

# SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

SEPTEMBER 2015

## INSPIRATION FROM THE AREAS AND THE ORDER OF MALTA WORLDWIDE:

**International Camp:** Stepping off a bus in Brittany, France, after 17 hours of travel, Tom and Chris Hogan of Cooperstown, New York, were greeted by an international welcome committee of cheering youth. The twin brothers, 25, both with Downs Syndrome, were on their first trip outside of the United States. They were overseas to participate in the Order of Malta International Summer Camp for disabled youth.



Founded in 1984 as an initiative of the Grand Hospitaller, the Camp offers young people with physical or learning disabilities an opportunity to travel and meet other disabled and non-disabled people of the same age, as well as to provide some respite for their caregivers. Every year, the Malta Camp is hosted by the youth of a different host country. The 32nd International Camp hosted

over 500 participants from 24 national associations, including 200 guests with disabilities and 300 volunteers aged 18-35.

For the first time ever, the USA fielded a full team at the Camp. Travelling with Tom and Chris were volunteers Francesca Tempesta, DM (team leader), James Bowe (AUX) and Michael Espiritu, MD, KM (team medic) of New York City along with Katherine Gordon (AUX) of Chicago. Joining them in France were the



third Team USA guest, Jeanesse Abela, her helper Priscilla Caruna, and Geoffrey Gamble, former president of the Federal Association and current member of the Sovereign Council in Rome, who joined Team USA as their honorary 9th member.

On arrival, the American team made an immediate splash, and not just for the freshly made S'mores they served at International Night. Chris and Tom quickly struck out on their own making friends with members from every country arguably becoming the most popular guests at the Camp. So well-known were they that Chris was asked to interview the Grand Master for Camp TV.



Coming home, they took with them powerful memories and experiences. For the volunteers, it gave them an even clearer understanding of what the charism of the Order of Malta is. Indeed, it is in part because of the Camp—the international camaraderie, the shared purpose, the week to look forward to every year-- that the youth volunteer corps of the Order in Europe are so vibrant and large.

**NYC AREA:** On August 5th, 2015, Nicola Tegoni, KM, took the initial step towards becoming a Knight of Justice, or professed Frà, within the Order of Malta. At a weekday Mass at the Church of St. John the Evangelist celebrated by our Chaplain Msgr. Douglas Mathers, His Excellency Frà John Dunlap, acting as delegate for Grand Master Frà Matthew Festing, received Nicola into the Order's Novitiate for the First Class. Accompanied by a blessing of the robe by Msgr. Mathers, Frà Nicola took temporary religious vows, witnessed by Frà Richard Wolff and George Irish, NYC Area Co-chair. Frà Nicola now begins a period of discernment, which can last up to nine years, prior to taking permanent vows as a professed religious Knight. Frà Nicola and Frà Richard Wolff, also in temporary vows, join Frà John Dunlap as American Association professed knights within the Sub Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes, bringing the total number of professed knights within the Sub Priory to 6; the Federal Association also presently has 3 professed knights.

***Pray for those persecuted for their religious beliefs and for their persecutors:***

It is recommended that we link ourselves in prayer by reciting the Rosary on the first Tuesday of every month to pray for persecuted Christians around the world.

It is also encouraged that we set aside October 7<sup>th</sup>, the feast of Our Lady of Victories and the anniversary of the Battle of Lepanto, as a day of prayer and fasting for the

same intention. Though many of us are busy - in our lives, in our jobs, in our works and ministries and in our own prayer life, we ask that you please take the time to join with us in heart and mind on the First Tuesday of each month and in particular on October 7<sup>th</sup> to offer your prayers and fasting for this very noble purpose.



***Defending the Faith:*** Fran Buckley and Marion Glennon at a prayerful protest against Planned Parenthood's selling baby parts!!!

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