Looz Karageorgiades

Allow me, first of all, on behalf of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of Malta, to thank you for giving me the floor, and to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau, for your election to the 44th session of the UN's Commission for Social Development.

If the Order of Malta, of which I have the honor of being a knight, has asked to take the floor on one of the priority themes of our work, it is not only as "an expert in humanity" and because of its ancient history as a precursor, somehow, of the modern international humanitarian institutions, but also and perhaps above all, because the notion of poverty itself, and consequently, of its eradication, is in fact at the very heart of our Order since its foundation.

The Order of Saint John of Jerusalem was founded in 1113 to take care of the sick of the Hospital of Saint John the Baptist, unanimously admired at the time by all the pilgrims for the modernity of its installations and the quality of the care given to the sick. The activities of the knights were immediately and in priority channeled towards the poor, the sick, the homeless, without any distinction of races, religions or of "pilgrimages" whatever they might have been. Throughout the ages the mission of the Order has remained the same and, in the very beginning of our new century, it still is to provide assistance to "TOUTE DETRESSE".

"I do not ask you to tell me your race or your religion, I ask you to tell me your pain."

This humanitarian involvement was, for centuries and because of historical events, backed up by a military involvement now obsolete. The combat of the Knights of Malta has become our common combat, our combat against the modern enemy of the international community: poverty, hunger, disease, inequality, injustice, natural disasters. This humanitarian involvement is still valid for the more than 11,000 members and 100,000 volunteers who, under the white and red flag of the Order, serve in more than 120 countries throughout the world and whose activities are faithful to the principles and objectives of the Charter.

In 1994, the General Assembly granted the status of Observer to the Order of Malta. Since then, the Order has adjusted its own Agenda to align its numerous activities with the priorities of the Commission, especially in the field of social development and humanitarian crisis where the Order has a recognized expertise.

I am rather young in the Order of Malta – but I have the privilege to have worked for many years in this House. I have listened with great interest to most of the declarations made in this room: they clearly indicate that we are all convinced of the need to eradicate poverty even though we often lack the knowledge to do it well. We actually should be more audacious about it: the notion of extreme poverty is abject and unbearable. However, the mere fact that the concept and that of its eradication became officially part of many UN resolutions, is almost a miracle! We celebrate it each year, on 17 October, World Day to overcome extreme poverty and it would not have been possible without the admirable work of Father Joseph Wresinski, the founder of ATD/Fourth World and of many of my colleagues, including Philippe de Seynes and Jacques Baudot.

In conclusion, allow me to draw your attention to the following remarks by the Grand Magistry of the Order in the context of our 900th anniversary, on 24 June 1999, feast of Saint John the Baptist, and therefore on the eve of the Millennium. They still apply to all the membership of the Order of Malta:

"...1000 years of history and experience to serve humanity should not prevent us from facing the real challenges in front of us: the challenges of prevention of poverty which cannot be met without education. We should always bear in mind that knowledge belongs to all mankind and that to participate in the awakening of youth, as well as to promote equality between men and women, are the values of the future."

Bertrand De Looz Karageorgiades, *Knight of Malta*
New York, 13 February 2006





Bereavement Committee

is responsible for providing funeral honors for deceased members of the Order. Funeral honors, which are conducted at the request of the family, include arranging for the attendance of Knights and Dames, providing an honor guard, assisting in the use of robes and the pall of the Order, and attending to other appropriate details.

Families of deceased Knights and Dames may request funeral honors by contacting the Chairman of the Bereavement Committee, John Leopoldo Fiorilla, at (212) 661-6222, or directly through the Association's office at 212-371-1522. If possible, at least 48 hours notice should be provided.

The Bereavement Committee also needs volunteers who may be contacted on short notice to participate in funeral Masses. Those interested in serving should contact the Chairman.

The New Evangelization

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The *Catholics Seeking Christ* movement of active duty Catholic young adults heeds the teachings of Vatican II and all the Popes since it uses the very best of the modern methods of evangelization that they prescribe. The *Catholics Seeking Christ* method relies in the first place on 'giving witness.' As Pope Paul VI taught, "modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers." Young people, indeed all of us these days, have become Missourians: people from the show-me state. Giving witness answers not only the question, what do you believe, but also, why do you believe? Tell me; show me. "In the long run," Paul VI wrote, "is there any other way of handing on the Gospel than by transmitting to another person one's personal experience of faith?"

The Military Archdiocese still needs donations to carry on this work. If you would like to help, please contact Dennis Lynch, KM, at LJDNaples@aol.com.

— Bill Dinger

Holiday Volunteer Events

at the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center

Thanksgiving Dinners

for the residents and their families

Monday, November 13
from 5 - 7 pm

Wednesday, November 15
from 5 - 7 pm

Annual Malta Christmas Party



Sunday, December 10
from 1 - 4 PM

The TCCHCC is located at 1249 5th Avenue. To RSVP for these events, please call Adam Chazan at 212-360-1099, or John Dunlap at 212-682-8811.



Anyone who would like to submit articles, reflections, and/or photos pertaining to the Order of Malta, please send them to Bill Dinger, Communications Committee Chair, at:

wsd@sadlier.com

subject: 'KOM Newsletter'

or

William Dinger

c/o William H. Sadlier, Inc.

9 Pine St., New York, NY 10005

We are always happy to receive items for the Newsletter.

In Color & Printable

Knights of Malta Quarterly Newsletter

Delivered By e-mail

The cost of printing and mailing the newsletter has become exorbitant. We would like to send as many email editions as possible. Please help us to cut costs by being willing to receive it (in color - the graphics and photos are much stronger) by sending us your email address.

Thank you for your help,

Bill Dinger



Taverns on the Terrace

The Knights and Dames of Malta, NY Chapter lent their support as benefit sponsors to Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center's annual "Taverns on the Terrace" fundraiser on Thursday September 21st. The event featured wonderful views from the 10th floor outdoor terraces of the Center, overlooking 5th Ave at 105th Street. In addition, the Malta Auxiliary lent generous financial support as well.

Members of Malta and the Malta auxiliary served as volunteers, on the benefit committee, and were well represented in attendance at the event, which welcomed over 500 guests, and raised \$100,000 to benefit the Center's programs for the frail elderly, severely disabled children, and people with AIDS.

Malta volunteers participate in almost every facet of resident life at the Cooke Center, as Sunday Chapel volunteers, in our palliative care and pet therapy program, as friendly visitors and Eucharistic ministers.

"We are most grateful for the generosity of our Malta volunteers, who not only support us so generously, but also give tirelessly of themselves in a wide variety of resident-centered activities," said Joseph F. Brown, the Center's Vice President for Development.



Save these Dates! *Holiday Volunteer Events*

are scheduled at Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center 1249 5th Ave. For Thanksgiving, Malta volunteers will host the Center's family dinners on November 13th and 15th, from 5 to 7pm. Family members of residents of the Cooke Center will be invited to their loved one for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Volunteers welcome guests, help serve food and serve as companions at the dinner table.

The Annual Malta Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday December 10th from 1 to 4 pm. Malta members will join residents in caroling, serving refreshments, and a visit from Santa.



To RSVP for either of these events, or for more information, contact Adam Chazan, at the Cooke Center (212) 360 1099, or John Dunlap (212) 682 8811.

Order Of Malta, American Association

Order Of Events

— Thursday, November 9, 2006 —

Mass and Orientation of New Members • 12:10 ^{pm} (*Families are welcome*)

New Members Reception • 5:30 ^{pm} (*Families are welcome*)

— Friday, November 10, 2006 —

Meeting of Members of the First and Second Class • 7:30 ^{am}

Business Meeting • 9 ^{am}

Meeting of Chaplains • 10 ^{am}

Presentation on Gifts and Planned Giving • 10:30 ^{am}

Lourdes Committee Meeting

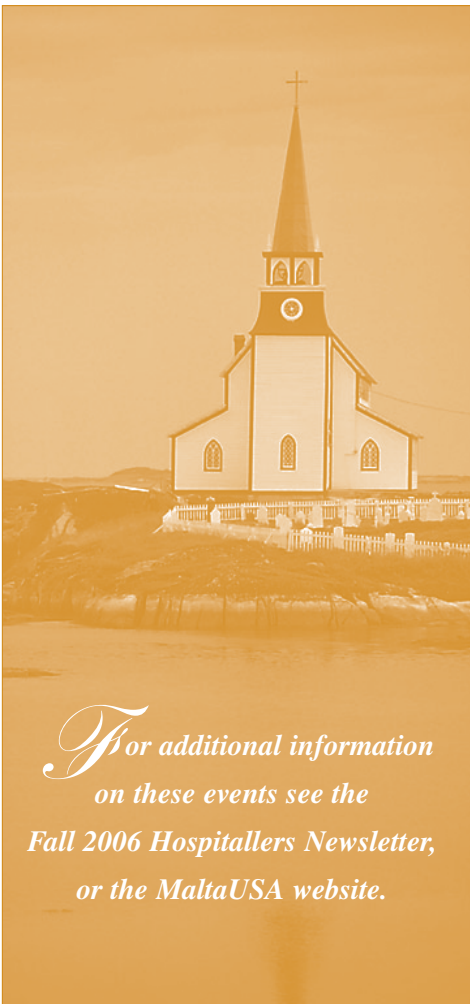
Solemn Mass of Investiture • 2 ^{pm}

Reception and Annual Dinner • 6:30 ^{pm}

— Saturday, November 11, 2006 —

Mass and Presentation on *Vocations to the Priesthood* • 9 ^{am}

Meeting of Area Chairs and Hospitallers • 11 ^{am}



*For additional information
on these events see the
Fall 2006 Hospitallers Newsletter,
or the MaltaUSA website.*



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