

SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

November 2015

INSPIRATION FROM THE AREAS AND THE ORDER OF MALTA WORLDWIDE:

ST. LOUIS AREA: The St. Louis women's prison ministry has been incredibly successful in its mission to assist women transitioning back to their families and society thanks to the amazing support from the local Area Order of Malta group. In collaboration with Let's Start, an organization founded by Sr. Jackie Toben. Every Tuesday night they participate in an AA/NA (Alcoholics Anonymous/ Narcotics Anonymous) support group for these women at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in the city.

They regularly serve approximately 40 women, half of whom are in long-term recovery/remission and half who have recently been released from prison and are living at MERS-Goodwill or other halfway houses. Let's Start sends vans to MERS to transport the women to the Tuesday night meetings and then Order of Malta volunteers transport them back.

They often accompany children on the monthly bus trips to visit their mothers in Vandalia Women's Prison and every 3rd Tuesday of the month, provide food for 50-60 women, children, staff and volunteers.

Thanks to Pat and Len Dino, Let's Start received a \$4,000 grant from our national Malta office which is critical to assuring the continuation of these valuable Tuesday night meetings. Special thanks to Dick Haffner and his wife Ruth. Dick has provided free dental care to Let's Start participants and he and Ruth continue to donate tooth brushes, tooth paste and floss.

Let's Start's major fundraiser was held September 10 at The Sheldon. A little over \$70,000 dollars was raised. Special thanks to John Wilmsen and his wife Liz for providing all the printing for the Save the Date and the fundraiser invitations. Mike and Rita Mooney, Joe and Joan Lipic, Ron and Pat Hofmeister were sponsors for this event.

Let's Start received a wonderful surprise in the mail - a \$3,000 check from St. Louis Area Order of Malta!

ILLINOIS AREA: NO KID HUNGRY CAMPAIGN - A new activity for 2015 and beyond for the American Association of the Order of Malta in Chicago is participation in Catholic Charities' No Kid Hungry Campaign. While children across the country are on summer vacation at the end of each school year, young people from low-income families face months of uncertainty about the availability of their next meal. Catholic Charities helps fill this void with vital programs throughout the summer months to ensure children in their communities have access to healthy and reliable meals. Over the month of July, Illinois Area Knights and Dames collected food items and then gathered on July 21st to pack those items for donation. Over 90 bags of food were assembled and delivered to St. Blasé Church in Summit, IL, one of the neediest communities in the Chicago Area. It was an immense honor for our Illinois Area of the Order of Malta to be able to assist Catholic Charities in this Campaign.

SUNDAY SUPPER AT L'ARCHE CHICAGO - On September 20th, Knights and Dames gathered for a Sunday Supper at Peace House, one of two homes in Illinois established by L'Arche USA. L'Arche is an international federation dedicated to the creation and growth of homes, programs and support networks for people who have intellectual disabilities. The two L'Arche homes in Illinois are Peace House in Forest Park and Angel House in Oak Park. The core members of each house; that is, those living with intellectual disabilities, along with their living assistants and the staff of L'Arche Chicago joined together with 15 Area Knights, Dames and family members for an Italian feast followed by fabulous homemade desserts courtesy of the Tansey family!

BOSTON AREA: All Area members are invited to attend our ministry work at Cor Unum in Lawrence on November 22, and December 13 from 4:00-7:00 PM. Please contact Ed Delaney at ejdelaney@comcast.net or 617-759-2584.

SAVE THE DATE: The Boston Area will have their Annual Advent Liturgy and Dinner on Thursday, December 3 at Newton Country Day School, Newton, MA.

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*Please send information about
your Area to
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