



KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Spring 2006 Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA



Dear Knights and Dames,

Welcome to our first electronic newsletter! Those who have elected to receive this newsletter electronically will be rewarded with the full-color version. To receive future issues of the New York Area Knights of Malta Newsletter online, please forward me your email address.

To contribute newsworthy items to the next issue of the New York Area Knights of Malta Newsletter, please send your submissions and photos to:

wsd@sadlier.com

subject: 'KOM Newsletter'

Thank you for your help.

Bill Dinger
Communications Committee Chair



SAVE THE DATE

November 10, 2006

Annual Investiture
Ceremony

St. Patrick's Cathedral

Beginning at 2 p.m.

Dinner to follow at the
Waldorf-Astoria

Lourdes 2006



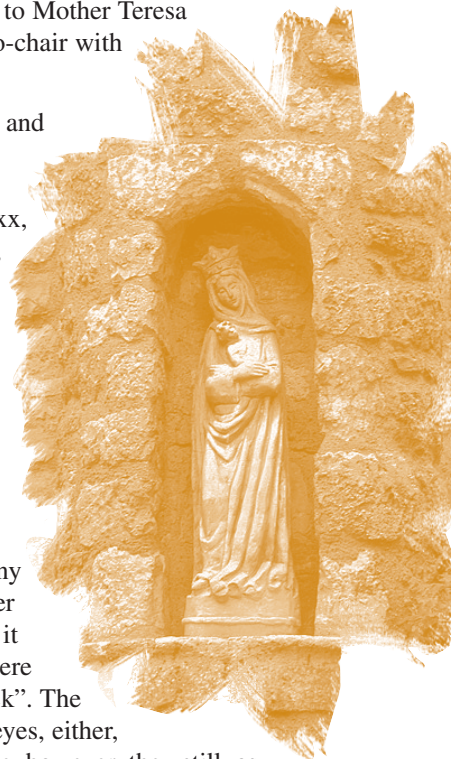
Lourdes is Mary's place. It is a special place. A pilgrimage there is a time of prayer, healing and renewal. The theme for this year's pilgrimage was "Come be my Light," Jesus' words to Mother Teresa that illumined her entire life, said Joe Metz, co-chair with his wife Elissa of this year's pilgrimage.

The New York area contingent of Knights and Dames included Laure Aubuchon, Judge Dick Casey, Msgr. James Cassidy, Ken Craig, Bob Dall, Bertrand de Looz, John Dunlap, Dan Foxx, Rory and Camille Kelleher, Fr. John McGuire, John Powers, Gregory Oussani and Joan Stout.

The excitement began to build at Newark Airport as we gathered from near and far to take our chartered 747 flight to Lourdes. It was there that most of us met our *malades* for the first time. My *malade*, for example, was a physician from Washington, DC, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease.

The flight on Comet Air, a charter company based in Madrid, was a great improvement over past flights. The plane was new and clean and it even boasted a first class section into which were placed our beloved *malades*, "our lords the sick". The crew was tremendous — and not hard on the eyes, either, in their Jetsons uniforms. As good as they were, however, they still, as in past years, could not get the film *Song of Bernadette* to run.

We arrived very early in the morning on Thursday and were bussed to our hotels in Lourdes. It is always a thrill to enter Lourdes and see the flag of our Order flying from the ramparts of the castle. This year we were spread out in three hotels, the D'Espagne, Les Arcades, and Le Paradis, all of which are side by side in the Avenue du Paradis. There was breakfast followed by team meetings, after which almost everyone went to bed for a well-deserved rest. That afternoon the Opening Mass of the pilgrimage for the three American Associations was celebrated in the Rosary Basilica.



continued on page 2



Lourdes 2006

continued from page 1

On Friday morning we gathered for a morning of recollection and confessions in the Salle Notre Dame. During this time the children had a walking tour in the footsteps of Bernadette. After lunch we went to the baths with our *malades* and later took them to the Anointing Mass in the St. Bernadette Chapel.

Saturday began with a Mass for the English-speaking associations at the Grotto, followed by group and then team photos. After lunch we assembled for the Opening of the Malta Pilgrimage in the cavernous St. Pius X Basilica, in the presence of the Grand Master. That evening we were honored to have the Grand Master, the Grand Commander, and members of the Sovereign Council for cocktails and dinner at the Hotel D'Espagne. Later in the evening the Grand Master gave out medals to first-year Knights, Dames, Auxiliary, and Volunteers in the Bernadette Chapel.

On Sunday morning there was a solemn Mass in the St. Pius X Basilica, attended by more than ten thousand people. It was a spectacular sight, with Knights and Dames from the world over in their Church Robes. Immediately following the Mass, I was privileged to process to the Grotto with the Grand Master, the Sovereign Council, the other professed Knights, and the assembled clergy. There we prayed the prayer of the Order and recited the Angelus.

That afternoon, Knights, Dames, and *malades* gathered for the Eucharistic Procession and Blessing of the Sick. This is always the most moving part of the entire pilgrimage and, in fact, the time when most miracles take place. I cannot describe how it feels to see literally thousands of *malades* in procession. This year, there was talk of a “miracle” at the baths. A *malade* who traveled with the British Association and who was crippled with rheumatoid arthritis began to scream that her flesh was burning when she was placed into the water. Doctors present attested to the fact that her skin had become hot and red. She subsequently walked away, leaving behind the wheelchair that had carried her there. Time will tell what really happened that day.

Monday brought the Stations of the Cross—the upper stations for mountain goats, and the lower stations for the rest of us. There also was Mass at Sacré Coeur Church, the parish church of the village of Lourdes. This church replaced a smaller, wooden church where Bernadette worshiped as a child. The church also contains the baptismal font where she was christened. That evening we all gathered for the Candlelight Procession.


On Tuesday we traveled to the picturesque village of Bartrès in the countryside outside Lourdes. This was where Bernadette was sent to live when her parents could not afford to support her. We visited the house where she lived and the church where she worshiped. We then reboarded our buses to travel to the Cité Secours for an outdoor Mass in the woods of the Bois St.-François. This was followed by a “picnic lunch” that featured hamburgers and ‘French-style’ hot dogs — actual-ly sausages stuffed through French baguettes. That evening, after dinner, we all gathered for the farewell show, which was very funny but, I think, much more restrained than in previous years.

Early the next morning we reboarded our 747 for the return trip to Newark. We were tired but content. The pilgrimage had been a great success. The weather had been the best ever! We had left for Lourdes the week before as Knights, Dames, Volunteers, *malades* and caregivers; but we returned as one family, with scores of memories that will last a lifetime.

John T. Dunlap, KJ



The Purpose of the Order of Malta

 The Constitutional Charter of the Order of Malta states the following in Article 2: “The purpose of the Order is the promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, service to the faith and to the Holy Father, and assistance to one’s neighbor, in accordance with its ancient traditions.”

This brief summary of the *raison d’être* of the Order of Malta reminds us that in all things the Christian must strive to give glory to God. God receives glory when his will is fulfilled here on earth. We fulfill God’s will by obeying his law and by imitating the example of Christ Our Lord in all our actions. God’s goodness and love are manifested when we worship God in holiness and truth and when we serve our neighbors, especially those in any distress or hardship. The service we give to the sick and the needy brings Christ’s love to these brothers and sisters of ours.

Service, to the faith and to the Holy Father, is an important task today. Religious ignorance is high, and curiosity about Catholicism often leads people to seek false but titillating descriptions of Christian history such as are found in the *Da Vinci Code*. As members of the Order of Malta, it is our duty to study and defend our faith and our Church from misrepresentation. This requires prayerful study and meditation.

This combination of active works of charity and devout dedication to the propagation and defense of Christian teaching by Knights and Dames of Malta will win many souls for Christ and give glory to God.

Fr. Gerald Murray,
Chaplain

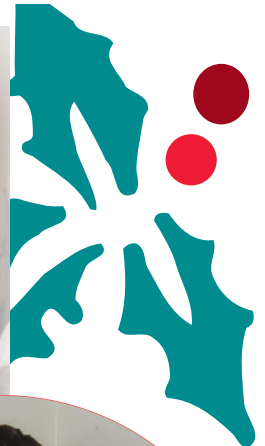


SUGGESTED READING

“How Dark the Con of Man: Some Responses to The Da Vinci Code”
by Archbishop Niederauer

www.jesusdecoded.com/truthbetold

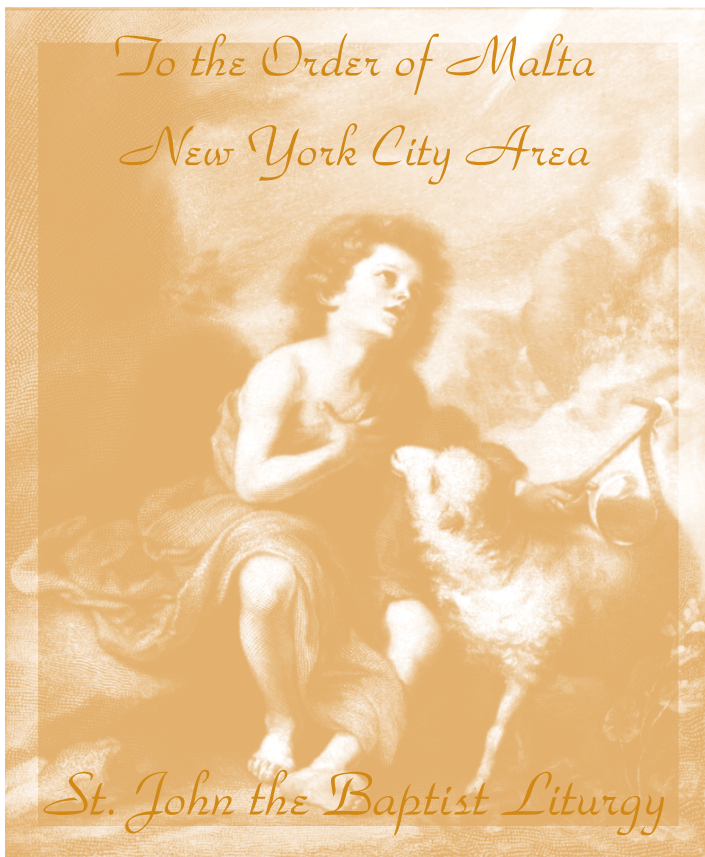
Christmas Memories 2005



Knights and Dames of Malta celebrate Christmas with residents of the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center.

You are cordially invited

*To the Order of Malta
New York City Area*



St. John the Baptist Liturgy

At

St. John The Martyr Church

250 East 72 Street

Between Second and Third Avenues

New York, NY 10021

Wednesday, June 21 ☪ 5:30 p.m.

Reception at 6:30 p.m. at the home of

Mr. Robert Dall

132 East 72 Street, Apartment 14

New York, NY 10021 ☪ 212-628-9239

Mr. Robert Dall is graciously underwriting the cost of the reception.

Robes and capes are required at the liturgy.

Please R.S.V.P. (acceptance only)

to the office of Peter C. Krause (212) 389-1540 by June 19, 2006



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