

KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Summer 2005 Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

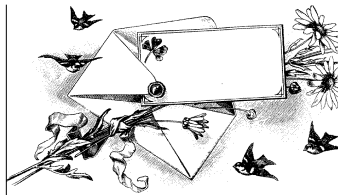
PROGRESS REPORT

Eucharistic Ministry Work in the New York Area

The New York Chapter of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta has been involved in eucharistic ministry work in New York-area hospitals since the mid nineteen-eighties. Since that time we have continued this work at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Pavilion for Cancer Patients at New York Hospital. A few years later we added the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Center, and in the last seven years we have expanded our active participation to coordinating the eucharistic ministry program at Lenox Hill Hospital. Ideally an effective eucharistic ministry program in any hospital or health institution should have a minister available every day of the week, covering all patient areas of the hospital, and offering the patients the opportunity to receive Communion.

A full ministry requires a large number of volunteers. Ideally, this means twenty-one volunteers a week, or three each day for each institution. Each session involves ministering for an hour or an hour and a half. Our numbers fluctuate for

(continued on page 4)



Letter from the Chair



I have just returned from France after concluding our 2005 Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage (No. XX), and it was an outstanding success. It was truly

a pleasure and an honor to partake of it. The picture below of some of our New York City area members on the pilgrimage captures some of the collective spirit of service, dedication, Christian love and religious devotion that all our Knights, Dames, auxiliary members, Malades, caregivers, chaplains and medical staff shared. As you know, our Order was founded in the eleventh century in Jerusalem, with the mission of caring for sick pilgrims. Our annual pilgrimage is therefore a return to, and an affirmation of, our organization's original vocation. As the Lord said so meaningfully to us, "It is in giving that we receive."

The 2005 Lourdes Pilgrimage was dedicated to the memory of our late, great Pope, John Paul II, and to the intentions of all Malades and pilgrims who have come to Lourdes during the twenty years of our pilgrimages. When I was in Lourdes, I saw a photo of Pope John Paul II, crippled with Parkinson's disease and arthritis, taken when he came to Lourdes as a malade in August 2004. His visit to Lourdes was his last trip outside Italy, and his sacrificial attitude toward his suffering was so inspirational and uplifting. As I pulled my voiture, ate with and cared for the sick, and prayed and worked with my fellow Knights and Dames during the pilgrimage, our Malades reminded me of the declaration Pope John Paul II made upon his election as our Holy Father: "Be not afraid." Our 2005 Malades ranged from toddlers with arthritis to elderly people battling Alzheimer's disease and cancer. Their optimism and joy in Lourdes were amazing. There is no physical or spiritual affliction that prayer cannot overcome.



During the twenty years of our pilgrimages we have ministered to over 2,500

(continued on page 2)



Letter from the Chair

(continued from page 1)

pilgrims. The first pilgrimage was led by our wonderful New York City area member, Dame Anne Peabody. What pride Anne must feel in how successful our twentieth pilgrimage was. What a tribute to her vision, back in 1986, of what was possible! The American Association gave Anne an award in Lourdes to honor her role as the leader of the first pilgrimage. Our annual Lourdes Pilgrimage remains the single largest hands-on activity devoted to helping the sick that is sponsored by our Association.

Our flight from Newark to Lourdes on April 27 transported 400 pilgrims, including over fifty Malades and over fifty caregivers. We were blessed with seven days of beautiful warm and sunny weather—exceptionally good fortune in a usually cold and rainy time period. We participated in wonderful liturgies conducted by priests whose homilies and prayers were moving and powerful. We enjoyed the beautiful grotto along the River Gave in the Pyrénées Mountains where Our Lady appeared to Saint Bernadette in 1858. Above all, we all had an opportunity to grow much closer to Our Lord.

Some of the personal highlights for me were being one of the four Knights who carried the statue of the Blessed Mother in the candlelight procession; the ceremony of the anointing of the sick; holding the canopy during the processional of the Holy Eucharist; hiking around the mountaintop stations of the cross; and, of course, bathing in the Lourdes spring waters.

It was an honor to bear good witness to all our members in carrying out the motto of our Order, "Obsequium Pauperum." I was also gratified to see a number of younger New York City Knights, Dames and auxiliary members in our pilgrimage. As you know, my goal as Chair for the last three

years has been to introduce new and more active members to the Order to energize our area. I was also gratified to see some of last year's twelve inductees at Lourdes.

On the issue of recruiting, I would appreciate it if you would propose any potential new members to the Chair of our Membership Committee, Tom Forlenza, M.D. Send all proposals to Tom Forlenza, 29 Brenton Place, Staten Island, NY 10314, or call 718-816-4949.

We need additional candidates for our future Knights and Dames for the Class of 2006 and thereafter. At present we have two Knights in Preparation in the Class of 2005. Their contact information is as follows:

Paul C. Hardart
95 Horatio Street
Apartment 11N
New York, NY 10014
212-366-5893
paulhardart@aol.com

Derek B. Park
Trump Parc Tower
106 Central Park South
New York, NY 10019
212-977-1078
dpark33@nyc.rr.com

If you have any service or other opportunities in which you could use assistance from our Knights in Preparation, please call them.

I look forward to welcoming Paul and Derek to our Order in November and having them join us in our work and as pilgrims on future trips to Lourdes. They will be carrying out the mandate that the Blessed Mother gave to the servants at the wedding feast in Cana before Jesus transformed water into wine: "Do whatever he tells you."

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

Faternally yours,
Peter C. Krause
Area Head



Photos by Phillip Howell

Bill Gallo with Bishop Lori

In our last Newsletter we had a wonderful article by Gregory Oussani about the 2004 Lourdes Pilgrimage. One of his "miracles," Bill Gallo, wrote the following letter, which Gregory has shared with us.*

**Letters have been edited for clarity and length.*

12-30-04

Dear Gregory,
Thank you so much for sending me a copy of the write-up and the Christmas card. I feel very honored to be written about. I framed it. I have never been so happy as when I was on that trip. Thank you so much for your help. It was as if I was with the family I never had. You see, I lost my family when I was three years old. I had never ever been so close to God before, until that trip with all of you. I don't fear death any more because of you and all of the people that helped me find God. I love you all so much for what you did for me. Words can't say how thankful I am. If I could do that trip again I would be so honored. Seeing me written up means so much to me. Keep in touch. Thank you again. God bless you all.



Sincerely yours,
Bill Gallo

A Call to Something Deeper

by John Dunlap, KM, KJ

J was a bit hesitant when I was first asked to write a short article on becoming a Knight of Justice in the Order of Malta. I am sure that for most of you it is something strange and unknown. I have been an active member of the Order since 1996. As I became more and more involved with the Order, I came to realize that there was another, much more spiritual level. I had always been religious and was a daily Massgoer, but I became more and more intrigued by the charisma of the Order—working with Our Lords' sick and poor. I was friendly with Fra John MacPherson, a member of the Sovereign Council and a fellow Canadian, who encouraged me to think seriously about a vocation in the Order. I then began meeting with Fra James-Michael von Stroebel, at the time the only Knight of Justice in the United States. He also encouraged my becoming a Knight of Justice.



Center: John Dunlap is honored to profess first vows

Knights of Justice are the descendants of the original fighting monk/knights who founded the order during Crusader times. The Knights of Justice form the link back to the roots of the Order, and they are what make the Order a religious order within the Roman Catholic Church. This makes our Order different from other equestrian orders within the Church, such as the Order of the Holy Sepulcher and the Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

Knights of Justice are religious—i.e., monks—for all purposes of Canon Law. They are subject to the Congregation for Religious at the Holy See. Our immediate superior, because there is as yet no priory in the United States, is the Grand Commander in Rome, His Excellency the Venerable Bailiff Fra Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto.

There are currently some thirty-eight Knights of Justice in the Order. Most are in Europe, especially in Italy. The Knights of Justice hold most of the high offices in the Order, and those in Rome live in community in the Via Condotti. Most other Knights, however, live on their own and continue to work in their chosen professions. The Grand Master is chosen from among the Knights of Justice.

The process of becoming a Knight of Justice is rather long and complicated. In my case, I had first to petition

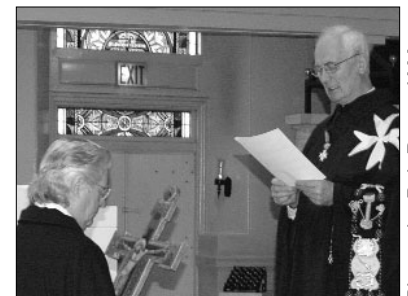
the Grand Magistry to become an Aspirant. The period of Aspirancy lasts from three months to one year. Once the petition for admission has been accepted, the Superior entrusts the Aspirant to an expressly delegated Professed Knight for a period of orientation about and formation in the Order. A Spiritual Director is also named, usually a chaplain in the Order.

Once three months have elapsed, the Aspirant can petition the Grand Magistry to begin the Novitiate. The petition is long and detailed and must be accompanied by a recommendation from the Aspirant's bishop, in my case Cardinal Egan; a recommendation from the President of the Association; and numerous references from other Knights attesting to the Aspirant's activities in the Order. Once the petition is received, the Aspirant normally is invited to spend at least a week living at the Grand Magistry. This allows the High Charges and members of the Sovereign Council to get to know the Aspirant.

The Sovereign Council will then vote on whether or not to allow entrance into the Novitiate. If the Aspirant is approved for the Novitiate, he must first complete spiritual exercises of eight full days before beginning the Novitiate. In my case, I began my Novitiate with a short ceremony in the Chapel of the Grand Magistry in Rome.

The Novitiate must last for at least one uninterrupted year and may not be extended beyond two years. The Sovereign Council names a Novice Master and an Assistant Novice Master. In my case, Father John P. McGuire, O.P., was named my Novice Master, and Fra James-Michael von Stroebel was named Assistant Novice Master. The Novice Master and Assistant each must submit a report on the Novice every six months. Once a year has passed, the Novice can petition the Grand Magistry to make profession of temporary vows. The Sovereign Council can either accept the petition or suggest a further year for the Novitiate. If the petition is approved, the Novice must complete a further eight days of spiritual exercises before making his profession.

I was honored to profess my first vows along with Hreinn Lindal, also from the New York City area, on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December 2004. This date held special meaning for me, as I have great devotion to Our Lady and have visited her shrine at Guadalupe more than



First vows of Hreinn Lindal, from the New York City area

Photos by Bob Reers, K.M.

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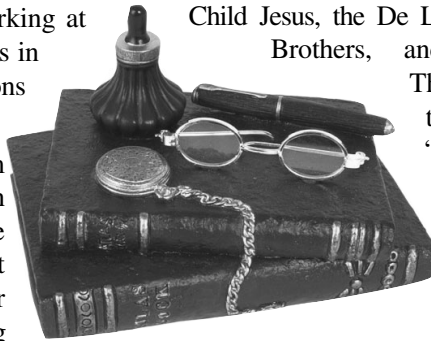
Cristo Rey New York High School Corporate Work-Study Program

There is an opportunity available in the Archdiocese of New York for Knights and Dames of Malta to attend to the spiritual well-being of young people and help strengthen their faith in God.

Cristo Rey New York High School's corporate work-study program enables economically disadvantaged students to attain a private, college-preparatory education by earning up to 70 percent of their tuition working at entry-level clerical positions in some of the finest institutions in New York.

My company, William H. Sadlier, Inc., has taken advantage of a unique business opportunity that enables us to cover our clerical needs while making an impact on the lives of young people throughout our city. Other firms that have supported the program include Booz Allen Hamilton; Keefe Bruyette & Woods; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; and others. The program currently is looking for additional corporations and opportunities for students.

The Cristo Rey team of well-trained, continually supported students shares jobs to cover the clerical needs of these top New York City businesses



from Monday to Friday and from nine to five. Job sponsors in turn provide students with the sort of experience and access to education that will open doors to a world they can only begin to imagine.

Cristo Rey New York High School is a collaborative project shared among lay men and women and representatives of three religious congregations: the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, the De La Salle Christian Brothers, and the Jesuits.

The Cristo Rey team asks not only "what have our students learned," but also "how, where, and for whose sake have our students been

chosen to invest that learning?"

The team looks forward to Cristo Rey graduates becoming leaders in service, working alongside others to transform our city into a place where all can live with dignity and peace.

If you have an opening for these wonderful students, please contact James Wilson at 212-966-7000, ext. 207, or at jwilson@cristoreyny.org, or visit the Cristo Rey website at www.cristoreny.org.

—Bill Dinger
Committee Chair

Eucharistic Ministry

(continued from page 1)

the usual variety of reasons. Volunteers can serve in the daytime or in the evening on any day of the week.

We held our Spring 2005 volunteers meeting at Lenox Hill Hospital on May 18, 2005. At present we have thirteen members of the Order of Malta participating at that hospital.

We are always looking for new volunteers. This is a very effective way of visiting and bringing cheer to the sick. Training is supplied. Anybody interested should call Agnes F. Nolan, D.M., at 212-787-2964.



April 2005:



The final days of Pope John Paul II were truly a *Via Dolorosa*. Yet our beloved pope lived them in a spirit of acceptance of God's will and gave a testimony of fidelity to the whole world. The crowds who came from all over to view his mortal remains in Saint Peter's Basilica were a sign that the pope had indeed touched the hearts of millions during his pontificate. Faith in God is still strong despite the many distractions that have captivated so many souls in today's world. Pope John Paul II was Christ's true herald, and the gratitude of the millions in Rome was moving proof that the pope was indeed a "good and faithful servant."

Pope Benedict XVI now takes up the weighty burden of leading the Church as the successor of Saint Peter. Our new pope is a brilliant theologian and a truly humble man. He has worked in the Curia since 1981 and knows well the problems facing the Church at the present moment. As Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta, we have a responsibility to pray and to make sacrifices for the pope. Pope Benedict XVI will continue to promote the re-evangelization of the West. Our Order should support his efforts in all possible ways.

— Fr. Gerald Murray, K.M.

Events Calendar



June 22, 2005

Mass for Feast of
Saint John the Baptist
at Saint Patrick's
in the Lady Chapel,
beginning at 4 p.m.

*Please arrive early and wear
your robes and capes.*

Reception immediately following at
The 3 West Club
3 West 51 street, New York, NY.

September 16, 17 & 18
— Membership Conference —
at Fairfield University

Watch mail for information.

Mass of Life

Will be held in

September

Further information to come.



A

nyone 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, or William Dinger, 9 Pine Street, New York, NY 10005. We are always happy to receive items for the newsletter.

A Call to Something Deeper

(continued from page 3)

twenty times. It was also a great day for the American Association of the Order of Malta, as it was the first time that the Association had ever had a Knight of Justice. On that day we were also blessed to have with us Richard Armstrong, a Knight from Boston who was beginning his Novitiate.

Hreinn and I took the traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience for a period of one year. These vows will be renewed each year for three years. After three years, a Knight of Justice can petition the Grand Magistracy to make perpetual vows in the Order. If a Knight of Justice does not feel ready, he can remain in temporary vows for up to nine years before making that decision.

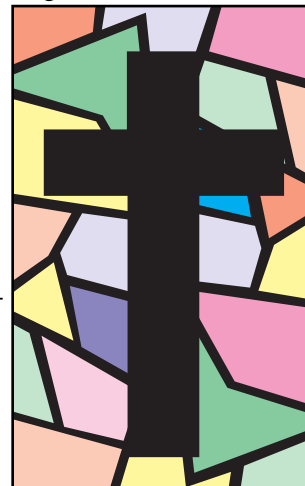
We are now two Knights of Justice in the American Association, with one Novice who should take his first vows later this year or in early 2006. I would hope that any of you who might be considering a vocation in the Order would contact either Hreinn or me. We would be happy to discuss it further with you. I would also ask you to keep praying for us and for vocations to the Order.

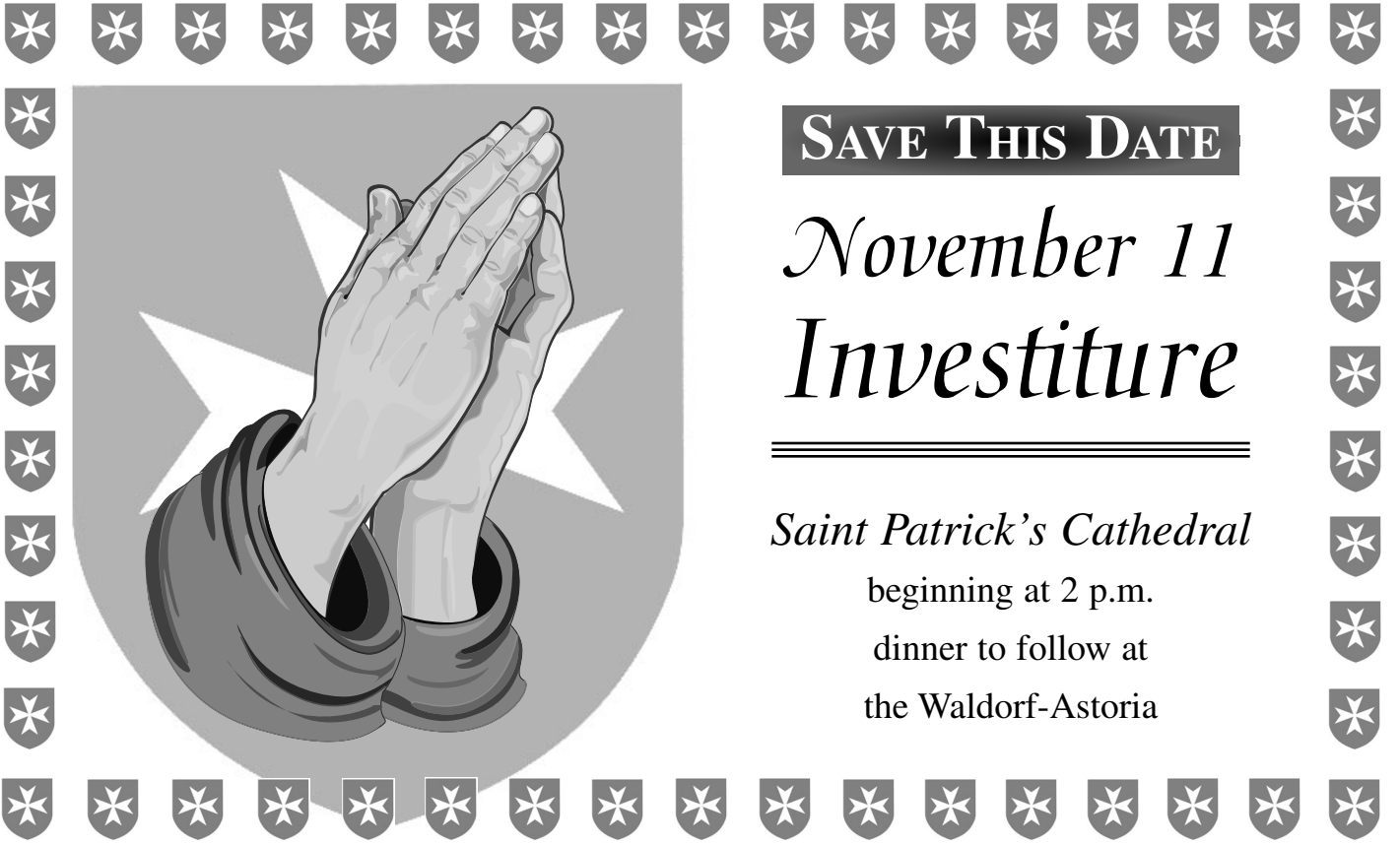
THE **B**ereavement Committee

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 chair 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 chair.





SAVE THIS DATE

November 11
Investiture

Saint Patrick's Cathedral
beginning at 2 p.m.
dinner to follow at
the Waldorf-Astoria

