

NEW YORK



CITY AREA

December News Flash

Advent began, this year, on December 3rd, so what better way to get into the spirit of the new liturgical year than to use our First Monday Mass on December 4th as an opportunity for spiritual recollection? We were honored to have Bishop John O'Hare, Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem* of the Order, celebrate our regular monthly evening Mass, with chaplains Msgr. Douglas Mathers and Fr. Gabriel Gillen as concelebrants. After Mass, Bishop O'Hara spoke to us about the meaning of Advent and how we should prepare for the coming celebration of Christmas, interspersed with humorous reflections of Christmases past.

An evening of Advent Recollection was a new approach for the NYC Area and proved quite successful as at least 60 members, Prep and Auxiliary attended. A similar evening event for Lent is being considered.

Holy Family Hospital

Continuing an Advent tradition begun several years ago, parish appeals to benefit Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem were conducted this month. We extend special thanks to Msgr. Douglas Mathers and Fr. Gerry Murray for allowing members of the Order to speak to their parishioners about the Hospital and solicit donations after each Mass over a designated weekend during Advent. Organized by Marissa Blackett and Ellen Shafer, poignant descriptions of the Hospital were delivered by a Member or Auxiliary at each Mass while other Members, Aux, and family passed out leaflets and collected donations at the back of each church. The willingness of all who volunteered was greatly appreciated.

Holy Family Hospital was also the beneficiary of a Viennese Concert on December 7th held at the residence of Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the Holy See's Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer to the United Nations. Organized by members of the Auxiliary Luisa Majnoni, Rory McCarthy and Martin Steinbauer, the evening included a wonderful performance by Lauren Andree, AUX, and caroling led by an accappella group from NYU. Mulled wine, champagne and Viennese pastries topped off the evening.



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Terence Cardinal Cooke Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 10th, a large group of NYC Area Members, Prep and Auxiliary gathered at TCC to wrap gifts, serve dessert and beverages to residents of TCC, and generally socialize with our guests while listening to the Christmas music of Squeaky Clean. Some even danced in the aisles as all awaited the arrival of Santa and his bag of gifts! This year marked the 25th year the Order of Malta in NYC has hosted the Christmas party. Many thanks to John Ottosen for acting as Santa.



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NYC Area Annual Christmas Party

Not quite as long standing a tradition---only 14 years, but the NYC Area gathered after the TCC party for a Christmas party of its own. Hosted and underwritten by George & Jeannie Irish and Rory & Camille Kelleher, this annual party raises funds for NYC Area Order of Malta projects and provides a wonderful opportunity for further camaraderie. As in recent years, we were also delighted to be led in Christmas caroling by Dr. Jen Pasqual, director of St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir and Sal Basile, a member of the choir.





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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 2018 **First Monday Mass** will be celebrated on Monday, January 8th.

2018 **Pilgrimage for Life at the March for Life** in Washington, D.C.: January 18-19

The deadline for registration for this event has been extended to January 6th. With the approval of the Order's Prelate, Bishop Jean Laffitte, the pilgrimage has been recognized the Pilgrimage as "a worthy activity of the Order, the American Association and its members: Culture of Life is truly an important focus area for our Order."

Members who have yet to participate in an Order of Malta pilgrimage, and those who are in their Year of Preparation, should consider participation in the March for Life as a substitution for the Lourdes Pilgrimage if they are unable, for family or personal reasons, to accompany the Order to Lourdes in the near future.