

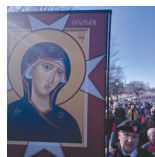


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HOSPITALERS

VOLUME 17 SPRING 2018

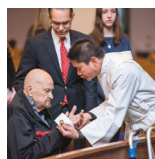
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Are We There Yet?

In our previous article we shared with you the genesis of our Pilgrimage theme, “God Guide and Guard You”. That simple phrase is part of a larger family blessing, that we invoke on our children, friends and loved ones, as they leave our presence. We ask God to guide and guard them, keep them safe from harm and bring them safely back home from their journey as we trace a cross on their forehead. Never, ever would we begin any journey, especially a long car ride for a family vacation without tracing that cross on the foreheads of our loved ones and asking God to guide and guard us all on our journey.

Too often after setting out on one of our “Pilgrimages” to the beaches of North Carolina or the Mountains of New Hampshire in a Suburban packed full with our five children and two dogs, we would hear, within the first hour of our journey, “How many more minutes?” ... “Are we there yet?” The two of us would sigh, look at each other and begin hours of figuring out how to make the next two, three, four or however many hours we had left in the car fun and part of the whole experience of the trip.

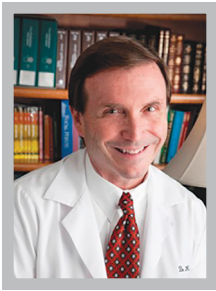
It would take a near miracle to convince our tribe of five that the car ride was very much part of the fun of the vacation. Most of the time we were successful. We know that because now as *(continued on page 6)*

orderof
malta
american.
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.

The Mobile App has been completely redesigned and enhanced with the new features most requested by members. You can find a link on the Association website to download the app.



As I end my 3rd month as President, I feel that we have successfully begun a dialogue with our members about the accomplishments we are making as a community as well as some of our challenges. I will attempt to continue this dialogue throughout my term.

In this edition of the Hospitaller, you find interesting articles about our pilgrimages and other ministries. You will also find a copy of an article prepared by Rome explaining the Sovereignty of the Order. This was written in response to a question that arose after the discussion of the reforms in Rome. I think you will find it a helpful reference.

One of the questions I have been asked since being elected President is what is my vision for the Order and my focus during my presidency. The best way for me to answer that question is to share with you some of the highlights from my first 3 months and end with an interpretation I read about the Gospel of the Loaves and Fishes which provides my image of our role as members of the Order.

Shortly after being elected, my wife Lin and I were invited to participate in the biweekly walk in Boston to feed the homeless. Over 30 of us gathered for Mass, listened to an inspirational homily by Fr. Brian Kiely and then prepared bags for the homeless. We divided into 5 or 6 groups and walked the streets of Boston encountering homeless, speaking and listening to them and sharing our bags of food, gloves, socks and a Dunkin Donut gift card. What a great way to celebrate Advent!

At the end of January, I was again blessed to be able to spend a week at Hôpital Sacré Coeur in Haiti caring for the sick and the poor with other Knights and Dames, including members of the Western Association.

As you know, our executive director Jeff Trexler has been fighting a serious illness since the end of 2017. In response to our members concern for Jeff, two members of the Order, Ed Delaney and Cece Donoghue, organized a Mass for Jeff at the Immaculate Conception Retreat House in Putnam, CT. Over 40 members from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island came together to pray for Jeff and share dinner. Those who couldn't attend prayed the rosary at 3 PM for Jeff. As a spiritual community, we are called to pray for each other especially during times of difficulty.

This past weekend, Lin and I attended the White Mass in Connecticut. We not only heard a powerful Lenten homily by Bishop Caggiano but also listened to an inspirational talk by a member of our Order, Joseph Dutkowsky MD. Joe explained to the medical personnel present that through the gifts of faith and science, we bring the image and likeness of the healing loving God to our patients as they bring the face of the suffering Christ to us. This is an image we all need to remember during our pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Finally, I recently read an insight into the following words from the Gospel of the Loaves and Fishes: Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few fish." The author took notice of the reliance Jesus had on the disciples who provided the small amounts of bread and fish that would be miraculously multiplied to feed the multitude. He then pointed out that Jesus asks us to give what may seem to be small and insufficient. And with that, He can and does work miracles.

If we continue to focus on our spirituality as members of the Order of Malta and through that spirituality, perform our ministries no matter how small and insignificant they may seem, God will continue to work miracles.

God Bless you and all that you do,

Peter J. Kelly, MD, KM

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Pilgrimage for Life — A March of Love

*This article was written by Nancy Graebe, DM,
Co-chair of the American Association Pilgrimage for Life.*



Many people think their solitary voice can have no impact on the major issues of the world. But what if that voice were linked to another voice. And what if ten thousand voices were linked to ten thousand other voices. And what if 500,000 voices in one place were linked to 500,000 voices in other places...and all those voices were linked together in prayer.

The Pilgrimage for Life this year was a huge success! More than fifty members of the American Association joined their hearts and their voices in unity and prayer in Washington, DC to be the voice for those most vulnerable and under constant attack — the unborn. Coming from the Northeast, the Midwest, the South, they joined hundreds of thousands of like-minded people in a peaceful statement of respect for life and prayers for an end to abortion.

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

On Thursday afternoon, members joined for a pre-vigil Mass, reflection given by Sr. Mary Elizabeth at the Sisters of Life Convent and a luncheon, just blocks from the Basilica. The Order was again given the responsibility and privilege by the USCCB to identify ten Knights and Dames to assist the disabled attendees at the Vigil Mass that evening. The Knights and Dames helped them in and out of the Basilica and assisted them as they brought up the gifts at the Offertory. Helping the sick is part of the Order's charism; it is nice that the USCCB recognizes that and invites members of the Order to participate.



Afterwards, the group gathered back at the hotel for fellowship and refreshments. It was a delightful evening and especially nice to spend time with those who traveled such a long distance to join the Pilgrimage. On Friday morning, the weather was a balmy 41° with Blessed Mother Blue sky all day and the sun beamed down on the marchers like Grace from Heaven.

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Conventual Chaplain from Albany, celebrated Mass on the morning of the March at Saint Patrick's Church and led the group in song and prayer when the group arrived at the Supreme Court. Also accompanying the Bishop were about 200 of his flock from the Albany area to march alongside members from the Order. Seeing hundreds of thousands of young people from across our nation march up Constitution Avenue was a sight to behold. Many were moved by their peaceful and spiritual demonstration of faith. It was both impressive and inspiring to see so many young Priests, Seminarians and Sisters participating in the March. It provides so much hope for the future of the Catholic Church. About 25 of the Sisters of Life and a youth

group of 20 from New Jersey joined the Association members for the Post-March Reception.

That evening, there were three tables representing the Order of Malta at the Rose Dinner. Words cannot convey the spirit of love and joy that was felt being among these Pilgrims. Praying together, sharing meals, making new friendships and renewing old ones was such a gift. There was a true sense of the heartfelt dedication these people have for the sanctity of every human life. They made the commitment to step out and defend the faith. Many said they found it so rewarding that they are planning to attend again next year.

Well, our prayers were answered and we had in all aspects a very successful Pilgrimage. With the registration fee and generous donations from members of the Order, we were able to cover all expenses and make donations to Catholic Charities and the CCNV Homeless Shelter. It is with tremendous gratitude we recognize that through the efforts of Dr. Jeffrey Trexler, this year the Pilgrimage for Life received official status as a recognized Order of Malta Pilgrimage, from the Prelate in Rome. The staff at the NY office were unfailing in their support. The time and effort they contributed was immeasurable and the Pilgrimage for Life could not have been done without them.

Next year, we are hoping for a larger group, more voices raised in prayer, peaceful marching, and a spirit of commitment to life. Are you going? ■

■ HIGHLIGHTS

No One Knows For Whom and Where The Grace That Flows From Good Works Will End Up

The following entry was posted on the Irish Association's website:

"Found your version of the Catholic Bible in prison. I am an honorable veteran of the United States Navy who was wrongfully convicted of a crime I did not commit. When I was lost in the depths of hell, your Bible brought light into my darkness. Jesus reached down and pulled me up out of depths and I want to thank you for finding me when all else was lost.

Today I am free. After praying each and every day and every night, my prayers have been answered and I am now a free man. Although my appeal of the trial is pending in the court system, I have very favorable chances of clearing my name. God is good and Jesus is my Savior!

Thank you, Order of Malta, for the distribution of your Bible worldwide. It found me in a prison cell and was my saving grace!"



“Encountering the Lord: Let us walk with Jesus” A Spiritual Retreat at the Bethany Retreat Center

“Neither rain nor snow nor gloom of night” sounds like something from the post office. Add traffic, road construction, and airport closures and you get an idea of the challenges that many retreatants faced in getting to Lutz, Florida for the American Associations retreat at the Bethany Retreat Center in early March. A few planned attendees could not overcome the flight cancellations but most found their way there despite the obstacles thrown in their paths.

Sixty people gathered in the serene retreat setting on the lake to listen, to pray, to meditate and to socialize for a weekend retreat at Bethany. The familiar setting seems to bring out the spiritual best in Bishop Frank Caggiano, Conventual Chaplain from Connecticut, who has led the Lutz retreat for the Association for several years and always creates a different framework around a different theme to inspire and challenge those fortunate enough to be there. This year was no different. Bishop Caggiano’s theme, Encountering the Lord, unfolded with an examination of different ways to deepen one’s relationship with the Lord.

The weekend provided opportunities for prayer, confession, the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and centered on the Eucharist. For newer members and those in their year of preparation, the retreat offered an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the Order and fuller picture of the range of activities in the Association by meeting other Knights and Dames from various parts of the country.

Gail Berardino, American Association Hospitaller, coordinated the retreat; she commented that the retreat is an important part of the spiritual development of each member. She noted that the Order recommends that every member should participate in a multi-day retreat each year. A retreat provides the opportunity to remove yourself from the distractions of normal life and gives you time and, with a great retreat master, the focus needed to stay on course.

The next Association Retreat is planned for the September 7 – 9, 2018, at the New England Retreat Center at Betania II, Medway, Massachusetts. Msgr. Dennis Sheehan will be the retreat master. The theme of the retreat is “Conversion as a Lifelong Experience. More information is available on the Association’s website. Another retreat is scheduled for Bethany for February 1-3, 2019.



Are We There Yet?

(continued from cover)

adults, our children will sometimes humor us and reminisce about our long car rides of the past — we'll call that a win! Occasionally, however, we will admit that the car ride was agony. The anticipation of getting to our destination was almost too much for our children to bear. They would sometimes be inconsolable just wanting to be at our destination, reunited with grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. "How many more minutes?", "Are we there yet?"

The American Association's 33rd Pilgrimage to Lourdes, celebrating the 160th anniversary of our Blessed Mother's first apparition to St Bernadette, will leave JFK Airport in several weeks. Ironically, we find ourselves saying "How many more minutes?"... "Are we there yet?"

The anticipation of this year's pilgrimage is almost too much for us to bear. We cannot wait to be reunited with our fellow members of the Order from near and far and meet this year's malades, caregivers, and new pilgrims who will be sure to become fast friends. The momentum of the planning process has increased at a staggering rate! Dick Milone, our Chancellor, has tirelessly worked with Dr. Jeffrey Trexler,

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Ray LaRose, Carla Gunerard and the entire staff in the New York office to create another amazing Pilgrimage. They are working through so many details including flights, food, lodging and medical needs to ensure each pilgrim is cared for and provided for throughout our journey. The Malade selection committee, led by Dr. Tony Gagliardi, has completed the process of selecting more than 50 malades and their caregivers who will be joining us on the Pilgrimage. Having witnessed the inner workings of the malade selection process, we realize how blessed our Association is to

have such a dedicated group of talented medical personnel who spend untold hours speaking to physicians and interviewing and meeting malades. F.J. McCarthy and Ken Craig, Co-Presidents of the Lourdes Pilgrimage, have been meticulous in coordinating the logistics and handling all of the arrangements with the Order's leadership in Rome, in Lourdes

and with the three Associations from the US. Monsignor Ritchie has recruited an amazing team of clergy to serve with us while we are in Lourdes.

Dick and Dede Milone, along with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, did a great job of arranging the perfect combination of malades, caregivers, clergy, volunteers, Auxiliary, Dames and Knights into pods and teams. Truly, our teams



and pods often end up being tiny, little miraculous groupings that many of us find ourselves shaking our heads in wonder, fascinated by the God-incidence of ending up with the particular people in our pods who often become lifelong friends. Captains are busily dispatching calls to team members welcoming them to the “BEST” color team. Francoise De Brantes and Chris Weldon have assembled a team of Auxiliary who will help with the heavy lifting before, during and after the pilgrimage.

Our Malades In Spirit are being allocated to teams and the preparation of petitions to our Blessed Mother has begun so that we can collectively storm Heaven and ask Our Lady of Lourdes to intercede on behalf of not only our Malades and Malades In Spirit but also on behalf of our loved ones from across the globe bearing hardship, struggle and illness.

If you are not able to join us in person at this year’s pilgrimage, there are still many ways that you can help. Please consider sponsoring a Malade in Spirit by filling out an MIS form on the American Association website in the Members Only section, www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/.

We all have friends and loved ones who are suffering and would benefit from the graces they receive from our prayers while in Lourdes. In addition, please consider supporting the Pilgrimage financially by making a donation to the Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation at www.pilgrimamagfoundation.org.

Most of all we really depend on your prayers. Please pray with us for the success of the Pilgrimage.

Essentially, WE ARE THERE! Our destination is the present, the preparation for the Lourdes Pilgrimage is just as much part of the experience as is being in Lourdes at the foot of Our Lady in the Grotto and in the hands of our Lord asking God to Guide and Guard us. The Pilgrimage is Now! It is in full swing and we are moving forward on our journey — our physical journey across the sea to Lourdes as well as our pilgrimage and journey of faith.

The journey began in our hearts once we gave Mary’s simple “yes” and chose to believe in all that God has promised us; new life in Christ, comfort in our trials, His peace as our protection, His unconditional love and His promise of life everlasting. Our pilgrimage, our journey of faith, is carried out through our work, prayers, joys and sufferings of each day. Aren’t we blessed to be able to celebrate our journeys together in Lourdes this May? We are so grateful to the many loving hands who have enthusiastically and diligently come together to make the 33rd pilgrimage a blessed and unforgettable experience.

So, “How many more minutes?” There is no more waiting, the time is right Now! “Are we there yet?”.....Yes, we are! God Guide and Guard you,
Our Lady of Lourdes Pray for us!

Cece & Mike Donoghue

Cece Donoghue Mike Donoghue
2018 Lourdes Pilgrimage Co-Chairs



This year, the Pilgrimage is scheduled for August 2nd through August 5th. Registration materials have already been distributed and completed applications have already arrived in the New York Office. Please see the link to the materials on the website or call the office if you need help.



Teach the Children Adele Brise never swayed from her mission to teach the children the Catholic faith. Less than a decade after the apparitions of our Holy Mother, Adele had already established her mission in the Bay Settlement. Along with the early chapel, Adele was able to raise the funds to build the Shrine's first school. By 1868, the St. Mary's Boarding Academy was in operation under the direction of the Sisters of Good Health. This school enrolled 60 pupils, with 40 boarded and cared for at a rate of one dollar per week per student for board and tuition.



2018 Pilgrimage
Shrine of
Our Lady of
Good Help
Champion, Wisconsin
August 2-5



Shelter from the Fire 12 years after the apparitions, the same firestorm that devastated Peshtigo, Wisconsin threatened the Shrine. The Sisters, the children, area farmers and their families fled to the Shrine's chapel for protection from the unprecedented fire. In defiance of the inferno, they lifted the statue of Mary and carried it around the sanctuary. When wind and fire threatened suffocation in one direction, they turned in another direction to pray. Hours later, a downpour began to extinguish the raging fire. The area surrounding the Shrine's grounds was destroyed and desolate. Though the fire charred the chapel fence, it had not harmed the chapel grounds.



The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is built directly over the site where Mary "The Queen of Heaven" appeared to Adele Brise, a young Belgian immigrant woman, in October of 1859. At the time of the apparitions, the location was on a path through the woods. Although more than 150 years have passed, the Shrine is still located in a peaceful farming area, surrounded by cornfields, far from the hustle and bustle of commerce. It is a wonderful place to be open to Mary and her Son.





2018 PILGRIMAGE AUGUST 2nd–5th NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GOOD HELP | NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. JOSEPH Preliminary Abbreviated Schedule

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2ND

- 1:00PM Pilgrimage Registration Desk Open in Lobby.
- 5:00PM Pilgrimage Opening Mass with Blessing of the Hands of Knights and Dames who care for the sick.
- 6:30PM Dinner at Hyatt with presentation on History of Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3RD

- 6:30AM Breakfast Buffet opens at the Hyatt.
- 8:00AM Depart for Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Rosary during bus ride.
- 9:00AM Mass at the Shrine. Knights and Dames wear robes/capes.
- 10:00AM Sacrament of Reconciliation. Visit Apparition site.
- 12:00PM Depart for St. Norbert College — National Shrine of St. Joseph.
- 12:30PM Lunch Bemis Hall — Hendrickson Dining Room on the campus of St. Norbert College.
- 2:00PM Adoration and Anointing of the Sick at St. Joseph Church.
- 4:30PM Depart for Hyatt Hotel.
- 7:00PM Dinner at Hyatt in Grand Ballroom ABC.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4TH

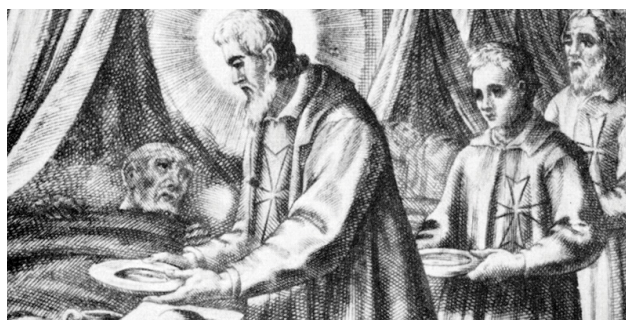
- 6:30AM Breakfast Buffet opens at the Hyatt.
- 8:30AM Presentation at the Hotel.
- 10:00AM Bus Departs for Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Rosary.
- 11:00AM Mass celebrated by Bishop David L. Ricken. During Mass married couples will renew their marriage vows and consecrate their marriages to the Blessed Mother.
- 12:30PM Catered lunch at Shrine.
- 2:00PM Rosary Procession at the Shrine
- 3:00PM Break.
- 3:30PM Stations of the Cross in Church.
- 4:30PM Adoration and Healing Service in the Church.
- 6:15PM Depart for Hotel.
- 7:30PM Closing Dinner at the Hyatt in Grand Ballroom ABC.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5TH

- 7:00AM Breakfast at the Hyatt.
- 9:00AM Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral with tour of the Cathedral after Mass.

DEPARTURE AFTER MASS.





Feast days of the Order

Were you aware that the by-laws of the Association require every Area to celebrate the feast of Saint John the Baptist, Patron Saint of the Order? And every member of the Association is obligated to participate in that celebration unless serious reasons justify their absence?

Article I, Section 8

There shall be a reunion or assemblage of the members of the American Association within each geographic area established by the Board in a church or chapel designated by the respective Area Chairperson, on or about June 24th each year, the annual Feast Day of St. John the Baptist, the Patron Saint of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Each member of the American Association shall have the obligation to attend such reunion or assemblage unless for justified reasons it is impossible for the member to be present.

Areas celebrate more than the feast of Saint John the Baptist. The feasts of the Blessed Mother, September 8th — Our Lady of Philermo, and February 11th — Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick, provide other opportunities for members to come together in prayer and in fellowship. Many Areas have a monthly gathering with a Mass often followed by some form of fellowship.

In the Daily Prayer of the Order, members pray for the intercession of Our Lady of Philermo, Saint John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard and all the saints and blessed of the Order. On the Association Calendar, the feast days are marked, and there is a link to the liturgical prayers associated with all the feast days. You can get to the complete calendar through the Spirituality section on the website. (Thanks to Frá James-Michael von Stroebe for providing this information.)

In February, the Order celebrated the World Day of the Sick and the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Many Areas held a Mass and some were able to share a photo of their gathering. ■



IN MEMORIAM

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen”

Many people do not realize that one of the reasons Catholics pray for the deceased is because of the Catholic teaching on Purgatory. Some Christians do not believe in the concept of purgatory and so do not pray for the deceased since they believe that, at death, a person goes to Heaven or to Hell. At that point, they believe, it is better to pray for those who are still living.

The Catholic Church teaches that purgatory exists, and that the souls detained are helped by the prayers and sacrifices of the faithful, and especially by offering the Mass. The act of praying for the dead is a work

of mercy that joins us together in the communion of saints. When we pray for our deceased loved ones, we are reminded that we are linked to them across the divide of death. The very act of praying brings peace to many, based on the belief in eternal life.

When we are generous to our family and friends, that is one level of charity. When we give to those in need that we do not even know, it is another level of charity. When we pray for the deceased whom we do not know, those prayers are a testament that we believe our prayers make a difference and they are applied to those in need. At all the Masses offered around the world every day, after the Consecration, we remember those who have died during that most sacred part of the Mass.

“As members of Christ's mystical body, we are incorporated not only with Him, our common Head, but with one another, and this not merely by visible social bonds and external cooperation, but by the invisible bonds of mutual love and sympathy, and by effective cooperation in the inner life of grace. Christ is King in purgatory as well as in heaven and on earth, and He cannot be deaf to our prayers for our loved ones in that part of His Kingdom,



whom He also loves while He chastises them. For our own consolation as well as for theirs, we want to believe in this living intercourse of charity with our dead.”

The Sacrifice of the Mass has always occupied the foremost place among prayers for the dead. In addition to the Mass and to private prayers, there is mention in the earliest times of almsgiving, and of fasting for the dead. Believing in the communion of saints in which the departed faithful shared, early Christians included them in the same acts of piety which the living

were in the habit of performing for one another.

The Order of Malta is a special community of believers — fellow travelers on a unique path first trod by its founder. Knights, Dames and all those associated with the Order are drawn to this community for spiritual growth, for inspiration and for opportunities to live the charism with those same fellow travelers. The members of this same community look out for each other. What happens to one affects all the rest. So it follows that the death of a member creates a chasm that is bridged by the united prayers of the living members — linked to the members of the community that has surrounded them. They pray for each other, living and dead, and in those prayers, they strengthen the bonds of community. All benefit, all grow, and all live with the knowledge that the community is there with them and for them, in life and in death.

“Lord, thou has seen fit to enlist me for thy service among the Knights and Dames of Saint John of Jerusalem.” Let us never forget those with whom we have served. Amen.

Some of the content of this article came from the online Catholic Encyclopedia. Used with permission.



Schneider Hospital Gets Gift of Medical Supplies

The following article was published recently about the help being provided for the hospital in the US Virgin Island that sustained heavy damage from Hurricane Irma. Donations from members and equipment and supplies obtained by members from other organizations have helped in the recovery effort. This relief effort was supported by members from across the American Association and members from the Federal Association, particularly from the Columbus, Ohio region.

By Brian O'Connor, Virgin Islands Daily News Staff

ST. THOMAS

A rainy Wednesday delayed the unloading of tons of medical supplies for Schneider Hospital, but it couldn't dim the spirits of hospital officials waiting to receive them. The Order of Malta — known in the past as the Knights of Malta or the Knights of St. John and The Hospitallers — has arranged for two shipments of medical supplies to the hospital as part of its ongoing charity work. The first shipment is in the hospital parking lot, concealed inside a nondescript shipping container and waiting for a clear day to be unloaded.

Christine and Jerry Woodhouse were in New York when Hurricane Irma swept through St. Thomas and St. John. The St. Thomas residents are part of the American Association, one of three regional-level organizations

in the United States, but the work was done jointly between the New York-based American and Washington-based Federal associations.

An Area, or chapter-level organization, has been active in the Virgin Islands since 2005.

"We were trying to figure out what we could do long-distance, to help in the Virgin Islands, and we figured out that the hospital, we had heard, had been severely damaged, and it serves the whole community," she said.

Knights and Dames with the Order reached out to the Missouri-based Franciscan Mission Warehouse, a group typically focused on providing medical equipment to developing world hospitals. Christine Woodhouse said officials took the list to doctors and department heads at Schneider to see what they might need, and match what was available.

Doctors were able to obtain gurneys and beds, and other elementary needs for the hospital. Besides the hard supplies, the Order also provided Schneider with nurses and a pediatrician. A second shipping container, due in later this week, contains donations of lab equipment and anesthesia machines furnished by North Carolina-based Heineman Medical Outreach.

The Order tried to do more, Christine Woodhouse said.

"We were trying very hard to get chemo drugs, because you expressed that

it was one of the most severe, most important needs you had," she said. "As one of our Knights is a medical director at Pfizer, we thought maybe would have an in."

However, even the Order's clutch positioning wasn't able to help, Christine Woodhouse said.

"We were not able to get those drugs because Maria damaged quite a number of pharmaceutical companies on Puerto Rico," she said. "So they have a shortage of IV drugs, chemo drugs, and what they have of course goes to their regular clients, and they don't have any excess to give to charities."

What officials were able to obtain — both personnel and equipment — will go a long way, said Shanique Woods Boschulte, the hospital's Foundation coordinator.

"As a hospital, receiving the anesthesia equipment, the laboratory equipment, this is, I would say, an extreme step for us," she said. "Because having lost these types of equipment, that are just so hard to come by, especially given our financial situation."

The donations will help shore up supply lines in a time of need, Woods Boschulte said.

"With this donation that we're gonna get, I don't think we're going to have to purchase any medical supplies that were on the list for maybe the rest of the year," she said.

In some cases, the donations represent an upgrade over aging hospital equipment, said Schneider CEO Bernard Wheatley.

"Some of our equipment was past its life cycle," he said.

Despite diminished capacity — the fourth floor and about 50 beds remain inoperative and officials are still waiting to find out what the future holds for both Schneider and Luis hospitals — the supplies will be put immediately to work, Wheatley said.

"We're still operating, we're still treating people in the ED, we're still delivering babies, we're still doing surgeries," he said. ■



Spiritual Outreach Calls — Messages For Everyone



Let us pray:

Holy Spirit, You spoke to Mary through an angel to invite her to participate in Your plan of salvation. Though she questioned how it was possible for her to become the mother of the Messiah, she never questioned that it was possible. Though she risked rejection from Joseph and from others, yet she gave you her “yes.” Her great fiat — let it be done unto me in accord with Thy word. With the help of Mary’s prayers, may we become fully willing to say “yes” to our part in giving Christ to the world. Encourage us when we don’t understand what You are asking of us. Bless us with the grace of hearing Your call, and the courage to trust in Your plan. Let it be done unto us according to Your will.

Ever-blessed Virgin, Queen of the Universe, Mother of Mercy, Mother of the Church, and refuge of sinners: Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Thus began the March Spiritual Outreach Call presented by Father David Skoblow, Magistral Chaplain from New Jersey. On the first Wednesday of each month, the Member Outreach Committee Chair, Christopher Rutkowski, introduces one of the Chaplains of the Association who then presents a brief spiritual message on a topic relevant to the season, the liturgy, a saint or a spiritual concept. The calls usually last for about fifteen minutes. In March when the feast of the Annunciation normally falls, Father Skoblow spoke about Mary as our model for saying yes to God.

The calls are intended to reach out to members who might not otherwise have much contact with the Association and Area members. But the audience is much broader and the messages delivered each month have an appeal to members across the Association, at every age and every level of experience in the Order. The chaplains who volunteer to deliver these messages have been doing a wonderful job engaging the members and presenting interesting and moving talks. The talks are recorded and are available on the website.

Father David Skoblow was kind enough to supply a written copy of his talk for those who prefer to read instead of listen. Go to the website and open up the Spiritual Outreach Calls section under Spirituality. Click on the March call and the text is available beneath the audio version. It is worth a listen or worth a read — as the late Sheila Feitelberg who initiated these calls used to say, “Be inspired!”

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have You Noticed?

An Update from the Communications Committee

The Communications Committee has spent the winter months continuing to roll out updates for the website and improve the online experience for all members of the American Association.

WEBSITE

The website has seen updates to over 600 of its pages since its relaunch in April 2017 and, because of this, visitors to the website are guaranteed new and updated content on an almost-daily basis. The Communications Committee's push for Areas to utilize the website as a communication tool has led to almost half of our Areas updating their section of the website regularly with photos, summaries of recent events, and invitations for upcoming local events. Over the winter season, the NY Office worked to build an online only application process for American Association activities such as the Lourdes Pilgrimage and the Pilgrimage to Wisconsin. This improvement increased Lourdes application rates by roughly 10%, streamlining the application process for members and the office staff. The Communications Committee hopes to see similar results for the 2018 Pilgrimage to Wisconsin.

Additionally, all required donations and payments can now be made online using a credit card. Members who choose to make a transaction using our website will automatically receive a copy of their receipt by email, eliminating the time spent waiting for a receipt to arrive by regular mail. A joint effort by the Admissions Committee and Membership Committee has led to the development of a new Membership Application for 2019. This application, released in mid-March, is a completely typeable form that includes a major process improvement — one Acknowledgement page for all signatures. Candidates, sponsors, and Area Chairs will no longer have to sign six pages of the application. The 2019 application process will require just one signed Application Acknowledgement page, stating that all signees acknowledge and agree with the information provided in the candidate's application.

EMAILS

This year was the first year that the NY Office provided electronic statements for Annual Contributions. All members with a valid email address received their statements by email, which included a link to make their payment online. This process has made making donations and payments much easier, as online transactions are processed and receipts are

sent out as soon as a member hits the red "Donate" button. As an added advantage, the process makes the NY Office more efficient because the donation information can be loaded directly into the donor's record.

As of this year, about 15% of American Association members are still receiving important Association-related information by regular mail. These mailings face the regular risk of delay due to inclement weather and outdated contact information. On the other hand, members with valid email addresses receive important Association-related information in real time. If you are still receiving our letters by mail, and wish to receive emails instead, please contact the NY Office about adding your email address to your record in the Association's database.

SURVEYS

Members with email addresses on file are asked to share their opinions through short surveys from time to time. While everyone's opinion is valuable, electronic surveys make asking for, gathering and analyzing the input very simple and at minimal cost. Surveys are used as planning tools. Make your voice heard. If you receive an electronic survey, please respond. You influence the direction. If you have no email address on file, considering getting one so you can share your thoughts the next time one of these surveys is sent out.

APP

The new mobile app, which launched over the 2017 Investiture Weekend, will receive its first update this spring. Valuable feedback from members throughout the Association helped shape this update, which will include new photos on the home page, improvements to the Calendar, Donations, and News pages, and an entire new section dedicated to those attending the Lourdes Pilgrimage. The new Lourdes Pilgrimage section will be the online version of this year's Black Book — a valuable resource available to all pilgrims with a mobile device. The Communications Committee is excited for the release of this new update and the positive impact it will have on the upcoming Lourdes Pilgrimage.

LOOKING FORWARD

We hope that our Areas will continue to expand their communication efforts between local members and the American Association as a whole. Members of the *(continued on page 15)*

HIGHLIGHTS

(continued from page 14)

Communications Committee have come up with several ways in which the American Association can regularly spotlight Areas living out the mission of the Order through local works and activities. The Preparation Formation Program will also be receiving a major upgrade in the future. The Communications Committee is working on a plan to redo all eight modules, increasing the effectiveness of this important resource for candidates in their Year of Preparation. Overall, our main goal has always been to improve your experience as an active member of the American Association.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, we encourage you to contact the NY Office at (212) 371-1522 or mail@orderofmaltaamerican.org.

IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members: January 1, 2018 – Present

John Fleming Ball, KM	Greenwich, CT
Elizabeth M. Dawson, DM	New Canaan, CT
Robert Lane Dillmeier, KM	Hobe Sound, FL
Dorothy M. Geisler, DM	Indianapolis, IN
Dolores Bernadette Grier, DM	New York, NY
Mary M. Houlihan, DM	White Plains, NY
Phyllis M. MacNeil, DM	Westwood, MA
Daniel Desmond McCarthy, GCMOb	Rockville Centre, NY
Jean Marie McLaughlin, DM	New Canaan, CT
Morgan J. Murray, KMOb	Greensburg, PA
Gregory P. Plunkett, KM	Hyannis Port, MA

HIGHLIGHTS

From Your Head to Your Heart – A Journey of Science and Faith

The White Mass is a Mass that focuses on those who provide care for the sick; doctors, nurses, lab technicians, and everyone involved in the health care profession. In many diocese, it is an annual event and often draws large crowds of industry professionals and those who want to pray for all those who have chosen the vocation of caring for the sick.

“Faith and science, two words that in the last century have drifted apart like two continents to forever reshape the geography of the intellectual world. The origin of the word “science” is from the Latin word *scientia* which simply means knowledge. It is fundamentally the study of our universe using empirical techniques to provide explanations and predictions of the world around us. And so we learn subjects like physics and chemistry which we have developed further to the clinical sciences of physiology and pharmacology. And there are also social sciences like psychology and sociology to study individual and corporate human behavior. Contemporary culture considers science the realm of rational men and women who choose the pursuit of an educated mind.

In contrast, faith in our time seems to have been relegated to the image of a fluffy bunny happily romping across the flowered meadows of the weak parts of your brain. I have been asked repeatedly when I

talk about faith and science why don't I talk about faith and reason. My answer is very simple; faith, like science, is reasonable.”

Orthopedic surgeon, scientist, author and member of the American Association, Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky, KM, recently spoke at the 25th Annual White Mass Breakfast at Woodway Country Club, in Darien, CT. His message was clear, heartfelt, and focused. Many of those who were there said that his talk should be shared with the entire Association. His message is relevant for anyone whose charism is to care for the sick and the poor and for anyone who seeks to understand better the relationship between faith and science. The complete text of Dr. Dutkowsky's talk on March 18, 2018 to an audience of about two hundred people is included with the newsletter as an insert.



ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

April 9–10

New York City

Chaplains' Convocation

May 2–3

Rome

Council Complete of State

May 2–8

Lourdes Pilgrimage

May 17

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

June 14–15

New York City

Area Leadership Meeting

June 24

Feast of Saint John the Baptist

August 2–5

Wisconsin

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help

September 6

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

September 7–9

Medway, MA

Association Retreat

September 8

Feast of Our Lady of Philermo

October 25–27

Investiture Weekend Events

October 25

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

October 26

Investiture, Annual Dinner

November 1

All Saint's Day

November 22

Thanksgiving

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 25

Christmas

February 1–3

Lutz, Florida

2019 Association Retreat

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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.

As the American Association continues to advance its communication efforts, the New York office has created the new Member Contact Information Update Form. This form provides members with a quick and simple way to update any, or all, of their information online. Members with and without active email addresses can now submit an update to their home address, professional, and even educational information on our website using this new form.

Want to try it out? After logging in as a member, visit orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/update and submit your full name and birthdate, along with any information that you would like us to update in our database. We hope that you will utilize this new method and help keep the American Association's records up to date.

You can also 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.

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.