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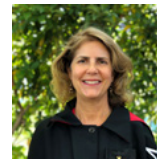
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“Come to Me and Rest in My Loving Presence”

Lourdes Pilgrimage May 1-7, 2019

Happy New Year! We are excited and honored to co-chair the 34th Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the American Association of the Order of Malta. This will be the 161st anniversary of the Blessed Mother's first apparition to St. Bernadette in 1858.

When Bernadette saw Our Lady in the Grotto, Mary asked Bernadette to pray the Rosary, to do penance, to drink at the spring and wash there, and to ask the priests to build a church. The beautiful churches and basilicas have been built in the tiny town of Lourdes and the domain is the epicenter of all the religious activities there.

Our theme, “Come to Me and Rest in My Loving Presence,” invites all pilgrims to come to Lourdes with an open mind and heart in the hope that they will feel God's presence in the caring support and community of the Order of Malta. As we live out our charism by “practicing *(continued on page 3)*

orderof
malta
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org

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 I am beginning my second year as your President. Last year was certainly a busy year full of interesting challenges. This year started with the March for Life which has more than doubled its Order of Malta members participating since we began attending in 2013. It was another mild weather day and I again couldn't believe the tens of thousands of people marching. It is so encouraging to see that most of the marchers were under 30!

The Graebes and Joe Dutkowsky did a wonderful job organizing us. We started the day with Mass and then breakfast in the hotel. At the end of the march, we met at the Capitol Hill Club for a late lunch. I would encourage all of you to mark your calendars and plan to join us next year. After the terrible abortion law that just passed the legislature in New York, we need to become more active fighting the murder of unborn children which is now allowed up to the time of birth in New York!

I just returned from a meeting of all the Presidents of the 47 Associations worldwide in Budapest. The purpose of the meeting was to choose 15 presidents to be electors at the upcoming Chapter General in May. (For those of you who are like me and need to be reminded of the structure of our Order, the Chapter General is the meeting held every 5 years to elect our governing body, the Sovereign Council and the Government Council.)

The meeting was interesting and at times contentious as the presidents from North America attempted to have the process reflect the numbers of members in each association. Unfortunately, the majority of presidents didn't agree and the only North American Association chosen as an elector was the American Association despite the fact that North America contains 4,000 members, almost a third of all the members in the Order worldwide. We are continuing to challenge this misrepresentation.

Last weekend, we had our retreat in Lutz Florida. This was the 6th year we have had our winter retreats at the Bethany Retreat Center and the weather this year was the best it's ever been with temperatures in the high 70s. Msgr Swetland led us in a thoughtful reflection on Luke's gospel. It is a great opportunity for us to grow spiritually and to develop relationships with other members fostering our sense of community. I urge all of you to try to attend one of our retreats each year. The next retreat is September 6-8 in Medford, MA.

At the end of March, we will have a meeting of all of the officers of the three US Associations in New Orleans. Our goal is to develop more ways to work together. The Wisconsin Pilgrimage is one example of how well this can work.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that we are entering the final phase of the lawsuit settlement. We are hopeful that this will be behind us by the end of the year.

Lourdes is rapidly approaching so please keep all of the Pilgrims, Malades and Malades in Spirit in your prayers.

God bless you and all that you do.

Peter J. Kelly, MD, KM
President

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Assistant Principal Chaplain



Loures Pilgrimage

(continued from cover)

charity towards our neighbors, especially the poor and the sick” and by being “forgetful of ourselves,” we give witness to God’s love by caring for our beloved Malades and lifting some of their burdens.

During a pilgrimage, people journey to a shrine or a sacred place and leave behind their everyday concerns to spend time in the presence of God. It can be a transformational journey during which significant change may take place. If you have been to Lourdes before, you understand the impact that it can have on your life.

One pilgrim writes of his experience in Lourdes, “Removed from our comfortable routines, we are naturally more aware of our fundamental reliance on God, and are therefore often more open to grace. We are sometimes more attentive to God, when our normal routines are set aside, and when our defenses are down. It is then that we more easily recognize our own spiritual poverty. That is, our basic need for God.”

Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is a busy time of processions, Masses, reflections, and conversations. It can be an overwhelming schedule for our Malades. In order to be open to God’s grace, our Malades and Caregivers must have the opportunity to pray and reflect. We encourage

them to participate in as many activities as they are able and to take advantage of the incredible group of chaplains that will join us to help them on their spiritual journey, but we also want them to feel a sense of peace and comfort while in Lourdes.

If this is your first time going to Lourdes, you may be wondering how to prepare for the pilgrimage? We can prepare as Our Mother Mary suggested to Bernadette, by praying the Rosary and going to confession. You may also pray the Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes before our departure or during our pilgrimage; it is available any time on the American Association website in the Lourdes section under Spirituality in Action: www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/lourdes/lourdes-pilgrimage-novena/

When we get to Lourdes, we will all have the opportunity to drink the waters and go to the baths there. When we leave our normal routines aside and focus on serving our Malades and Caregivers in Lourdes, we open our hearts and minds to God’s grace. We hope to lift some of their burdens from their shoulders so that they can be open to the intercession of Our Blessed Mother and Her Son in the Grotto of Massabielle.

We will be leaving from JFK Airport in about three months and the planning is well underway.

Carla and the entire staff in the New York office are busy organizing flights, planning

(continued on page 4)



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events, meals, and lodging to provide all that is necessary to make this pilgrimage run efficiently and smoothly. We hope it will be the experience of a lifetime for our beloved Malades and their Caregivers and all those who travel to Lourdes with us.

The Malade selection committee, led by Dr. Tony Gagliardi, is now in the process of selecting 50 Malades who will be joining us on the Pilgrimage.

F.J. McCarthy and Ken Craig, Co-Presidents of the Lourdes Pilgrimage, have been coordinating the logistics of the Lourdes masses, events and schedules with Order's leadership in Rome, in Lourdes and with the Federal and Western Associations from the USA.

We are blessed to have His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan joining us on this pilgrimage along with our Conventual Chaplain, Monsignor Ritchie who has recruited an outstanding group of clergy to address the spiritual needs of our pilgrims. The clergy play many important roles during our trip as they celebrate Mass, hear our confessions, share their insights, and also listen, counsel

and guide all of us on our spiritual journeys.

For those of you who are unable to join us as we travel to Lourdes this year, we ask that you consider supporting the pilgrimage in other ways. Here are a few suggestions:

- You can pray the Rosary while we are in Lourdes and keep our Malades, Caregivers and all those on pilgrimage in your prayers for a safe and faith-filled pilgrimage.
- You might suggest a Malade-in-Spirit for whom we will pray during our pilgrimage to Lourdes. We will pray for the intercession of our Blessed Mother for the healing and comfort of your loved ones. You may fill out a Malade in Spirit (MIS) form on the American Association website in the Members Only section, or call the New York Office for assistance.
- You can have your own intentions presented in Lourdes. Submit them using the "Prayer Intentions" form in the Lourdes section of the website. Your petitions are received anonymously and are printed in Lourdes by the New York staff to be brought to the Grotto while the Pilgrimage is going on.
- Any members of the Order who are coming on the pilgrimage may also offer to bring prayer requests from their parish members or from family and friends. They will also be

We hope it will be the experience of a lifetime for our beloved Malades and their Caregivers and all those who travel to Lourdes with us.



placed in the Grotto during the Pilgrimage.

- Lastly, please consider financially supporting the Pilgrimage by making a donation to the Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation to help cover the costs for our Malades and Caregivers who travel to Lourdes free of charge.

We are truly grateful for your prayers and support and we will pray for all members of the Order of Malta while on pilgrimage.

A Lourdes Reflection Prayer

Heavenly Father, make me an instrument of your healing grace.

Help me to be forgetful of myself during our pilgrimage to Lourdes

Help me and my fellow knights and dames to be fully present to our Malades and their Caregivers and to accompany them so that through our service, they may encounter your Son and know His healing mercy.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us.

Saint Bernadette, Pray for us.

Nancy

Nancy Murphy, DM

John

John Murphy MD, KM



■ HIGHLIGHTS

I Was In Prison and You Came To Visit Me

I really didn't know what to expect when I signed up for the prison pen pal program but I liked the idea. The experience has certainly exceeded my expectations.

It took several months before I received the first letter from my pen pal. It took him as long to receive my first letter. Despite the processing delays, we both continued to write monthly and letters started arriving regularly.

My pen pal is in his last year of a 28-year prison sentence. He started out in a state prison and was moved to a federal prison and then onto solitary confinement where a Catholic priest was the only visitor he had. Needless to say, he had a lot of anger to work through. That visit from the priest changed his life.

The strong faith and strength of my pen pal continues to inspire me. I get so excited to receive his letters. He has sent me letters that have brought me to tears. Tears of both of pure joy and of sadness for him. He had to be so young when he committed his crime and has lost out on so much of life.

We share Bible verses and thoughts on life. He is concerned about

adapting to life out of prison; getting a job, finding new friends, understanding the new technology, etc. One can only imagine how challenging things will be for him. He has paid his debt.

I hope society will give him some breaks once he gets out. He just wants to get on with his life. With his gift with words and his strong faith, he would like to do prison ministry. He sees a lot of need in prison and has actually been ministering to fellow prisoners. I have been encouraging him along the way. He has been in contact with a priest in the church where he plans to locate. Hopefully, he can join the church music group as he plays an instrument.

We are not ready to end the letters so I am hoping I can continue to be there for him once he gets out, to give him words of encouragement as he enters the challenge of living outside prison.

This article was contributed by Steven Hawkins, KM, who chairs the Pen Pal Program for the North American Prison Apostolate. There are currently eighty members and volunteers who are involved in the Pen Pal Program. If you are interested in getting involved in the Pen Pal Program or for more information, go to the Prison Ministry section of the American Association website (under Spirituality in Action).



Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

An Opportunity for Grace

This past November, the presidents of the American, Federal, and Western Associations, along with members of their pilgrimage committees, met in Washington, DC, to discuss the collaborative effort of the three Associations to continue growing and evolving the pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. The meeting was exciting and productive on many levels.

Walt Fountain, a member of the American Association from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and also the Vice Chairperson of the Shrine's board of directors, gave an update on the construction of the Shrine's new building which will greatly expand its capacity to host large groups. Designed as a multi-purpose facility, the building can be used as a chapel that will hold up to 1,200, or be divided into sections that will allow multiple

groups to have simultaneous meetings and events. Included in the design are additional restrooms, a commercial catering kitchen, expanded office space, and a hospitality suite.

Given the growing number of handicapped and ill pilgrims visiting the Shrine, a Respite and First Aid Room is also being incorporated in the design of the new building. Following discussions with Bishop Ricken, a Conventual Chaplain and the Bishop of Green Bay, the presidents have pledged financial support to help cover the costs of establishing the Respite and First Aid Room and have created a joint committee to explore how the Associations might work together to support it. Deborah O'Hara-Ruskowski, RN, DM and Peter Bewley, KM have been appointed by Dr. Kelly to serve as the American Association's representatives on that committee.

A good deal of time was spent discussing the evolving charism of the pilgrimage. As anyone who has visited is aware, the Shrine has a unique and distinct character. The simplicity and beauty of its setting amidst cornfields is unrivalled, prompting many to refer to our journey as 'a retreat to a sacred place'. We also discussed the interaction of the Associations during the pilgrimage. All agreed that the absence of Special Pilgrims with complex care needs has afforded members of the American, Federal, and Western Associations the opportunity to engage with each other more

directly and intimately than is feasible when in Lourdes. In addition, the effectiveness and collaborative nature of the Tri-Association organizing committee was recognized. Because of these thoughts, the presidents agreed to pivot the focus of the pilgrimage to be that of a retreat for members of the three Associations. While Special Guests will always be welcome, their participation will not be a primary focus for the next few years. Leadership of the pilgrimage committee will follow the Tri-Association model and rotate among the Associations every three years, with the American Association assuming the chair for 2020 - 2022. It was also agreed that a theme would be chosen for each pilgrimage. The intent is for the theme to serve as a compass for the direction of our prayer, our fellowship, and our collaboration as a Tri-Association.

The group also considered how we might introduce a service element to the pilgrimage, and connect with local communities that may be underserved. In consultation with Bishop Ricken, we decided to initiate a pilot program in 2019 to invite residents of a local veteran's home and retired clergy to join us on Friday for Mass, lunch, and adoration. Their participation will enhance our spirituality and allow us to welcome individuals who, through their sacrifice and commit-

ment, give witness to our prayer to be 'forgetful of myself'.

An exciting and productive meeting indeed!

Preparations for the 2019 pilgrimage, which will be held August 1st – 4th, are underway and the committees responsible for the liturgies and spirituality, as well as logistics, scheduling, meals, transportation, and communication have begun meeting regularly.

The three Associations have agreed that the Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help also provides a unique opportunity to engage members with their families and is ideal for grandparents, children and grandchildren. It is not strenuous, short in duration, easy to get to, relatively inexpensive and filled with spiritual opportunities.

Details on this year's pilgrimage will be sent to the Association in February and registration will open on February 21st. Those wishing to join the pilgrimage are encouraged to register early as space is limited and interest is expected to be high!

This article was contributed by Kenneth Craig, KM, a member of the Board of Councillors who serves on the Tri-Association Pilgrimage Committee.

■ HIGHLIGHTS

Spiritual Outreach Calls — A Break from the Ordinary

On the first Wednesday of each month, twenty to thirty people gather around their phones to hear a compelling and inspiring message delivered by one of the chaplains of the Association. And over the weeks that follow, fifty to one hundred more people go to the American Association website to hear the recorded message. Topics are timely and the talks are about fifteen minutes long. The Member Outreach Committee Chair, Christopher Rutkowski, introduces the speaker and closes the call.

The Association is blessed to have many chaplains who provide spiritual guidance to members of the Areas in addition to their full time jobs as clergy in their diocese or religious community. The Spiritual Outreach Calls began as an outreach in the Boston Area with Mrs. Sheila Feitelberg launching the initiative to reach members who were homebound. Over a short period, based on its success in the Boston Area, the program was expanded to include anyone who might want to call in across the Association. In recent years, Msgr. William Fadrowski has been very helpful in organizing the schedule and appealing to the chaplains for volunteers. The results literally 'speak for themselves.'

The calls were initially scheduled quarterly. With interest in the calls increasing and the importance of the project foremost in the thinking, the number of calls increased until one was scheduled every month.

Each month, a different chaplain delivers a message intended to be both informative and uplifting, providing a spiritual insight that gives the listeners something to think about. Recent topics included 'The Gift of Eucharistic Adoration', 'Our Lady of Guadalupe', 'Baptism — What It Really Means', and 'The Sick as a Source of Grace in our Lives'. A partial 2019 schedule is available on the Association website in the Spirituality section. The calls are recorded so you can listen to them at your convenience or hear them again.

While the original thinking was to provide a link to members who were not able to be active, the messages are both brief and relevant and many members find them to be compelling listening. If you haven't tuned in, you should try it, you might find the calls to be spiritual pearls. And you might want to send the link to the Association website to family and friends who might appreciate the opportunity to listen to the recorded messages (go to www.orderofmaltaamerican.org and look in the Spirituality section for the "Spiritual Outreach Calls"). There are always ten to fifteen messages posted.

As Sheila Feitelberg used to say, by way of encouragement, "Call in and be inspired!"

Christopher Rutkowski, Chair of the Member Outreach Committee, has contributed this article. Please contact him at chrisrutkowski@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions for the program.

Highlight on Beth Gutman, DM, from NE Florida



Beth Gutman felt with total certainty the moment she began volunteering as a master gardener at Comunita Cenacolo located in St Augustine, Florida that it was a holy and special place. The Community was founded in 1986 in Italy by Mother Elvira Petrozzi, an Italian vibrant, dynamic and faith filled religious sister.

Mother Elvira grew up with an abusive, alcoholic father; her vision and call was to serve the disillusioned young men and women who live in desperation and hopelessness from substance abuse.

Today there are more than 60 communities around the world, 4 within the United States. All communities are funded totally on the Providence and mercy of God. In less fortunate countries, the homes serve as orphanages as well, where the men and women in community care for abandoned and sometimes drug-addicted babies. With unwavering trust, these young women and men enter Comunita Cenacolo but in great despair, and with completely shattered lives. Through prayer, living completely on providence with days filled with selfless hard work and living under the same roof as other addicts, sharing everything graciously and learning from each other, they recover but not without with many hours of suffering in silence, and re-learning to love themselves.

Every community has an inside and outside chapel, where many hours are spent in adoration, prayer, journaling, contemplation and discernment. The result of all these hours for them is seeing sadness turn to joy, hatred into forgiveness, and death into life.

The hard manual work is part of the rehab; the men and women learn many skills in community. The guys' communities have workshops, farming, pottery, beautiful hand wood-crafted items along with recording faith-filled music and performing plays for physical therapy as well to work through the actions of their lives as addicts. The young women make rosaries, jewelry, hand-sewn garments and items, quilting, knitting, handmade journals and hand-crafted cards, books and so much more. These items are sold at church fairs and retreats for support of the community.

Beth's work at the communities began with the huge job of

teaching the young men and women how to sustain and grow a substantial amount of vegetables, fruits and herbs. A Master Gardener since 2010, she has had to continually teach and re-teach because the young women and men are entering and exiting community all of the time. Mother Elvira believes it takes a 3-year commitment to be ready to reenter the world. On a weekly basis, Beth brings providence of food and garden supplies. Her many talents have grown into teaching the women to knit, cook, construct gardens and a fire pit.

The Order of Malta NE Florida area provides providence to the houses as one of their ongoing works. When Beth works with the women, she ties in scripture to their works with the intention of showing the correlation of the garden to their lives. Plants need nourishment — they need healthy food and sobriety, sunlight — they need the Light of the Lord, fertile soil relates to their faith, sprouting of seeds brings hope, and water is love.

Beth feels she has received more that she has given to these communities. She has watched many recover from black dark eyes entering the community to light-filled productive members of society, faith-filled with meaningful jobs. Many have worked to complete college degrees, get married and have children. Comunita Cenacolo is a place of light, love, and hope. For those who pass through the doors, whether as a visitor, parent, relative, supporter or to attend one of their beautiful and Holy Masses, the Community is a place you never forget. I myself have never left one of the communities around the world without feeling like the Community rests on truly Holy ground.

Beth's most recent work was co-founding, with Dame Susan Egan, the Baby Steps Camino. The purpose of the project is to increase personal and spiritual growth during Advent season and incorporate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception; the walk also serves as a fund-raiser for Holy Family Hospital in Jerusalem. The walk is a 3-day, 30-mile walking pilgrimage, beginning in Jacksonville Beach and ending at the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche. The second annual pilgrimage just completed in early December raised thousands of dollars with over 60 participants.

Congratulations to all who cross paths with Beth Gutman in her zeal and endless, tireless work for Comunita Cenacolo and the NE Florida Area of Malta. Thank you, Beth.

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



This explanation of the meaning written into the Icon of the Baptism of Jesus should have been included with the print that was sent with the last issue of the Hospitallers newsletter.



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS CHRIST

24" x 30", acrylic on canvas

Icon written by the hand of
Vincent Chesney, KM, 2018

Known as a Theophany (Greek: Θεοφάνεια) literally a "divine materialization" like the Transfiguration, the Trinity was shown in glory at Christ's Baptism. "It happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan by John. On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:9-11)

The icon is designed so that the person viewing it has the vantage point of standing in the Jordan, with Our Lord and Savior. He is the focal point, with all energy focused on Him. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, emanates from God the Father's presence which creates a direct line to His Son. This reminds us of the Baptist's fondness for quoting scripture: "'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said" (John 1:23). Jesus blesses the living waters of the Jordan

as well as the viewer. The water itself is alive which reflect Jesus' teaching in John 4:4-26; John 7: 37-39. Within the blue water are small creatures that reflect Psalm 114: When Israel went out from Egypt. . . The sea looked and fled [referring to the parting of the Red Sea]; Jordan turned back [referring to the return to the Promised Land through the Jordan River] and Zechariah 14:8-9. Blue symbolizes heaven in iconography. The water totally envelops the undressed Jesus, foreshadowing His own tomb. "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Rom 6:3-4)

Also receiving a blessing from Christ is John the Baptist, patron of the Order of Malta who wears representative colors. Red symbolizes humanity, blood and therefore martyrdom as well as the Resurrection. White symbolizes purity and divinity. He both steps toward Christ, in obedience to His command to baptize Him, yet bows before his divine cousin in reverent humility. There is a tree below John, which reminds the viewer of the Baptist's prophesy: "And even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; therefore, every tree which produces not good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire" (Matt 3:10)

To the left of Jesus are three angels attending to Him. They cover their hands as a sign of respect for Our Savior. The towel is emblazoned with the Maltese Cross, as these angels mystically represent the three associations of the Order of Malta in the United States.

The Order's coat of arms can be found in the lower corner of the icon, as John baptizes Jesus he provides us with a model of humble service that inspires the Order.

The scene is surrounded by actual gold. This is to emphasize the heavenly nature of icons, which since at least the sixth century have been called 'windows into heaven' by multiple Church Fathers.

Paint in this icon was infused with water from the Grotto of Lourdes, France and earth from the Shrine in Champion, Wisconsin both of which are Marian apparition sites where the Order conducts pilgrimages.

■ IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members: January 1, 2019 – Present

John J. Finn, DDS, KM

Ottsville, PA

Dennis J. Lynch, KM

Naples, FL

Richard F. Baalman, Sr., KM

St. Louis, MO

Most Rev. John M. Smith, ChC

Lawrenceville, NJ





Pilgrimage for Life

When the signers of the Declaration of Independence put their names on the bottom of that historic document proclaiming the right for everyone to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, it is doubtful that any of them were thinking that the society they were constructing the foundation for would have legalized over sixty million abortions in the forty-six years following *Roe v. Wade*. That number is fifteen times the population of the United States in the first census in 1790.

In the intervening years since the 1973 Supreme Court decision, fifty times the number of American soldiers killed in all the wars starting from the Revolutionary War (1,196,554) have been aborted. According to the US Census Bureau data, the population of the United States in 1890 was about 63 million people — abortions in the post- *Roe v. Wade* era killed about the same number as the entire US population in 1890.

One of the themes prevalent at the 2019 March for Life was “Unique From Day One,” focusing on the scientific advances over the last forty-six years that concluded with certainty that, at

conception, a unique entity is formed, different from the parents, and possessing his or her own individual DNA. Through faith, we believe that the human being created at conception is endowed with his or her own soul. Through science, we know that a unique individual has been created.

Members of the American Association joined under the leadership of Dr. Robert and Mrs. Nancy Graebe and Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky to speak out, by their presence and their prayers, for the defense of the unborn. Estimates on the total number of people present for the March ranged from over 100,000 to between 200,000 and 300,000. Regardless of the numbers, the spirit of great love, commitment, and hope appeared to be present among the marchers. Seventy members of the American Association joined together with members of the Federal Association and the hundreds of thousands there to advocate for the defense of the lives of the most defenseless in society — the unborn child. Noted frequently by attendees were the number of young people whose voices in support of life permeated a peaceful and prayerful march through the streets

of Washington, from the Mall to the Supreme Court Building.

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany and Conventual Chaplain for the Upstate New York Area, led the group of Association Pilgrims at Saint Patrick’s Church in Washington in prayer at morning Mass on the day of the March; he also led the group in prayer during the March. The Knights and Dames were joined at Mass by five hundred college and high school students from North Dakota. During the March, Knights and Dames were joined by members of Bishop Scharfenberger’s Albany Diocese who marched peacefully with them to pray in front of the Supreme Court Building.

There was much more to the Pilgrimage for Life than just the March itself, which was important in its own right. Members met the day before at Saint Claire’s Convent and Eucharistic Chapel for a reflection and Eucharistic Adoration. Sister Cecilia Rose, SV, presented a reflection; she indicated that she liked to use acronyms to remember things and shared one based on the word HOPE; ‘H’ stood for hope — the hope that God’s intercession might be felt and that all people would be moved to take a stand for the protection of life. For ‘O’, Sister Cecilia said that we should all be open for surprises — that God presents them and we need to be on the lookout. She told the amazing story of what happened when she was open to God’s ‘nudge’ that she needed to be present for a woman at the back of the church she was visiting. As it turned out, the woman was on the verge of suicide and through the kind act of greeting, recognition and the willingness to listen, opened the woman to the grace of God’s love.

For the ‘P’, Sister Cecilia reminded the pilgrims of the importance of prayer and the need to find the moments to engage in prayer, including time to listen for God’s voice. And Sister Cecilia used the ‘E’ to remind those present that they should live lives of expectant faith, the kind of faith that allowed Mary to say,



“Be it done to me according to thy word.” It is the faith of a hopeful people, the faith and trust that God will provide.

Sister Cecilia’s talk was followed by Eucharistic Adoration, led by Katy Feeney whose music and commentary set the mood for a prayerful and holy period of personal reflection. A number of the pilgrims were familiar with Katy’s music, including Dr. Jeffrey Trexler who has used her beautiful Stations of the Cross for Good Friday stations. (Katy also indicated that all of her music was available free on the web at www.soundcloud.com/katy-feeney.)

After a hearty lunch and fellowship with pilgrims and the Sisters of Life, the group moved to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the Opening Mass for the National Prayer Vigil for Life. Seated hours before the start of the 5:30PM Mass, attendees had the opportunity to

reflect on the purpose of the march, to pray, to go to confession to the priests scattered throughout the Church and to share camaraderie with old and new friends. Estimates of ten thousand in attendance did not seem exaggerated as every seat, every side chapel, the lower church/crypt and virtually every spot on the floor were all filled to capacity. The Mass was broadcast live on a number of Catholic TV networks, giving millions the chance to participate.

The Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was the Principal Celebrant and Homilist at the Vigil Mass. He said that the claim of the Supreme Court that the US Constitution contains a right to abortion is absurd. The decisions were based on lies — the Archbishop articulated with detail, the history of those involved and the sub-

sequent understanding of the facts and statements of those who were involved in the original cases. A number of the pro-abortion participants in the case went on to support pro-life causes.

Nancy and Robert Graebe and Joseph Dutkowsky did a wonderful job in arranging the pilgrimage, down to the last details. The 2019 Pilgrimage for Life had the largest group attend (75) since the Pilgrimage was started for the Association in 2013 when five signed up and the late Karen Dutkowsky, the organizer of the original American Association Pilgrimage, asked the Association President, “Are you coming?” In 2020, the Pilgrimage for Life will be on Thursday, January 23 and Friday, January 24. What will your answer be to the question, “Are you coming?”

Dr. and Mrs. Graebe and Dr. Dutkowsky all contributed to this article.



ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

On the first Wednesday of each month,
there is a Spiritual Outreach call at 11AM ET.

February 25-26

New York City

Chaplains' Convocation

March 27-28

New Orleans

Tri-Association
Leadership Meeting

April 14-21, 2019

Holy Week and Easter

May 1-7, 2019

Lourdes Pilgrimage

May 16, 2019

New York City

Board of Councillors Meeting

May 30-June 2

Malvern, PA

Subpriory Retreat

June 13-14, 2019

New York City

Area 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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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.