



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 members of the Order of Malta, we are called to care for the sick and the poor, nurture our spiritual wellbeing and defend the faith. The articles in this newsletter demonstrate how we are

responding to this calling. What comes through the stories is how our members, through living our mission, care for those in need and for one another, engage those who are looking to be part of the Order and continue to strengthen their spiritual lives.

You will read about Sheila and Joe Feitelberg, a Dame and Knight who have given so much and recently found themselves in the position of receiving. After many years of making the pilgrimage to Lourdes as supporters, this spring Sheila and Joe visited the shrine as Malade and caregiver. They have a rare story to tell.

Five nursing students from Catholic Colleges in the Boston Area joined the Lourdes Pilgrimage as caregivers. They brought a young, vibrant dimension to the journey, building their own understanding of nursing and faith as they served others.

Our Grand Cross recipients and the Boston and Rhode Island members preparing for investiture provide varied and compelling examples of how Malta members are living our mission.

Undergirding all our efforts is the desire to become closer to Christ. Our Annual Liturgy and Dinner provided an opportunity for us to reflect upon God's plan. Msgr. Sheehan's Homily and Bishop da Cunha's keynote were inspirational, reminding us of our spiritual potential. A special thank you to Msgr. Moroney for his gracious welcome.

I hope these stories will inspire you and reinforce your already strong commitment to our mission.

Warmest Regards,

A New Perspective on the Lourdes Pilgrimage

Sheila and Joe Feitelberg Experience Being Care Receivers

In May of 2015, Sheila Feitelberg, DMOB, and her husband, Joe, KMOB, made their ninth pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Order of Malta. But this trip was very different from the previous eight. Sheila's 2015 visit to Lourdes was as a Malade, and Joe attended as her caregiver.

Sheila had been diagnosed with colon cancer the previous September. Life changed as the Feitelbergs' fast-paced, full schedules were narrowed to focus on Sheila's health. Then at Christmas, Knight Jim O'Connor suggested Sheila go to Lourdes as a Malade. "I didn't see how I could because of my health," Sheila said. "But then I thought, if Our Lady wants me there, I'll be able to." With the support of her medical team at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Sheila's treatment calendar was arranged so she could make the trip.

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Joe and Sheila Feitelberg



Speakers Inspire Us at Annual Liturgy and Dinner

Our Annual Liturgy and Dinner is one of the highlights of the year, and our gathering last October 9 was no exception. Msgr. James P. Moroney, Rector of St. John's Seminary in Brighton and Malta Chaplain, opened the beautiful seminary grounds to our more than 80 Knights, Dames and Auxiliaries who joined us for the occasion. As a further way to integrate the Order with the seminary, Msgr Moroney invited the seminarians to participate in the Liturgy and to assist in the evening's events.

The evening began with Mass and was followed by a reception. We were inspired by messages from our two speakers: Msgr. Dennis Sheehan, a Magisterial chaplain of the Order of Malta, who delivered the Homily, and Most Reverend Edgar Moreira da Cunha, S.D.V., the then new Bishop of the Diocese of Fall River, who presided over Mass and gave the Keynote Address at the reception.

Touching on a central piece of our Malta calling, nurturing our own spirituality, Msgr. Sheehan encouraged



Processing into St. John's Chapel

us to keep praying and not to complicate prayer. "We're the ones who make prayer complicated," he said. "God keeps it simple. God cares. He cares more than we can imagine."

Bishop da Cunha, our keynote speaker, was appointed as Bishop of Fall River in September. The Order of Malta Boston Area has a rich tradition of working with the ordinaries of Fall River on important initiatives. One example is the St. Mary's Education Fund, a Malta program founded in collaboration with then Fall River Bishop, now Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Boston, Séan O'Malley.

Bishop da Cunha's address recounted his personal journey from Brazil to Newark, New Jersey, where he was to study. He didn't know English at the time. Due to a communication mix-up, there was no one to meet him at the cold New York airport. A stranger kindly called the parish for him.

Bishop da Cunha

“God keeps it simple. God cares. He cares more than we can imagine.”

Msgr. Sheehan



Bishop da Cunha and clergy prepare the Eucharist.

What Bishop da Cunha, then not yet a priest, thought would be a temporary stay turned into 36 years and counting. “And now I find myself in a new state, in a new diocese, in a place I’ve never been,” he said. “I am convinced that this is really part of God’s plan.” Bishop da Cunha reminded us to recognize what God is telling us to do, something that, as members of the Order, we strive to understand. He encouraged us to, “see how God’s hand has touched you, conducted you, guided you.”

Joseph and Raeanna Williams, who were invested into the Order last November, attended the Liturgy and dinner. “The chapel is gorgeous with beautiful windows, and the dinner was special because many of



St. John’s Seminarians

the seminarians were serving,” Joe said. Joe was particularly moved that the bishop shared his personal story with them. “I love hearing the personal stories because that’s how we meet Christ, through each other.”





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Lourdes Pilgrimage *(continued from page 1)*

Having traveled to Lourdes both as Malta members and care receivers, Sheila and Joe have a rare perspective on the pilgrimage. “The first difference I experienced was the realization of the level of goodness of the people who arranged the trip,” Sheila said. “It’s extraordinary. They think of everything, from guiding you to the best seats for the services to having water and Kleenex at the ready. Everyone gives you so much comfort. I made the most beautiful confession I’ve ever made. It was with a priest who was a stranger, but I’ll never forget him.”

Joe agrees the support system was amazing. “Every other time we went to Lourdes it was to serve. This time, we were being served. It was a culture shock,” he said. “We had a working relationship with about 40 people, all there to care for Sheila and to support me as I cared for her.”

Another new experience for Sheila and Joe was the opportunity to take part in reflections. Malades and their caregivers meet separately in small groups, each group led by a priest who supervises the discussion. “My group had a priest-psychiatric counselor from a New York Hospital,” Sheila said. “It was so moving. I imagine some of us were speaking words we had never spoken to anyone before.”

“You share intimate feelings with people you’ve never met before,” Joe said. “But it’s a safe place. Listening to others, I gained a new perspective about what’s involved in taking care of someone sick, not just at Lourdes, but through the overall period of illness. That intimacy is quite different.”

Now home, Joe has noticed the benefits of the pilgrimage. “Sheila’s energy level has improved since our trip to Lourdes. Before it she’d had a very challenging time.”

Sheila remembers every aspect of the trip with affection, from the laughter to the tears to the spirituality. “It was so comforting and peaceful,” she said. “It’s such a beautiful place. I feel very healed since going there.”



The Upper Basilica at Lourdes



"I am deeply grateful to the Grand Master for awarding me this high honor." Joseph Hagan

Boston and Rhode Island Areas Celebrate Grand Cross Recipients

In recognition of his outstanding service to the Order of Malta, **James F. O'Connor**, GCMOb, received the Grand Cross of Magisterial Grace in Obedience in a special ceremony at the conclusion of our Annual Liturgy and Dinner October 9.

We are delighted to announce that Rhode Island Member **Joseph Hagan** has also received the Grand Cross.

On February 5, 2015, **Joseph Hagan**, GCHDMO, of Little Compton Rhode Island was awarded the Grand Cross of Honor and Devotion in Obedience by Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Joe served as President of Assumption College in

Worcester for 20 years and as a Gentleman in Waiting to the Holy Father at the Vatican. Joe is pictured here with his wife, Patrice, DHDM, at the ceremony. "I am deeply grateful to the Grand Master for awarding me this high honor," Joe said. "I have a great love for the Order of Malta, of which I have been a member since 1982."



Joseph and Patrice Hagan

Nursing Students Serve and Are Served at Lourdes

While the mission of the Lourdes' Pilgrimage is to serve our Malades, caregivers are also moved, and often changed, by the experience. The Boston Area has led the way in providing nursing students from Catholic Colleges the opportunity to participate in the pilgrimage as caregivers. On each trip, we are blessed to witness the enthusiasm of our student nurses as they develop a deeper understanding of the Catholic underpinnings of care, and they strengthen their own faith.

We spoke to three of these nursing students. All expressed gratitude to the Members of the Boston Area for allowing them to be a part of the extraordinary mission of the Order of Malta and to share in the remarkable spiritual journey that is the Lourdes' Pilgrimage. Each woman came away from Lourdes with a new perspective, whether of nursing, faith or what it means to serve.



Boston College Nursing Students. Left to Right:
Karlee Rajaniemi,
Katie Hildreth,
Colleen McGauley



Labouré College Nursing Students. Left to Right:
Daniella Fallon,
Ashlee DeMoras

Ashlee DeMoras, Labouré College, **on how the Pilgrimage changed her:**

"I believed the trip offered an opportunity to become more well rounded as a nurse. Having the experience at Lourdes, attending Mass, meeting so many amazing people serving others—I felt humbled. I felt that I had grown and become a better person."

Daniella Fallon, Labouré College, **on working in the Baths:**

"I have always volunteered for community activities, but this was the first time I felt 100 percent at someone else's service. It was so much more than I could ever have dreamed of."

Katie Hildreth, Boston College, **on deepening purpose:**

"I went to Lourdes hoping to further explore and build on the spark that has drawn me to nursing. After spending a week there, I realized I was made to do the handiwork of the good Lord and the Virgin Mother."

The pilgrimage expenses of the three nurses who attended from Boston College were underwritten by Charlotte Flatley, DM. Charlotte is a trailblazer, having the distinction of being in the first class of women admitted to the Order. She also helped shape the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Through the years, she has continued her significant commitment, underwriting key Malta ministries.

This year students again attended from Labouré College, which had been the first school to send students on the pilgrimage. The pilgrimage expenses of the two Labouré students were underwritten by a group of Malta benefactors led by John McManmon, KM. John has been a key leader in the Boston Area. In addition to helping to form the pilgrimage, John has initiated many ministries, including the student-nursing program at Lourdes.

Through the generosity of our members, we are introducing a new generation to the miracle of Lourdes and to the special Malta calling to care for the sick and nurture our spiritual wellbeing.



Boston and Rhode Island Area Candidates Prepare for Investiture

We are in the process of preparing for the beautiful and significant ceremony during which new Knights and Dames are invested into the Order of Malta. This November, as we gather at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City with members from other Areas, we will witness the investiture of six new Knights and Dames from the Boston and Rhode Island Areas. They come from a variety of backgrounds and interests. Whether helping to build homes in El Salvador, advising health-care start-ups, treating leprosy in India, guiding our youth here at home, serving on the board of the Catholic Leadership Institute, or feeding the poor, our new Knights and Dames are contributing their time and talent.

Below are some of their stories. As you will see, our new Knights and Dames are here because of the thoughtful attention and special invitation of current members. As we go about our day-to-day lives, we don't stop to think that we can be an inspiration. And yet, these stories demonstrate that we are.

STACEY REISMAN

From helping the local Kiwanis in Marshfield to building homes and schools in El Salvador, volunteer work has always been part of Stacey Reisman's life. It was during one of those volunteer experiences that she first became interested in the Order.



Shortly after college, she was volunteering for the Camp AmeriKids, which provides a camp experience for young people living with HIV/AIDS and sickle cell disease. The woman managing the program was a Dame and introduced Stacey to the Order. "I liked the focus on caring for the sick and the poor," she said. But Stacey credits her first Lourdes Pilgrimage with teaching her what her faith really means.

"It's about living your life for one another, being there for those in need. You surround yourself with people who are wholesome, good and selfless. That reminds you about what's important." During her year of preparation, Stacey has added delivering Communion to the homebound and working in Prison Ministry to her volunteer commitments.

GEN TANAKA

As a pre-med student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Gen Tanaka was encouraged by a mentor to see how medicine was practiced in other parts of the world. On a trip to India, where he treated tuberculosis and leprosy, he discovered that the Order of Malta was providing



medications. "I respected the length of their reach," he said. "I thought it was extraordinary." When he came back to the States, he looked up the Order. "It moved me to find a lay Catholic organization doing global work that was medically related." Now a graduating resident physician at Harvard Medical School, Gen is interested in serving the prison population, which he feels does not get the support needed. He will be specializing in forensic psychiatry after a year of training at Northwestern University and plans to return to Harvard Medical School.

MARK TRUCHAN

Mark learned about the Order through his cousin's husband, Walter Klein, who is a member. He liked what he heard about the hands-on approach to service. Mark is committed to guiding youth. He is active coaching youth sports in Hingham, and he and his family host an inner-city child in their home during the summer through the Fresh Air Fund. Also,



he takes part in Fidelity Investment's community service program as one of many employees going into an inner-city school and teaching for a day. "I thought participation in the Order would be a great way to combine my faith with service as well as set a good example for my children," Mark said.

Candidates for the Order of Malta

Our 2015 Knights and Dames To Be Invested Into the Order in November:

Steve Barrett, Kennebunkport, ME, and Naples, FL

John Corcoran, Essex, MA

Timothy J. Maynard, Coventry, RI

Stacey Reisman, Marshfield, MA

Gen Tanaka, Quincy, MA

Mark Truchan, Hingham, MA



STEVE BARRETT

Steve Barrett's decision to join the Order was more of a journey than an event. He'd heard about the Order for years, first at a family wedding, then later during a retired-clergy event where Knight Craig Gibson shared his Malta experience with Steve. When Area Chair Damien DeVasto invited Steve to attend our St. John the Baptist celebration in New Hampshire last year, everything came together, and he decided the time was right.

Having achieved success in the business arena as an executive at both Whirlpool Corporation and Procter & Gamble, Steve, now semi-retired and working as a consultant to health-care start-up companies, is bringing his energy to the service of others. He sits on an advisory board at the University of Notre Dame and serves on the board of iCatholic Media. The latter provides strategic media counseling to Cardinal Séan. As part of his Year of Preparation for the Order of Malta, Steve recently became a member of the Respect Life Ministry in Naples, Florida, where he spends part of his year. "The Order of Malta presents me with an opportunity to help the sick and poor and to strengthen my own faith by simply being around the inspiring and God-filled people I have met through the Order in this past year," he said



As the Parish Coordinator for the Catholic Appeal at St. John the Baptist Parish in Essex, John used his skills to significantly increase the funds raised. He, his wife, Julia; and their four children have also served at Cor Unum. "As a Catholic, all the things I do are designed to help others and to bring me into a closer relationship with Christ," John said. "With its emphasis on serving the poor and nurturing spirituality, the Order of Malta is a natural fit."

TIMOTHY J. MAYNARD

Timothy J. Maynard served his country for 31 years in the Navy, retiring as a Commander. But he is still giving of himself to others. "Now that I'm retired from the Navy, I'm looking for ways to be of service and to help defend and build the Catholic faith," he said. Having learned about the Order of Malta from his brother, who is a Knight in New York City, Tim thought becoming a member would be a good way to focus his energy to benefit the poor and the sick. He participated in the Lourdes Pilgrimage in May and became convinced that he wants to be associated with the men and women of the Order because of their superb character of giving and faith.



Through his parish, Saints John and Paul Parish in Coventry, Rhode Island, Tim created "Our Daily Bread," which provides bag lunches for more than 100 people on Fridays and Saturdays. "I saw a need to feed the poor," he said. "There were programs during the week, but not much on weekends." Tim is also planning to study the Boston Area's Prison Ministry to look into possibly bringing it to Rhode Island.

As you welcome our new Knights and Dames, we hope these stories will inspire you to share your experience of faith and service with others. Together, we will continue to build and grow our Order.

JOHN CORCORAN

The Founder and President of Trinity Partners, LLC, a leading life sciences consultancy, John Corcoran understands leadership and knows how to get things done. He brings those gifts to his faith in the service of others. John sits on the Board of Trustees of Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston; is a member of the Executive Committee of the Cardinal's Leadership Circle for the Catholic Appeal; and has recently been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Catholic Leadership Institute, which provides pastoral leadership formation for clergy and laity.



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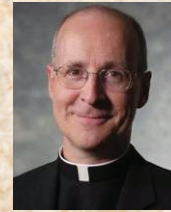
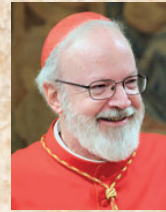
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Calendar of Events

The 2015 schedule includes these significant events:

Boston Area Annual Mass and Dinner
Celebrant: Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap.
Speaker: Fr. James Martin, SJ
October 22 @ 6:00 pm–9:00 pm



Investiture Ceremony and Boston Dinner/NYC
November 12–November 14

Advent Mass and Dinner
Date: TBD

Cor Unum and Prison Ministries
Dates: Check our website at www.maltaboston.org

Please use this calendar as an outline for your planning.
Updates and invitations will be sent to you for
these enjoyable and enriching gatherings.

PRAYER LINE

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 present to honor members who have passed, by providing funeral honors. And we both offer and receive prayers.

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.

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