Spring 2010 Newsletter

Letter from the Chairs

🖊 e have returned from Lourdes, rejuvenated and inspired by the amazing faith and serenity of the 52 malades who accompanied the American Association on its annual pilgrimage this year. 2010 marked the 25th that the American Association has accompanied malades to Lourdes, and in honor of this landmark, a number of past Pilgrimage Chairs were honored, including Ann Peabody (who organized the very first pilgrimage), Lucy McGrath, and Ellen and Bob Shafer, all of NYC. Congratulations to all for their past efforts. Next year, Ken Craig will be co-chair of the Pilgrimage with Charlotte Williams of Westchester.

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View along the river

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA



By Barbara Doyle, Prep.

ourdes, situated in the Pyrenees in Basque country, is one of the great pilgrimage centers of devotion to Our Blessed Lady. The Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta visit Lourdes from all over the world for a week-long pilgrimage that centers around an international mass for the Order on the 1st of May. This past May, the American Association celebrated its 25th year of participation and was organized by Joe and Gail Berardino. This week is the week of the Knights of Malta in Lourdes! We all, Malades, care givers, Knights, Dames and the Auxiliary of the Order of Malta, joined this pilgrimage for various reasons. Some of us were searching for a period of reflection and prayer, for help in a hopeless situation, or for healing and better management of illnesses. All of us sought to invoke the prayers of Our Lady. As Knights and Dames we all came to help and serve the poor and the sick, leaving our daily lives behind and to devote ourselves to prayer and to the happiness of our Malades.

My personal reasons were twofold. I was looking to dedicate time to prayer and reflection, but I was also looking to repeat an experience that I had 22 years ago when traveling as a member of the Auxiliary of the Austrian Association to Lourdes. The trip had very much influenced my path into adulthood and the following years to come, solidifying my faith and establishing the values of kindness and generosity towards others as solid pillars into my life. How would this experience compare? Was it foolish to expect so much?

These thoughts were going through my mind as I drove up to meet my team, the white team, at Newark Airport, where a chartered flight would take over 300



Letter from the Chair continued from page 1

We are now in the midst of recruiting new candidates for 2011. We held a well-attended reception for new prospects in April which we hope will produce some excellent new candidates. If you have not already sent prospect names to us, please do so as soon as possible.

Please watch for information on the June 24th Mass in honor of the Feast of the birth of St. John the Baptist, the Order's Patron. It will again be held in the Chapel of the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center, followed by a rooftop reception.

We would like to remind you that the NYC Area website is up and running (http://www.maltausa.org/ areas.php?area=new-yorknyc&p=home). Please check it regularly for updates on events—past and future. Call the Office if you do not have a user name and password to access the Members-Only section.

Finally, we extend our thanks to Bill Dinger, KM, his assistant Stefni and Wm. Sadlier, Inc., for their continued help and support in producing this semi-annual newsletter for the NYC Area.

Have a great summer.

Confraternally yours, Rory & Camille Kelleher RKelleher@sidley.com CamilleKelleher@aol.com



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Visit with Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan

Tust before Christmas, the leadership of the New York City and Westchester Areas was invited by Archbishop Dolan to attend morning Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral and to join him for breakfast at his Residence. It was a wonderful opportunity to acquaint our new Archbishop with the activities of the Order of Malta in his Archdiocese. Attending from NYC were: His Excellency Frá John Dunlap of the Sovereign Council; His Excellency Robert Shafer, Ambassador of the Order of Malta to the United Nations, and his wife,

Ellen, a member of the Board of Councillors; Rory and Camille Kelleher, NYC Area Co-chairs; Agnes Nolan, Hospitaller; Deacon John Powers, Prison Ministry; and Gregory Oussani, Pro-Life Activities.



From left to right: Fra John Dunlap, Camille & Rory Kelleher, Gregory Oussani, Archbishop Dolan, Deacon John Powers, Agnes Nolan, Bob & Ellen Shafer.

Malta Human Services Foundation Reception

reception to kick off the Malta Human Services Foundation's capital Acampaign in New York City was held in January at the home of Christopher Hyland. The reception, co-hosted by Janet and JJ Cafaro, was very well attended. The Campaign, whose national honorary co-chairs are John Castle and Mary Higgins Clark, has as its goal raising \$10 million from the American Association to help fund the Association's annual grants program and to help underwrite the costs of taking malades on the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. We were honored to have both His Eminence Edward Cardinal Egan and His Excellency Archbishop Timothy Dolan in attendance. Both spoke eloquently about the works of the Order, about the recent earthquake in Haiti, and the great job that Crudem has been doing at Hôpital Sacré Coeur for earthquake



Group presentation: President. Joe Miller on Left; host Christopher Hyland seated.

victims. JJ Cafaro announced a gift of \$200,000 to Crudem for the construction of a new wing at the hospital, to be named in honor of Cardinal Egan, and an additional \$500,000 pledge to the capital campaign. As we go to press, the New York City Area has contributed or pledged \$1.8mn to the

five year campaign. If you wish to contribute to this worthwhile campaign and have not received Campaign materials or been solicited, please contact Michael McMorrow through the Malta Office.

Year End at TCC

hvigorated by a great investiture weekend, members of the Order and Auxiliary in the New York City Area — and some of our Long Island, Westchester and New Jersey confreres were out in force



Msgr. Douglas Mathers

for two nights of serving Thanksgiving Dinner to the residents of The Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center (TCC) and their families. Just a few weeks later, many of those same individuals, and many more, turned up to wrap Christmas gifts and host our annual Christmas party for the adult residents of TCC. Lest we forget the children, members of the Order and the Auxiliary also gathered during December to ring in the season with their monthly sing-along on the children's floors. The December Sing Along featured Christmas Carolers, accompanied by Celina Charlier, DM, on the flute.

Annual Christmas Party

Following the Christmas party at TCC, Agnes Nolan, our Hospitaller, once again graciously hosted a Christmas party for members and guests in her apartment overlooking Central Park and the Reservoir. This party has become the Area's primary fund-raising event and this year, with costs again underwritten by Agnes, we raised \$12,000 to be donated to various works and ministries in the NYC area (see article about Area finances on page 11). As always, we are most appreciative of all that Agnes does for the Order here in NYC. Come join us next year. It is a lot of fun.



Santa and some of his Malta helpers

Lenten Day of Recollection



Chapel at St. Joseph's Seminary

early March. members of the Order of Malta in NYC again joined with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in a day of Lenten prayer and reflection at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie. Reflections were given by Msgr. Robert Stern of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association and Malta Chaplain Fr. Robert Dunn. The concluding

Mass was celebrated by Bishop Gerald Walsh, Rector of the Seminary.

Reception for Prospective New Members

In mid-April we held a reception for prospective new members of the Order. About 15 prospects, nominated by current Members, attended the reception at the home of Rory and Camille Kelleher to hear about the history, spirituality and missions of our Order, learn about the works and ministries of the Order in NYC, and meet members of the Order currently involved in these activities.

A Lourdes Experience

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pilgrims to Lourdes (another 100 plus flew commercial). Of these people at Newark I knew only two, my sponsor and her husband. I should not have worried, because as soon as I arrived at the terminal I was taken under the wing of the Knights and Dames who were assigned to check everybody in. I easily found my way to the gate that was teaming in Malta colors. It did not matter that they were strangers to me; we all were here for the same reason, armed with name tags, unified in purpose. Introductions were made easily and quickly and soon my team was found and we passed the time sitting with our Malades chatting and getting acquainted.



Frà John Dunlap during Eucharistic Procession

The first day in Lourdes revealed the beginnings of the change of life we would undergo during this week. We exchanged our street clothes for our uniforms, symbolically shedding part of our individuality and becoming part of a larger and stronger force with a common purpose. Armed with our little black books containing our schedule, we fell into the routine of gathering our teams and Malades, and walking through the streets of Lourdes to the Domain de la Grotte, the holy district. The streets were designed for all people alike, the Malades as well as the other pilgrims. Have you ever seen a special lane for wheel chairs? There was a lot of "rushing to wait" as many jokingly called it as we had to arrive early at many of the events and then waited often a long time until its start. As we entered the Domain the atmosphere changed to one of a place of prayer and worship and we proceeded to the Rosary Chapel for the opening mass for the three Malta Associations from the



Peter Krause, Lucia Chan (AUX) & Malade

U.S.A. While there is a profound unified purpose, each experience at Lourdes is very personal and different events had different meanings and importance. Some outstanding memories for me were the candlelight procession, illuminating the faces of pilgrims, and its tender prayer; the indescribably happy expressions on the faces of our Malades at the Baths; and the overwhelming Eucharistic procession and Benediction at the Pius X Basilica with a seemingly endless number of Knights and Dames of the Order from all over the world with their Malades.

During the pilgrimage we were very fortunate to be accompanied by a wonderful group of clergy who cared for our spiritual needs and inspired us to reflect and think. Our little black book offered a section for personal notes to record our thoughts. Examples of what I wrote included: Msgr. Wallin taught us that with God the "unbelievable" is possible and led us to understand the Stations of the Cross and the suffering of Christ in a very personal way; Fr. Dunn offered his own experiences with sickness in his sermon

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Fr. Joseph Cavoto and Blue Teammates

SPECIAL DELIVERY TO HAITI

REDMOND, Wash. — Feb. 9, 2010 — As James Cooper and his brother circled above a tiny earthquake-damaged airstrip in Haiti they knew they were taking a calculated risk.

Cooper, an employee at Microsoft, and his brother John were bringing emergency supplies to a community increasingly desperate for help. In addition to the airstrip being damaged, the pair had received reports that it wasn't safe to be on the ground.

The brothers wanted to get a closer look at the Cap-Haitien airstrip before they committed to landing their family's Piper Seneca airplane. In the end, they decided to land—feeling it was too important to get the equipment they were transporting, especially the medical supplies, to the people who needed it.

"One flight isn't going to save Haiti, but it did save a few lives," Cooper said.

Adding to the peril of their approach, no air traffic control tower was available to guide them in. Cap-Haitien is a remote town in northern Haiti—the reason the brothers flew there was because the airstrip was too small to land larger planes.

To get the lay of the land, pilots in the area radioed each other as they approached, announcing air speed and elevation and estimating spacing for takeoffs and landings, Cooper said. They also discussed the situation on the ground, which was becoming desperate. Since the earthquake struck more than three weeks ago, basic supplies had only trickled into areas outside Port-au-Prince.

Cooper and his brother landed with \$200,000 worth of medical supplies for Hôpital Sacré Coeur, the only private hospital in northern Haiti. Cooper's brother and father had flown supplies in the week before, among a handful of pilots who have volunteered to bring aid to hard-hit, hard-to-reach areas of Haiti.

The Coopers, who all live in or near New York City, felt they had to do something to help as soon as they learned the earthquake hit. "We learned on 9/11 that when catastrophic events happen, you want to do what-



James Cooper's brother John unloading the plane in Cap-Haitien in northern Haiti.

ever you can to reach out and help people in need," said Cooper, a solution sales professional with Microsoft's Enterprise Search Group.

Cooper's flight was just one example of how Microsoft employees have been reaching out to help the people of Haiti. To date, more than 5,000 employees have donated \$1.88 million (including matching Microsoft funds) to relief efforts, said Claire Bonilla, senior director of the company's Disaster Management team.

The Cooper family's flights to Haiti came about through Bahamas Habitat, an organization that works with pilots to deliver critical items to isolated areas. Shortly after the earthquake, the group issued a call for help, and Cooper's father and brother, both pilots for 15 years who had worked with the organization in the past, volunteered.

Bahamas Habitat was working to match planes with medical supplies, and it soon found a church in Rhode Island that had purchased a large quantity of antibiotics and baby formula.

For the first wave, James Cooper stayed in New York and handled logistics while his brother and father fetched the supplies, flew to Cap-Haitien and traveled to the hospital. Nurses awaited their arrival, pulled the medicine off the truck, and then returned immediate-

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A Lourdes Experience



Ken Craig & Joe Guillen assisting at Sub-Priory Mass

The week flew by and calls to home got less frequent as we immersed ourselves in a different domain. On the last day my roommate and I sat on our beds with suitcases packed and reflected on the amount of time we had spent on prayer during our stay. We had to laugh as it seemed that although we had spent a whole week dedicated to prayer, we had not even begun to make a dent and were long from finished praying for all the causes or people we could think of!

The flight took off from Lourdes Airport to take us back to Newark and back to our normal lives. Needless to say, by now I knew almost everybody on the plane. The captain had to remind the passengers several times to sit down and clear the aisles! What could we take away from this experience? Had my expectations been fulfilled? On my car ride into New York after everybody had waved good-bye, I smiled, as I was happy to realize that nothing had changed from

during the Anointing of the Sick in the Salle Notre Dame; and Bishop John Smith explained the meaning and tasks of a shepherd and why this image relates to our Father.

Time itself seemed to be a very different thing during the pilgrimage. Although we were always on a tight schedule, it seemed to not really matter as we all went at a steady pace, always having enough time to pay attention to each other. We felt a little removed from our normal daily lives, somehow in a different realm. It oc-

curred to me that I did not feel the need to take money with me on our outings or anything else except my prayer book and maybe an umbrella as it rained a lot. I felt taken care of and provided for with everything I needed, free to concentrate on prayer and care of the Malades. What a luxury to put minute concerns aside to concentrate on this task!

Another astonishing realization was that we all learned from our Malades. Their experiences became a present to the caregivers and the members of the Order. We are given the cross we can bear.....



Part of the NYC Contingent, standing: Cristina & Marco Grassi; Dr. Theresa Tretter; Dr. Mario Alicandri; George Irish; Rory Kelleher; Dr. David Kissane; Susan Larkin. Seated: Joan Stout; Ann Peabody; Camille Kelleher: Jeannie Irish.



Marissa Blackett & Rosemary Kelly

my experience of 22 years ago. The Knights of Malta still stood for the same kindness and generous giving of heart, their service to God and their care for the suffering.

Lourdes 2010 Photo, Album



Jenna Perry, Aux



We are greatly saddened to learn of the death of Patrick Davies, a Malade of this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes, who passed away this past weekend (June 5 - 6). Patrick is survived by his wife Aracely and by his mother Nancy Davies, DM, of NYC. Both were with Patrick in Lourdes. Please remember Patrick, Aracely and Nancy in your prayers.



Fr. John McGuire



Greg Oussani



Marie & Cosmo DiTucci



Ellen and Ambassador Bob Shafer with Msgr. Peter Finn



Barbara Doyle (2nd from left) and Dr. David Kissane (far right)

Annual Circus at TCC



f it is springtime, then it must be time for a circus! For the severely disabled children of the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center. the circus came to town, or at least to TCC, on Saturday April 24th. For the eighth year in a row, Maggie Ludwiczak, DM, worked with Adam Chazan of TCC Maggie Ludwiczak, Ringmaster

to organize the Malta

Circus. As Ringmaster, Maggie led 50 wheelchair-bound children and some of their siblings in a sing-along, a grand parade and a variety of games including Musical Chairs and Pass the Ball. A three-member band and a team of

clowns added to the children's enjoyment.

Members of the Order and the Auxiliary arrived early to decorate the room and to greet each child with a balloon. This year, we were also pleased to welcome the help of 16 members of the Falcone family. Noreen Falcone, former president of the Federal Association, and her husband, Michael, were in NYC with their entire family to celebrate Noreen and Michael's 50th wedding anniversary. As part of the weekend of celebration, three generations of Falcones volunteered to help in tribute to their parents. Having contacted the NYC Area earlier to find out if there was a Malta-related service activity in which the family could participate while in New York, we were able to move the date of the circus up by a couple of weeks to accommodate the greatly appreciated extra volunteers. Congratulations Noreen and Michael!



Falcone Family and NYC Malta volunteers

Grand Master Receives President of Dominican Republic

Rome, 22 May 2010

Focus on situation in Haiti and intensifying cooperation in Santo Domingo

The post-quake situation in Haiti and the intensification of health cooperation were the key topics of the visit yesterday morning of the President of the Dominican Republic Leonel Fernández Reyna to the Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, in the Magistral Palace. President Reyna was accompanied by his wife, Margarita Cedeño, and a small delegation. The Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery and the Grand Hospitaller Albrecht Boeselager also participated in the talks.

The Grand Master thanked the President for the invaluable support given to the Order's teams during their humanitarian efforts in Haiti after the devastating earthquake last January that caused over 230,000 victims. Currently Haiti, President Fernández stated, "is undergoing a transition stage from emergency to sustainable development."

The President said that, in the weeks after the quake, the bordering country not only sent basic necessities but also 40 buses that were turned into classrooms to allow hundreds of pupils to finish the school year. The Grand Master suggested that buses could also be used in the future as mobile clinics, as already implemented in other humanitarian projects. The Grand Hospitaller stressed that the Order will continue its assistance efforts in Haiti, as well as providing training courses for paramedical staff, one of the most critical health emergencies in the country.

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SPECIAL DELIVERY TO HAITI

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ly to surgery. The Coopers were told they had delivered enough antibiotics to save 100 babies ravaged with infection and enough formula to provide thousands of meals for infants, one of which was a 9-month-old baby who hadn't eaten for 10 days.

The supplies the Coopers delivered most recently also had an immedi-



James Cooper and his father Jack. The family's flights to Haiti came about through Bahamas Habitat, an organization that works with pilots to deliver critical items to isolated areas.

ate impact. The Order of Malta had arranged for the Coopers to pick up additional antibiotics in Fort Lauderdale, which has become a staging ground for flights to Haiti. After landing in Cap-Haitien, James and his brother met representatives from Hôpital Sacré Coeur and worked quickly to unload in the muggy heat.

The medicine was then driven to the hospital, a 73-bed facility overwhelmed by more than 300 Haitians with critical injuries from the earthquake. After two weeks, injuries that had initially been relatively minor broken bones and open wounds were now life-threatening cases of infection and gangrene. Doctors at the hospital reported that the antibiotics the Coopers delivered immediately saved lives.

Before flying back to Fort Lauderdale, the Coopers picked up two doctors and two nurses who had volunteered at the hospital. Because of weight limitations, they had to leave behind everything but their passports, and crowded onto the floor of the plane as the seats had been removed to create more cargo space.

For the rest of the weekend, James Cooper ran logistics in Fort Lauderdale while his brother and his father made runs back and forth to Haiti. "Seeing a warehouse full of stacks and stacks of crutches and walkers for small children absolutely takes your breath away," Cooper said.

"A lot of people are hurting down there, but I want people to know there is hope," he said. "Even donating a small amount to places like the Red Cross or local churches can have an impact in people's lives. You don't need to build a house, but a small donation can make a real difference when someone gets the life-saving medication they need or eats for the first time in a week. Nothing goes unappreciated."

— Mircsoft News Center www.microsoft.com

From the Pro-Life Committee



St. Gianna Beretta Molla

🕇 t. Gianna Beretta Molla – patron saint of The Gianna Center for Women in Manhattan – was an Italian physician, wife and mother. Diagnosed with a uterine tumor while pregnant with her fourth child, Gianna Emanuela, St. Gianna was encouraged by doctors to have an abortion in order to proceed with treatment of the tumor. St. Gianna refused, telling her husband that if he had to choose between her life and the life of her child, he should save the child. She died shortly after delivering the baby.

For her heroic virtue in life and the sacrifice of her life for the sake of her unborn child, she was canonized on May 16, 2004 by Pope John Paul II. She is fast becoming the patroness of mothers, doctors and those with pregnancy-related difficulties and many of the miracles attributed to her intercession are related to pregnancy.

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s Knights and Dames of Malta, supporting the sanctity of life is a defining issue in our defense of the faith. In words and actions, in prayer and casual conversation, we should use every opportunity to uphold the dignity and value of human life from natural conception to natural death.

Recent pro-life activities – On January 22nd I was on one of the 40+ buses from the Archdiocese of New York participating in the 37th annual March for Life in Washington D.C. This year at the request of Archbishop Timothy Dolan, there was a Mass before the March for over 1,000 from the NY Archdiocese at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, MD. In his homily, Auxiliary Bishop Gerald Walsh used the example of St. Augustine of Hippo for the possibility of conversion of those who today promote the culture of death. Plan to participate in the next March for Life on Monday, January 24, 2011.

On Saturday, March 13th, I, along with prep candidate M.C. Asman and auxiliary Carmen Gomez, participated in the Coworker of Life training program at St. Vincent Ferrer in NYC sponsored by the Sisters of Life. Training topics included understanding the heart of a vulnerable pregnant woman, communications skills, and a description of the various ways an individual's talents can be placed at the service of life. Please contact me for more information on becoming a Coworker of Life and future training programs.

On March 22nd, I attended an introductory explanatory meeting for Pregnancy Help Inc., a pro-life pregnancy resource center on West 14th Street that was founded through St. Vincent Ferrer parish in 1994. PHI's board of directors include Raymond Teatum, KM and Joan McGrath Triulzi, DM. Other Knights and Dames attending the gathering were Rory and Camille Kelleher, Richard West, William Morosse, William Orendorf and Daniel D'Agostino, as well as prep candidates Steven Krawciw and Joseph DeMarco. For more information about Pregnancy Help Inc. please visit their website, www.pregnancy-helpnyc.org/ or contact William Morosse, KM at 212-482-8702 (w)/e-mail: william@plr-inc.com.

The most significant development in NYC to promote Catholic pro-life principles was the opening of the Gianna Healthcare Center for Women (15 East 40th Street, Suite 101, New York, NY 10016; Telephone (212) 481-1219; [http://www.giannahealth.org/: e-mail: contact@giannahealth.org]. On May 17th Archbishop Dolan blessed and enshrined the Gianna Center, named after St. Gianna Beretta Molla, in the presence of her son, Pierluigi Molla. Founded by Dr. Anne Mielnik, the Gianna Center is the only women's healthcare center in NYC that is explicitly committed to following the teachings of the Catholic Church in all of its services. The Gianna Center offers new hope for couples struggling with infertility and recurrent miscarriages through NaProTechnology, an approach that allows couples to conceive naturally without the destruction of embryos associated with in vitro fertilization and with success rates that are as good as or better than in vitro fertilization. In his remarks, the Archbishop upheld the Gianna Center as an example of where the Catholic Church embraces cutting edge technology that is morally sound. God willing, the Gianna Center will become a model for Catholic healthcare and encourage other Catholic doctors to practice their faith through their profession!

— Gregory P. Oussani, KM, NYC Area Respect Life Coordinator, E-mail: gregory@staplex.com; Telephone: 718-768-3059.

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes — Healing Mass



Deacon John Powers & Fr. Joseph Cavoto

Indeterred by a heavy snowfall the night before, more than 50 members of the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes and members of the Order and Auxiliary in the New York City Area gathered on February 11th at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick. Mass was concelebrated by Malta Chaplains Fr. Joseph Cavoto, SA, and Msgr. Douglas Mathers, along with Fr. Jerome Massimino, O.F.M. (Pastor of St. Francis), and assisted by Deacon John Powers. The liturgy included an anointing of the sick and a candlelight procession at the end of Mass, reminiscent of Lourdes, to the Church's Altar honoring Our Lady of Haiti. The evening concluded with a reception in the Church's newly renovated San Damiano Hall.

Confrères-to-Confrères Outreach Program

Homebound? Like a Member to accompany/transport you to Order functions? Just like to have an occasional call from a fellow Knight or Dame? Or, know someone who might need our outreach? We have a number of volunteers willing to reach out to you. Contact Deacon John Powers or Camille Kelleher to let us know how we can help you.

NYC Area Finances

June 2009 to April, 2010	
<u>Income</u>	
Donations—St John the Baptist Mass at TCC	\$ 3,000
Rebated Annual Dues from American Association	
@\$20 per member	\$ 3,000
Receipts from NYC Christmas Party	<u>\$ 12,000</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 18,000
Donations/Expenses	
Terence Cardinal Cooke Chapel Renovation	\$ 5,000
Sisters of Life	\$ 2,500
Sponsorship of a Lourdes Malade	\$ 3,500
Various reception costs	\$ 2,000
Total Disbursements	\$ 13,000

Grand Master Receives President of Dominican Republic

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The priority now, President Fernández said, is to build accommodation before the rainy season arrives. A regional conference of donors is being organised in Santo Domingo to plan the reconstruction and, in particular, to strengthen the infrastructure.

It was hoped that a humanitarian cooperation agreement could soon be signed between the Dominican Re-

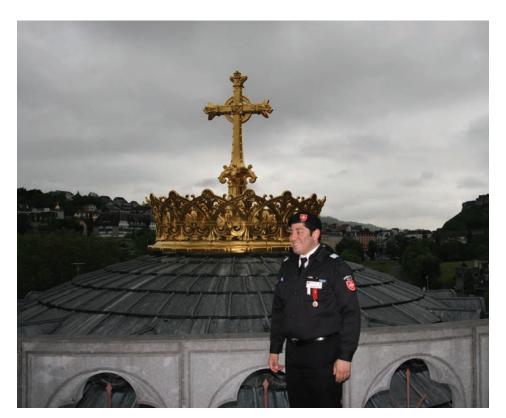
public and the Order of Malta to support the work the Order's Association carries out in its two paediatric centres in Santo Domingo.

The Grand Master and President Fernández also agreed to collaborate more closely in combating false orders to prevent further frauds like those perpetrated in the country in the past.

- www.OrderofMalta.org / english

UPCOMING EVENTS

In addition to our regularly scheduled First Monday Mass in the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's, held at 6:30 pm on the first Monday of each month, plans are in the works for a Mass and reception to celebrate the Feast of the Birth of St. John the Baptist (June 24). Watch for more details of our annual Mass on the NYC Area website (www.maltausa.org/area.php?area=new-york-nyc) under the Calendar section.



Joe Guillen; Lourdes May 2010