

# WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER THE ORDER OF MALTA?

You should consider accepting an invitation to the Order of Malta and beginning a Year of Formation if you:

- Are a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing, aged 25 or older, who lives an exemplary Catholic life and serves the Church.
- Seek to deepen your faith and personal spirituality.
- Are engaged in, or wish to engage in, hands-on service aligned with the Order's mission, through volunteering and financial support for the sick and the poor.
- Are prepared to make a lifelong commitment to the Order's mission
- Are willing to publicly affirm your Catholic values in both word and action.

## THE YEAR OF FORMATION

Upon submitting a membership application, you will enter a Year of Formation - a period of discernment during which you will learn about the Order's history and works and participate in its spiritual activity.

Participants are encouraged to take part in the Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage during their Year of Formation or within three years of investiture.

Investiture takes place each November at St Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

Founded in Jerusalem in 1099 by Blessed Gerard, the Order began as a community of hospitallers caring for the sick, the poor, and pilgrims at the hospice of St John the Baptist.

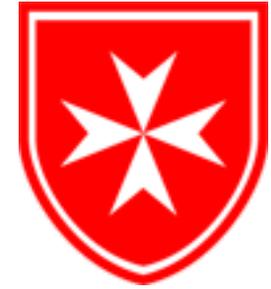
To protect Christians in the Holy Land, the Knights later took up arms and successively established themselves in Jerusalem, Rhodes, and Malta. Over the centuries, the Knights and later Dames have remained at the forefront of charitable care, founding hospitals across Europe.



Today, the Order is dedicated to its original hospitaller mission, serving the sick and the poor and defending the Roman Catholic faith worldwide.

## ORDER OF MALTA AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

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## ORDER OF MALTA AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, U.S.A



## TUITIO FIDEI ET OBSEQUIUM PAUPERUM



Headquartered in Rome, the Order has national associations and priories in 59 countries, with over 13,500 members and more than 80,000 volunteers serving in over 130 countries.

## WHAT IS THE ORDER OF MALTA?

The Order of Malta is a lay religious order of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to glorifying God through service to the sick and the poor and the defense of the Catholic faith. In pursuing this mission, it has become the world's oldest charitable institution, operating hospitals and ambulance services, providing disaster relief, and supporting vulnerable communities globally.

The American Association was founded in 1927, followed by the establishment of the Western and Federal Associations in 1952 and 1973 as the Order expanded in the United States.



## WHAT DOES THE ORDER OF MALTA DO?

Internationally the Order:

- Delivers humanitarian aid to the poor and marginalized in over 130 countries.
- Responds to major crises, including the Gaza humanitarian crisis, by delivering essential aid and providing primary healthcare.
- Provides disaster relief following earthquakes, tsunamis, and floods through Malteser International, the Order's global relief agency and one of the world's leading humanitarian organizations.
- Operates and staffs hospitals, nursing homes, ambulance services, mobile clinics, and day-care centres across Europe and the developing world, including the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, which offers high-quality maternity care to all women regardless of background.
- Maintains diplomatic relations with 107 countries and holds Permanent Observer status at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.



## WHAT DOES THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION DO?

Members of the American Association serve the sick, poor and marginalized through hands-on volunteering and financial support of mission-aligned non-profit organizations, contributing to over 200 service initiatives in our 29 areas.

Each year, the Association takes a pilgrimage to Lourdes, bringing *malades* and their caregivers as guests to Our Lady's Grotto to participate in religious services, bathe in the waters or perform the water gesture, and seek God's grace. This pilgrimage is part of a wider international gathering of members and *malades* from across the world.

The American Association also takes part in the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., and organizes a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, Wisconsin.

The Association's signature programs include Prison Ministry, Malta Camp USA, and the Malta Mobile Ministry.

As a lay religious order, the Association offers members many opportunities to deepen their faith, including local masses, weekend retreats and spiritual outreach to name but a few.

