

# SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

February 2016

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

**New York Area:** Held an Advent afternoon of Recollection on December 12. Co-hosted with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the Advent service, which took place in the Lady Chapel of St. Patrick's Cathedral, was led by Very Reverend Paul Wierichs, CP. Fr. Wierichs, a Passionist, is Rector/Director of Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center. In addition to Fr. Wierichs' homilies, the afternoon included the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and concluded with Mass.

### *Christmas at TCC*

On Sunday, December 13, the Order of Malta—NYC hosted its annual Christmas party for residents of the Terence Cardinal Cooke Healthcare Center.



Santa's helpers, who arrived early to help wrap presents for residents. The party itself began at 2pm as the Malta team began to escort residents down to the auditorium where the party was held. Knights, Dames, Preps, Aux and friends were there to greet the guests, hand out red Christmas bows and serve them sparkling cider and desserts. The residents were entertained by the music of Squeaky Clean, and the singing and dancing of some of our members. Guests were also treated to a visit from Santa (thanks, Joe Gullen). A merry time was had by all that afternoon.



**Naples, FL Area:** The Area has started a very important ministry. The Physical Illness Support Program was started by Joe Gill, along with Nancy Matthews and Harry Witt. Joe the first meeting of the group was held Saturday, January 9, immediately following the 8:00AM Healing of the Sick Mass at St. William Church. The group will meet monthly on the Saturday morning after the Healing of the Sick Mass.

Volunteers are needed to join the committee that will oversee and organize the group. The group will need assistance in scheduling speakers, generating publicity and setting up the meeting room with light refreshments. Please contact Joe at [josephgill@comcast.net](mailto:josephgill@comcast.net), or Harry at [witt62@gmail.com](mailto:witt62@gmail.com), or Nancy Matthews at [njbmatthews5@gmail.com](mailto:njbmatthews5@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

#### *Prison Pen Pal Ministry*

Fr. George Williams, Chaplain of San Quentin Prison has asked if the Naples Area could develop a group to correspond with Death Row inmates. So far there are only a few such inmates who write to small number of volunteers in Florida. Looking ahead, there may be more.

Martha Bencomo from the Diocese of Palm Beach Prison Ministry has agreed to act as a group leader for this effort. Fr. George will send Martha the names of in-mates looking for pen-pals, and Martha will try to find volunteers to help writing those reply letters. Anyone who is interested should email their name, email and phone number to Martha at [mabenco@gmail.com](mailto:mabenco@gmail.com)

**Scranton Area:** Each year the The Scranton Chapter of the Order of Malta distributes blankets to social service agencies in the Diocese of Scranton. This year 200 blankets were distributed to Catholic Social Services, Catherine McAuley House, Scranton Rescue Mission, and St. John the Evangelist outreach program in Pittston. Pictured are Maureen Pesavento, Vincent Chesney, Msgr Neil VanLoon, Dennis Dawgert, David Hawk, Ann Hawk, Linda Robeson, Julia Lord, Donna Barbetti, and John Feller.



### Save the Date

The Naples Area will be having a "Defense of the Faith Symposium on April 8, 2016. Archbishop William Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore will be the speaker.



### ORDER OF MALTA

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