



ORDER OF MALTA

Spring 2009 Newsletter

Letter from the Chair

As we go to press, we have received word from Rome that Frà John T. Dunlap, Regent of the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes, and Co-Hospitaler of the NYC Area, has been elected to the Order of Malta's Sovereign Council (the Government of the Order). Our warmest congratulations go to Frà John on this honor. As is required by the Code of the Order, John has stepped down as Regent of the Sub-Priory. Frà James-Michael von Stroebel of the Federal Association will serve as Acting Regent until an election can be held. We look forward to continuing to work with John here in NYC, and wish him well as he serves the Order in this new capacity. The interests of the American Association will be well represented in Rome!

At the same time, Dan Kelly, President of the American Association, has been elected to the Government Council which acts as an advisory board to the Sovereign Council. Again, in

continued on page 2

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

Venice International Seminar

JANUARY 15 - 18 2009

The Code of the Order of Malta requires that every five years HMEH the Grand Master convene a Chapter General of the Order to elect the Sovereign Council, the Government Council and several other committees. A Chapter General was called for June 8th and 9th, 2009 in Rome.

In recent times, it has been the custom to hold a seminar earlier in the year to formulate policy and make organizational recommendations for consideration by the Sovereign Council during its next quinquennium. The previous seminar was held five years ago in Malta and this year it was held in Venice from January 15th through 18th.

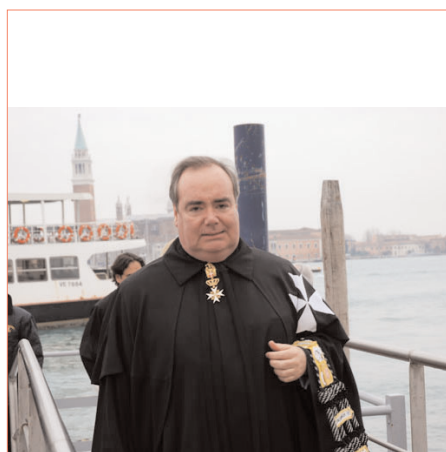
This year's theme was Ten Years Ahead. All Grand Priors, Regents, Presidents of Associations, Professed Knights and Ambassadors were invited to attend. The Grand Priorities, Sub-Priorities and National Associations all sent delegates. I attended as Regent of the Sub-Priory of Our



Lady of Lourdes. Chancellor of the Sub-Priory Desmond and Patricia McCarthy attended as delegates. Richard Armstrong came as a Professed Knight of the Order. President Dan Kelly was there with his wife Rosemary. Association Chancellor, Jack Pohrer, attended as well

as the Hospitaler, Joe Metz with his wife, Elissa. Co-Hospitaler, Mary McCooley, was there as was Treasurer, Jim O'Connor with his wife, Anne. Tom Carney attended as a member of the Government Council and Tom Flood came with his wife Sarah as member of

the Order's Communications Committee. Bob Shafer, the Order's Ambassador to the United Nations, also attended with his wife, Ellen, who was a delegate.



continued on page 3





continued from page 1

keeping with the requirements of the Order, Dan has resigned as President and has been succeeded by Jack Pohrer, Chancellor, who will serve as Acting President until elections are held in the fall. Dan has done an exceptional job as American Association President for the past six years and he, too, is to be congratulated.

We are grateful to the members of the Membership Committee and others for their efforts this spring in proposing new candidates for the Order. A total of 20 NYC Area applications for 2010 were submitted to the Association's Membership Committee. You will learn more about these candidates in the next Newsletter.

As always, the Pilgrimage to Lourdes was a great success and many from the NYC Area were represented as Members, Auxiliaries, malades and care givers. We encourage you to read the articles contributed here by two 2009 Candidates in their Year of Preparation who participated in their first Order of Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

We wish you all a wonderful summer and hope to see many of you on September 8th for the Mass in honor of Our Lady of Philermo. More details will be provided closer to the date.

Confraternally yours,
Rory and Camille Kelleher
rkelleher@sidley.com
camillekelleher@aol.com

www.orderofmalta.org

Lourdes' Time, For The First Time

by Celina Charlier

The bright yellow quadrangles we see from the airplane landing in Toulouse announce the inexplicable light that cuts through the rainiest times... On the bus to Lourdes we recognize that the intense yellow comes from flowers that are cultivated in that region of France and Spain and alongside the Mediterranean coast as well. The drive by the feet of the Pyrénées makes us start to face how small we all are and how much strength can come from our surroundings. Nature poetically hints all the elements of the spiritual journey about to begin.



Celina playing the flute during Mass

People, places, stories, masses, processions, meals, chats, piles of beautiful basilicas on top of one another, slices of history and stories merging and intertwining. Tolerance, understanding, and loving our neighbor. Great cappuccino—oh well, it is close enough to Italy for the French to know what they are doing... Reflections with the teenagers and ice cream party with the kids. Footsteps of Bernadette and the silent beauty of the Grotto at night. Compelling sermons. Playing the flute at all masses, especially for the anointing of the sick, and the benediction at Basilica Piu X. My spirituality, others' spirituality, the malades and the overwhelmingly pungent presence of one of the deepest philosophical Catholic dilemmas of all times—how and why there is maladie in the world. Adults seeking for a cure, adults asking God for strength to deal with no cure. Parents praying for a miracle and children naively (or wisely?) enjoying an atmosphere of non-judgmental acceptance, where people don't need to qualify in order to give or receive love. Children living in the present, sometimes more than the adults who care so deeply for their future. The newness of wearing the uniform—a constant reminder that, despite all differences, we are truly all the same, and we are all in this world together. Inspirational speeches at the farewell party at Hotel D'Espagne.

From such a deeply moving and intense week, with the added impact of being a "first-timer", it is difficult to select something to share as my first impression. Yet, there were two clear highlights of my personal journey in Lourdes: the candlelight procession on Friday evening, and the altered perception of time.

The Candlelight Procession

Thirty thousand people coming together and faithfully chanting the same melodies in so many different languages at such a beautiful Marian site is in itself very powerful. It went much beyond that. Toward the end of the candlelight procession, groups get split. Only the malades and one caregiver per malade can move



Fr. John McGuire, OP and Celina

continued on page 5

Archbishop Dolan Celebrates Mass At Terrence Cardinal Cooke Center

Archbishop Dolan visited the Terrence Cardinal Cooke Center on Friday June 12th to tour the facility and celebrate Mass for the residents. The Mass was attended by a number of Malta Knights and Dames, and was followed by a luncheon reception on the rooftop terrace of TCC. The Archbishop expressed his appreciation to the Order of Malta for all it has done to support TCC over its 31-year existence. The Order of Malta serves the facility in many capacities: members serve as Trustees, benefactors, and most of all, as volunteers. Among those attending the luncheon were Msgr.



James Cassidy, Bob Dall, Henry Humphreys, Roger Weaving, Lou Cappelli (whose company, Sterling National Bank, underwrote the luncheon), Charles DeBenedittis, Joan Stout, Rory and Camille Kelleher.

Venice International Seminar

continued from page 1



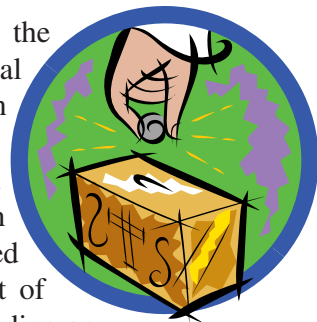
Over 400 delegates participated in all.

The seminar was held at the Hilton Molino Stuck Hotel, a very large former 19th century factory that had been converted into a modern hotel. It is situated on the Giudecca, an island located across the lagoon from Venice proper. The Giudecca was the medieval Jewish Ghetto of Venice. All travel to and from the island was by boat. It seemed very strange indeed to be picked up at the airport

continued on page 4

SPECIAL PROJECT

As many in the Area know, the Chapel at TCC has been an integral part of the Order's activities in NYC for many years. And, as many who regularly participate in Sunday Mass each week can attest, the Chapel is sorely in need of a face lift. The estimated cost of renovation is about \$25,000, including an updated audio system. In the past, we have donated funds raised from our various NYC activities to TCC's general fund. This year, we will be channeling our efforts more directly to renovation of the Chapel. With proceeds generated by the 2008 and upcoming 2009 Christmas parties and other events, plus profits from sales of items by the Auxiliary, we believe we can assist TCC in the refurbishment, thereby freeing up TCC's funds to be used more directly for the sick and infirm. Members wishing to contribute to the project may send checks, payable to Order of Malta-NYC Area, to Camille Kelleher, 1165 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10029.



by boat and taken to the hotel. The weather was cold and rainy for the most part and Venice was often shrouded in fog which only added to its mystery and magic.

The day before the seminar began much business of the Order was conducted. I attended a full-day meeting of all the Professed Knights with HMEH the Grand Master and HE the Grand Commander. Meetings were also held among the Presidents to chose delegates to the Chapter General in Rome. That day there was also a luncheon meeting of the Regents and a meeting of the Moderators of the Working Groups. I am pleased to announce that Dan Kelly was elected by the Presidents and that I was elected by the Regents to attend the Chapter General in June.

All delegates were assigned to one of 12 working groups arranged about various topics.



The seminar opened formally Thursday evening with a magnificent solemn mass at the ancient church of Santi Zacharia ed Atansio, which, among other things, has the remains of Saint Zachery, father of our Patron, Saint John the Baptist. During the ceremony, HMEH the Grand Master was presented with a bone of the saint. Following the mass, we attended a reception and dinner at the headquarters of the Grand Priory of Lombardy and Venice which has belonged to the Order since 1315.

Each day began with mass in the hotel said by the Prelate of the Order, HE Archbishop Angelo Acerbi. Friday was day one of the actual seminar and it began with a Plenary

DELEGATE TOPICS

1. The Revival of the First Class – attracting members and cultivating vocations: an examination of the state of the First Class and measures to encourage more members of the Order to consider becoming Knights of Justice (“Professed” Knights), especially younger members.
2. Fifty Years of Obedience: assessing the Class of Obedience, Knights and Dames interested in deepening their spiritual and practical commitment to the Order who take the Promise of Obedience.
3. Developing Future Leadership for the Governing Structures of the Order: measures to assist in closing the gap between the increasing demands of the Order’s structures and the availability of qualified people to serve as local, regional and international leaders.
4. The Order Providing and Spreading Christian Education: examining whether educational projects and activities should be a core competency of the Order in the near future.
5. “Put on the Armor of Light”–The Pope’s Direct Appeal to the Order: what should be the Order’s response to the direct call made to the Order by Pope Benedict XVI: “It is time to awaken from sleep! To put on the armor of Light to fight the evil and sin which darken our existence,” linking this appeal to our mission in recognizing Christ in the needy whom we serve.
6. Promoting Christian Culture in the Secular World of the 21st Century: how can individual members and the Order overall effectively work to build the City of God?
7. The Order: A Haven for the Sanctity of Life: what is the Order’s role in the titanic conflict between the “culture of life” and the “culture of death” in which secularism now boldly attacks Christian communities and their values and their right to act or speak on a multitude of issues.
8. Obsequium Pauperum: Focus on the Social and Spiritual Victims of Modern Society: do we need to focus on new areas of social distress, loneliness and poverty and outcast situations which can be addressed by willing volunteers not possessed of professional training required for classic hospitaler projects?
9. Originating from Many Traditions. Our Need to Join in a Single Culture of the Order: recommendations as to how individual members and organizations of the Order can be led to genuinely feel part of the one Order with all other members and volunteers worldwide.
10. Enhancing Highlights in the Life of the Order: International Pilgrimages: measures to maintain, cultivate, and develop the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes and other pilgrimages to The Holy Land, Rome, Malta, the International Summer Camp, the Youth Camp in Lebanon and international participation in national Association-sponsored pilgrimages in Germany, Italy, France, Spain and England.
11. The Order as Promoter of Peace Among Nations, Religions and Societies: as a Sovereign institution involved in charitable work world-wide, and as a neutral organization not involved in political activity, is the Order uniquely suited to promote peace in the world—including the Middle East?
12. Presenting the Order as an Organization Worthy of Financial Support from Within and Beyond its Membership: does each Knight and Dame see the Order as their highest priority for contributing time, talent and money to our local and international activities? Externally the Order is seen as a good cause, honest, transparent and efficiently devoted to its tasks. How do we maintain this image and adapt it to future demands?

Lourdes' Time, For The First Time

continued from page 2

forward, and they isolate the other people. I was very concerned about being able to find my malade later as I got swamped by the crowd. Of course I could go back to the hotel by myself, but they needed me to help push the voiture... As I voiced my concern to a stranger by my side, someone who had been there before, she replied with conviction: "Don't you worry! You know what happens in the end?" To which, my Cartesian mind expected very precise instructions: "What?" I asked with confident enthusiasm. "Oh, everybody just finds one another, naturally." I thought to myself—maybe everybody else does, but how will I find my malade? I even get lost when my mom picks me up at the airport! Well, you know what happened at the end? Thousands of people randomly scrambled, all

dressed the same and in the dark... and everybody just found everybody naturally, despite all odds. It was a precious reminder that there is something beyond what the eyes can see. Some will say it is God, or the Holy Spirit, or the Virgin Mary... It was a moment of certitude and of high-lighted faith.



Celina and her malade, Te Cole.

Venice International Seminar

continued from page 4

Session addressed by HMEH the Grand Master. We then went to our Working Groups.



Each Working Group was moderated by two delegates. I had the honor of co-moderating Working Group 11, which had some 28 members, mostly Ambassadors of the Order from throughout the world. HMEH the Grand Master spent one whole session attending our Working Group and willingly participated in the discussion and debate. Work was organized

around position papers drawn up by the moderators which had been circulated to members prior to the seminar. We met for two sessions each morning and two each afternoon.

Saturday evening there was a Gala Dinner at the hotel with HMEH the Grand Master. Sunday morning the delegates met in final Plenary Session to hear summaries and short reports from the two moderators of each Working Group and to be addressed by the Chairman of the Organizing Team, Winfried Henckel von Donnersmarck, a member of Sovereign Council, and by HMEH the Grand Master. Final full reports of each Working Group will be released shortly and will be used as a resource for the Order in the coming years.

Following the final Plenary Session, everyone, in church robes, boarded a flotilla of boats which took us across the lagoon to Venice proper. The quay was lined with members of the Grand Priory of Lombardy and Venice in their robes. A procession was formed that proceeded along the quay to Piazza San Marco, through the square and into the Basilica of San Marco. We were greeted at the great doors by the Patriarch of Venice, His Eminence Angelo Cardinal Scola, who offered a Pontifical High Mass in Latin with a delightful homily in English.

continued on page 7

The perception of time in Lourdes

According to cognition studies, several "species" of time can coexist: absolute time (what occurs, independent of human perception), clock time (a tentative measuring of absolute time), social time (affected by human perception of human interaction), linear time (a sequence of events), virtual time (a time in which we are removed from our daily experiences).

There are altered states of consciousness that provide a feeling of non-linearity, of verticality, of extended present, of stasis – a realm of vir-

continued on page 7



Members Honored

Dan Foxx, KM, was recognized with the Mary White Commitment Award at the Annual Flower Ball benefiting the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center.

John K. Castle, KM, received the Msgr. James J. Murray Award, and Philip J. Smith, KM, received the Thomas J. Walsh Award, at the recent Cocktail Reception to benefit the Mary Manning Walsh Home and the development of a short-term rehabilitation unit.



A Round Up of Recent Corporal and Spiritual Activities in the NYC Area



It has been a busy six months of the Order of Malta in NYC. Members helped to serve Thanksgiving dinner to residents of the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center on two separate nights in November. Many of those same individuals, and many others, returned in December to host a festive Christmas Party for the residents and their families. Members of the Order and the Auxiliary donated and wrapped gifts that were distributed to the residents by Santa (Ken Craig) and his elves. The TCC Christmas Party was followed by the 5th Annual Christmas Party for Members, graciously hosted by Agnes Nolan, and which generated donations of over \$6,000 for the Area's charities.

On the spiritual front, in December we joined with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre to host an Advent Afternoon of Reflection in the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Homilists were chaplains Msgr. Thomas E. Gilleece and Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie. In February, the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes and members of the Order observed the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with a Healing

Mass celebrated by chaplain Rev. John P. McGuire, OP, at the lovely early 19th century St. Joseph's Church in Greenwich Village. A number of malades from the area who have participated in recent pilgrimages were also invited. We joined with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre again in March for a Lenten Day of Recollection at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. In addition to homilies by the Most Reverend Frank J. Rodimer and Msgr. Thomas E. Gilleece, we heard from Brother Austin David Carroll of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association about the Holy Land and from John Schweska who spoke on the intersecting histories of the two Orders. The day concluded with Benediction and Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Gerald T. Walsh, Rector of the Seminary.

Several members of the Order were invited to attend the Installation of the Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York. Archbishop Dolan, Grand Cross Conventual Chaplain ad honorem, has also been designated as the new Principal Chaplain of the American Association.



Bereavement Committee

We are very saddened to inform you that United States District Judge John E. Sprizzo died on December 16, 2008.

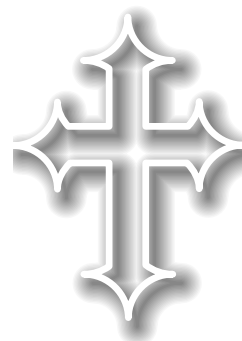
Judge Sprizzo was nominated to the federal bench by President Ronald Reagan in 1981.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for him on December 22nd St. John Nepomucene Church in New York City. The New York Area of the American Association provided an honor guard of over twenty Knights and Dames, including Laure Aubuchon, Mary Barnes, Kenneth Craig, Joseph G. Golia, Marco Grassi, Bob Greason, Rory Kelleher, Camille Kelleher, Dorothy Maceldorf, Gregory Oussanil and Thomas L. Tisdale.

We are very saddened to inform you that Dr. Thomas J. Quigley died on February 26, 2009.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for him on March 4th at Saint Teresa of the Infant Jesus and St. Nicholas Chapel in Staten Island. The New York Area of the American Association provided an honor guard of Knights, including Thomas J. Forlenza, Peter Krause, John Morris, Thomas Sullivan and Thomas Vazzana.

(The 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 +1 (212) 661-6222 or e-mail jlf@fiorilla.com, or directly through the Association's office at +1 (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.

tual time. This altered perception of time can be enticed by several elements, music and spirituality being two of them. They can make us perceive five minutes as a very long time, as well as “transform” hours into a short period of time. This feeling of a virtual time can be enabled through repetition, like chanting a simple melody numerous times (Ave, Ave, Ave Maria...), through prayer, through the impact of intense emotions or faith.

Our perception of temporality was impacted by this Lourdes pilgrimage in a very beautiful and powerful manner. We experience our spirituality not only in Lourdes or through the pilgrimage, but also in “Lourdes time.” There is an intense yet peaceful sense of present, of being in the present, of living the present, and of sharing a period

of extended present with others... In the middle of the trip, when chatting about our personal journeys, it seems hard to remember whether something that was so special happened on Tuesday or Wednesday... This pilgrimage feels like an undividable continuum where, without losing our own individuality, people are all the same, our search for spirituality is the same, and even within such a hectic schedule, there is time for everything. There is a general sense of unity that calmly embraces everybody and everything in that time and space. One day seems like an entire week, while the whole week flies like a single day. A “Lourdes minute” is the spiritual equivalent of a “New York minute.”

Venice International Seminar

continued from page 5



Following the mass, we boarded our boats to return to the hotel for a luncheon. That evening HMEH the Grand Master hosted a dinner at the hotel for the Grand Priors, Regents, Presidents of the Associations and Ambassadors.

The weekend passed at rapid speed and Monday morning we were all on planes coming home. This seminar, by all accounts, was an unqualified success and will undoubtedly help the Order worldwide to go forward in the future fulfilling its mission to our lords, the sick and the poor.

Frà John T. Dunlap
Regent



Prospective Members Reception



With the help of an expanded Membership Committee, over 40 people were recently identified as possible candidates for membership in the Order of Malta in 2010. These prospects were invited to a reception on May 12th at the home of Rory and Camille Kelleher, NYC Area Co-Chairs. The 20 prospects attending had the opportunity to meet with 12 members of the Order and hear presentations on the history and charism of the Order, its ministries and opportunities for service in the NYC area. Rory Kelleher provided a brief overview of the Order and its mission. Rev. John McGuire spoke of spirituality; Frà John Dunlap explained the organizational structure of the Order and the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes. Dan Foxx addressed the Eucharistic Ministry program and Deacon John Powers provided a synopsis of the NYC area efforts in prison ministry through Abraham House. A video of the Order's work at the Cardinal Cooke Center was shown. We are hopeful that the efforts of the Membership Committee will bear fruit. Thus far, we have received 4 completed applications.

FROM THE PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE:

Taking an active pro-life stance is vitally important in the Order of Malta's mission of defending the Catholic faith. You can make your voice known right from your computer or PDA. To show your opposition to the proposed federal "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA), which would declare abortion a "fundamental right" throughout the U.S.A, please sign the on-line petition at www.fightfoca.org.

On the New York State level, to show your opposition to the proposed Reproductive Health Act (RHA), an extreme bill that in part would force doctors to perform abortions and coerce Catholic institutions into facilitating the destruction of innocent human lives, please go to the NYS Catholic Advocacy Network at www.nyscatholic.org and click on the "Take Action Now" link. By clicking on the "Stop the Extreme Abortion Proposal" button, you will automatically e-mail the Governor, NYS Senate and Assembly a pre-written letter, which you can also edit.

For more suggestions on supporting pro-life advocacy efforts, please contact Gregory Oussani of the NYC Area Pro-Life Committee at gregory@staplex.com.

William S. Dinger
William H. Sadler, Inc.
9 Pine Street
New York, NY 10005

