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When the eighty-six Knights and Dames look back on the events of the Investiture weekend, hopefully, they will be reminded of the words in prayer that were spoken to ask God’s blessing on them during the special Masses of the weekend.

In the Mass for the blessing of the robes and capes, Dr. Richard Milone, Chancellor, told the Knights and Dames being invested the next day that their robes and capes bore an important symbol.

“These robes and capes are emblazoned with the white Cross; the color white signifies purity. You are to carry this cross over your heart and keep it unsullied, without any sort of stain or blemish. The eight points of the Cross signify the Beatitudes, which we must keep present in our hearts and minds.”

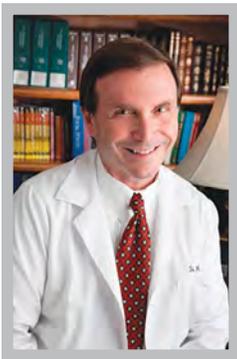
As the Knights and Dames left the Cathedral after the Mass of the Blessing of the Robes and Capes, the sound from the choir and the organ reverberated the strains of “Lift High the Cross”, a reminder of the words from the Mass and a precursor of the words spoken on the following day by Dr. Kelly during the Investiture ceremony: *(continued on page 6)*

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Please visit our website at:

www.orderofmaltaamerican.org to find the latest information about the American Association, our local Areas, and the Order of Malta. Links are also available to other Association websites and the Sovereign Magistracy in the “About the Order” section.

Since its redesign last fall, the Order of Malta, American Association mobile app continues to be updated regularly with new photos and user friendly improvements to its features such as daily prayers and the member directory. This app is available for Android and iOS devices in the app store when you search “Order of Malta, American Association”.



It's hard to believe that it's already been more than three weeks since our 91st Annual Meeting and my first as your president. It was a busy 3 days with our Board Meeting, Orientation for New Members, an Area Leadership Meeting, opening Mass with the blessing of the robes and capes, and a New Member Reception on Thursday.

Friday started early with a presentation by Frá Richard Wolff at 7:30 am on the Spirituality of the Order.

At the Annual Meeting, we welcomed our new Board Members: Meg Lyons, Tom Reedy, Dr. Joe Dutkowsky, Mike Donoghue and Frá Nicola Tegoni. We also thanked our outgoing board members for their

service: Dr. Richard Milone, Gail Berardino, Dr. Tom Forlenza, Joe Frank and Mark Kerwin,

I reviewed our past year and shared my goals for my presidency. Most of what I reviewed, you have read in my email updates but I don't think you have seen my goals listed so here they are:

1. Focus on our ministries that provide hands-on service.
2. Increase our spiritual growth through retreats, pilgrimages and personal prayer initiatives.
3. Develop our sense of community as a Lay Religious Order through increased communication and transparency.
4. Continue to increase our membership
5. Develop a spirit of cooperation and unity among the three Associations in the US.

We ended the meeting with an inspirational presentation by Dr. Joe Dutkowsky.

After a brief break for lunch, we proceeded to St. Patrick's Cathedral and invested 86 new members in the Order. It was a beautiful ceremony and Cardinal Dolan gave a wonderful homily.

I was privileged to stand in front of our new members and administer the pledge of commitment and hand out the decorations. I was struck by the reverence of the moment and the expressions on the faces of the new members as they were handed their decorations and met Cardinal Dolan.

We ended the day on Friday with our Gala in the Grand Ball Room of the Hilton. It was an evening that we will all remember especially our new members and their families.

On Saturday, we had our Mass for Malades and their families and caregivers at St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by an enjoyable brunch and presentation about Holy Family Hospital. Some of us then proceeded to the Subpriory Mass to conclude our weekend.

I think most of us who were involved in the planning and organization of the weekend, especially our office staff, spent the next 2 days recovering!

I hope that all of you will seriously consider attending next year's meeting. It's a wonderful time to meet old friends, make new friends and celebrate our Order as a community.

This is especially important in these challenging times for our church. We need to work together to move our church in the right direction as it looks for ways to hold the hierarchy accountable and provide transparency. Many of you are working in your parishes facilitating conversations and leading prayer initiatives. We are lay leaders in the Catholic Church and need to be active in finding a solution.

Linda and I would like to wish all of you a Blessed Advent and Christmas season.

God bless you and all that you do,

Peter J. Kelly, MD,
President

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2019 Lourdes Pilgrimage

“Come to Me and Rest in My Loving Presence”

As we began preparations for the 2019 Lourdes pilgrimage, we reflected on our previous trips to Lourdes and the feelings of peace and comfort that surrounded us and our Malades during our journey. We wanted our theme “Come To Me And Rest In My Loving Presence” to reflect that feeling.

In Saint Matthew’s Gospel 11:28, we find Christ’s invitation: “Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest....for My yoke is easy and My burden is light”

When we share our burdens with Christ, we do so in the hope that He will give us the strength we need to deal with those challenges. When we go on pilgrimage to Lourdes serving our beloved Malades and Caregivers, we hope to lighten their burdens and surround them with peace and comfort in the Grotto of Massabielle and throughout our journey. During our pilgrimage, we experience the devotion, service and fellowship to fully appreciate what belonging to the Order of Malta really means.

We are honored and humbled to be asked to chair the American Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2019. We invite all members to join us on the pilgrimage from May 1st to May 7th, 2019 so we can all come together and rest in the loving presence of Our Blessed Mother and Her Son.

When we take our beloved Malades and their Caregivers to Lourdes, we process to the Domain to bring them to healing Masses, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to the miraculous baths and to the Grotto at Massabielle to pray at the feet of Our Lady.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)

Many of our Malades have shared that they feel God’s unconditional love and protection during our Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We are blessed with the opportunity to serve their needs, bring them comfort, support, and in so doing, more fully experience the charism of our Order.

If you would like to join us May 1st- 7th on the annual Lourdes Pilgrimage please complete your application as soon as possible. We anticipate the trip is going to be oversubscribed, so please get your application in promptly to secure a spot. You can contact the New York Office or go to the Members Only section of the website to get an application.

You may also choose to participate by sponsoring a Malade to join us on the pilgrimage. This person should be someone you know well who you think would benefit from the experience . Malade applications will be reviewed in early January so please obtain one from our website or contact the New York Office.

You may also propose a Malade in Spirit for those individuals who are unable to physically travel to Lourdes but

they can still receive the blessings of the pilgrimage as we pray for them daily.

The pilgrimage is very dependent on contributions from members of our Order to make this journey possible for our Malades and Caregivers who travel free of charge. Please prayerfully consider sending a tax deductible donation to the Lourdes Pilgrimage Foundation at www.pilgrimagefoundation.org.

We sincerely hope that you are able to participate in the 34th annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes from May 1-7, 2019

Our Lady of Lourdes Pray for Us !
Saint Bernadette Pray for Us !

Nancy Murphy, DM

John Murphy MD, KM



“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” 2Cor 12:9

The following was received from Gladden Pappin, PhD, KM, a Knight from Dallas who participated in the 2018 Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin.

My first introduction to the Order of Malta was through a Knight in the Portuguese Association who was, at the time, teaching at the University of Notre Dame, where I was then on a research fellowship. Around the time that he joined the Order, his wife received a diagnosis of ALS disease. He frequently spoke of the importance of the Order's spirituality with regard to care for the sick, in that he had been given both an opportunity for such care in his own home, as well as the means, through the Order's spirituality, of understanding his care for her in a spiritual manner.

After joining the Order last November, I thought that this element—direct care for the sick—would probably be fairly long in coming to my doorstep. Instead, I thought that as a professor and writer, "tuitio fidei" would be, so to speak, the dominant element for me and I would grow through cooperating in the Order's works of obsequium pauperum and eventually go on the Lourdes pilgrimage. This summer, when I read about the Wisconsin pilgrimage, I knew I wanted to fulfill my (initial) pilgrimage requirement through that—the future being dark, better to take the opportunity now because it might be difficult (not least due to the academic calendar) to attend Lourdes in May.

On the last night of the pilgrimage, I responded to Dr. Kelly's question about what the most impressive part was by saying that for me, the Way of the Cross for Malades and their Caregivers had really hit me hard. I had gone just to participate in the Stations, but the whole likening of diagnosis and treatment, and caregiving, to the Way of the Cross really hit me. I couldn't understand why, either. Although my father is enduring a series of health struggles, my parents live in Charlotte, not Dallas, so my caregiving has been confined to ordinary family life. That Way of the Cross at Wisconsin really made me think: Why am I here? Why was I drawn to the Wisconsin pilgrimage this year? To the Order? I don't have a grave illness, and no one in my household does—why is this hitting me so hard?

My wife, Jeanette, and I adopted our daughter Marie-Thérèse Charlotte at birth in 2012. She's now six years old and lights up every room she walks into (including the 2017 New Member Reception in New York, which her little brother, Clement, attended as well).



Wednesday after the Wisconsin pilgrimage, we took Marie-Thérèse to an orthopedist on referral from our pediatrician, who had had trouble diagnosing the cause of a persistent hip pain this summer. On August 8, inspection of the X-ray led the orthopedist to conclude immediately that Marie-Thérèse has Perthes disease, “a childhood hip disorder caused by a disruption of blood flow to the ball of the hip joint, or femoral head. The loss of blood flow results in bone death, which is referred to as ‘avascular necrosis’ or ‘ischemic necrosis’ of the femoral head.” He referred her to a world specialist in treatment of Perthes, Dr. Harry Kim, who has made Dallas a major center of Perthes research and treatment.

One Monday in September, we had our first appointment with Dr. Kim. Marie-Thérèse has an “aggressive” form of Perthes disease and the left femoral head has nearly collapsed. Over the course of August, she had developed a severe limp and had very limited hip mobility. Dr. Kim said immediately that she would have to keep all weight off her leg...for a year. We left the room, the rather shocked owners of a new wheelchair and walker. Since then (October), she has been placed in an immobilizing Petrie cast for a month, and will undergo hip surgery in November. God willing and, relying on the intercession of St. Thérèse and Blessed Charles of Austria, she will be able to walk again in a year's time.

I didn't realize it at the time, but that Way of the Cross was preparing us for what is now a long road. Marie-Thérèse is our little “Malade”! Thank goodness for the spirituality of the Order, which prepares us precisely for these moments, and helps us realize our vocation of tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum, sometimes when we least expect it.

Gladden J. Pappin, KM
Assistant Professor of Politics
University of Dallas



The 2018 Investiture

(continued from cover)

President Kelly announced at the Solemn Mass of Investiture that the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council had reviewed and approved the investiture of the assembled men and women to be Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta.

“I have the honor to announce and proclaim that His Most Eminent Highness Frá Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, the Prince and the Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta, and the Sovereign Council have approved the proposals for membership in the Order of those assembled here today to be invested.”

Dr. Kelly went on to say:

“Brothers and sisters, we give you this Cross of the Order, this sign of Christ’s passion, of His love for all. Let it always inspire you in love of your neighbor. Cherish and defend the Cross.”

Cardinal Dolan prayed for the new members in these words:

“O God, look graciously down on these your servants who wish to follow our Lord Jesus Christ in our Order. Instill your grace in their hearts and in our hearts. Let us not take

false pride in our membership, but rather let us be humble in your service.”

Dr. Kelly enjoined the new Knights and Dames not to forget why they were joining this Ancient Order and he prayed for their success:

“You wish to become a member of our Order, to achieve Christian perfection, and to practice the love of your neighbor. So let us first implore the mercy of God and the intercession of our Patrons and of all the Saints.”

When asked to commit to a life in keeping with the charism of the Order, each new Knight and Dame to be invested made the promise of commitment to the teachings of Church and to the work of the Order.

Over twelve hundred people gathered at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral to give witness and support to the eighty-six members who were invested into the Order.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan was the celebrant at the Mass where two Conventual Chaplains and one Magistral Chaplain also made their commitment to serve the members of the Order in their pursuit of spiritual growth.

At Saturday morning’s Mass, Msgr. Robert Ritchie directed these words of prayer to God for the Malades and Caregivers – the prayer was a reminder to those present of the focus of the spiritual life of the Knights and Dames

“Father in heaven, through this holy anointing, grant our

Over twelve hundred people gathered at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral to give witness and support to the eighty-six members who were invested into the Order.



brothers and sisters comfort in their suffering. When they are afraid, give them courage, when afflicted, find them patience, when dejected, afford them hope, and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.”

There were many other meetings and events over the course of the weekend. On Thursday afternoon, the new members and their families attended an orientation session where Admissions Chair Edward J. Delaney coordinated an informational session. Using a mix of short videos and a variety of speakers, the agenda covered such topics as the Lourdes Pilgrimage, the history of the Order and its sovereignty, the diplomatic corps and some of the communications plans for the Association. Three major works of the Order were represented on the agenda: Malteser International, the Holy Family Hospital, and prison ministry.

After the orientation session, new members went to the Mass of the Blessing of the Capes and Robes at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, followed almost immediately by a reception for the new members and their families with the Officers and members of the Board of Councillors of the American Association. Many Areas hosted dinners for their new members following the long afternoon.

Friday morning’s agenda began a full day; the Spirituality Committee hosted an early-morning session with Frá Richard Wolff, chair of the Spirituality Committee, speaking about the unique spirituality of the Order.

The Association’s Annual Meeting followed. President Peter Kelly provided a State of the Association report, election results were reported, a legal update, a Treasurer’s report, a Hospitaller’s report, and a Lourdes Pilgrimage update were among the subjects reported during the two-hour meeting. Several members

of the Board of Councillors were recognized as their terms on the Board were expiring – Dr. Richard Milone, Chancellor, Gail Berardino, Hospitaller, and Board members Dr. Thomas Forlenza, Joseph Frank, and Mark Kerwin,

Outgoing Area Chairs Damien DeVasto, Brian Fuhro and Cynthia Long were also recognized. Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky delivered a remarkable talk about the relationship between faith and science. (A copy of his original talk was included with a Spring 2018 issue of the *Hospitallers* and is available on the Association’s website).

People hurried through or just skipped lunch as more than one thousand people assembled for the Investiture Mass at Saint Patrick’s Cathedral. Following the Mass, almost five hundred people gathered for the Reception and Annual Dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton where Msgr. Stuart Swetland was the guest speaker.

On Saturday morning, Saint Patrick’s Cathedral was the setting for the Annual Mass for all Malades and Caregivers. It has become an American Association tradition to bring together many past Malades and Caregivers and Knights and Dames who have or hope to experience the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Hundreds filled the pews where Msgr. Ritchie and a group of chaplains concelebrated the Mass and provided the rich spiritual benefits of the anointing of the sick to the grateful participants.

After the Mass, the Holy Family Hospital Foundation hosted a brunch at the Three West Club (just across Fifth Avenue from the Cathedral) for the Malades, Caregivers and many Knights and Dames. In the afternoon, members of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes gathered for a Mass of their own, bringing an end to the events of a very remarkable weekend.

DEPUTY AND MAGISTRAL CHAPLAINS,

— CONVENTUAL CHAPLAINS —

Most Rev. Peter A. Rosazza
Bloomfield, CT*

Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert
Allentown, PA

— MAGISTRAL CHAPLAIN —

Rev. Owen B. Moran
East Hanover, NJ

— DEPUTY DEACON CHAPLAINS —

Reverend Mr. Larry P. Geinosky
Saint John, FL

Reverend Dr. Steven E. Koop
Woodbury, MN

— DAMES OF MAGISTRAL GRACE —

Donna G. Albers, DM
Ballwin, MO

Laurie A. Baldwin, DM
Menands, NY

Ann C. Bave, DM
Mamaroneck, NY

Mary S. Brady, MD, DM
New York, NY

Bianca C. Brophy, DM
Summit, NJ

Veronica Bruno, DM
Barnegat, NJ

Patricia M. Bumgardner, DM
Darien, CT

Corrine M. Campbell, DM
Green Bay, WI

LaNeta R. Crighton, DM
Morristown, NJ

Janet J. Czajkowski, DM
Palm Coast, FL*

Allison Ecko, DM
Bernardsville, NJ

Lara L. Feldhausen, DM
Green Bay, WI

Cynthia M. Fuhro, DM
Kinnelon, NJ

Pamela M. Heyrman, DM
De Pere, WI

Maria J. Joyce, DM
Naples, FL

Paula A. Kavolius, DM
East Walpole, MA

Debra J. Koop, DM
Woodbury, MN

Beata M Lewis, DM
Chicago, IL

Susan Kaye Linnell, DM
Mendota Heights, MN

Joan C. Maddocks, DM
Hanson, MA

Ramona Ann Marrs, DM
Salina, KS

Vivian M. Massood, DM
Wayne, NJ

Velma K. Maynard, DM
Warwick, RI

Jeannene L. McMurchy, DM
Stamford, CT

Anna G. Miller, DM
New York, NY

Lisa M. Naeger, DM
The Woodlands, TX

Eileen A. Noble, DM
Minneapolis, MN

Catherine H. Nowka, DM
Brutus, MI

Patricia J. Rice, DM
St. Louis, MO

Janet L. Seidl, DM
Wellesley, MA

Theresa M. Seraceno, DM
Byron, MI

Susan M. Steitz, DM
Wilton, CT

M. Isabel Torres-Ullauri, DM
New York, NY

Cynthia A. Van Asten, DM
Kaukauna, WI

Amber N. Vitale, DM
Brooklyn, NY

Jemille A. Zaydon, Phd, DM
Scranton, PA



KNIGHTS AND DAMES INVESTED

— DEPUTY CHAPLAINS —

Reverend Gregory Bartholomew, FSSP
Sarasota, FL

Reverend Douglas A. Freer
Lavallette, NJ

Reverend Bartholomew L. Gadaj
Jacksonville, FL

Reverend Michael K. Jones
Shelton, CT

Very Reverend Brian Kiely
Weston, MA

Reverend Daniel P. Tuite
Bronx, NY

— KNIGHTS OF MAGISTRAL GRACE —

Michael J. Albers, KM
Ballwin, MO

Thomas J. Baldwin, KM
Menands, NY

Michael T. Bates, KM
Belle Mead, NJ

David P. Bender, Jr., KM
Plano, TX

Andrew M. Busam, KM
Duluth, MN

Salvatore P. Ciampo, KM
Bethpage, NY

Frank Covello, KM
Wayne, NJ

Kent A. Crighton, MD, KM
Morristown, NJ

Jason S. Crye, KM
Mequon, WI

Ryan E. Dougherty, KM
New York, NY

Robert F. Downing, KM
Plymouth, MA

Michael W. Dunne, MD, KM
Old Saybrook, CT

Marc L. Ecko, KM
Bernardsville, NJ

Timothy J. Feldhausen, KM
Green Bay, WI

Pierre C. Ferragu, KM
Scarsdale, NY

F. Kelly Gibbons, KM
Rockville Center, NY

Anthony F. Giobbi, KM
Ridgefield, CT

William C. Goggins, KM
Mattituck, NY

James H. Griffin, KM
Philadelphia, PA

John R. Heyrman, KM
De Pere, WI

Christopher B. Lalaria, KM
Watertown, CT

Robert L. Laurenzo, KM
Park Ridge, NJ

Thomas M. Linn, KM
Shorewood, WI

Benjamin Malec, KM
Beverly, MA

Donnie D. Marrs, KM
Salina, KS

Michael J. Massood, KM
Wayne, NJ

Timothy F. Michel, KM
Garden City, NY

Dennis P. Naeger, KM
The Woodlands, TX

James F. Noble, KM
Minneapolis, MN

James D. Nowka, KM
Brutus, MI

Brendan G. O'Connor, DDS, KM
Kew Gardens Hills, NY

Stephen C. Orr, KM
Naples, FL

Matthew D. Orzolek, KM
Scranton, PA

Robert J. Pape, Jr., KM
Port Washington, NY

Kenneth Richard Peach, KM
Orlando, FL

Jason A. Pelletier, KM
New York, NY

Howard W. Quimby, KM
Old Saybrook, CT

Dominic P. Rachiele, MD, KM
Bethlehem, PA

E. Kevin Scanlon, KM
Longport, NJ *

William M. Schult, KM
Edgewater, NJ

Randall P. Seidl, KM
Wellesley, MA

Matthew W. Sexton, KM
North Caldwell, NJ

Eduardo Smith Singares, MD, KM
Chicago, IL

Thomas Spannring, KM
St. Louis, MO

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Basking Ridge, NJ

Eric P. Vitale, KM
Brooklyn, NY

**In Absentia*





Outremer Revisited: *Lourdes in a Day in Indiana*

More than ever, ours is a time of Grace — a time when the miracle of change is possible through our living testimony that we have no lasting place here. We make use of earthly realities — while not being at home in them.

Our Order looks beyond besieged fortresses worn by conflict to the boundless spaces within people and the salvation of their souls. From the Extract of our Traditional Rule comes this imperative: “When a sick person arrives, receive him thus: First having confessed his sins to a priest of the Religion, give him Holy Communion...”

Such is our motivation in conducting our Lourdes Days of Grace and Healing. Like our Malade-in-Spirit Program, it is an extension of our annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes, but with a twist. We “re-present” the Lourdes experience with a Rosary, washing and Mass for our friends and neighbors here in Northern Indiana.

We began this many years ago at one of the better-known Lourdes replicas, namely the Grotto at the University of Notre Dame. Our friend, Fr. Robert Dunn of the Westchester Area, was so impressed with it that he adapted it for an assisted living residence adding a beautiful Rosary meditation equating the experience of its residents with that of St. Bernadette. We were then inspired to do the same. It reached a needy population — and required no marketing!

In belonging to an ancient Order like ours, there is no shortage of inspiration from which to draw. Outremer was a term for the Holy Land when the Knights of Malta were present and caring for pilgrims. Being a vast and inhospitable

territory, they built a string of fortresses to serve as centers of respite and refuge.

While Northern Indiana is no longer the wild-west, (despite the University of Michigan’s claim to be the champions thereof), it can still present difficulties for pilgrims on their way to the heavenly city, (not the same as the University of Notre Dame).

St. Teresa of Calcutta often spoke of the aged and infirm. She encouraged her sisters to be “God’s light” for them during their final days, like encouraging a runner who is tempted to quit before reaching the finish line. Without God’s light, an enfeebled person can find it difficult to continue: “If nobody else cares, why should I?”

Like our Outremer predecessors, we are also geographically challenged. Our diocese is a two-hour drive between its two principal cities. Hence our activities have remained largely in South Bend, perhaps thinking that with a name like Fort Wayne, our resources might be better deployed in the more rebellious western province, where the tailgates, er...I mean vital resources were nearby.

With Outremer in mind, we are stringing these events across our territory with plans for further expansion. And like our forebearers, we have formed partnerships with other chivalric-minded Catholics like the Knights of Columbus and chaplains from Holy Sepulchre.

We are also taking a deeper dive. Since our concern is the boundless



spaces within the residents themselves, we are using a time-tested method to access it, namely with beauty which gives all of us enthusiasm for living.

We wear our work uniforms and sometimes gowns while we show images from Lourdes and play soul-lifting music. We commissioned a retable for behind a portable altar we created for the occasion. Presently its panels depict our Lord's crucifixion, the Blessed Mother, and Elijah, with our Guardian Angel and St. Michael the Archangel soon to join them. We created a booklet with related prayers including instruction for saying the Rosary, and an explanation of the artwork's elements and how they might apply to the residents' lives.

Filling the panels is the deep blue sky, which like God is silent but unmistakably present. After a particularly difficult time, Elijah was tired of living and wanted to die. But he, like the residents we visit are still around, meaning God's plan for them continues to unfold. During this time, God cared for Elijah tenderly and simply, thereby preparing

him for the journey ahead. Elijah is an example of prayerful, faithful patience.

The graces won by Jesus are distributed by Mary like the roses at Guadalupe, and through her messages at places like Rue du Bac, Lourdes and Fatima. They flow as the water of life without cost to all who thirst. Mountains represent Faith rising from the desert of this world, while John stands at the foot of the cross looking to Mary for wisdom. The white dog represents faithfulness, the prerequisite of wisdom.

Our Guardian Angel accompanies and leads us to eternal life, while St. Michael quiets rebellious attitudes. Both are invisible but powerful allies in the wilds of Outremer.

We have received many positive follow-up reports from the residents and activity directors of the centers we have visited. One resident many months later during a raucous Oktoberfest celebration wistfully said, "It is so beautiful." The director asked, "Oktoberfest?" "No, Lourdes Day!" she replied.

At another center, a resident was

accompanied by her daughter who took a bottle of the Lourdes water for her infant daughter going in for tests. Rather than identifying her disease, the tests failed to find any disease at all! Another lady decided to take instruction in the Catholic Faith, while another went to Confession and returned to the Church. One gentleman said it was the best thing his residence had done in years. Not a bad return for a small amount of effort.

We also started a follow-up weekly Rosary called "Friends of God"; taking our inspiration from anchorites like Julian of Norwich who lived apart from the world to devote herself to prayer, meditation and study. In time, we hope these Lourdes Days become seeds for Outremer-like fortresses of prayer interceding for the rest of us. Giving them a vision for their life, while reassuring them with Julian's words: "All will be well, all manner of things shall be well."

Chris Godfrey, KM, is the Area-Chair of Northern Indiana and a graduate of the University of Michigan and the University of Notre Dame Law School.

■ PRAYER

Prayer Found in a Church Pew

Apparently, this prayer has been around for awhile and may be used in many places. It seems particularly appropriate at this time in the life of the Church.



My Church is composed of people like me; I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am; it will be holy, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work; It will be prayerful, if I pray.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, of compassion, charity and mercy if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I now dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my Church to be.

Amen.



The Order of Malta Worldwide Relief — *Dealing With Crisis That Few Even Know About*

As the Venezuela-Colombia refugee crisis along the northern border of Colombia continues to grow more unmanageable day by day, Malteser International Americas and partners in the region, including Malteser Colombia, continue to provide critical aid to families severely afflicted by the crisis. Recently, the humanitarian relief arm of the Order of Malta expanded its relief efforts to provide additional medical intervention for 12,000 people.

The Catholic relief organization says that the needs are tremendous, and they continue to plead to the international humanitarian community for help, with intentions of soothing the cries of those caught up in the world's "least-talked-about crisis."

An estimated one million Venezuelans are seeking refuge

in Colombia due to violence, hunger, and lack of medicine in Venezuela. While most of the world remains focused on the crisis in the Middle East, children and families fleeing Venezuela are suffering under the radar.

In recent months, some 600,000 Venezuelan refugees, migrants and asylum seekers have fled from Venezuela to Colombia. Every day, up to 8,000 more people are crossing the border – fleeing political conflict, oppression, hostility, and abuses at the hands of a corrupt government. They have no place to return to, or to call home.

These striking numbers don't even begin to highlight the individual stories of human suffering experienced by families. Many fleeing the situation are visibly malnourished and ill. Pregnant women do not have access to prenatal care. Small children who still have strength cry tears of hunger. And families are desperately living in unsafe conditions. Recently, a family of 11 members (three children and one young, pregnant woman with epilepsy and suffering from ongoing convulsions) were found sleeping under a bridge on cardboard boxes. When Malteser International Americas' staff met them, they were drinking and bathing in contaminated river water. Two of the children suffer from severely infected mosquito bites, one



of them with high risk of acute malnutrition. The other members of the family also had skin and respiratory infections. This is no way to live.

Compounding the difficulty of providing relief is the detrimental impact the crisis is having in refugee host communities. According to the UN Refugee Agency, already marginalized indigenous communities dependent on humanitarian aid are at capacity and are unable to help the refugees, migrants, and returnees. Food insecurity, malnutrition, high mother and child mortality, poor access to health care, longstanding droughts, economic instability, and disease are just part of a long list of issues facing the host communities. Therefore, Malteser International Americas remains steadfast in providing aid and health care in the border regions.

With over 65 years of humanitarian relief to pull from globally, Malteser International Americas is streamlined and efficient. Every donation is stretched as much as possible. With \$250, for example, 50 personal hygiene kits can be provided. With \$500 staff can provide 10 refugee families with emergency medicine. And with less than \$125, 75 rice-based protein-packs can be delivered to nourish the malnourished – just one of those packs can

With prayers and the generosity of the organization's supporters, Malteser International Americas is giving refugee families the help they need.

feed a hungry family of six.

With prayers and the generosity of the organization's supporters, Malteser International Americas is giving refugee families the help they need. In collaboration with three in-country partners in Colombia, Malteser International Americas continues to provide basic medical services for the refugees in Riohacha and in neighboring villages in the department of La Guajira, both in northern Colombia.

Among other efforts, health brigades staffed by volunteer doctors are treating refugees in border towns. In Villa del Sur, in the outskirts of the capital of La Guajira, hygiene kits are being distributed and refugees are being treated for worms, vaccinated against measles, and otherwise receiving basic medical care.

But, inevitably, with more people crossing the borders every day, the demand for nutritional support and health care will continue to mount in the coming months. The gravity of the emergency will intensify. And Malteser International Americas will be required to step up relief efforts sooner than later.

You can find out more about the work of Malteser International and support its relief efforts at www.orderofmaltarelief.org



Highlight on Fernando Blanco, KM

Argentinian born, Fernando Blanco is a Knight of Malta in the suburb of Plano in Texas. He has lived in the United States since 1997, moving to New York first with Pepsi but was transferred to Texas with a 2-3-year contract. Fond of the great state of Texas, he decided to make a shift in his employment and joined Christus Health, a nonprofit health organization for the underprivileged.

Fernando enjoys his work of giving back on a daily basis and on a global level. He stated that sending cash around the world with his company is a wonderful act to be able to accomplish. After 2017 became a year of unusually historic hurricanes Fernando felt a strong urge and call to do something on a local hands-on level.

Hurricanes, and tropical storms can wreak havoc even in developed nations such as the United States. Strong winds, heavy rain, rising tides and mudslides can kill and injure thousands in each disaster.

Fernando called on Gail Berardino, American Association Hospitaller, to rally support through the Order of Malta and within 2 days, more than \$200,000 was raised for victims in the Texas area. With the support of Malteser International, funds were directed to the exact areas needed and volunteers were arranged for support.



The importance of being pre-positioned for a faster response provides hope to those in open shelters keeping people safe during the storm. Fernando's lead in assisting and providing to families was supported by Bishop Curtis Guillory of Beaumont, Texas. After first responders leave the homes of the affected victims from the storms, Fernando's vision of hands-on work began. Working with Catholic Charities and donations from the Order of Malta, they were able to provide more than ten thousand cleaning kits. It is critical to remove mold, mildew and mud before any people can properly access the remains of what is salvageable in their homes, if indeed, any portion of the home is not a total loss.

Profound moments for Fernando include the hands-on moments he experienced distributing cleaning products in the storm-affected areas to the long lines of people grateful for any help they could get. Connecting to the people and giving the greatly needed gift cards to Hispanic families as a translator gave him a great sense of worth and plenty of opportunity to use his bilingual skills.

Hurricane Harvey left more than 1 million children in Texas unable to start school, with 3 million impacted across the region. Even with all the immediate help and support, it is important to remember that Fernando continues to work through Christus Health. Because the effects of storms or natural disaster cause psychosocial problems and trauma in families, support strategies must be mindful as well and is a practical guide for us all to remember. Just because the storm has passed, it is critical to remember that the invisible wake of the trauma and sadness of loss remain present.

Hurricane season is always a time when Fernando now keeps a constant watchful eye. The work he organized also involved the Federal Association in Texas; he believes an injection of energy for the members of the Order resulted from this project. They also work together feeding the homeless and attending retreats. At Easter time, they feed the Catholic students at SMU and organize food drives with the Missionaries of Charity.

Fernando says his work is very rewarding; driving home each night, he knows without a doubt that he directly or indirectly helped someone somewhere around the world in a time of crisis or need.

We should applaud Fernando's strength; he inspires each of us to step up and make a difference whenever we feel that call in our heart.

This article is one of a series, written by Linda Del Rio, member of the Board of Councillors and the Communications Committee. If you have a story about someone like Fernando, please contact Linda at Imariedel-rio@gmail.com. Thank you for reading and God bless!



Deceased Members: January 1, 2018 – Present

John Fleming Ball, KM	Greenwich, CT
Constance Louise Bissonnette, DM	Providence, RI
Elizabeth M. Dawson, DM	New Canaan, CT
Robert Lane Dillmeier, KM	Hobe Sound, FL
William Sadlier Dinger, KM	New York, NY
Theodore J. Dubuque, Jr, MD, KM	St. Louis, MO
Zachary Francis Endress, MD, KM	Traverse City, MI
William J. Flynn, KM	Garden City, NY
Dorothy M. Geisler, DM	Indianapolis, IN
Thomas James Giblin, MD, KM	Wellesley, MA
Rev. Msgr. Thomas E. Gilleece, ChD	Chappaqua, NY
Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, ChC	San Antonio, TX
Dolores Bernadette Grier, DM	New York, NY
Daniel Douglas Heffernan, Sr, MD, KM	Ypsilanti, MI
Mary M. Houlihan, DM	White Plains, NY
David S. James, KM	Loudonville, NY
Michael Kraynak, Jr, KM	Ridgewood, NJ
Joseph J. Lucca, KM	Wantagh, NY
Leo H. MacDonald, Sr, KM	St. Louis, MO
Phyllis M. MacNeil, DM	Westwood, MA
Daniel Desmond McCarthy, GCMOb	Rockville Centre, NY
Jean Marie McLaughlin, DM	New Canaan, CT
Rev. Dr. Francis P. McQuade, KM	Maplewood, NJ
James F. Mooney, Jr, KM	Needham, MA
Morgan J. Murray, KMOB	Greensburg, PA
Thomas M. Noonan, KM	St. Louis, MO
Gregory P. Plunkett, KM	Hyannis Port, MA
Victor J. Riley, Jr, KM	Cody, WY
Gerard R. Roche, KM	Chappaqua, NY
Lee Romanelli, DM	Darien, CT
James P. Slattery, KM	New Canaan, CT
Bernard Stephen Speckhart, KM	Short Hills, NJ
Harold F. Tehan, KM	Dallas, TX

Catholic Medical Association 87th Annual Educational Conference



The American Association was present to speak to participants at the Annual Educational Conference of the Catholic Medical Association. Representatives from the Dallas Area coordinated and represented the Association at the conference. A table with information and literature about the Order was funded by the Association to provide the opportunity to meet and share the Order's mission with interested medical professionals gathering for the Conference.

There were more of 700 attendees at the conference, including medical doctors, physician assistants, and registered nurses. The Knights and Dames who covered the Association's display met with about three hundred fifty Conference attendees from all over the country. A number of Knights and Dames from the three Associations who were attending the Conference also stopped to speak with the Association representatives.

Hosting a table at the conference enabled members of the Association to educate clinicians about the Order of Malta's history, its mission and its many ministries.

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

November 22, 2018

Thanksgiving

December 8, 2018

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

December 25, 2018

Christmas

January 17-18, 2019

Washington, DC

Pilgrimage for Life

February 1-3, 2019

Lutz, Florida with Msgr. Swetland

Association Retreat

February 12, 2019

West Palm Beach

Board of Councillors Meeting

February 25-26, 2019

New York City

Chaplains' Convocation

April 14-21, 2019

Holy Week and Easter

May 1-7, 2019

Lourdes Pilgrimage

May 16, 2019

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

June 13-14, 2019 Area

New York City

Leadership Meeting

June 24, 2019

Feast of Saint John the Baptist

August 1- 4, 2019

Wisconsin

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help

August 15, 2019

Feast of the Assumption

September 6-8, 2019

Medway, MA

Association Retreat

September 8, 2019

Feast of Our Lady of Philermo

September 19, 2019

Boston

Board of Councillors Meeting

November 1, 2019

All Saints' Day

November 14, 2019

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

November 15, 2019

New York City

Annual Meeting, Investiture,
Annual Dinner

November 28, 2019

Thanksgiving

December 8, 2019

Feast of the Immaculate Conception
(celebrated December 9)

December 25, 2019

Christmas

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*Photos for this issue have been graciously provided by
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Change of address?

Please notify the New York Office.

If you have recently moved, changed phone numbers, or created a new email address, we encourage you to visit: www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/update and fill out our information update form. This online form provides members with a quick and simple way to update any, or all, of their information that is stored in the American Association's database. 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. We hope that you will utilize this new method and help keep the American Association's records up to date.

You can also email mail@orderofmaltaamerican.org or call our office at (212) 371-1522 with your contact information updates.

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.