

SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

DECEMBER 2015

INSPIRATION FROM THE AREAS AND THE ORDER OF MALTA WORLDWIDE

CONNECTICUT AREA: Supporting those who are defending the faith: Persecuted Christians in the Middle East - On October 28, 2015 Southern/Western Area of Connecticut sponsored a presentation by Mr. George Marlin, Chairman of the Aid to the Church in Need-US, an international charity under the guidance of the Holy See, and author of the “**Christian Persecutions in the Middle East: A 21st Century Tragedy**”. Mr. Marlin shared with us the latest voices from the bishops in those countries who are struggling to keep their faithful alive and safe from harm. Over 70 attended the event held at St. Catherine of Siena Parish Hall in Greenwich, CT. As a result of the presentation a multiple prong response was immediately put into action by the attendees.

Pray: Attendees signed up for the **Parish Rosary Prayer Groups** sponsored by the Order. **Educate:** Books and other material were available and purchased at cost **Donate:** Malteser International and Aid to the Church in Need flyers were available for sending donations **Advocate: A Post Card Campaign** is being activated for members to contact their political representatives – this is a copy of what is being sent.

“Christians in the Middle East have been denied religious freedom and even their right to continue to live in the lands where our faith was born. Tens of thousands of Christians are being persecuted and often killed for no other reason than that they are Christians: this is genocide. We are calling on our political representatives to take genuine steps to aid the Christians of the Middle East—through action and by granting Middle Eastern Christians asylum in the US.”

NEW YORK AREA: In mid-October, we were saddened to learn of the death of our long-time chaplain, Msgr. James P. Cassidy at the age of 90. Msgr. Cassidy was the Assistant Principal Chaplain of the American Association, but he was also a very committed chaplain of the NYC Area. Until his health necessitated a move to the Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care center 4 years ago, Msgr. Cassidy was the regular celebrant of our First



Monday Monthly Mass. While a resident of TCC; he concelebrated the Sunday Mass whenever his health permitted. Msgr. Cassidy was awarded the Grand Cross in 2011, and earlier this year, in celebration of his 90th birthday, thanks to the efforts of Fra' John Dunlap, Msgr. Cassidy was presented with the **Grand Cross Pro Piis Meritis** conferred by His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing.

In recognition of the high esteem with which so many of us held Msgr. Cassidy, the Honor Guard for his Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick's Cathedral on October 26th numbered more than 20 knights and dames, with many more members either on the altar or in the congregation.

Large numbers of volunteers showed up on Monday and Tuesday, the 16th & 17th of November, to help serve Thanksgiving dinner to TCC residents and their families. A couple of volunteers even brought their children.



INVESTITURE: On Friday afternoon, His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Bailiff Grand Cross and Principal Chaplain of the Order, invested more than 60 new Knights and Dames into the Order at a solemn high Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Ambassador Robert Shafer Honored:

Ambassador Robert Shafer, GCKMOb, recently decided to take a step back from his duties as the Permanent Observer for the Order of Malta to the United Nations. He will continue be an Ambassador and work for the Order's Mission, but he will no longer hold the position as the Order's Permanent Observer. He has been succeeded in that role by Ambassador Oscar De Rojas, KM, who has worked with Bob in the Mission for several years.



Finally, Spirituality In Action wishes everyone a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a Joyous New Year!



ORDER OF MALTA

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