



### Newsletter—February 2018

#### Defense of the Faith Symposium

Our annual Defense of the Faith Symposium will be held on Sunday, March 18, 2018, at 4:00PM at St. John Neumann Catholic High School, 3000 53rd St SW, Naples. Our speaker will be Bishop Frank Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice. He will be speaking on issues of faith in today's church. The symposium is open to the public, so please bring friends. A question and answer session and reception will follow the presentation.

#### February Mini-Retreat

Our mini-retreat on February 2 was very well attended, with over 70 members and guests. The day started with Mass celebrated by our retreat master, Father Ian Jeremiah from Greenwich, Connecticut and Father George Ratzmann, our chaplain. After Mass, Father Jeremiah gave an inspiring conference focused on the pursuit of joy, rather than happiness, through a Christ centered life. He gave us a number of pithy questions to ask ourselves on a regular basis. They included, "If I find myself farther from God, who moved?" and, "For whom am I working". He also suggested a prayer to help us focus: "Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner". Below see Father Jeremiah, Father Ratzmann and the robed attendees from the Naples Area.



#### Friday 1st Friday Dinner

Our regular 1st Friday dinner followed the Mini-Retreat at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. We expressed our appreciation to Debbie and Jean Brunel for their great job organizing the retreat. We were honored to have with us as a first time visitor, Cissie Ix, a member of the first group of Dames to be invested in the American Association in 1985. She, along with Ann Peabody and other Dames, initiated the Association's first Lourdes Pilgrimage and she traveled the country helping to establish the Association's Area structure.

Beth Rubino, also joined us for the first time. Other guests included Father Jeremiah, Mary Campo, Development Director for St. John Neumann Catholic High School and our after dinner speaker, Michael DiScala, guest of Chris Hussey and Alice Smith, guest of Ave Bransford. Three of our four candidates in their year of preparation were on hand (Maria Joyce, Steve Orr and Ken Peach).

We awarded anniversary pins to Tom and Maripat Dalum (5 years), Paul Broughton (15 years), Carl and Joanne Kuehner (20 years), Marcella Logue (25 years) and David D'Eramo (35 years). Carl Kuehner missed the picture and Dennis Logue, who was invested with Marcella in 1993, is pictured, although his pin was overlooked.



We celebrated February birthdays by singing "Happy Birthday" to Ave Bransford, Paul Boughton, Cissie Ix, Chris Kroeger, Marcella Logue and Ken Muraski.

We also thanked all those who turned out to help Hope for Haiti pack meals in January. There was an overwhelming turnout, enabling the group to pack over 75,000 meals for Haiti and thousands of extras that were sent to the needy in this area. Finally we expressed our gratitude to those who have contributed toward the Victims of Human Trafficking Backpack Program. The response had been wonderful. We currently have sufficient funds to provide 30 backpacks to those who escape from human trafficking.

**It costs \$130 to fill a backpack. If you would like to contribute, send your check made out to the Order of Malta in any amount to Pete Bewley, 2174 Miramonte Way, Naples, FL 34105.**

The evening concluded with remarks by Mary Campo on the benefits of Catholic schooling and the wonderful education and extra-curricular opportunities being offered by St. John Neumann Catholic High School, the site of our Defense of the Faith Symposium on March 18.



#### Ministries

We have highlighted the work of several of your ministries.

**Power Pack:** We are reminded that our Power Pack program, packing weekend food bags for poor elementary school children in East Naples, is up to 230 bags a week and growing. All are invited to help out on Wednesday mornings at 9:00AM. The location is in flux so please contact Tom O'Reilly at [toriiinap@aol.com](mailto:toriiinap@aol.com), or 239-451-0015 to participate.

**Respect Life:** Our presence at Planned Parenthood is having a significant impact on abortion. We pray the Rosary at 8:45AM (**new time**) every Monday (except legal holidays) at the corner of Goodlette Frank and Creech Roads in Naples. Please contact BJ Barone at [BJB@bjbarone.com](mailto:BJB@bjbarone.com) or 239-825-9259 to participate.

**Aid to the Homebound:** JoAnne Kuehner heads our ministry to assist Naples Area Malta members who are ill or incapacitated (i.e.: broken ankle etc.), or who are tending to an ill or incapacitated spouse. Volunteers may help with meals, provide assistance with transportation to a doctor, do food shopping, provide companionship or stay with a physically incapacitated spouse to allow a Malta member to leave home for food shopping, etc. Assistance may include the Eucharist if the volunteer is a Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound. Please contact JoAnne at [joanne@hopeforhaiti.com](mailto:joanne@hopeforhaiti.com) or 239-777-7183 if you would like to help or need help.

#### Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc. Annual Event

CPCI, which receives the Area's annual charitable donation, is holding its Annual Life Saver Event at the Naples Hilton on March 15th. The featured speaker will be Mike Huckabee. Contact Gary Ingold at [gingold@community4life.com](mailto:gingold@community4life.com) for further information.

#### Lutz Retreat

The Annual American Association Spring Retreat at the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, FL (just north of Tampa) is being held on March 2-4. Bishop Caggiano from Bridgeport, CT is the retreat master. Fourteen of us from Naples have already registered and there is still time if you would like to join us. See the Association's website for further information. **If you plan to attend the retreat, you are invited to visit the Community Pregnancy Clinics' newest location in Sarasota. We will meet there at 10:30 AM for a tour. At 11:00 Bishop Dewane will bless the new ultrasound machine. A lunch at the clinic will follow. Please contact Gary Ingold ([gingold@community4life.com](mailto:gingold@community4life.com)) if you would like to participate in the tour and lunch.** If you are attending the retreat and are interested in carpooling or exploring the possibility of hiring a small bus or van so that you don't have to drive, please contact Pete at ([pbewley@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:pbewley@alumni.princeton.edu)).

#### Upcoming Events

March 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be held on March 9th.  
 The Defense of the Faith Symposium will be held on March 18.  
 April 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be on April 6.  
 May 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be held on May 11.  
 October 1st Friday Mass and Dinner resumes on October 5.

All robed members of the Order who attended the Mini-Retreat 2018



All attendees at the Mini-Retreat 2018

