

SEPTEMBER 2015

## Feast of Our Lady of Philermo

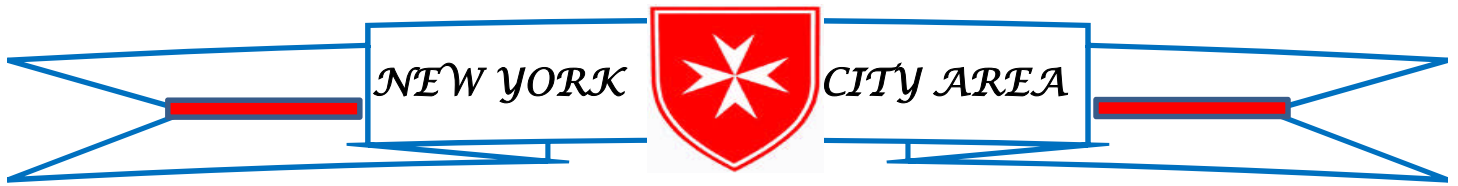


Labor Day marks the end of summer for most, but for the Order of Malta in NYC, it is the Feast Day of Our Lady of Philermo on September 8<sup>th</sup> that indicates most have returned from summer vacations. This year the feastday took on special significance as it marked the 450th anniversary of the lifting of the siege by the Turks of the island of Malta occupied by the Order of St. John. The determination and stamina of the Knights of Malta saved not only the island, but all of Christian Europe, from an invasion by the Ottoman Empire. The Order marked the event with a pilgrimage to Malta and a series of remembrances in which several from our Area participated.

In NYC, our Mass in honor of the Blessed Mother was celebrated by our chaplain Monsignor Douglas Mathers at the Church of St. John the Evangelist. Concelebrating was recently ordained Fr. David Skoblow, KM, and they were assisted by Deacon John Powers, KM.

About 60 members of the Order, Auxiliary, candidates in their year of preparation and friends from the NYC and Westchester Areas attended the Mass and the reception which followed at the Parish House.





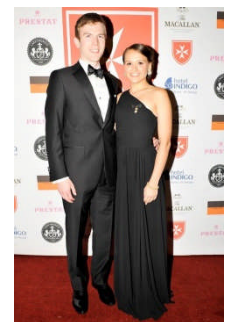
## The First Annual White Cross Ball of New York City

On Saturday evening, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the Junior Committee and some of their friends organized a very successful first White Cross Ball in NYC. The White Cross Ball is a traditional event in much of Europe and it was on those that our Junior Committee modeled their event. Planning began in May with the support of Fra John Dunlap, George & Jeannie Irish (NYC Area Chairs) and Camille & Rory Kelleher (Membership Chairs and former Area Chairs), and all were kept abreast of the plans over the summer through FaceBook and a White Cross ball website! The Ball Committee co-chairs and key organizers were Niccolo Falez, KM; Dr. Michael Espiritu, KM; William Murray (Stormont), former aide-de-camp of the Grand Master Fra Matthew Festing; and Laura Webb. Well done!

Over 300 members, friends and family attended the black tie dinner-dance, with another 50 or so coming later just for dancing. Several members, including the Tempestras, Wirths and Kellehers, brought their families to lend support—and have fun. The group arranged an impressive number of sponsors for the event which was held at the Metropolitan Club, and raised close to \$60,000 for the benefit of Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem; the Syrian refugee and Nepalese earthquake survivor efforts of Malteser International; and the Order of Malta’s International Summer Camp for Disabled Children.



Chairs: M. Espiritu, L. Webb, W. Murray, N. Falez



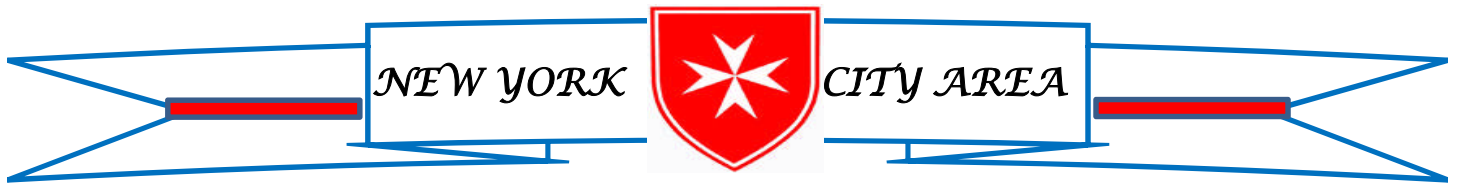
M. Gordon, AUX, V. Sowa, DM



Left to right, above: Kelleher family & guests; Maria Wirth , sons & guests; Tempesta & Bowe families. Bottom left: Jeannie & George Irish

NY Times article:

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/27/fashion/order-of-malta-white-cross-ball.html?smid=fb-style&smtty=cur&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/27/fashion/order-of-malta-white-cross-ball.html?smid=fb-style&smtty=cur&_r=1)

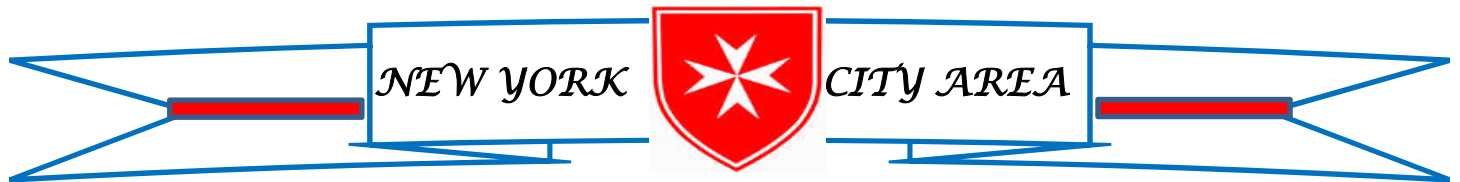


## The Papal Mass at Madison Square Garden



Members of the Order of Malta from the tri-state area were well represented at the Papal Mass offered by Pope Francis at Madison Garden. A large number were behind the scenes, serving as volunteers to assist in traffic flow during the distribution of the Eucharist and many others were in the congregation. But front and center were Nicco Falez, KM, who read a Prayer of the Faithful in Italian, and Melodie DiPiazza, DM, and Peter Johnson, KM, who brought the Offertory Gifts to the Pope.





## Upcoming Events

- October 2-4, 2015:** American Association Retreat  
Immaculate Conception Seminary,  
Huntington, NY
- October 5, 2015** First Monday Mass, 6:30pm, Lady Chapel
- October 29, 2015** **Archcare Gala Dinner**  
Gotham Hall, Broadway @ 36<sup>th</sup> St  
Honoree: Order of Malta NYC for its service  
to Archcare , its facilities, and its residents.  
Please come. Info available :  
[archcare@cmevents.net](mailto:archcare@cmevents.net)
- November 2, 2015** First Monday Mass, 6:30pm, Lady Chapel
- November 12-14** **Investiture Weekend**  
November 12 **Annual NYC Area Dinner**—watch for  
invitation  
November 13 Association's Annual meeting, followed by  
Investiture Mass 2pm, St. Patrick's  
Gala Dinner Waldorf=Astoria, 6:30pm
- November 16 & 17** **Thanksgiving at TCC**  
Help serve Thanksgiving dinner to residents
- December 7, 2015 First Monday Mass, 6:30pm, Lady Chapel
- December 13** **Malta Christmas Party for TCC Residents**
- December 13** **NYC Area Annual Christmas Party**