

# SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

**September 2016**

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

**Missouri Area:** On the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM, the Members meet at St. Joseph's Church to pray the Rosary together. Afterwards, all enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant. Members are Eucharistic Ministers for their Parish Church as well as many Assisted Living Centers.

On the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Members meet for Mass followed by a breakfast. On the Feast of St. John the Baptist as well as an evening during Advent, Members meet for Mass followed by cocktails and dinner. One of our Members provides a Prayer Network on line.

On the 3rd Saturday of each month, Members pay for an RV to be parked across the street from the Planned Parenthood Office from 8:00AM until noon. The Members gather and encourage the women to walk across the street and receive an ultra sound of their baby. We have saved babies!

Each month, Members prepare casseroles to be delivered to St. Patrick Center where the St. Louis Homeless will be provided a lunch. Usually we serve more than 300 people. The Center offers a multitude of programs, e.g., education, job training, etc. to help these homeless people return to society. Through the St. Louis Criminal Justice Ministry, one of our Members prepares, stores, and provides back packs to be given to recently released male prisoners. These back packs contain necessary items, e.g., underwear and toiletries. Members also correspond through the Justice Ministry to prisoners in our Potosi Missouri Prison. On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, Members provide dinners for 50-60 women, recently released from prison and who live in halfway houses and are in long-term recovery/remission transitioning back to their families and society. Members often accompany children on the monthly bus trips to visit their mothers in the Vandalia Women's Prison. Members donate clothing, and household items. One Member provides free dental care. One Member provides free printing for fund-raising activities.

**NJ Area:** In June, 80 members of the Order from 3 states including 10 chaplains gathered with 26 Malades and caregivers in Spring Lake, NJ to celebrate the Feast of St. John the Baptist at St. Margaret's Church.



Dinner followed at the Spring Lake Golf Club where members celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service were honored. A special award was presented to Robert Tanzola, KMOB and Karen Tanzola, DMOB for their inspiration, vision and leadership in founding this event. Also celebrated was Bishop Smith's birthday.

**News from Malteser International - Children's Hospital in Aleppo Moved to Cellar:**

Staff remain to help sick and wounded in besieged city. The Malteser International-supported children's hospital in Aleppo, Syria, has moved its operations into the cellar in order to give staff and patients as much safety as possible. The decision to move the facility was made after a newborn baby was killed during an attack last week when the oxygen supply to its incubator was interrupted. Outpatient care is now limited to only the most serious emergencies. The rebel-controlled zone in the east of the city where the hospital is located has been besieged by the Syrian army for around a week. Supply routes into the encircled parts of the city are closed – cutting off the city's civilian population as well as the rebels.

“The people here are in a hopeless situation. There are many parents with seriously ill children who are too afraid to bring them to the hospital because they are frightened of further targeted attacks on medical facilities,” said Janine Lietmeyer, Malteser International's Middle East Regional Manager. “The corridors out of the city are not a safe means of escape for the trapped civilians. Our local partner organization is reporting that families trying to leave the city are being prevented from doing so by force of arms,” said Sid Johann Peruvemba, Malteser International's

Vice Secretary General. “Humanitarian corridors need to be under international supervision, for example, by the UN.

At the moment, people in the city face an uncertain future whether they decide to leave or not: they have the choice of either staying where they are and starving, or taking a potentially deadly route to the government-controlled zone where they will be treated as terrorists. The people trapped in Aleppo are in urgent need of help, but it is not possible to bring aid and supplies into the besieged areas.”

Medical personnel at the Malteser International-supported hospital are continuing their work. “The premature infants that are being taken care of at the hospital cannot be evacuated,” said Lietmeyer. “Their incubators and other essential medical equipment require constant power. The hospital staff are absolutely clear that they are staying, even if that means putting their own lives at risk, because they are the only chance that the children in the hospital, and many others in Aleppo, have of surviving this war.”

Malteser International has been supporting the pediatric hospital since July 2015 – paying the salaries of staff members, and financing the purchase of equipment including ventilators and incubators. Malteser International also provides medical care for around 300,000 people living near the Syrian-Turkish border at four basic health units operated by its partner organization. More than half of these are internally displaced people living in camps.



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