

SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

April 2016

INSPIRATION FROM THE AREAS AND THE ORDER OF MALTA WORLDWIDE

Dallas, TX Area:

Knights and Dames from the Dallas Area gather and distribute large boxes of food for needy families in Dallas. This is done at least twice each year, and we always have a great response from our members. Thank you to Area Chair Don Brotheman for submitting this information.



MN Area: *The two following stories come to us from the MN Area newsletter. We are very grateful that they graciously allowed us to reprint them.*

Shelter for the Homeless - For the last 5 winters, the Order of Malta MN Area has organized and provided shelter to more than 40 homeless men each night from October through April in the old offices of Catholic Charities - St. Paul - adjacent to the Dorothy Day Center. The over flow shelter, referred to as the Annex, operates from the old St Paul offices of Catholic Charities located next door to the Dorothy Day Center. Each evening the second half of each month during the winter, 2 volunteers and a Catholic Charities staff person arrive at 7:00pm and perform some light housekeeping duties before opening the doors and admitting up to 50 pre-screened men who will spend the night on mats upon the floor. At about 8:00pm, the volunteers serve a light snack sent over from the DDC and then spend the remainder of the evening socializing with guests, watching sports or a movie or just relaxing. At 10:00pm everyone beds down, including the volunteers, for the night. At 5:30am the lights are back on, we share coffee together, perform a little more housekeeping and everyone is on their way for the day by 6:30am. We currently have nearly 90 men who participate on the nights they can. Some 1 night a winter, some 1 night a month and some 1 night a week.

Food Packages for Haiti

Recently Dr. Kelly received an email from Sister Ann thanking our area for the work being done by the "Feeding Haiti" project.

“Dr. Kelly,

I prepare the food at home and Fritznel takes it to the children’s ward for distribution.

Needless to say the food is greatly appreciated and helps our many sick and malnourished children and frail elderly too. I serve about 40 meals every day. Thank you Dr. Kelly and your very wonderful and generous team who prepare the food and donate same for our poor of Haiti.



Sister Ann”

Thanks to all of you that have helped pack meals in the past. Please continue to tell your friends and family about the “Feeding Haiti” event and how to get involved.



Jubilee Year of Mercy and the Charism of Blessed Gerard by Fr. Joseph Johnson, Chaplain MN Area

Pope Francis has made the corporal and spiritual works of mercy the central focus of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The Order of Malta was founded by Blessed Gerard with the mission of living the works of mercy. As members, we are invited during this jubilee year to integrate the works of mercy into our lives in an ever more profound way. A “charism” is the spiritual sense behind the active works in a movement within the Church. It is connected to the person of a founder but transcends it. It is a gift from God which is revealed to a founder but meant to be a wider blessing. It is an invitation for others to share in a mission initiated by the Lord through the founder. For the Order of Malta, Blessed Gerard received this inspiration and generously began the work of defending the faith and serving the sick and the poor. Circumstances changed radically over the centuries but the Order conserves this original charism and finds new ways to put it into practice. For individual members, we should always be seeking to animate our spiritual lives according to this charism. It is helpful to ponder the gift of this charism and ask how it is our path to grow in holiness rather than just a few good works that we do. I recommend

meditating on the Beatitudes with some frequency and praying to Blessed Gerard for his intercession. The Jubilee Year of Mercy is a time of grace for the entire Church but most especially it offers to us a renewed vigor in living the works of mercy and a reminder of their importance. Over 900 years old, our charism is needed now more than ever!

Website Information:

Please check the Association's website to read all Area and Association updates and read news from Rome. Members can also check the calendar of events, visit the Members Only section and find interesting information about the history and spirituality of the Order.



ORDER OF MALTA

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