

SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

What's going on throughout the Areas of the American Association of the Order of Malta

MAY 2013

ALL AREAS:

PILGRIMAGE TO MALTA AND PARIS - Knights and Dames should have received information from Jack Pohrer, Christopher Hyland and Corporate Travel Services regarding the September trip to Malta and Paris. Please send your information soon in order to accommodate all who wish to go on this once in a lifetime pilgrimage.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT - The American Association is planning a spiritual retreat for September 20 to September 22 at the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, Long Island. The focus of the retreat is on being a member of a lay religious Order. Information and registration forms for the retreat were sent to Knights and Dames in April.

The retreat leader will be Father Eric Hollas. Fr. Eric received his BA degree in history from Princeton in 1971, completed seminary studies at Saint John's School of Theology Seminary, Collegeville, MN, and received his PhD in medieval studies from Yale University. Fr. Eric is also a member of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre and chaplain in the Western Association of the Order of Malta. Cardinal Edward Egan will join us to say Mass on Saturday morning and to deliver one of the talks.

For more information or to register, contact Kathy Trabucco in the New York office at kt@orderofmaltaamerican.org.

PRISON MINISTRY: The third Biennial Prison Ministry Symposium was held on Saturday, April 6 at the Renaissance Hotel at Newark Liberty International Airport. Sixty-nine attended the symposium.

The speakers represented prison ministry activities in Florida, California, New Jersey and Connecticut. The range of topics included ministering to those on Death Row (Florida and California), education for inmates (California), approaches to reduce the scandalously high recidivism rate (Connecticut and California) and working with young people (Camden, New Jersey). The speakers represented the Order of Malta (American and Western Associations), The Saint Dismas Society, The Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the State Parole Board in New Jersey.

On the Friday preceding the symposium, the organizational meeting of the newly formed Tri-association Prison Ministry Committee was held. Representatives from the three American Associations were present at the meeting. The committee will meet several times per year with at least one meeting being a face-to-face meeting to be held in different parts of the country. This is a major step forward in accomplishing the Grand Master's wishes that Prison Ministry become "The National Work of the Order in the United States".

INSPIRATIONS FROM THE AREAS:

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI AREA: Saturday, April 13th Order of Malta Volunteers joined with other Catholic groups in front of a Plan Parenthood Facility at Boyle and Forest Parkway. The Thrive RV parked across the street, offering services of free Pregnancy testing and Ultra Sound.

About 11AM a car with two women and a child turned into the drive of Plan Parenthood and was stopped by one of the ladies protesting the facility. Volunteers, Pat and Mark Sauerberger witnessed the turn around. The car backed out of the drive and made a u turn, parked behind the Thrive RV and all three went into the RV. Congratulations to John, Genie and Kenny, our Order of Malta Auxiliary members, for the wonderful effort and for all who gave of their time and offered their prayers for a turn around. Thanks be to God for the lady, who spoke the right words to that young women.

MICHIGAN AREA: On Saturday, April 20, Knights, Dames, family and friends were invited to a special showing of the first half of the Catholicism DVD series at the Solanus Casey Center. Where the St. Leo Clinics provides evidence of our “service to the sick and the poor,” our presentation of the Catholicism series supports our mission “defense of the faith.” The Catholicism Series was created and is narrated by Father Robert Barron who will be the Keynote Speaker at the 2013 Order of Malta Investiture Dinner in New York. He was NBC’s commentator from Rome during the Conclave. The series has been featured on PBS Television and EWTN.

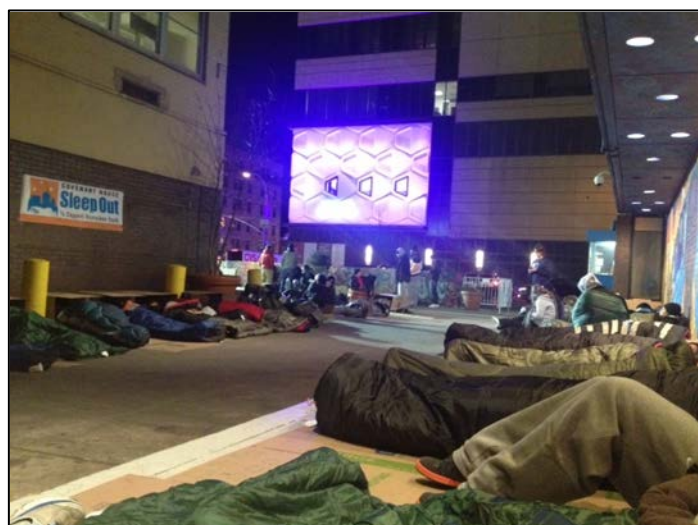
NEW YORK AREA: On March 22nd, 2013, Hugh Carey and Kate Gibson both New York City Area Auxiliary, along with another 150 other people, participated in the Covenant House Young Professional Sleep Out, where they slept out on the streets of New York to raise awareness for still suffering homeless youth in New York. Covenant House was created in the late 1960s, by a Franciscan priest, along with a handful of friends, former students, and, neighbors. They began an effort to serve the city's poor. Their mission:

“We who recognize God's providence and fidelity to His people are dedicated to living out His covenant among ourselves and those children we serve, with absolute respect and unconditional love. That commitment calls us to serve suffering children of the street, and to protect and safeguard all children. Just as Christ in His humanity is the visible sign of God's presence among His people, so our efforts together in the Covenant community are a visible sign that effects the presence of God, working through the Holy Spirit among ourselves and our kids.”

Throughout the late 1970s, Covenant House continued to expand its social service programs in New York City and by 1980 was ready to branch out to other places. For the next two decades, Covenant House grew at an exhilarating pace under the leadership of Sister Mary Rose (1990-2003) and Sister Tricia Cruise (2003-2008), opening Crisis Centers in 20 more cities in the United States, Central America, and Canada.

Currently under the leadership of Kevin Ryan, Covenant House served more than 50,000 homeless kids last year, giving them the love and support they need to find their way off the streets.

While braving the cold, Hugh and Kate got to engage with current and previous residents of the Covenant House, which solidified the achievements and need to raise awareness of Covenant House. The next morning, each person, in their own way, expressed gratitude for the gifts they had in their lives. Hugh and Kate knew that they only had to sleep one night, and had the warmth of their homes to return to. However, there are still thousands of kids in NY and throughout the world that have nowhere to turn except the streets.



Together as a part of the Young Professionals team, Hugh & Kate were able to provide Covenant House with more than \$240,000 to support to their programs! This money will support all of Covenant House kids, including those who participated in the Sleep out and those who have yet to walk through Covenant Houses’ doors -- providing a foundation for them to heal, and grow, and move onward to independence.

To learn more about Covenant House visit the website at www.covenanthouse.org.

NEW YORK AREA: held a **Witness for Life** at the **Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral**. Following exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a rosary procession to the local abortion clinic, there was a short (10 minutes) presentation by the Sisters of Life.

There was also a **Family Life Conference** commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Roe v Wade and legalized abortion in our nation at St. Joseph Seminary, 201 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY.

NEW YORK AREA: There was nothing lacking when the annual Order of Malta circus arrived at TCC on Saturday morning, April 6th. The children and their families were treated to music, balloons in the form of circus animals, popcorn and cotton candy, a clown—even the big top. Led by Ring mistress Maggie Ludwiczak, DM, the children participated in the circus parade, a game of musical chairs, and even had a chance to help raise the tent. These children, about 50 strong, are cared for at TCC and hold a special place in the heart of many members of the Order here in NYC. While the children may be severely disabled, they react well to musical stimulation, so the Order and the Auxiliary regularly stop by on the first Saturday of each month to entertain the children. Our roving band of troubadours travels the floors of the children's wing singing cheery songs to brighten the children's day. And each spring, the circus comes to TCC! Our thanks to Maggie for organizing the event and to all the Members, Auxiliary, and their friends.

TEXAS AREA: Dr. Buchanan journeyed to the Vatican in late February to become one of eight new corresponding members of the [Pontifical Academy for Life](#), founded in 1994 by Pope John Paul II to promote and defend human life, especially regarding bioethics as it affects Christian morality. He will serve a five-year term.

The Pontifical Academy for Life meets annually in the Vatican to address crucial issues concerning human life and offer guidance to the Pope. It also holds a mid-year meeting via phone. In between, members often meet individually or in groups - in person, by email and on the phone - to address current issues and work on documents that are in progress. Due to members living and working around the world, that means talks can occur at any hour, day or night.



"The Catholic Church has always been very engaged in these kinds of issues," Dr. Buchanan noted. While protecting the life of the unborn is a paramount concern, other thoughtful issues concern embryonic stem cells, cloning, pre-birth screening for diseases and deformities and "transhumanism," which addresses people's relationship with new and still-to-come technologies and mechanical devices. "God gives life and God takes life. Our respect for life should be very straightforward," he said.

CINCINNATI AREA: A Knight found this from an Ohio newspaper and website. Following is an excerpt. [The entire article can be found via this link](#). There is a very exciting video that all should watch.

Posted: 03/28/2013



By: Suzanne Murray, Suzanne.Murray@wcpo.com

CINCINNATI - Its members are reported to include some of our nation's most prominent Catholics, with last names that include Kennedy, Bush and Hilton. Their good works are known worldwide, but we wanted to find out the impact the Order of Malta is making here in the Tri-State.

The world watched as the new pope chose Francis as his papal name, in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis has a special place in his heart for the ministries of the poor. This is a mission the knights and dames of Malta have been dedicated to for 900 years.

Liz Carter was introduced to the Order of Malta after working tirelessly for two years to open Ohio's first charitable pharmacy at St. Vincent de Paul.

CONNECTICUT: Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, KM, has been a member of the American Association since 1998. The organization he founded, the Haitian Health Foundation, has been an instrument for good in Haiti and he has provided a vehicle for us to channel American Association resources to assist some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere. Dr. Lowney and the Haitian Health Foundation have been in the forefront during the Haitian Food Crises and in the aftermath of the earthquake. In 2011, Dr. Lowney was presented the Cross of Grand Officer Pro Merito Melitensi for his service to the sick and poor in Haiti. Dr. Lowney was honored at the White House this past April for his work in Haiti.

MINNESOTA AREA: The Dames of the Area hosted a baby shower for Holy Name Hospital in Bethlehem. Over \$10,000 was raised for the hospital. There was such a positive response. Hopefully more areas will host showers.



BOSTON AREA: A team of volunteers from the Order of Malta Boston area have been going to the [Cor Unum Meal Center](#) in Lawrence, MA on Sunday afternoons to help prepare and serve dinner for more than 150 local residents who rely on the center for daily meals.

About 20 members and friends participate regularly on Sunday nights and the Boston area has initiated this effort as a new service project for both regular and auxiliary members as well as those in year of preparation. For the remainder of 2013, the group will volunteer almost once a month. The Order of Malta members who volunteer on this project fill a serious need in the state's poorest city.

As the new Area Chair in Boston, Damien DeVasto says "it is inspiring to see the heartfelt work being done at Cor Unum. Many members have provided assistance – volunteer and financial – to the program from its inception. Now we come together in a more formal way with Cor Unum to bring Christ's love to those in difficult circumstances and dire need. Cor Unum embodies the true and giving spirit of our faith and feeds us all in a special way."

Boston Area Order of Malta participants describe their participation with Cor Unum as both enriching and enjoyable. "It is a blessing to directly assist those who I served. I was helping, in some way, make the guests' lives better. That some guests remembered me from one month to another, asking about my life and welcoming me back, was meaningful and made my life better too," related a Boston Area member describing their Cor Unum experience.

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY AREA: Commemorating the millions of unborn children in the US and abroad, Knights, Dames and Auxiliary from the New Jersey Area marched in procession down the main street of North Arlington on Sunday, April 7th. The event marked the fourth consecutive year that the Order in NJ has marched in a visible, public manifestation to support life and remember the holy innocents, victims of abortion.

For the New Jersey Area, the Procession for Life on the International Day of the Unborn at Queen of Peace is an annual opportunity for the Order's members to defend the Faith in solemn, reflective witness with traditions that are centuries old. It is a day that demonstrates that, even in 2013, our Catholic Faith can be displayed, in all its beauty and truth, as a reminder that life is indeed a gift from God.

If you know someone who does not have e-mail but would like to receive "Spirituality In Action" could you please ask them to send the office an e-mail address where someone could pick up the newsletter and then print it for them.



ORDER OF MALTA

American Association

1011 First Avenue, Room 1350

New York, NY 10022

www.orderofmaltaamerican.org