

KNIGHTS OF MALTA

Winter/Spring 2008 Newsletter

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

A Letter from the Chair



As Chair of the New York City Area for the past five years, it is very gratifying to see the extremely high level of activity, energy and enthusiasm among our members. Our recent Thanksgiving and Christmas parties at the Terence Cardinal Cooke Medical Center (arranged by Hospitaller John Dunlap) were exceptionally well attended. It is a pleasure and privilege to socialize with the residents and their families and see the happiness and gratitude in their eyes.

Many thanks to Hospitaller Agnes Nolan for both her eucharistic ministry and her generosity in hosting our Christmas reception in her beautiful Central Park West apartment. In addition, Ken Craig is doing a terrific job with our Auxiliary, the Auxiliary Corps and assisting as our Tri-State Coordinator.

Finally, congratulations to John Powers for his being ordained a deacon in our Archdiocese of New York and his great work on behalf of our growing prison ministry.

One of my principal goals as Area Chair has been to attract new members to revitalize and grow our area and I appreciate all your assistance in sponsoring prospective candidates. If you know of someone who is qualified and interested in being a Knight or Dame and who has a residential or business connection

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I was The Ninth Before Christmas

By Thomas J. Hayes, K.M.

What do a former Professional Football Player, an Ambassador, a Broadway Set Designer, a Monsignor from St. Patrick's Cathedral, Santa Claus, and a Sub-Priory Regent all have in common?

They are just a sampling of the attendees, participants, and volunteers at this year's annual Christmas Party.

On December 9, 2007 the Knights and Dames of Malta – along with the Order's auxiliary – hosted our annual Christmas party at Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center. The real magic of this year's Christmas party comes from getting to know a few of the patients and their stories:

One patient, Aimee, whom I spoke with, came from a fascinating past. Although now in the latter years of life, she had traveled to the Middle East when she was in college to do advanced studies on the culture and region. She wound up married to a Saudi man and was assimilated into the culture – which required covering up with clothes for women. Although it was a difficult period for her, it was an integral part of the dynamic life she has led.

Another patient I spoke with, Robert, was living in Harlem during the time of Frank Luce – about whom a recent Hollywood movie has been written, entitled 'American Gangster.' This film chronicled a tough time in the history of Harlem when Mr. Luce was smuggling large amounts of narcotics from Vietnam. The prevalence, availability, and affordability of these substances devastated the community of Harlem in the '70s. As a resident of the community, Robert witnessed first hand what I could only see on the Hollywood big screen. To hear his personal observations made for a unique afternoon.

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to NYC, please contact me.

For your information, I am very pleased to report that our NYC Area currently has fifteen Knights and Dames in Preparation who are working toward investiture this November. Their names and contact information are as follows:

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Another patient my wife Kaitlyn spoke to, Anita, was an accomplished set designer on Broadway. She has done work for the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall and many other well known shows. A recent stroke brought her to the hospital, and at the party this year, she was just settling in and learning to become comfortable in her new environment. Because volunteers were there to speak with her and make her feel welcome and cared for, she enjoyed the party and went on to have a great afternoon.

The final patient I have come to know very well over the past eighteen

months is Monroe. He was a professional football player during his lifetime and from one glance of his profile, you know it's true. Monroe didn't need much companionship during the party because he simply sat in his chair with a smile so wide he could eat a banana sideways! The star performer for the afternoon was Holiday singer Ms. Grace Garland—who brought energy and pizzazz to TCCHCC at this year's party. Monroe was mesmerized and didn't take his eyes off her for two hours straight!

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About Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center

Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center is a 729-bed continuing-care facility with a multitude of special care units, as well as two large outpatient clinics.

The Center's staff respects the dignity of every human being and recognizes each individual's potential to live as independently as possible. They provide unique approaches to the care and treatment of our residents and patients, and serve the elderly, people with developmental disabilities, and those who live with chronic illness; people of all races, creeds, economic means and ethnic backgrounds.

The Center provides a home and dignified lifestyle for those who live with chronic illnesses – the elderly,

severely disabled children, and people with AIDS, Alzheimer's, Huntington's disease, or kidney failure.

A serious need was answered when the center opened a 24-bed unit dedicated to caring for people with Huntington's disease. It remains the only one of its kind in New York State, and welcomes residents from around the country.

A special Cognitive Care Unit was designated for individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's Disease or dementia in 1996, and in 1997 a 28-bed Sub acute Transitional Care Unit opened for the care of stabilized hospital patients who no longer require hospitalization but are not yet well enough to return to their homes.



This is a special event for the patients because some do not have family to celebrate with. As volunteers, we not only serve the food and make sure everyone has a nice time, but we are there to talk to the patients and get to know them. Consistent with the Order's mission, this event embodies our Christian responsibility to serve the sick and the poor.



Each year this party is not only fulfilling for the residents but is rewarding for each volunteer. This year the attendance approached 120 patients. The festivities for the residents started at 2 pm and volunteers arrived at 11 am to wrap gifts for the residents. Christine Ferrise of the auxiliary organized raising money and gifts for the party. Many members of the Order and its auxiliary donated gifts and money for this event.

Patients even had a special visit from Santa Claus! Ken Craig, K.M. dressed the part, and despite warm conditions and a heavy suit, managed to graciously greet each and every patient. He presented them with the gifts raised for the party along with his own personal touch and warmth. It was one of the

highlights of the party and a great way to conclude an exciting afternoon at the Hospital.

The Christmas Party this year was special on many levels. For the patients who sought a plethora of delicious desserts, they got it. For the patients who sought a good show from Grace, they got it. For those who were uncertain of what to expect, they walked away with their expectations exceeded. And for the patients who just came to be social, they left with new friends from the Hospital staff, Knights, Dames and auxiliary of the Order of Malta.

As in the past, Agnes Nolan, D.M. generously hosted a Malta Volunteer Cocktail

Party at her home – immediately following the TCCHCC Christmas Party. Her beautiful apartment – overlooking Central Park – served as the perfect venue for volunteers to renew old friendships and create new ones. The hors d'oeuvres were delicious, the host gracious, and the company superlative. It truly was the perfect close to a day of giving and service.

There are many volunteering opportunities at TCCHCC. As a Catholic hospital, it not only meets our mission of serving the sick and the poor, but can also be viewed as defense of our faith. When we do good works in the name of our faith, it causes others to view our faith and religion in a positive light. It is ideology in action. Knowledge of our faith is only potential power. Application of its principles is true power because we not only live our Christian principles, but we create the opening and possibility for others to do the same. That not only defends our faith but promotes its good work and goodwill. I invite you to be a part of it and volunteer on whatever level you are able. Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center is a special place.



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If you have any activities or events for which you need assistance or which you believe might be of interest to any of our potential Knights or Dames, please contact them directly. Remember to include them in your intentions as they proceed toward full membership. With regard to upcoming liturgies, John Dunlap is organizing a program for Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick on February 11th and Ken Craig has volunteered to arrange a program for the feast day of St. John the Baptist in June (details to follow).

My thanks again to Bill Dinger for his time and efforts in publishing our New York City Area newsletter. We are only as successful as the contributions of dedicated Knights and Dames like John, Agnes, Ken, John, Bill, Ben McGrath (Treasurer) Tom Forlenza (Membership Committee), John Fiorilla (Bereavement Committee) and our terrific Association and area chaplains and spiritual advisors (Msgr. Robert Ritchie, Msgr. James Cassidy, Msgr. Kevin Wallin, Fr. John McGuire and Father Gerald Murray). It is a happy honor to work with all of you. We also always receive great support from Jeff Trexler, Ray LaRose and their American Association team on First Avenue. God bless all of you and warmest wishes for a happy and healthy 2008.

*Fraternally yours,
Peter C. Krause
Chair*



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT JOHN
OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

SUB-PRIORY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

The Members of the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes

Cordially invite all Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and Malades

To a Healing Mass

On the Occasion of the

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Monday February 11th 2008


The Church of Saint Joseph in Greenwich Village

371 Sixth Avenue

5:30p.m.

*Church Robes to be Worn
Reception Following*

Plenary Indulgence

 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.

Treasurer's Report

The New York Area maintains a checking account and has cash inflows and outflows that are managed independently from the "parent" American Association. This financial activity is consolidated into the American Association's financial statements along with the financial activity of the other area organizations.

The primary source of cash for our area is a payment from the American Association of about \$3,000 in August of each year that is meant to cover area costs to produce a newsletter, print invitations to area events and pay for the catering expense of events such as the receptions held at the 3 West Club after feast day masses. Of course, \$3,000 is not enough to pay these expenses, so we rely on voluntary donations made to the New York Area in connection with our events—most notably the Christmas party hosted by Agnes Nolan in her apartment. Agnes Nolan's reception is particularly helpful because she generously donates 100% of the catering expense.



The generosity of our New York Area Knights and Dames has allowed the New York Area to independently carry on the charge of the Order through financial support to organizations that defend the faith or protect the poor and sick. During 2007, the New York Area made a \$5,000 grant to the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center. In December, we made a \$1,500 grant to the Archdiocese's Family Life/Respect Life Office to sponsor a bus for students to attend the March For Life in Washington on January 22, 2008. In earlier years, we have made grants to the Catholic Home Bureau and Project Reach.

The New York Area presently has no excess funds to make grants to outside organizations. Our ability to do so in 2008, and indeed our ability to cover regular expenses in 2008, is dependent entirely on the level of donations received in connection with events, and it is never too late to write a check if you have attended an event. Remember that checks meant to support New York Area-specific activity should be made payable to "The Order of Malta—American Association" and should always be mailed to our area chair, Peter Krause, in order to insure they get deposited in our area account. All such donations are voluntary and are 100% tax deductible.

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Zippety Do Da! Auxiliary's Sing-a-long Success!

by Maggie Ludwiczak



There is a true sense of the Holy Spirit filling the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center (TCCHCC) children's floor on Saturdays when the Auxiliary arrives for the TCC Kids' Sing-a-long Party.

"If you're happy and you know it—clap your hands"

With increased enthusiasm and participation the Auxiliary is rewarded with smiles galore. 8-10 Auxiliaries visit 5 or more recreation rooms and spend quality time with the little folks who are developmentally disabled and are in either wheelchairs or in beds.

Using old children's standards like *"Wheels on the Bus"*, *"The Itsy, Bitsy, Spider"* and *"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"* to other classics like *"Old MacDonald"* *"BINGO"* or *"Sing a Song"* we try and sing our way into their hearts. 99% of the time—we succeed!

I feel so overwhelmingly blessed by the opportunity to lead this incredible group of Malta Auxiliary volunteers.

We hold their hands, touch their foreheads, clap their hands, make funny faces, dance up and down, then chime in with a happy tune that brings forth such smiles and excitement. Even the TCCHCC staff looks forward to participating.

The TCC Kids' Sing-a-long Party is about compassion, fun and sharing the love and joy of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Being blessed in our own lives, what better way to show our gratitude, than by giving these precious little souls some well-deserved attention and kindness.



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ORDER OF MALTA, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

— *Upcoming Events* —

- February 11** *Healing Mass* at Church of St. Joseph in Greenwich Village organized by the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes; 5:30 p.m.
- February 11** *World Day of the Sick and 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes*, The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., 11 a.m.; open to all Malta members, including Federal, Western, and American Associations
- April 15 – 20** *His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI* visits the United States
- April 15 – 17* Washington, D.C.
April 18 – 20 New York City
- April 30 – May 6** *Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes*
- May 23** *Board of Councillors Meeting* in Philadelphia