

# SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

OCTOBER 2015

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

**NYC AREA: 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 Square 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 up the Offertory Gifts.



Mass for Our Lady of Philermo the Feast - (September 8<sup>th</sup>) This year the feast day 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, Ch.M., and they were assisted by Deacon John Powers, KM. About 60 members of the Order, Auxilliary, 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.

**DALLAS, TX AREA:** The Dallas Area of the American Association of the Order of Malta hosted a Malta Forum on September 12, at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. The event began with 9:00 AM Mass celebrated by one of our chaplains, Fr. Tom Cloherty, and Mass was followed by the Forum itself. The topic was ***"Is Peace Possible? Understanding Muslim-Christian Relations Today."***

There were two presentations by Dr. Sandra Keating, PhD. She teaches in the Department of Theology at Providence College in Rhode Island, and is a well-recognized authority on Muslim-Christian relations. She also serves on the USCCB Catholic-Muslim dialogue group, and acts as a consultant to the Vatican Commission on Religious relations with Muslims. Her topics were: ***no God but God: An "Abrahamic Religion"*** and ***Past and Present: the Shifting Complexities of Muslim-Christian Relations.***

**CT AREA:** Members of the Order of Malta in Connecticut gathered on September 19th for the Synod Mass Celebration marking the end of the 2014 Synod for the Diocese of Bridgeport. More than 30 knights, dames, auxiliary and their children began working at 6:30 am to assist the handicapped and the elderly, donning our Lourdes work uniforms and caring for the attendees who needed special assistance.



Bishop Frank has dedicated our diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and unveiled the statue given to him by the Order of Malta, Connecticut Area of Our Lady. She will be formally enshrined on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th, at St. Augustine's Cathedral in Bridgeport and members of the Order of Malta will be assisting at this celebration as well.



***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.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

***The Scranton Diocese Area chapter*** is hosting a day of information and prayer in honor of St. Gianna Beretta Molla, on Saturday, November 7, 2015. St. Gianna is one of the patrons of the World Meeting of Families in September. She was canonized by Pope John Paul in 2004.

The event will be held at the University of Scranton. The day will begin with Mass at the Madonna della Strada Chapel. Mr. Robert White from the American St. Gianna Foundation will provide instruction about St. Gianna Molla and her life work. After Mass there will be a veneration of the relics of St. Gianna. For more information please contact Linda Robeson, DM at [lindarobeson@verizon.net](mailto:lindarobeson@verizon.net). For more information on St. Gianna please visit the [www.stgiannaphysicians.org](http://www.stgiannaphysicians.org).

***Two Association Retreats*** are scheduled for 2016:

1. ***February 5 – 7, 2016:*** Bethany Center, Lutz, Florida  
The Retreat Master is Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Ch.M, Bishop of Bridgeport, Connecticut
2. ***October 14 – 16, 2016:*** Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois  
The Retreat Master is Reverend Eric Hollas, OSb, Ch.M., Deputy to the President for Advancement in the Office of Institutional Advancement at St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota

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