



# ORDER OF MALTA

## BOSTON AREA

Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

### Area Chair Report Damien DeVasto, KM

Dear Confrere,

As this is our first newsletter since I have become Area Chair, allow me to express what an honor it is to be in this role. We have an extraordinary mission of witnessing our faith and bringing Christ's love to those in greatest need. I welcome our working together as we advance this special calling that we share.



Our Area is in a solid place, due in no small part to Suzanne Downing, our past Area Chair. Along with an able Board, Suzanne has done wonderful work and is passing along an Area that is well positioned to grow. Suzanne, with many others, has been generous with support and guidance during my transition. I am grateful for this thoughtfulness.

Moving forward, we have countless ways to further our mission and for our membership to flourish. My initial approach is to listen and to learn. Within our membership is a vast array of knowledge, commitment and spirituality. The collective gifts and talents of our Knights, Dames, Chaplains and Auxiliary come together to create a powerful resource. As a group, we will continue to reach ahead and plan strategically for our future. It is an exciting time, especially as we celebrate the Year of Faith and the 900th Anniversary of our Bull.

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### Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage Serves Those Who Are Ill and Volunteers Alike

As is our tradition every May, members from the Boston area made the pilgrimage to Lourdes, France. Our 31 participants joined 350 pilgrims from the American Association and thousands from Order of Malta associations from all over the world. Included in the American Association group, were malades, caregivers, auxiliary members, volunteers, MDs and other medical staff, Knights and Dames, Priest Chaplains and student nurses. The trip took place from May 1–7. As always, there was no charge to the malades or their caregivers to participate in the Pilgrimage.

“The purpose of the trip is to bring people who are ill to the healing waters of Lourdes,” said Karen Deane, AUX, a mother of two and a pediatric nurse who made her 19th pilgrimage this spring. Karen has been instrumental in seeking out more children to make the pilgrimage, and this year, the malade she sponsored was a young girl diagnosed with a brain tumor. “When I saw her pictures on Facebook making her First Communion and praying in front of the Grotto at Glastonbury Abbey, I knew this child was meant to come to Lourdes with us.”

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**Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York celebrates Mass in the Grotto.**



## Bishop Deeley Leads the Order in Lenten Mass and Reflection



**St. John Chapel.**

Late-winter sunlight filtered through the stained glass windows of the chapel at St. John's Seminary in Brighton on March 9, 2013. The chapel was the setting for our Lenten Mass and Morning of Reflection led by Bishop Robert P. Deeley, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. Bishop Deeley entered the Order in November 2012, the same day he was elevated to Bishop. He will take part in the Investiture Ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York November 2013 and will speak to the gathering.

Monsignor James P. Moroney, Rector of St. John's Seminary, served as our gracious host for this spiritually uplifting morning, which was followed by lunch. Among the approximately 60 members of the Order gathered were Dick and Marilyn Colman. "This was our first visit to St. John's Seminary, and

the setting, particularly the beautiful chapel, was the perfect venue for this event," said Marilyn, who is in her Year of Preparation and will be invested in November.

In leading the reflection, Bishop Deeley elaborated on the Order of Malta's Daily Prayer. The prayer focuses on our mission, asking Lord Jesus to keep the supplicant faithful to the Order's traditions, including defending the faith and practicing charity, especially toward the poor and sick. "Bishop Deeley's inspirational talk following Mass, and the enthusiastic discussion it prompted, gave us new insight into the Order of Malta and what it means to be a Knight or Dame," said Dick Colman, a long-time Knight. "The morning was, without question, the highlight of our Lenten season."

Paul Hanley, who became a Knight in his mid-thirties 11 years ago, had a similar response. "I think of the Order as my North Star because it reminds me of what I should be doing as a Catholic, a Knight and a person," he said. "The Reflection certainly did that. It brought up so many thoughts and feelings about both my commitment as a Knight and the meaning of Lent. Any time you talk about faith in a group, it reinforces your belief."



**Bishop Deeley leads Reflection after Mass.**



**Paul Hanley, KM, shares a thought during Reflection.**



**Members break bread together after Reflection.**

### Area Chair Report *(continued from page 1)*

Within this newsletter, which you can see has a fresh look and layout, you will find a few examples of some of the enhanced activities and new programs we have initiated. I look forward to working with you, along with our talented Area Board and a thoughtful group of leaders, in creating additional opportunities to live our mission and grow our Order.

If I have yet to meet you, I hope to do so in the near future. And for all, please feel free to reach out to share thoughts, direction or if I can assist you in any way.

Warmest Regards,

Damien DeVasto



## Malta Members Serve Cor Unum Meal Program



Seven days a week, hundreds of people, most of them working men and women and their children, gather for breakfast and dinner. They are greeted warmly and led into a dining room lined with tall windows that bring in lots of light and reveal greenery outside. Seated at round

tables set with china plates, the guests are served a hot meal. No, it is not an upscale restaurant; it is the Cor Unum Meal Center in Lawrence. Its mission is to eliminate hunger every day, serving those in need with “dignity, love, and respect.”

Individual members of the Boston Order of Malta have been helping out at Cor Unum for years, but in early 2013, we put in place a more formal program, arranging for members to go as a group on a Sunday evening every six weeks.

“Our members give of themselves as individuals in so many ways with many organizations,” said Boston Area Chair Damien DeVasto. “By formalizing the Cor Unum program, we are creating the opportunity for members to serve as a group, using our collective talents to make an even greater impact. We hope to use this model with other organizations as well.”

Malta Knight Joe Feitelberg, who worked with Damien and fellow Malta Knight Craig Gibson to formalize the program, sees the spiritual component of service as central to what it means to be a member of the Order of Malta. “We are working through Christ to serve others, which helps grow our personal spirituality as well,” he said.

A retired insurance professional, Joe is more accustomed to reviewing policies than busing tables, but that hasn’t stopped the father of six, who along with his wife, Sheila, has volunteered for the program, from showing up. “We meet at Cor Unum around 4:00 to help get things set up,” he said. “I was there in April, and that night there was a group of youngsters from a local prep school doing the dishes, so those of us from Malta did the serving and table clearing.”

According to Father Paul O’Brien, Pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish in Lawrence, which created the program, the set schedule of every six weeks helps Cor Unum to run effectively. “We have one full-time and one part-time employee,” he said. “Everyone else is a volunteer. Operationally, it’s very helpful for us to work with groups that make a consistent commitment.”

Craig Gibson is working with Malta members Ed Delaney, KM, and Evie Caron, AUX, to create a number of teams of about 15–20 people each. The teams will rotate so that no one group has the full responsibility. If you would like to participate, contact Craig at [cbgibson@comcast.net](mailto:cbgibson@comcast.net). “This is a very special program,” he said. “Cor Unum feeds body and soul, treating all who walk into that dining room with the dignity they deserve.”



**Randy and Leslee Greene, who are in their Year of Preparation, with Fr. Paul O'Brien.**



**Bob Conway, Prep; Joe Feitelberg, KM; and Steve Caron, KM.**



**Malta volunteers at Cor Unum.**

### Join Us at Cor Unum

Malta volunteers served at the Cor Unum Meal Center throughout the spring and summer.

We will continue to serve in the fall and winter.

- Sunday, September 22
- Sunday, November 3
- Sunday, December 8

We usually meet at 4:00 p.m. at Cor Unum in Lawrence and complete serving dinner and cleaning up by 7:30 p.m. **To join us, contact Craig Gibson at [cbgibson@comcast.net](mailto:cbgibson@comcast.net).**





## Boston Area Board of Directors

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## Malta Boston At Lourdes

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The group was broken down into seven teams made up of medical professionals and non-medical volunteers. Each team supported several malades and their caregivers. Nancy, DM, and Craig, KM, Gibson were co-captains of the Orange Team this year. "It's definitely a community," Nancy said. "The malades who make this journey don't feel alone. They know they are cared for. The experience brings them peace and hope, in both their spiritual and emotional lives."

While the trip is to benefit the malades, volunteers will tell you they get as much, if not more, out of the experience. This



Malta Volunteers at Lourdes.



Meredith Bunker, VOL; Karen Deane, RN, AUX; and Nancy Gibson, DM.





**Lourdes Trip Highlighted on Catholic Radio**

On June 24, Craig Gibson and Ed Delaney were guests on *The Good Catholic Life*, a radio program broadcast each day from 4–5 p.m. on WQOM, 1060AM Boston. Craig, Ed and host Scot Landry discussed the Order of Malta and the Lourdes pilgrimage. You can listen to this episode on *The Good Catholic Life's* website at [TheGoodCatholicLife.com](http://TheGoodCatholicLife.com) (Program #0532).

was Ed Delaney's, KM, third year making the pilgrimage. "Every year it gets better for me," he said. "But this year was particularly moving. The malade I was supporting was a young man who uses a wheelchair. He has such a great attitude. He is resilient and determined to enjoy every day." Ed was particularly impressed with the young man's desire to reach the top of a mountain that held a medieval castle in the town of Lourdes. "It's a hike to get up there, with winding staircases, cobble pavements and a stone wall," said Ed. "But he insisted that we find ways to make it, and we did. As a result, we witnessed the magnificent view of the snow-capped Pyrenees Mountains. The experience was inspiring."



Order Members Mary and Bob Doyle with Nancy and Craig Gibson.



Ed Delaney (center) KM, and Hugh Carey II, AUX, accompany Judy Rhodes from the Boston Area during the procession at Lourdes.



James F. O'Conner, KMOb, (red coat) and Mary Doyle, DM, among pilgrims at Lourdes.



## Recent Grants Benefit Organizations Throughout Our Area

A portion of the funds we contribute as dues is set aside for grants to support ministries in which members of the Order are actively involved. Under new procedures implemented this year by the American Association, five organizations in the Boston Area have received grants.

### AREA GRANTS

This was the first year the American Association has allocated funds to the Areas in proportion to their dues-paying memberships. The total allocation to the Boston Area was \$26,000, and the Area Grants Committee awarded four grants from that fund.

**Lawrence Catholic Academy, Lawrence, \$5,000:** For the renovation of a space to be used as a nursery school classroom. This will enable the school to expand the population it serves in one of the poorest cities of the Archdiocese.

**St. Francis House, Boston, \$5,000:** For the purchase of a badly needed new oven. St. Francis House is the largest day shelter in New England, and it provided more than 315,200 meals to homeless men and women last year.

**McAuley Nazareth Home for Boys, Leicester, \$10,000:** To purchase a new van required for the transportation of residents of this school, which serves boys with behavioral difficulties.

**My Brother's Table, Lynn, \$6,000:** To provide nutritious meals to children and families gaining literacy

## Summer/Fall 2013 Events

*It has been an active summer.  
Here are some highlights:*

### June 21

**St John the Baptist Mass**—Cape Cod  
Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church  
Osterville, Massachusetts

### June 24

**St John the Baptist Mass**—Worcester  
Mass at Saint Paul's Cathedral  
Worcester, Massachusetts

### June 26

**Retired Priest's Reception and Dinner**  
Boston College Club

### June 27

**St John the Baptist Mass**—New Hampshire  
Mass at Immaculate Conception Church  
Portsmouth, NH

*Upcoming events include:*

### October 23

**Boston Area Annual Mass and Dinner**  
Principal Celebrant: Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFMCap  
5:30–9:00 p.m.  
Mass, Reception and Dinner  
St. John's Seminary  
Brighton, MA

### November 14–November 16

**Annual Investiture**—New York

### December 12

**Boston Area Advent Mass and Dinner**  
Principal Celebrant: Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFMCap  
5:00–8:30 p.m.  
Mass, Reception and Dinner  
Location to Follow



skills at the Lynn Boys and Girls Club. My Brother's Table has served more than 2.7 million hot meals in the past 30 years to men, women and children in need.

### STRATEGIC GRANT

This year, the American Association created the category of "strategic grants." A strategic grant is intended to alter the course of an organization by funding a large project that will produce major change and have a long-term impact. The Boston Area submitted an application for one strategic grant, which was approved by the American Association.

#### **Housing for All Corporation, Hyannis, \$45,000:**

Will provide seed money to launch professional training programs in basic trades and skills needed on Cape Cod by the unemployed poor who are seeking jobs. The goal of the program is to provide workers to the food service, retail and home-repair industries.

### OUR THANKS

We thank the following sponsors of these grants:

- Edward W. Marshall, Jr., Housing for All
- Joseph H. Feitelberg, Lawrence Catholic Academy
- Timothy J. Nolan, St. Francis House
- Gerald J. Power, McAuley Nazareth House
- Brian G. O'Loughlin, My Brother's Table

We also thank the members of the Area Grants Committee: Chair Paul W. Sandman; Patricia A. Cahill; James S. DiStasio; Suzanne W. Downing; Edward W. Marshall, Jr.; and David J. Solimine, Sr. The Committee worked hard to implement the new grant procedures and review applications on a compressed schedule.

## **Prayer Line and Bereavement Support**

As members of the Order of Malta, we are part of a special community. We support one another in life, through challenges and illness. We are also present to honor members who have passed by providing funeral honors.

### Prayer Line Requests

Members of the Boston Area Order of Malta and their families are invited to submit the names of loved ones and friends to our Prayer Line. Your prayer requests will be e-mailed to Knights, Dames, Chaplains and Auxiliary in the Boston Area who have offered to pray for your intentions.

### Joining the Prayer Line

Members of the Boston Area Order of Malta are invited to join the Prayer Line to offer prayers for the intentions of our members and their families.

*To submit a prayer request or join the Prayer Line, contact the Prayer Line Coordinator, Suzanne Downing, DM, at 508-224-9597 or [suewdowning@verizon.net](mailto:suewdowning@verizon.net).*

### Bereavement Support

Families of deceased Knights and Dames may request funeral honors through our Bereavement Committee. The Bereavement Committee will arrange for Knights and Dames to be present at the funeral, providing an honor guard, assisting in the use of robes and the pall of the Order, and attending to other appropriate details. If possible, at least 48 hours notice should be provided.

### Serving the Bereaved

The Bereavement Committee also needs volunteers who may be asked on short notice to participate in Funeral Masses.

*To request services or volunteer to serve the bereaved, contact the Bereavement Committee Coordinator, Edward Delaney, KM, at 617-759-2584 or [ejdelaney@comcast.net](mailto:ejdelaney@comcast.net).*

### WEBSITE VERSION OF THE SPRING /SUMMER ISSUE OF MALTA NEWSLETTER...

You can read a flip book version of this issue online at [Maltaboston.org](http://Maltaboston.org).  
Click on the link [http://issuu.com/samray/docs/malta\\_boston-spring-summer\\_2013](http://issuu.com/samray/docs/malta_boston-spring-summer_2013)



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### In Our Next Issue...

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the **Malta Boston Newsletter**. In our next issue, we will feature **Catholic Cancer Cares**, profile a member, and cover other important news. Stay tuned.

Our new approach to communications will include two newsletters a year plus an annual report. And don't forget to visit our website, [maltaboston.org](http://maltaboston.org).

Do you have story ideas for our newsletter? If so, we'd welcome hearing from you. Contact Damien at [djdevasto@verizon.net](mailto:djdevasto@verizon.net).

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