

SPIRITUALITY IN ACTION

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

Dec. 2016

INSPIRATION FROM THE AREAS AND THE ORDER OF MALTA WORLDWIDE:

NEWS FROM ROME:



The Grand Master is received by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all the Armenians

During his state visit to Armenia, on Sunday 23rd October Fra' Matthew Festing went to the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, where he was received by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of all the Armenians.

In his talks with the Grand Master, Karekin II said that during his pontificate he had received numerous ambassadors and representatives of the Sovereign Order of Malta on the occasion of religious encounters and ceremonies. His Holiness expressed his satisfaction at the Order of Malta's past and present humanitarian commitment in the various sectors.

Numerous topics were addressed during the cordial meeting with the spiritual leader of some nine million Orthodox Christian Armenians worldwide, such as Pope Francis' recent visit, the dedication to dialogue with other churches and religions as well as Armenia's current challenges and needs. At the end of the meeting, Fra' Matthew Festing presented Karekin II with an icon of the Madonna of Mount Philermos, the Order's patron since the time of its presence on Rhodes.



The visit to the Khor Virap Monastery - On 26 October the Grand Master visited the Khor Virap Monastery, one of the most important in the country and where St. Gregory the Illuminator, thanks to whom Armenia became the first Christian nation in the world, was imprisoned. Accompanying Fra' Matthew Festing was Archbishop Nathan Hovhannisyanyan, Director of the External Relations Department of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

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The vocational training agreement was signed this morning in the Order of Malta's headquarters in Rome

Rome, 14 September 2016 – This morning in Rome the Holy See's Bambino Gesù children's hospital and the Sovereign Order of Malta's Holy Family hospital in Bethlehem signed a cooperation agreement for medical training. The agreement states that the Children's Hospital will provide vocational support to the staff of the Holy Family Hospital, referral centre for maternity in Palestine, where every year over 3,500 babies are born. Under this accord, doctors and nurses in the Bethlehem

hospital will participate in training courses under the aegis of the missions organized by the Bambino Gesù hospital in this city.

The agreement, which has a duration of two years, after which it can be renewed, mostly involves the neonatology sector. The Holy Family Hospital, which the Order of Malta has managed since 1990, has a neonatal intensive care unit with 18 incubators for premature or sick babies.



“We’re very happy about this important agreement,” said the Grand Hospitaller, Dominique de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel. “The medical excellence of the world-renowned Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital cannot but enhance the professional reputation of our doctors and nurses who are assisting thousands of women in the Holy Land, beleaguered and without peace”.

“It is an honour for us to cooperate with the Holy Family Hospital and to offer our skills to help the children and families in Bethlehem and in the Holy Land,” asserted Mariella Enoc, president of the Bambino Gesù Hospital. “Our hospital is increasingly open to the world, not only because of our readiness to treat children from all continents, but also because of our specific cooperation ventures for training local doctors, such as the recent initiative in Bangui in the Central African Republic and this very important agreement with the Order of Malta’s Bethlehem Hospital”.

The Bambino Gesù Children’s Hospital

Established in Rome in 1869 as the first Italian children’s hospital, in 1924 it was taken over by the Holy See. In 1985 it was recognised as an Institute for Research, Hospitalization and Health Care, flanking its medical services with an intense research activity.

Today it is the largest children’s hospital and research centre in Europe. Spread out over four centres (Gianicolo, San Paolo, Palidoro and Santa Marinella) for a total of 600 beds, the hospital covers all the medical specialities, with particular reference to transplant surgery, genetic and metabolic diseases, medical and surgical cardiology, neurosciences, haematology-oncology and rehabilitation.

At international level the hospital is present with cooperation projects in many emerging countries. It has joint ventures with clinical surgery centres active in Jordan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Central African Republic. High specialization projects are operative in Russia, Macedonia, Ukraine, Venezuela, Lebanon, Palestine, Kosovo, Cameroon and Algeria.

The Holy Family Hospital

Since 1990, the Order of Malta's hospital in Bethlehem has been providing a high quality maternity service to women, guaranteeing healthcare during pregnancy, birth and care of infants. The hospital has an intensive care unit for premature babies or those with serious malformations. To date some 71,000 babies have been born here. There is also a mobile clinic – composed of a gynaecologist, obstetrician and paediatrician – that makes regular visits to the villages in the West Bank desert.



The hospital currently has 60 beds with a staff of 140, including resident doctors, specialists, nurses, paramedics and administrative and other support personnel.

Besides having an outpatients department specialised in gestational diabetes, the hospital works in close contact with the local institutions to assist the more vulnerable patients from difficult social circumstances. Over the course of the years, thanks to financing received from the European Union, the United States Congress and the Belgian government, the hospital has been able to build new delivery rooms and to expand its operating theatres.



NEW JERSEY AREA: RICHARD JOSEPH WOLFF MAKES FINAL VOWS

At a beautiful ceremony held at Queen of Peace Church, North Arlington, New Jersey on Sunday, November 13, Fra' Richard Joseph Wolff made his final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the presence of several hundred knights, dames, auxiliary of the Order of Malta and members of Fra' Richard's family. Receiving the vows was his most Eminent Highness Fra' Matthew Festing, the Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, who traveled to the United States for the express purpose of participating in this momentous occasion.



The Principal Celebrant and Homilist for the Mass was the Reverend Monsignor William J. Fadrowski, Ch.M. On the altar and concelebrating was the Reverend John P. McGuire, O.P., the Principal Chaplain of the Sub priory of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Reverend Timothy Brown, S. J. a Georgetown classmate of Fra' Richard. Also concelebrating were several

chaplains of the New Jersey Area of the Order of Malta. Witnesses to Fra' Richard's vows were Fra' John T. Dunlap, a member of the Sovereign Council, the international governing body of the Order of Malta and Fra' Thomas N. Mulligan.

Fra' Richard Wolff was invested on the Order of Malta in 2003. He received his A.B. from Georgetown University and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. He is the author of a number of books and articles on social and economic history and various business topics. He has served as the CEO of a large international consulting firm and is currently the CEO of a water utility.

To commemorate this very happy occasion, the Area Chair of New Jersey, Brian Fuhro, Esq., K.M. presented to Fra' John Dunlap, a plaque memorializing this event with the request that the plaque be sent to His Most Eminent Highness, Fra' Matthew Festing. In a further commemoration of this event, the New Jersey Area made a donation to The Hospital of the Holy Family in Bethlehem.

BOSTON AREA: *Ministries that focus on the Our Lords the Sick*

The Catholic Cancer Support Group started in 2009 at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Centerville. The group began by providing spiritual as well as practical support to cancer patients, their families and friends. But the focus soon broadened to include support for anyone coping with an illness. Today, an additional four parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston have started programs. There is also now a group in Seekonk at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and one starting in Naples Florida. In Centerville, and soon to start in Seekonk, are small groups for those who seek support in addition to the monthly gathering.

Cathedral Cares Nursing Outreach Program - Cathedral Cares is an initiative founded by Lynn Finn, DM and funded by Charlotte Flatley, DM. This ministry provides free health and nutrition screenings, vaccination clinics and other preventative-health help to seniors and low-income residents in Boston's South End and surrounding communities. Headquartered at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Cathedral Cares relies on Order of Malta volunteers with either health-care experience or simply the desire to serve those in need.

Annual Liturgy and Dinner with special guests Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Bishop Reed, and John Norris.



Spirituality In Action wishes all members of the Association and their families a very Happy and Holy Christmas Season.

Save the dates:

2017 American Association Retreats

- March 17 - 19, 2017 at Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, FL. The retreat master will be Bishop Frank Caggiano.
- September 22 - 24, 2017 at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, NY (Long Island),

2017 Lourdes Pilgrimage – Sunday, May 3 – Tuesday, May 9

2017 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help – Thursday, August 3 – Sunday, August 6



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