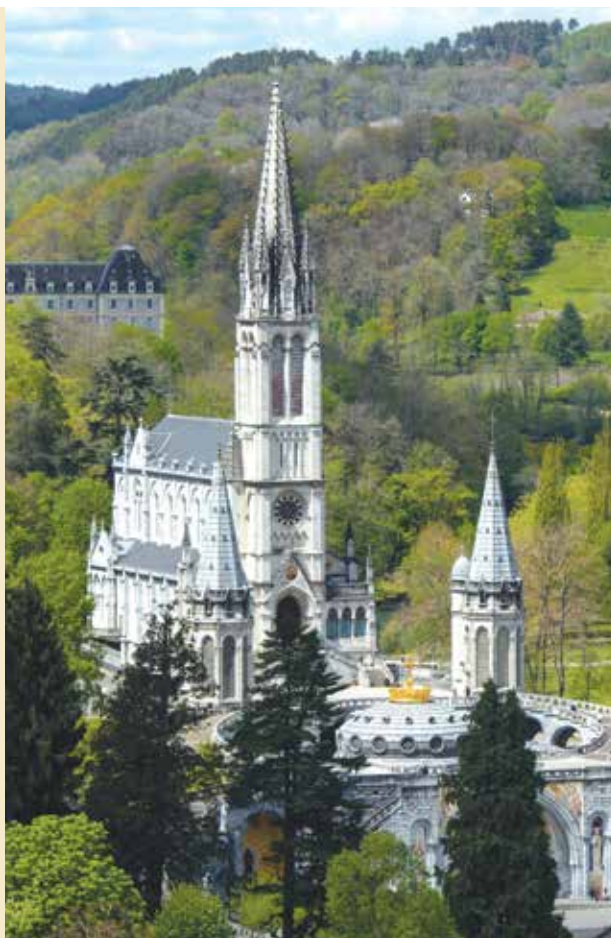




HOSPITALERS IS PUBLISHED BY THE
**SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF
JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA™**
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, U.S.A.

HOSPITALERS

VOLUME 17 SPRING 2017



Priests and the Spirituality of Lourdes

by Craig and Nancy Gibson

The American Association's annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes is at the very heart of the Order of Malta's worldwide ministry to the sick and the poor. The work our Knights, Dames and other volunteers do throughout the week in service to our Malades and Caregivers is an essential expression of our calling as members of a lay religious order. We travel to Lourdes to give of ourselves completely. While there, we become robustly alive as, by the gift of God's grace, we become signs of His compassionate presence. The Pilgrimage provides a deep opportunity for those making this journey to experience a grace-filled conversion of heart, bringing us closer to God.

(continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE



8 A March for Life with Love



11 Communications Update



14 The Innkeepers



17 Spirituality in Action: A Resource Guide

[www.
orderof
malta
american.
org](http://www.orderofmaltaamerican.org)

Association Web Site

Be sure to visit our Web site at:
www.orderofmaltaamerican.org to find the latest information about the Association, forms needed for new members and new auxiliary members, Area Web sites and much more information about the Association and the Order of Malta. Links are also available to other Association Web sites and the Sovereign Magistry's Web site.



Spring brings with it the promise of new life; for Christians, we finish the season of Lent and celebrate the greatest event of our Faith, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the opening of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let us never forget that we are the beneficiaries of that sacrifice we celebrate and the graces that flowed from the blood of the Lamb. May the days ahead be filled with the knowledge that God sent His Son Who willingly died for us and showed us the Way to true peace and happiness.

This has been a very exciting year so far for the Association.

THE COUNCIL COMPLETE OF STATE WILL MEET IN ROME



On April 29th, the governing body of the Order of Malta will convene a Council Complete of State, to elect a new Grand Master or to elect a temporary replacement (a lieutenant) as defined in the Code and Constitution of the Order. Sixty members of the Order are eligible to vote: the Lieutenant ad interim, the members of the Sovereign Council, the Prelate of the Order, the professed bailiffs, two professed knights from each Priory, five Regents of the Sub-

Priories and fifteen Presidents from the National Associations. Please pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit.

THE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Nothing is more representative of the true nature of the Order than the Lourdes Pilgrimage. As we complete the final preparations for the Pilgrimage, I am looking forward to joining with many of you in Lourdes and many more of you in spirit as we bring more than fifty Malades and their caregivers to our very special place in the shadow of the Pyrenees Mountains to put our cares in front of the Blessed Mother and feel the power of her intercession with her Son. Nancy and Craig Gibson are Pilgrimage Co-Chairs; FJ McCarthy and Ken Craig are the Co-Presidents. Together with a team of doctors, nurses, clergy, Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and volunteers, they will lead over four hundred pilgrims in prayer, procession and camaraderie on a journey that will change people's lives. Pray for the safety of our Pilgrimage, for spiritual growth for our Pilgrims, for physical, spiritual, and emotional healing, especially for our Malades and their Caregivers.

Even if you cannot be there, please join with us in the bond of prayer — for the Malades, Malades in Spirit and all who have participated or benefited the pilgrimage.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA RECEPTION



In March, I had the opportunity to travel to Omaha where our good friend and chaplain, Archbishop George Lucas, hosted a reception in his home for prospective members. The Archbishop welcomed us into his living room where we had the opportunity to speak to a group of doctors from the Creighton School of Medicine. We spoke about the Order, showed a short video, and gave out information and applications. Buoyed by the presence of Dr. Juan Asensio, recently appointed as the Area Chair for what we hope will be a vibrant community of future Knights and Dames, the meeting was a great success. We also had the opportunity to meet with a 2017 Malade and Caregiver from the Area, sponsored by Dr. Asensio. I am looking forward to their joining us on the Pilgrimage.

Omaha is a vibrant, working city with a strong Catholic tradition and a supportive Archbishop. I am looking forward to great things from Omaha.

(continued on page 18)

2017 BOARD OF COUNCILLORS

Jack E. Pohrer, *President*

Richard D. Milone, MD, *Chancellor*

James F. O'Connor, *Treasurer*

Gail T. Berardino, *Hospitaller*

Camille M. Kelleher, *Vice Hospitaller*

Karol Corbin Walker, Esq., *Secretary*

William H. Besgen

Linda B. Del Rio

Edward J. Delaney

Thomas J. Forlenza, MD

Joseph J. Frank

Anthony M. Gagliardi, MD

Marion E. Glennon

Anne Marie R. Hansen

Mark B. Kerwin

William J. Knowles

Peter J. Maloy

George D. Molinsky

John M. Murphy, MD

Thomas J. O'Brien

Deborah E. O'Hara-Rusckowski

John R. O'Rourke, Esq.

Christopher F. Poch

Christopher J. Rutkowski

Charlotte A. Williams

Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York, Principal Chaplain

Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Ritchie
Assistant Principal Chaplain





Priests and the Spirituality of Lourdes

(continued from cover)

THE SPIRITUAL TEAM

During this moving, spiritual journey we are guided by and ministered to by the priests who accompany us. The official team includes 10 Priest-Chaplains who come from various American Association Areas. Additionally, cardinals, bishops, priests and deacons who are making the Pilgrimage also serve the pilgrims. Led by Msgr. Robert T. Ritchie, Rector of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York and Assistant Principal Chaplain of the Order of Malta, American Association, the Clergy celebrate Mass, lead a range of spiritual activities and provide individual counseling and support. They are fully present throughout the week.

"The Lourdes Pilgrimage provides opportunities for our Knights and Dames to live the Order's mission, first by serving the sick but also by enhancing their own spiritual lives," said Msgr. Ritchie. He also said the Pilgrimage was a way for clergy to expand their experience in dealing with populations they may not typically serve. "Priests have the opportunity of being involved in ministry with people who are in a grace-filled time of serious illness, people who are at the most vulnerable points of their lives."

Personal Guidance and Formal Programming

The role of the priests includes guiding a range of spiritual activities as well as providing spiritual guidance for individuals on the Pilgrimage.

First, two priests are assigned to each of the seven teams, which are designated by colors. Each team is led by two Co-Captains and is made up of just over 50 people. In addition to the Clergy, the teams include Malades, Caregivers, Medical

Staff, Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and other volunteers. Each priest will be with his team throughout the week. "His job is to be available to anybody in his group," Msgr. Ritchie said. "Sometimes a casual conversation can be the best opportunity to help someone on a spiritual journey."

The priests also are given a variety of formal assignments throughout the week, from facilitating Reflection Groups to hearing confessions to taking part in the many liturgies and other events. The formal program begins Thursday afternoon with the Opening Tri-Association Mass in the Rosary Basilica. This is a Mass we celebrate with the other two associations from the United States, the Federal Association and the Western Association, who are at Lourdes the same week. All priests concelebrate, making this a powerful spiritual beginning to our Pilgrimage.

A look at our first full day, Friday, shows how integral the priests are to our experience and how they lead us through the profound spiritual elements of the Pilgrimage.

A Day of the Pilgrimage

On Friday morning, after morning prayer and breakfast, all of us: Malades, Caregivers, Clergy, Medical Staff, Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and other volunteers, assemble in front of the hotels. Gathered in our teams, we begin our procession to the Chapel of St. Bernadette. The procession itself is a sacred form of movement. In addition to the message of prayer, penance and bathing in the spring, Our Lady imparted to Bernadette a message for priests: "Go, tell the priests to come here in procession and to build a chapel here." For modern pilgrims, the procession is a sacred way of preparing together for the blessedness of the activities ahead. Team Captains hold up their colored flags to lead the procession. Charioteers pull the

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

voitures, carriages that allow the Malades to travel easily from place to place. Our Clergy are with us every step of the way.

At the chapel, we share in the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Then we proceed into the Morning of Recollection. The priests share 40-minute talks that bring us deeper into the spirit of God's love and set the tone for our time in Lourdes. The Malades are seated in the front, and other pilgrims keep a careful watch to make sure the Malades and Caregivers have everything they need.

In the back of the chapel are raised, stadium-style seats. While some priests are sharing their talks, others disperse throughout the back, where everyone is invited to meet with a priest for Confession. It's an extraordinary experience as we bring our hurts, brokenness and struggles into that day. Both individually and collectively, we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us in this powerful setting. John Norris, who journeyed to Lourdes as a Malade last year with his wife, Eileen, as his Caregiver, summed up the spiritual feeling of the Pilgrimage this way: "You could feel the power of so many people. You could feel how holy it was."

After lunch, Malades and Caregivers gather again and process to the baths, often accompanied by priests. In the waters of which Our Lady said to Bernadette, "Go and drink at the spring and wash yourself there!" they are refreshed and renewed. It is difficult to express the profound physical, emotional and spiritual experience of the baths. Once you enter the dressing area, you have a minute of privacy to wrap yourself in a modest towel. After stepping into the cold water and facing the statue of Our Lady, pilgrims enter into a moment of deep prayer for themselves and others. You are then immersed into the healing waters and enjoy a final time of prayer. Many experience moments of profound personal revelation.

From this blessed event, we move to the Carmel side of the St. Bernadette Chapel for Mass and the Anointing of the Sick. All the priests are present, concelebrating and anointing Malades, Caregivers and others. The lead celebrants approach the Malades and Caregivers directly. Other priests fan out within the chapel. Lines are formed, and the other pilgrims are anointed as they seek spiritual and physical strength for illness and suffering. It is a powerful moment as the priest administers the sacrament, conveying God's grace to the recipient through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The crowning event of this first full day is the Marian Candlelight Procession. When Our Lady asked Bernadette to spend a fortnight in the Grotto, Bernadette approached with a lighted candle. We follow in that tradition when pilgrims from all around the world gather near the Grotto at dusk

carrying lighted candles. The procession travels around the Domain, which is the area that surrounds the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. The statue of Our Lady is carried at the front of the procession. As darkness falls and the pilgrims recite the Rosary in many different languages and sing Ave Maria, the light from the candles creates a golden glow. With the bodies barely visible in the darkness, the candles highlight the serenity on each pilgrim's face.

Throughout the Week

In the days that follow, our priests continue to guide us through a range of scheduled activities. Each day many of us gather for morning prayer, which begins with a reading and reflection led by a priest. We also have a Malade in Spirit program. Each team prays daily for those Malades who are with us in spirit but unable to be with us in person.

On Saturday, the Tri-Association Grotto Mass is celebrated by the priests from all three associations. It is a deeply moving experience as the priests celebrate the liturgy where the Blessed Mother was seen by Bernadette. The first of the Spiritual Reflection Groups takes place on

Saturday as does the Eucharistic Procession. All priests participate in the Eucharistic Procession, leading us to Adoration and Benediction in St. Pius X Basilica, a unique underground church that holds up to 30,000 people.

The International Mass at St. Pius X Basilica is celebrated on Sunday morning, with pilgrims

from around the world. Attendees are deeply moved by the procession of all the priests into the church. Monday brings the closing Mass in the Rosary Basilica, the outdoor Stations of the Cross and the second Spiritual Reflection Groups.

ENHANCING SPIRITUALITY FOR ALL

Everyone who makes the Pilgrimage with the American Association will tell you the focus of the week is the Malades and Caregivers. "We are there to make their experience one of knowing God and God's love for them," said Msgr. Ritchie. "Everything is subservient to that, including our own comfort and taking care of ourselves." However, there are times when the Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and other volunteers can reflect, pray and participate in programs that enhance their own spirituality, and those opportunities have grown.

Expanding the Spiritual Reflection Groups

Last year, under the leadership of Co-Chairs Donna and Tom O'Brien, Msgr. Ritchie, and Fr. Joseph Cavoto, OFM, a clinical social worker and a spiritual director, participation in the Spiritual Reflection Groups was expanded to include sessions for all the pilgrims.

Facilitated by priests and others, the reflection groups

Both individually and collectively, we feel the presence of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us in this powerful setting.

take place twice during the week and had previously been reserved for Malades and Caregivers. “Part of being a member of the Order of Malta is strengthening our own spirituality,” Donna said. “Having an opportunity to reflect on the experience of the Pilgrimage helps us as we work toward that goal. It’s particularly valuable for first-time pilgrims as it is all so fast-paced and new that you don’t have the time for personal reflection.” The sessions are open and all are strongly encouraged to participate.

For Jim and Cynthia Fagan, participation in one of the reflection groups was a profound experience. It was the second trip for Jim, who is a Knight, and the first for Cynthia, who is in her Year of Preparation. “We live such busy lives,” Cynthia said. “The group sessions were a time for us to sit and reflect and think about what moves us spiritually.” For Jim, participating in the reflection group with Cynthia brought a revelation. Both Jim and Cynthia volunteer for their parish, and Jim has worked in other service areas, but they had been doing this work separately. “Suddenly I asked myself why I had been doing this work alone instead of with my wife of 27 years,” Jim said. “I was so fortunate to have that kind of awakening moment, the most emotional moment of the week.”

Spiritual Inspiration Throughout Lourdes

Another expansion of opportunities for pilgrims to enhance their spiritual lives grew out of the actions of a few individuals. Mary Beth and Bill Fessler, who were the 2015 Co-Chairs, had been quietly, along with a small group, going to the Grotto at midnight to pray the rosary before retiring for the night. Word spread, and last year the Fesslers were encouraged to expand the group. “Donna asked if we would be willing to have others go with us and to organize other opportunities for personal prayer,” Mary Beth said. “We set up trips to special places in Lourdes for spiritual reflection, such as the Stations of the Cross or the Grotto during quiet times.” Bill encourages pilgrims to find opportunity for prayer even in moments they might not normally think of. “You’re learning another way to pray as you journey with your Malade,” he said. “Working with your Malade, in that moment of service, is also a prayer.”

DEEPER INTO CHRISTIAN DEVOTION

The Order of Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes is a shared time of prayer, of laughter, and of grace. Led by our spiritual team, we practice charity, care, compassion and love for our neighbor. We seek and find opportunities to enhance our own spirituality. And we bring ourselves into a spirit of deeper and more generous Christian devotion.



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION
REV. FR. GUY TARDIVY, O.P.
PREPARING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE
OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA TO LOURDES IN 2017

“The Almighty has done great things for me!” *The Magnificat of Hope*



At the close of the year of the Jubilee of Mercy, giving us a roadmap through his Apostolic Letter *Misericordia et misera*, Pope Francis emphasized the joy of forgiveness that wells up in the one who has experienced it. On this subject he says, “*Mercy arouses joy, for the heart opens up to the hope of a new life.*” Pointing to the example of the adulterous woman and another sinful woman of the Gospel, he says, “*what joy... has sprung from the hearts of these two women! ... Forgiveness has finally made them feel free and happy as never before. The joy of forgiveness is inexpressible, but it appears in us whenever we experience forgiveness*” (*Misericordia et misera*, 2).

In this way, the Lord helps us to turn towards the future with hope. The Pope says, “*God's mercy endures for all ages*” (Psalm 136); “*From generation to generation it embraces every person who puts his trust in it, and transforms it by giving it its own life*” (*Misericordia et misera* 2).

Here we discover the theme of Lourdes for this year, 2017: “The Lord has done wonders for me, The Magnificat of hope.” We refer to the joy and jubilation expressed in the canticle of the Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), where God fills Mary with wonder and Mary responds to God by singing of His mercy (Luke 1:50 and 1:54).

This theme fits with the tone set by the 25th World Day of the Sick, which took place at Lourdes on February 11th of this year. As Father André Cabes, Rector of the Sanctuary, said: “In Lourdes, we find a bath of mercy, and we come to this bath to plunge in our poor sick bodies and dried-out hearts. We are invited to look upon human suffering in the merciful way that Mary does.”

In the relationship between Mary and St. Bernadette, we see the joy and the fruitfulness of a life which has allowed God to enter within it; the joy of the small, the humble, and of those suffering from pain or illness. Mary, who completely welcomed the grace and love of God, came to Lourdes to pour into the heart of the humble Bernadette an all-powerful love that continually gives of itself — a love that strengthens and gives hope.

We remember last year, whether we were in Lourdes or in our home dioceses, that as part of the Jubilee celebrations we departed from our usual activities and walked through the Gate of Mercy, which is a sign of Christ, the

only Gate of access to the Father. When we went through the Gate, marking ourselves with holy water in the Sign of the Cross, we reminded ourselves of the grace of our baptism and prayed that it be renewed. This gesture helped us to express our invisible but profound inner reality, recalling the gift of divine life in baptism and the calling that flows from it in our lives. Filled with grace, through reconciliation with the Lord, we have become missionary disciples of Mercy.

By contemplating Christ on the Cross of Calvary, we have experienced the love of God that comforts, forgives and gives hope. At the foot of the Cross we contemplated the examples of the Virgin Mary and Saint John. With St. Bernadette, we learned to welcome Mary as Mother of Mercy: Mary, Help of the Sick; Mary, Refuge of Sinners; Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted.

Let us pause for a moment to look again at the second part of the Magnificat, which proclaims mercy. Mary says, “His mercy extends from age to age” (Luke 1:50), and “He has remembered His promise of mercy” (Luke 1:54). In this powerful prayer, we hear that God has scattered the proud, He has overthrown the mighty, He has lifted up the lowly. It is not only in the past that God worked miracles, according to Mary's prayer. He continues to fulfill His promises in the present and will do so for all eternity.



Mercy brought forth, in the virginal womb of Mary, the Child who came from heaven: Jesus, the Savior. This is the same Jesus who revealed mercy as the supreme requirement for those who wish to imitate the Father.

So it is that, after the healing of a man possessed by a demon, Jesus says to him, “Go home to your own household and tell them what the Lord has done for you; how He has shown mercy to you” (Mark 5: 19). We see that Jesus connects, in this one sentence, the miracle that God performed for this man and an exhortation to praise God for His mercy. Is this not an echo of the Magnificat? Is it not the same message that is sent out to us from Lourdes?

With St. Luke, we see Mary trembling with joy as she prays, just as Jesus trembles as He blesses His Father with these words: “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will” (Luke 10: 21-22).

This “Yes, Father” that was exclaimed by Jesus in the jubilation of His heart is connected, paradoxically, to His humble prayer in Gethsemane: “Abba, Father! For You, everything is possible... But not my will but Yours be done” (Mark 14, 36). And when we hear Jesus say in Gethsemane that for God “everything is possible” we hear an echo of “nothing is impossible to God” — the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. Then, when Jesus says, “not my will but Yours be done,” we think of Mary’s answer to Gabriel: “Let it be done to me according to your word”. Thus, Jesus’s own hymn of joy is connected to the Magnificat of Mary.

In a similar way, St. Paul expressed his own prayer of exultation: “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Cor 1: 3-4). This is precisely the invitation given to us in Lourdes, a unique place in the world where “the most miserable and suffering are ‘exposed.’ Those who are usually hidden encounter those who may be unwilling to see, and they show to us our frailties, our weaknesses, and our handicaps...” as Father André Cabel has said.

During this pilgrimage to Lourdes, we call upon the Virgin Mary as the Help of the Sick, Refuge of Sinners, and Consoler of the Afflicted. This helps us to enter into the spirit of humility and service by which we in the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem are bound to live, following the example of Blessed Gérard. We recommit ourselves to the service of the poor and the sick. Mary is for us an unfailing example, giving merciful consola-

tion to the physically disabled; listening to the broken or hardened of heart.

Mary is also a help to those who serve. She strengthens those who help others. She is always waiting to receive those who seek healing of heart and soul and who long for consolation. Let us entrust to Mary the whole Church, which is the abode of Mercy, and ask Mary especially to safeguard unity among all believers. Mary, who is also known as the Queen of Mercy, will continue her vocation to heal and instruct the faithful in the heart of the Church.

Let us never forget that the praise that Mary offers to God is praise of God’s merciful love, which rains down on those who love Him. The core of our Marian piety is to unite ourselves to Mary’s prayer of praise. Truly, the most beautiful prayer that we can offer God is to make our souls like Mary’s — to sing a song of praise like hers in a spirit of humility and service.

*Rev. Fr. Guy Tardivy o.p.
Conventual Chaplain Grand Cross “ad honorem”
General spiritual director
International Pilgrimage of the
Order of Malta to Lourdes*

THE CANTICLE OF MARY

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
For he has looked upon his
handmaid’s lowliness;
behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.
The Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is from age to age
to those who fear him.
He has shown might with his arm,
dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.
He has thrown down the rulers from their
thrones but lifted up the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things;
the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped Israel his servant,
remembering his mercy,
according to his promise to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

A March for Life with Love

By Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger



Last Friday, I joined the March For Life, the 44th since its inception following *Roe v. Wade* (Jan. 22, 1973), the landmark decision of the Supreme Court legalizing abortion on demand.

It was a day full of joy and youthful exuberance. For me, it was also an experience of being surrounded by love.

My day started too early. I had to set my iPhone for 4:20 a.m. so I could say my prayers and get the morning ablutions done in time to drive to the airport, park in E-Lot, pass through security using the TSA Precheck line (a great timesaver) and arrive at the gate in time for a 6:10 flight to Washington, D.C.

Everything went smoothly. An on-time arrival, a quick 20-minute hop on the Washington, D.C. Metro, and I was in the lobby of the Renaissance Hotel in D.C.'s Chinatown, where I met up with Dr. Joe Dutkowsky, a fellow Knight of Malta who had invited me to accompany that group.

I had wanted to ride a bus down with a group of collegians from Siena College in Loudonville who had kindly invited me, but Ginny Daley, my trusted assistant, had advised me that this would mean two eight-hour treks and at least one “overnight,” which my schedule would not allow. (Albany

is not as close to D.C. as my former home in Brooklyn was, from which I could easily make it on wheels as a day trip.)

After a buffet breakfast, we mounted the bus to St. Patrick's Church, where I celebrated Mass in a church packed with the Knights and Dames, families, students and people of all ages — including a group of high school pilgrims from Ohio, who arrived just in the nick of time.

That made me think. Although I was playing commuter-for-a-day, it was really a pilgrimage for most who were drawn prayerfully from coast to coast to the march.

Starting Mass penitentially, as we always do, with a reminder that Jesus (and none of us) is our Savior, and confessing our sins and attachments to false gods, it seemed worthwhile to recall how Jesus always reaches out to us sinners at their lowest points. God's mercy is never more powerful than when we are most in need of it.

I felt impelled to preach about truth, justice and the American way, Christianizing the heroic motto of that fictional secular savior, Superman:

- We were assembling that day to be witnesses to the truth about the dignity of all human beings, regardless of status, born or unborn.
- We also wanted our message to be more than words, but action on behalf of justice, which is — as the 1971 Synod of Bishops declared — “a constitutive part of preaching the Gospel.”
- We were doing something in “the American way.” gathering peacefully to defend the rights of the poorest of the poor, the most vulnerable among us, the unborn — totally dependent and defenseless — and to support the women who are their mothers, so that the violence of abortion never again is the false and fatal “choice” to which they are abandoned.
- After a quick lunch, we were on the bus again and on our way to the March for Life. Wow! What a colorful sea of humanity. It was amazing. Although the day was not as cold and blustery as some in recent memory, it warmed both heart





and spirit to feel the joy, love and solidarity of such a dynamic and diverse gathering of witnesses.

It was impossible not to absorb the strains of so many different passions and emotions. Absent were the poisons of fear and hatred and the judgmentalism that sometimes accompanies religious and ideological zealotry.

I had the impression that, for many, the March for Life was a mission born of real-life experience, conversion and love: the many women well acquainted with pain, stoned and scarred by their own guilt or the verdict of the self-righteous, but present here now with great courage and conviction, yearning to spread God's mercy...and fathers, too, mourning the women and children they once abandoned. Some of them even carried placards poignantly bearing witness to very personal stories.

What stood out this time to me was not only how young (on average) the marchers were, but how diverse. There were Feminists for Life, reclaiming their rightful battle for the equality of women in all situations of life — born and unborn, pregnant or not — and forming bridges over the false and destructive divisions in our nation with roots stuck in the late 1960s. (Read Sue Ellen Browder's *Subverted: How I Helped the Sexual Revolution Hijack the Women's Movement*, Ignatius Press: San Francisco, 2015).

Another prominent banner, borne by www.secularprolife.org — a website well worth visiting for insight on ways to defend life on human, rational and scientific (not necessarily religious) grounds — was visible high above the throngs as we stood before the U.S. Supreme Court. It proclaimed: "I'm pro-life because every embryology textbook tells me so." Among the many forms of denialism in the face of clear and unassailable scientific evidence, none is less sustainable than what spurns the humanity of the unborn from the moment of conception.

What attracts so many young people to the March for Life? Is it their experience of seeing their own sonograms? Is their natural abhorrence for violence as a means to resolve

conflict, or their sense that the goals of equality and inclusivity are not honest or even credible unless all aggressive forms of violence against human beings cease?

For myself, I wanted to be personally present to do what pastors do: lift people up in prayer and share their joys and sorrows. A passion for life and love is a wonderful experience to share.

At one point, standing before the Supreme Court, we noticed and heard a small but boisterous band of protesters, propounding the "War on Women" trope. No one was shouting back. No voices were silenced. But my group, across First Street, N.E., decided to pray the Rosary.

We had no megaphone and I doubt anyone could hear us much — except

those who began to join us, including a cameraman from EWTN, who captured the moment.

As we continued, the din of the shouters across the street gradually seemed to dim. "That's how Mary does things," one of the pilgrims observed. We were all at peace.

The day was not over: A reporter from the TWC television station in Albany had been trying, unsuccessfully, to phone me for an interview to be recorded for the evening broadcast. After two attempts, we finally connected. By that time, I was back on the bus for our next stop, at a Catholic Charities center, for a bowl of homemade chicken noodle soup and a tuna salad sandwich (oh, and the best hot chocolate I've had all winter).

The Knights and Dames, as is their custom, were hosting a group of young people and about 20 Sisters of Life, as fresh, joyful and vibrant at 4:30 p.m. after completing the march as if it were the crack of dawn.

Soon, I was back on the Metro, headed to the airport. My 8:30 p.m. flight was delayed an hour or so and made a hard landing in Albany on a wind-swept runway. In flight, I had been dreaming of whipping up a double hamburger with my own version of McDonald's special sauce when I got home, but the seduction of sleep overruled the pangs of hunger. I barely had my hat off before my bed peacefully swallowed me up for the night.

Grateful for a day of amazing grace and for all of the wonderful people I was blessed to share it with, I wanted to end it as I had begun and spent it, in prayer. I started my Rosary as usual, but only made it through the first decade. The angels had to finish it.

Maybe that happens more often than we realize.

Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger is a Conventual Chaplain in the Upstate New York Area. Follow the Bishop at www.facebook.com/AlbBishopEd and on Twitter @AlbBishopEd.

American Association Joins in the March for Life 2017



The American Association marched with hundreds of thousands of people from around the nation in Washington, DC, peacefully praying that our society will come to respect life from the moment of conception to its natural death. Co-chairs Nancy and Dr. Robert Graebe and Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky joined a contingent of members of the Order from the American and Federal Associations to make a statement about the value of life.

This year's March for Life was moved from its traditional date to Friday, January 26th, because of the Presidential Inauguration. The events began the day before for the Knights and Dames from the American and Federal Associations with a Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is fitting that this prayerful event began at the Shrine to our Blessed Mother that is dedicated to her own Conception. At the request of the USCCB, a small number of Dames and Knights were once again given the honor and privilege of escorting and assisting the disabled for the Vigil Mass. Karen and Bob Tanzola, Robert and Nancy Graebe, Joe Dutkowsky, Harvey Rowe, Janet Parry, Peggy Stanton, Gregory Oussani and Bill Williams participated. Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Principal Chaplain of the American Association was the celebrant and homilist at this important opening Mass of the two-day events.

The American and Federal Associations gathered for Mass on Friday morning at St Patrick's Church hosted by the Federal Association. The Celebrant was Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, a Conventual Chaplain from the Upstate New York Area. The Mass was also attended by two large groups of high school students from New Jersey and Maryland. The number of young people involved in the broad scope of activities was very heartening.

In the afternoon, members and guests from the American and Federal Associations assembled at 10th Street and Constitution Avenue. More than sixty Knights, Dames and volunteers marched behind the banner of the Order and under the Icon of Our Lady of Philermos carried by Knights of the Order. The group was led by Kenneth Sapeta who carried the Order of Malta flag. When they arrived in front of the Supreme Court building, they were led in the rosary by Bishop Scharfenberger. The group then began to sing hymns and were quickly joined in song by hundreds of the marchers as they passed by.

Following the March, the group proceeded to the Church of the Holy Rosary where the American Association hosted a post March reception. They were joined by almost one hundred twenty Knights, Dames and guests, among them the Sisters of Life, for food and fellowship. On Friday evening, the American Association was represented at the Rose Dinner, where Cardinal Dolan, Chair of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was the keynote speaker.

In an interview about the March for Life, Cardinal Dolan commented that more and more people are getting involved. And he noted that younger people are getting involved; he said they know that something is wrong with the culture of death that has gripped our beloved country, a country that was built upon the inalienable right to life. The Cardinal said that more and more people are standing up — as Jews, as Christians, as men and women of no religion, or any religion at all.

The March continues because people of faith and of conscience believe that there is an obligation to protect those most vulnerable, "the most fragile, innocent form of life now under attack — namely the baby in the womb."

This article was contributed by Nancy Graebe, Co-chair of the American Association's Pilgrimage for Life. She can be reached at ngraebe@aol.com.



Communications Update

Chris Poch, Communications Committee Chair

Last year we surveyed the membership, Area Chairs and Hospitallers to get suggestion how to improve our communications to you. From your feedback, we have been busy at work, coordinating with the other associations and designing a new strategy, website and mobile application. Two teams have been reviewing existing content and creating new content, while the third team has focused on improving the delivery of the content. We solicited proposals, selected a vendor, assembled our internal teams and created a new position for a communications specialist. I am pleased to tell you we have made significant progress.

GREAT LEADERSHIP

The first thing we did was to find the right people to lead the projects. We could not have found a better duo than Dwight and Cindy Risky in Plano, Texas. Dwight has been the primary lead coordinating with our NY staff and external vendor and keeping the implementation group on task. The enhanced Mobile app is phase two, and Linda Del Rio has been instrumental in guiding this aspect, kicking-off the build as we go to print. On nearly every call, Ed Delaney has been an integral part of the vision and leadership team.

BETTER EXPERIENCE

As you requested, the new website will be more intuitive, less cluttered and easier to navigate. It will also conform to the global standards required by the Grand Magistry. In the process of moving our existing content to the new site, every page (over 1,000) will have been reviewed, checked for accuracy and updated or deleted. We will be verifying links, adding photos and scrolling news, and at some point, imbedding video.



ENHANCED FUNCTIONALITY

The part I am most excited about is the enhanced functionality. Changes include reducing the number of clicks everywhere possible to do things like sign up for retreats, masses, and pilgrimages. In the past, members may have had to print out forms, fill them out by hand and scan or mail them back with a check. In the future, we plan to have pre-populated forms with your information from the membership directory; future development plans include creating an ability for a one-click process to charge your credit card on file for the fee. One page, three or four clicks, and you are signed up! When available, you will be notified.

AREA WEBSITES IMPROVEMENTS

Perhaps the biggest productivity lift will be for the hardest working members of our Order, the Area Chairs, Hospitallers and Membership Chairs. We are revamping the entire Area Chair site and calendaring process. With the guidance of the three largest and most active areas, we will be implementing significant improvements. Again, the idea is to make the Area Leadership jobs much easier and less time-consuming. Full details will be shared at the Area Leadership Meeting in June in New York.

By the time it is finished, the group will have put in close to 500 volunteer hours on this project. But our job is really never done so we will initiate a brief annual email survey to solicit your feedback on ways we can continue to improve our communications.

I want to thank all of the people who have helped to make this project a success and, you the members, for all you do in your communities each day.



Association Retreat – A Search for Holiness

Bishop Frank Caggiano, Conventual Chaplain from Bridgeport, CT, stood in front of more than fifty retreatants in the chapel at the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida and said we were gathered there to paint a canvas on the mystery of sin and the mystery of holiness through:

Courage (Will), Truth(Mind), and Holy Desire (Heart).

Over the course of three Masses, four sessions, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and in morning and evening prayer, the bishop challenged those in attendance (including himself) to be open to the message and the meaning of the Gospel — we are called to lead a life that pursues holiness. Bishop Caggiano reminded each of those present that such a pursuit was fraught with challenges. He said that the devil was both evil and cunning and was prepared to use your strengths against you.

The setting at the Retreat Center is beautiful, laid out to provide space for contemplation and opportunities for companionship. The Chapel overlooks the twelfth station with Mary and James standing at the foot of the Crucifix. In the background is a serene lake. One is challenged not to acknowledge that God is present and comes to each person in his or her own way.

The ebb and flow of the retreat is built around the Eucharist. Bishop Caggiano started his message and theme for the retreat at Mass to open the retreat and concluded with his final message on Sunday morning at Mass at the close of the retreat. He said, “God loves you beyond your wildest imagination! The way you respond to God’s love is through charity.” Charity, expressed in the hands-on work of the Order, provides the energy and the motion of our response to God’s love. Responding to God’s love requires more than just knowledge; it requires action

— the persistent acts of charity.

The pursuit of holiness can come through acts of charity — it is important to recognize that the holiness we pursue is not a ‘thing’ but a Person. The Bishop chose the three saints whose feasts overlaid the days of the retreat as examples of the three characteristics he built on during the retreat. Saint Patrick lived a life of courage, returning to a land where he had been enslaved and beaten for many years, bringing the message of love in the Gospel. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem spent much of his adult life in opposition to the Arian heresy that proposed that Christ was not divine. Saint Joseph sought perfection through holy desire for God.

God builds His community, the Church. The early Christians understood that a community required full sharing across all the members of the community. “You actually get more for yourself when you participate in a community where



sharing is the basis of relationships.”

Bishop Caggiano raised a point that does not necessarily get a lot of focus in a world that deems suffering as an evil. “When you love Jesus fully, suffering is inevitable — no one can love fully without suffering.” The Bishop reminded the retreatants of the comment of Mother Teresa that we cannot all do great things but we can do small things with great love. “We need to take things one step at a time, little by little.”

Participants were reminded often, “Holiness is a gift from God.” We must pursue holiness relentlessly. The Bishop said to ask for the gift of courage and perseverance. “When the enemy comes, the father of evil is very much at work; he is trying to prevent us from pursuing holiness. The attacks will come at our weakest time.” The Bishop said that the greatest enemy to holiness equals the greatest enemy to love. Today, we face a world whose creed is that “my life is about me.” Courage equals choosing the good “which is not about me, it is about community and about love.”

Bishop Caggiano said, “The big lie is that the truth begins and ends with me; this is the doctrine that began about 400 years ago with Descartes’ statement, ‘I think, therefore I am.’” In our search for holiness, the Bishop said that our task is to open as many doors as possible in seeking the truth. To get at the truth, you have to get out of the way and have true humility. “You must keep your feet firmly planted in the dirt.” When Jesus said that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, he was not referring to three things but to one, Himself. Saint Cyril of Jerusalem spent much of his adult life defending the truth in the face of heresy. He persisted in defending the truth of the divinity of Christ against the Arian heresy which said that Christ was only a man, not God. This perseverance can be a model for us in our struggle to always seek the truth.

Bishop Caggiano suggested each participant take time at some point to make a list of everything in their life that is of value to them. He said the list had to be complete as anything not

on the list could no longer be included as part of the person’s journey in life. Then, cross out the least important half of the list; and then, cross out half of what remained. Repeat the process of eliminating half the list each time for a total of five times to get an idea of what is truly important in your life. In the end, the only thing important in life is Christ.

Saint Joseph provides an example of the meaning of holy desire. Holy desire is to seek the things that matter (that is, seek Jesus) while becoming unattached to things that don’t really matter (which would be everything else).

As many of the participants undoubtedly felt at the end of the retreat, they were challenged but encouraged to move forward. If you want guidance in your pursuit of spiritual growth, a retreat with Bishop Caggiano can put you in the right direction. It will be a challenge; if you are up to it, you should be at the 2018 Spring retreat where the good Bishop will once again open the path to the pursuit of holiness.



The Innkeepers

By Marissa Blackett, DM

During a Holy Land pilgrimage, as we made our way to visit Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem on a sunny October morning, I wondered where the Inn that had no room for Mary and Joseph was. Was it beside the Church of the Nativity, the spot where Jesus was born according to Christian tradition? What was the Inn called? The Bethlehem Inn, Judea Inn, Ramada Inn? Did it really matter? Then I recalled the words of Catholic convert Dorothy Day. “Christ is always with us, always asking for room in our hearts.” The penny finally dropped! Each of us is that Inn wherever we are. For the Hospital in particular, many chaplains of the Order of

Malta have exemplified the modern day Innkeeper — making room for Jesus in innovative ways.

In the American Association, it started in Greenwich Village, NY, when the late Fr. John McGuire, then principal chaplain of our Subpriory, opened his parish doors at the Church of St. Joseph in support of the Hospital. He allowed initial torchbearer Ellen Shafer, Board Chair of Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation, to make appeals on behalf of the Hospital at all Masses during an Advent weekend in 2014. Over the last two years, the number of “Innkeepers” grew (see sidebar) and spread from New York City to Long Island, NY; Arlington, New Providence and Summit, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; and Greenwich, CT.

With more Innkeepers opening their doors, the number of Mass pulpit appeals rose six fold from four in 2014 to twenty-four in 2016. The number

of Knights and Dames who spoke before the congregation, and manned entrances collecting donations and fielding questions about the Hospital and the Order of Malta rose proportionately during the last two years. Some did more than double duty; in all, they filled ninety-five volunteer slots in 2016. That’s not counting the participation of the religious ed students at Holy Family Church by the UN in New York. With their Babies In Bethlehem collection boxes on hand, they raised awareness weeks before the second collection appeal, boosting their parish’s results.

Back in New Jersey, another Innkeeper, Fr. Sal DiStefano, ChD broke multiple records, accounting for 37% of all funds raised in 2016. He reached a record high for a one-day fundraising event at Oratory Prep School in Summit, where he serves as school chaplain. The school also participated in the HFHF’s Babies in Bethlehem program. His dedication was on full display during the Advent weekends, as he engaged parishioners at Our Lady of Peace in New Providence and at Queen of Peace in North Arlington. He has now put together a small ad hoc committee of Order of Malta friends to explore how they can expand fund raising efforts for the Foundation in the future.

Last year’s journey funded 104 baby deliveries at Holy Family Hospital. It was a proud moment as the chaplains, Knights, and Dames displayed the esprit de corps of the Order of Malta. It also raised a broader awareness of what the Order is about today and even brought back inactive members. I’m reminded of the words of encouragement of chaplain Fr. Pat O’Neill, “You’ll never know whose hearts you’ll touch.” In the end, it’s about the grace that we all receive as we and those we touch make room to promote Christian charity — in the words of Pope Francis, so “that all those who are afflicted especially the poor, refugees and marginalized may find welcome and comfort in our communities.”



Fr. Gerry Murray’s religious ed students participated in Babies In Bethlehem program, boosting results of the 2nd collection appeal at his U.N. church.



Fr. Sal DiStefano handing a check to Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Board Chair, Ellen S. Shafer at a NY brunch for Malades and Caregivers





At Holy Family Hospital, Christian and Muslim staff welcome the poor and the sick of any race or religion — day and night — despite regional conflict and unannounced border and road closures. Their united effort fosters peace through medicine, adding a unique dimension to our Order's work as Hospitallers.

In an area where the unemployment rate is a staggering 70%, Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem is the second largest employer in the area, bringing much needed employment and income. Our work gives dignity to those who serve and are served.

Our work is expanding thanks to the growing collaboration of our chaplains. In their role as teachers of human virtues and Christian charity, our chaplains have made room in their Celestial Inn and inspired many both within and outside the Order to make room for Jesus. In so doing, they have allowed us to welcome and tangibly connect with our afflicted sisters and brothers in the birthplace of our Lord so that they too may always find room in our Hospital inn. Their room rate — and the grace we have all received because of them — are PRICELESS.

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation is a shared work of all three US associations. It is a registered 501(c)(3) located at 2000 P St., N.W., Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20036. For more information, visit www.birthplaceofhope.org or contact Jennifer McNulty, Foundation Director at (202) 785-0801 or jennifer@hfhfoundation.org. American Association contacts include Ellen Shafer, GCDOb, Gail Berardino, DM and Marissa Blackett, DM.

THE INNKEEPERS

The late Fr. John P. McGuire, ChC
Church of St. Joseph, New York, NY

Msgr. William J. Fadrowski, ChM
Queen of Peace Church, No. Arlington, NJ

Msgr. Douglas J. Mathers, ChM
Church of St. John the Evangelist, New York, NY
Archdiocese of New York Schools

Fr. Gerald E. Murray, Jr., ChM
Holy Family Church, New York, NY

Msgr. Frank J. Caldwell, ChM
St. Martha's Catholic Church, Uniondale, NY

Fr. Ian Jeremiah, ChM
St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Greenwich, CT

Fr. Joseph R. Johnson ChM
Church of the Holy Family, Minneapolis, MN

Fr. Patrick H. O'Neill, ChM
Miami, FL

Fr. Michael R. Rock, ChD
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Philadelphia, PA
Radnor Studio television interview

Fr. Salvatore DiStefano, ChD
Oratory Preparatory School, Summit, NJ
Queen of Peace Church, No. Arlington, NJ
Our Lady of Peace, New Providence, NJ





Order of Malta: 25th Annual Meeting of Hospitallers

On March 16, 2017, in Paris, France, members of the Order from five continents gathered for the 25th Annual Meeting of Hospitallers; there were 32 countries represented. The meeting was chaired by the Grand Hospitaller of the Order, H.E. Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel. Monsignor Jean Laffitte, the Prelate of the Order, addressed the group with his remarks on “A Christian Sense of Volunteering.” We look forward to hosting him during the November 2017 American Association Investiture in New York, November 3, 2017.

Austria, France, and Germany are actively involved along with many other countries in one of the key initiatives of the Order: processing of migrants and refugees. Emphasis in 2016 / 2017 is placed on Integration, Assimilation, and Re-integration for those who may return to their home countries. The goal in many cases is to welcome refugees with dignity and respect while protecting them on their way.

Integration challenges for many countries include medical relief, language, education, employment, financial support, tolerance, the role of women within a new culture, and

unaccompanied minors under the age of 10. Christian prayer rooms are set up in all facilities with pictures of Our Lady.

Countries supporting the homeless and elderly with day care and soup kitchens include Belgium, Great Britain, Spain, France, Switzerland and Russia.

The American Association was pleased to present an update on the US Prison Ministry program.

Today the North American Prison Ministry Apostolate consists of the leadership of the three United States Associations and the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta. It is the largest Catholic outreach to the incarcerated and their families in the world with involvement by over 2,500 Knights, Dames, auxiliary, chaplains and volunteers.

Over the last ten years, the ministry to the poor and the sick has become well known through the Western Hemisphere, reaching 37 countries. Each of the 75 participants received copies of the religious materials distributed in our prisons including: Bibles, Prayer Books, Prayer Cards and books on re-entry (The Malta Justice Initiative). Great interest was expressed in ordering copies of the Bibles and Prayers books in two languages (English and Spanish).

Prison Ministry initiatives are currently underway in the following countries: the Island of Malta, Great Britain (summer 2017), Brazil, Portugal, and Lebanon.

Additional information may be found on the Order of Malta American Association web site: www.orderofmaltaamericanasociation.org or by contacting Gail T. Berardino at gtoberardino@gmail.com



Spirituality in Action: A Resource Guide



The hands-on work of Knights and Dames is the pathway to their own spiritual growth in the tradition of Blessed Gerard. One of the reasons that the Order has survived for more than nine hundred years is that it has never lost its commitment to its fundamental purpose — members seeking to serve the Lord by serving the sick and the poor.

Over the years, the projects in which members have been involved have covered a wide range of activities, from Eucharistic ministry to serving on a medical brigade to visiting a man on death row. Members interested in the Order because of their inclination to serve the sick and the poor as a way of enhancing their own spiritually will be happy to know that an updated resource is now available in the “Members Only” Section of the website. Open the section with your user ID and your password. Click on “Spirituality in Action Resource Book.” The PDF version of the guide will be there — just click to open it. (You can contact the New York office if you need help getting your ID and/or Password.)

Area leaders have provided information on the hands-on projects in which their members participate; Gail Berardino, American Association Hospitaller, Camille Kelleher, American Association Vice Hospitaller and Matt LaRose, from the New York office, worked together to compile all the information into a useful reference guide for your use.

The table of contents will provide you with the page where you can find all of the Area project summaries that were submitted for publication. Or you can simply click on the Area name and you will automatically be brought to that Area’s section. The contact information for the Area leadership is listed on the first page of each Area section. There are over one hundred twenty-five projects with information about hands-on work, representing over forty thousand hours of volunteer work, valued at more than \$800,000. In addition, Area Grants (including Association funding) totals over \$480,000.

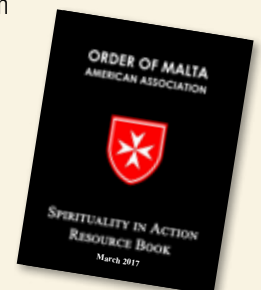
Each entry includes contact information for the project.

The primary purpose of the guide is to assist members in the Areas in identifying available projects and in making contact information easily available for those projects in which they might want to participate. The Guide can also be a valuable resource, providing ideas and inspiration for other Areas looking to expand the number of projects available in their Areas. Contact information from project coordinators whose projects are already up and running can serve as a valuable resource for someone trying to get started in another Area. ‘Right click’ the contact’s e-mail address and you can copy it for pasting in your email note to get started right away.

The updated Resource Guide is one of a number of ways in which the American Association supports the work in the local Areas. Its content also supports requirements of the Order in Rome to share information about hands-on work in the Association. If your Area missed the deadline for submission of information on projects in your Area, or if we inadvertently omitted one of your activities, please let the Office know. The Resource Book’s new format makes adding and editing much easier than previous editions.

The Hospitaller and Vice Hospitaller assist the Association in fulfilling its mission of service to the sick and poor and in witnessing the Roman Catholic Faith by fostering the development and implementation of opportunities for hands-on work for the Association’s members.

Gail Berardino (gtberardino@gmail.com) is the American Association Hospitaller; Camille Kelleher (camillekelleher@aol.com) is the American Association Vice Hospitaller. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please contact Gail or Camille.



(continued from page 2)

OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP

Another place of grace and growth is the Green Bay, Wisconsin Area. Last year, the American and Federal Associations joined together in pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. This year, we will join again and expect to double the number of pilgrims who meet in Green Bay in August to pray at the only recognized site of a Marian apparition in the United States. Materials were sent out to you at the end of March. We are expecting one hundred people from the American Association to join with a similar number from the Federal Association to make this a great success in terms of numbers. Beyond the numbers, this pilgrimage is special in terms of the opportunity for members to share the pilgrimage experience with Malades and Caregivers when they might not be able to go to Lourdes. Because of the timing, rigor, expense, and proximity, this Marian pilgrimage, approved by the Order as a viable alternative for those who cannot visit Lourdes, is a tremendous alternative. And for many, it is the only alternative. For those who have been to Lourdes, the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help offers a different experience to be in the presence of the Blessed Mother in another place where she appeared. Look for the registration material; if you are interested, please send your registration in early — this pilgrimage is expected to be filled quickly.

MARCH FOR LIFE

It does not seem like almost three months have passed since people gathered in Washington to celebrate life in the annual March for Life. While scheduling conflicts precluded my being there, this year's March was a tremendous success by any measure. Thanks to Nancy & Dr. Robert Graebe and Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky, co-chairs for this event, for their effort and their commitment to the cause and to the event. I asked before and I ask you again to pray for those children who will never have a chance to live, for their parents, for all those who are pregnant and for all those who are considering having an abortion.

Continue to pray for those who lead the battle to protect the lives of those most defenseless members of our society.

ASSOCIATION RETREAT

Retreats can provide a chance to withdraw from the constant noise of our society into an environment designed to foster spiritual introspection. This year, we were again blessed to have Bishop Frank Caggiano as our retreat master and he did not disappoint. Focused on the holiness of the three saints whose feast days we celebrated while at the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida, Bishop Caggiano drew from the lives of Saint Patrick, Saint Cyril and Saint Joseph to lay a path to spiritual growth. More than fifty Knights, Dames, and Candidates in the Year of Preparation joined in prayer, reflection and friendship for this special event.

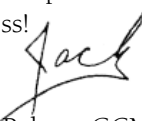
The next retreat will be in September and I encourage you to consider registering. Bishop John O'Hara from New York will be the retreat master. The Retreat Center at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception on Long Island is convenient to many hundreds of our members. Check the website or call the New York office.

ASSOCIATION BOUNDARIES

At the last meeting of the Sovereign Council in 2016, a proposal to create boundaries for the American and Federal Associations was approved; unfortunately, it differed from the proposal that the two Associations had agreed to in advance of the meeting. Because of that, I have written to the Sovereign Council and asked them to review the decision at their next meeting. As soon as there is more clarity around the decision, I will communicate directly with the membership.

I close this message as I opened it — with the hope that this Easter may bring you great blessings and a strong focus on the mission of our Order; we grow spiritually with the grace flowing from the Risen Christ as we live our charism to help the sick and the poor while giving witness to our Holy Faith.

God Bless!



Jack E. Pohrer, GCM, President

■ IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members: January 1, 2017 – Present

Lauren M. Bilyeu, DM
Rev. Msgr. Patrick E. Brown, ChM
Thomas F. Carney, MD, KM
Frederick P. Crowe, KM
Beverly June Heffernan, DM
John Roger Hirl, KM

Massapequa, NY
Wayne, NJ
Manalapan, FL
South Bend, IN
Ypsilanti, MI
Dallas, TX

Thomas F. Keogh, KM
Francis H. Ludington, Jr., KM
Albert Makkay, KM
Rhody Joseph Megal, KM
Robert D. Ouellette, MD, KM
Ann R. Peabody, GCDM

Old Lyme, CT
Pelham Manor, NY
Centerville, MA
Wauwatosa, WI
West Boylston, MA
New York, NY



New Neighbors Coming to 1011 First Avenue, 13th Floor

Major General (Ret.) Thomas A. Wessels, KMOB, President of Malteser International Americas, recently announced that the U.S.-based office of Malteser International will relocate to New York City, from Miami, beginning Monday, July 3, 2017. The decision to make this move was based on a full year of planning and assessment. He noted, "I am looking ahead with excitement as the organization takes a major stride and relocates to be closer to the United Nations, key influencers, international humanitarian partners, and other NGOs."

Major General Wessels said that H.E. Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan graciously offered space in the New York Catholic Center, the Archdiocese Building of New York, as the new home. The building also houses the Order of Malta American Association, Catholic Charities, and other Catholic entities.

The strategic decision to relocate brings the Order of Malta's disaster relief organization to the epicenter of the humanitarian world. In doing so, Malteser International Americas will be positioned as a more accessible leader in the international relief and development community.

That critical accessibility enables the organization to more actively shape the future of emergency response and sustainable development on the global scale. It also places the organization in position for long-term, sustainable growth. Currently, Malteser International is a strategic partner of the World Health Organization's Global Health Cluster and is



anticipating approval with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

It is hoped that the relocation will further develop the opportunity to help even more children and families who are suffering in the Americas and around the globe. It is through Malteser International Americas -the humanitarian arm of the Order of Malta- which allows Knights and Dames to uphold the Order's 900 year commitment to help the suffering and to address a core spiritual mission of the Order: serving those in need, especially the poor and sick.

Malteser International Americas President Wessels reaffirmed that Malteser International Americas will

continue to act on Catholic values and beliefs from its new home in New York City, next to the Order of Malta American Association. The President, Board and, staff look forward to steering the organization towards more growth, so that their actions speak louder than words.

Malteser International Americas is an affiliate of Malteser International, the global humanitarian relief and development agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta. The President, as noted, is Major General (Ret) Thomas A. Wessels, KMOB, of the Federal Association; the Vice President is Edward J. Delaney, KM, of the American Association, and the Executive Director is Ravi Tripptrap.

For more information about Malteser International, visit their website at www.orderofmaltarelieff.org.



Ellen Nunez



Ellen Powers



Jill Watson



Ravi Tripptrap

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

April 16

Easter Sunday

April 25-26

New York City

Chaplains' Convocation

May 3-9

Lourdes Pilgrimage

May 18

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

May 25

Ascension Thursday

June 1-4

Malvern, PA

Sub-Priory Retreat

June 21-22

New York City

Area Leadership Meeting

June 24

John the Baptist

August 3-6

Wisconsin

Pilgrimage to
Our Lady of Good Help

August 15

Assumption

September 7

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

September 8

Our Lady of Philermo

September 11-22

Pilgrimage to Fatima,
Lourdes and others

September 22-24

Huntington, NY

Retreat at Immaculate
Conception Seminary

October 8-17

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

November 1

All Saints Day

November 2-4

Investiture Weekend Events

November 2

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

November 3

Annual Meeting, Investiture,
Annual Dinner

November 23

Thanksgiving Day

December 3

First Day of Advent

December 8

Immaculate Conception

December 25

Christmas

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

1011 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 1350

NEW YORK, NY 10022-4112 USA

Telephone: 212-371-1522 Fax: 212-486-9427

www.orderofmaltaamerican.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICE STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey R. Trexler

Executive Director

Raymond J. LaRose

Assistant Executive Director,
Newsletter, Board Meetings

Kathleen L. Lyons

Controller

Maria Di Giacomo

Administrative Assistant
for Member Services

Carla L. Gunerard

Program Coordinator
for Major Events

Matthew T. LaRose

IT Systems Manager/Assistant to the Controller

Tiffany A. Mazza

Communications Specialist

Miquan A. McLaurin

Administrative/Accounting Assistant

Design/Production: Rappy & Company, Inc.

Articles for future issues of this
newsletter should be mailed to:

Raymond J. LaRose

American Association

1011 First Avenue, Suite 1350,

New York, NY 10022

or sent via email to:

rlarose@orderofmaltaamerican.org

© 2017 Order of Malta®,

American Association, U.S.A.

*Photos for this issue have been graciously provided by
Michelle Babyak, and others.*

Change of address (physical or virtual)?

Please notify the New York office of all
changes of address.

If your primary mailing address or your e-mail
address changes, please be sure to notify the
American Association's administrative team. Just
send a note to the New York office or send an e-mail
to Miquan@orderofmaltaamerican.org or call
our office at **212-371-1522**. Maintaining correct
addresses ensures that you will receive mailings
on a timely basis. It can also save the American
Association a significant amount of time and money.

Our Mission

The American Association of the Order of Malta, carefully observing the centuries-old
tradition of the Order, has as its mission, to enhance the glory of God through the
sanctification of its members, through dedication to and defense of the faith and the
Holy See and through service to our fellow man, especially the sick and poor.