



HOSPITALERS IS PUBLISHED BY THE
**SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF
JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA™**
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, U.S.A.

HOSPITALERS

VOLUME 19 SUMMER 2019



IN THIS ISSUE



6 Words from
the Cardinal



8 Pilgrimage to the
Shrine of Our Lady
of Good Help



10 The Evening Rosary
of Common Petition



13 Camino de Santiago
de Compostela

“Come to Me and Rest in My Loving Presence”

The 2019 Lourdes Pilgrimage

We recently returned from the 34th Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes with the American Association of the Order of Malta. We traveled to Lourdes on May 1st with over 415 Knights, Dames, Auxiliary and volunteers who served our 54 Malades and their Caregivers. It was a busy week which included many beautiful Masses, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Reflections, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and going to the Baths. There were very special moments throughout the week on Pilgrimage as we answered the call to “Come to Me and Rest in My Loving Presence” in the Grotto in Lourdes.

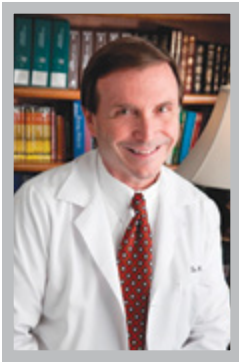
For all the Malades and Caregivers who accompanied us, we hope you had a wonderful experience in Lourdes and that the members of the Order of Malta surrounded you with caring and kindness. It is a challenging journey to Europe for anyone, let alone someone who is struggling *(continued on page 3)*

orderof
malta
american.
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”.



I recently emailed all of you an update on our activities so I would like to focus my message in this edition of the *Hospitallers* on our spirituality.

Robert Wicks is a psychologist and theologian whom I enjoy reading. He explains that the development of our own inner life (our spirituality) and our reaching out to others are intertwined. They make up a “circle of grace” that surrounds and feeds both our own spiritual selves and those with whom we interact during our lifetime.

He explains that if “we seek to be compassionate without time for prayer and quiet reflection, our reaching out runs the risk of degenerating into compulsive forms of giving that may be lavish but not very genuine.”

In our Daily Prayer of the Order, we commit to defending our faith and caring for the sick and the poor. We must not forget that we need to “learn from Thy Holy Gospel a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion.”

I am so impressed by all of the ministries that we do as members of the Order of Malta. However, we must not neglect our spiritual growth. Our mission is to grow spiritually as we care for the sick and the poor and defend the faith.

We have many opportunities to grow spiritually in the Order. I believe that the most important are the retreats and pilgrimages. We have two retreats a year, one in the fall and one in the winter. We have our pilgrimage to Lourdes and now our pilgrimage to Wisconsin.

EVERY ONE OF US SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO GATHER AS A SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY EACH YEAR.

There are almost 2000 members in the American Association but only 300 go to Lourdes, 100 to Wisconsin and 40 to 50 to each retreat. These numbers need to increase.

I would ask each of you to make a special effort to grow your spirituality this year by attending one of the pilgrimages or retreats.

The Wisconsin pilgrimage is the first weekend in August and is a great opportunity for you and your family to grow spiritually. This is the only approved apparition site in the USA. If you can't make the Lourdes Pilgrimage, this is the perfect alternative.

I again want to say how grateful I am for all you do for the sick and the poor and defending our faith. I encourage you to remember Robert Wicks' description of the circle of grace and make every effort to grow spiritually this year.

God bless all of you,

Peter J. Kelly, MD
President

Here are the dates for the upcoming Pilgrimages and Retreats. Plan ahead and mark your calendars.

2019

Aug 1-4 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help, Wisconsin
Sept 6-8 Association Retreat (Medway, MA)

2020

Jan 23-24 Pilgrimage for Life (Washington, DC)
Jan 31-Feb 2 Association Retreat (Lutz, FL)
Apr 28-May 5 Lourdes Pilgrimage (note extra day at start of pilgrimage)
Aug 6-9 Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help, Wisconsin
Sept 25-27 Association Retreat (Medway, MA)

2019 BOARD OF COUNCILLORS

Peter J. Kelly, MD, *President*

Edward J. Delaney, *Chancellor*

James F. O'Connor, *Treasurer*

Karol Corbin Walker, Esq., *Secretary*

Camille M. Kelleher, *Hospitaller*

Kenneth R. Craig, *Vice Hospitaller*

William H. Besgen

Linda B. Del Rio

Edward J. Delaney

Michael J. Donoghue

Joseph P. Dutkowsky, MD

Mary Beth Fessler

Marion E. Glennon

Anne Marie R. Hansen

William J. Knowles

Margaret M. Lyons

Peter J. Maloy

John M. Murphy, MD

Thomas J. O'Brien

John R. O'Rourke, Esq.

Christopher F. Poch

Thomas J. Reedy

Christopher J. Rutkowski

Frá Nicola Tegoni

Charlotte A. Williams

Frá Richard F. Wolff

Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York, Principal Chaplain

Reverend Monsignor Robert T. Ritchie
Assistant Principal Chaplain



Lourdes Pilgrimage

(continued from cover)

with an illness. We thank you for trusting us to take care of you and to help lift the burdens that you carry on a daily basis so you could open your hearts and be held in the embrace of Our Lord and His Mother Mary.

Lourdes is a special place where we are surrounded by faith-filled, compassionate individuals who give their time, talent and also a part of themselves as they serve their Malades who may be struggling with illness and pain. We pray that Our Mother Mary will hear our prayers and bring them the comfort and strength they need to persevere.

We were honored and humbled to be the Co-Chairs for the 2019 Lourdes Pilgrimage and it was a pleasure to serve with you. We are also honored to be members of the Order of Malta with so many outstanding compassionate, and caring individuals. We appreciate all the encouragement we had throughout the year of planning and we especially appreciate all the support we received during the Pilgrimage. The members of the Order of Malta were always there with a smile, a hug or pat on the back in order to lift us up and sustain us.

Thank you to all those who supported the Pilgrimage through donations to the Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation. We greatly appreciate that you were able to provide the funding for our Malades and Caregivers to go to Lourdes free of charge.

The Pilgrimage runs very smoothly thanks to a wonderful collaboration of many people who work behind the scenes for much of the trip. Thank you to our President Peter Kelly and our Chancellor Ed Delaney for all their support before and throughout the Pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage Co-Presidents Ken Craig and FJ McCarthy organized many of the logistics before and during our time in Lourdes.. We are very thankful for their attention to detail and calm and reassuring presence, always making sure things were running safely and smoothly.

We were so blessed to have an amazing group of clergy members, led by Monsignor Robert Ritchie, who were integral to the success of the Pilgrimage. His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan also blessed us with his beautiful sermons; his warm, out-going personality made all of us come together in faith and fellowship.

Thank you to all our incredible Team Captains who led their teams with energy, enthusiasm and dedication to ensure everyone's needs were met. They prepared their teams prior to the journey and managed daily issues during the Pilgrimage with smiles and patience.

Thank you to Bill Knowles and all those who helped with the logistics at the airport during our departure/arrival in JFK and Lourdes. XL Airways also did an exemplary job again this year, taking wonderful care of all of us on our journey to and from France.

(continued on page 4)



(continued from page 3)

The Auxiliary did a terrific job under the leadership of Chris Weldon to serve as charioteers, traffic control, helping on pods and doing the heavy lifting, many times and wherever needed — we appreciate their commitment to serve. Thank you to the Advance team who got everything ready for us on our arrival in Lourdes.

The staff of the American Association in New York, led by Executive Director Dr. Jeff Trexler, did an outstanding job again this year. Special thanks to Carla Gunerard and her team who quietly and efficiently did an extraordinary job organizing and executing all the details necessary to move 415 people safely to and from France. The team includes Ray La Rose, Matt La Rose, Jackie Finnen, and Tiffany Mazza who did so much work behind the scenes to assure the Pilgrimage ran smoothly. The entire New York staff was involved. We appreciate all your time and hard work throughout the Pilgrimage.

We would like to thank our Music Director, Mac

Cooney, and all members of the choir who blessed us with their beautiful voices raised in song, lifting all of us up during each Mass and celebration. The music program was exceptional and the enthusiasm and passion of all the choir were a highlight of the Pilgrimage. The Friday night sing-a-long was a hit again this year with the help

and dedication of Cece and Mike Donoghue along with all our team captains and our Malades and Caregivers who rocked the Alba into the night. We are so grateful for Mac's dedication and commitment to creating the camaraderie for all of us to enjoy being together for a few hours of laughter, song and fellowship.

We appreciate all the time and effort given on the part of our doctors and nurses who

took care of the medical needs of our Malades and Caregivers throughout the Pilgrimage. Dr. Tony Gagliardi and Patti Vara Hickey led the Medical team and worked diligently for many months in advance of the trip to select our Malades and make sure their needs were all addressed on our trip.

Each time we serve the poor and the sick together in our mission, we further nurture the special relationships that we have built over the years and in this way, we become stronger, both individually and as an Order.



Thank you to Kristy Snyder and Fr. Ian Jeremiah who did a wonderful job engaging our youngest pilgrims for the children's program this year; they all had a great time.

Thank you also to Michelle Babyak who was our roving photographer throughout the week — she captured those special pictures during our week in Lourdes so all of us will have them to reminisce about the 2019 Pilgrimage to Lourdes for years to come.

We had many special moments of grace during the Pilgrimage and we hope that after returning to your busy lives, you can still hold onto that deep sense of peace and comfort that you experienced in Lourdes.

We are happy to share that our Knight, Dan Mudd is back in the USA, recovering well after his fall. Thank you for all the prayers and Rosaries that have been prayed for Dan and his family. They are working, so please continue to keep Dan and his family in your prayers. We know Our Mother Mary hears our prayers so please keep them coming!

Also please continue to keep our Malades and Caregivers in your prayers along with our Malades-in Spirit as we continue to pray for their healing and peace.

Each time we serve the poor and the sick together in our mission, we further nurture the special relationships that we have built over the years and in this way, we become stronger, both individually and as an Order. The camaraderie in the Order is so comforting and supportive because we know

we can always count on each other when we are in need of anything, whether it is physical, spiritual or even financial support of a particular mission. We are all prayer partners for each other and that is a blessing for all of us.

May God Bless all members of the Order of Malta and especially those who joined us on the 2019 Pilgrimage. We are thankful and humbled to be part of it.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for Us !

Saint Bernadette, Pray for Us !

Nancy

Nancy Murphy, DM

John

John Murphy MD, KM



■ HIGHLIGHTS

What's In A Day?

Take a look at the 2020 Calendar for the Association and you may notice that the Lourdes Pilgrimage will begin on Tuesday instead of Wednesday. The charter flight will leave from the New York Area a day early in response to a recommendation from the Lourdes medical committee.

The extra day at the beginning of the pilgrimage is intended to give the Malades, many of whom have serious illnesses, a day to recover from the long trans-Atlantic flight to Lourdes. The rigors of the first full day in Lourdes will be eased by a quiet afternoon and evening before many of the activities begin.

Thursday will start off slower and probably a little later than the normal 7AM reveille call. Team meetings will be spaced over the morning to take advantage of the limited meeting space. The Rosary Basilica will be the scene of the opening Tri-Association Mass on Thursday afternoon.

This experiment in real time will give the Association a good body of information to determine whether the extra day was useful, whether there was any impact on the registration roles and how the extra day impacted the ability of the Malades to recover from the journey.

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

The American Association is truly blessed to have Cardinal Timothy Dolan as its Principal Chaplain. His continued interest in the mission of the Order and the members of the Association serve as an inspiration. He shared a message to members and two homilies he delivered on the Association's Lourdes Pilgrimage this year.



A MESSAGE FROM CARDINAL DOLAN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Are you a Theist? 97% of the world's population are. That simply means you believe in God.

How about a Christian? I trust you certainly are. That means you believe that God the Son, Jesus Christ, is our Lord and Savior.

But here's the towering question: are you a Catholic? This means you believe that Jesus remains alive, active, and most accessible in His Church!

That's the real "leap of faith" today! More and more "Christians" want Jesus without His Church. They are at peace believing while not belonging.

Such is not the way of Jesus.

We members of the Order of Malta have joined because we desire personal sanctification, service to the sick, and take seriously the call to love the Church.

We are Catholics! Sure, we are well-aware of the flaws of her members — popes, cardinals, bishops, priests — and ourselves! But the Church remains the radiant, spotless bride of Christ!

"When it's easy to be a Catholic, it's difficult to be a good one; when it's hard to be a Catholic; it's easier to be a good one," as Pope St. Paul VI observed.

We of the Order are confident, hopeful, joyful, humble, grateful Catholics, which, as my confessor whispers through the screen, means, "We love the Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, warts and all!"

†Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

TWO HOMILIES FROM LOURDES

Cardinal Dolan accompanied the American Association this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. He delivered two powerful homilies that moved all who were there. They are shared so you can relive the special moments if you were there and if you were not there, you can benefit from these special gifts.

LOURDES MAY 4, 2019: THE GROTTO MASS

Dad was a radioman on the USS Cleveland in the thick of the Pacific theatre during WWII. As a boy, I tried to learn Morse code from him, and the first signal he taught me was S-O-S, the international distress signal, "Save-Our-Ship!"

The apostles put out an "S-O-S" in this morning's gospel. They're in the boat on Lake Tiberias and a vicious storm arises — destructive winds, darkness, thunder, lightning, the ship tossed, taking on water perilously. "S-O-S!" Jesus walks on the water to them. "Be not afraid!" — one of His favorite sayings. "Be not afraid!" and He leads them to a safe harbor.

The Church is often portrayed as a boat. "The barque of Peter," the ship of Peter. We have that image carved on the front of the main altar at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

I tell you nothing startling when I observe that the Church we love and serve seems to be in a fierce storm right now — scandal/controversy/division/persecution/departures/shocking headlines and news stories...

The "barque of Peter," the ship of the Church, is sending out an "S-O-S." We're afraid we're going to sink.

And Jesus whispers to us, "Be not afraid!"

"I am with you all days, even until the end of the ages."

"Fear is useless! What is needed is trust."

"Do not let your hearts be troubled! Have faith in God, have faith in me!"

And this morning Jesus guides us to a safe harbor. A harbor is a place of calm, surrounded by rock. Here we are, in the harbor, the grotto of Massabielle. The Blessed Mother of Jesus, the Star of the Sea, Stella Maris, has brought us into the calm of a cave, a harbor. She covers us with her veil, to protect us.

Archbishop Vigneron reminded us yesterday that this grotto in St. Bernadette's day was a garbage dump. It still is, as we bring here our fear, our worry, our anxiety, our doubts, our sins. We throw all of that overboard lest we are swamped by the storm.

We stay with Jesus;
We stay with Mary;
They lead us to a harbor.

LOURDES MAY 5, 2019: THE INTERNATIONAL MASS

One of the many graces of the Easter season is to hear the episodes of our Lord's visits with His disciples after His resurrection. Many of these episodes have one thing in common: Jesus eats with His disciples; Jesus has a meal with his friends.

We have one of these in our gospel this morning.

St. John the Evangelist tells us that Jesus Himself cooked a breakfast of bread and fish for His apostles. "Come, have breakfast," He then invites them.

"Jesus came over, took the bread, and gave it to them."

Where have we heard those sacred words from Jesus before? "He took bread and gave it to them."

At the Last Supper! At the first Mass!

Jesus, risen from the dead, remained present to His disciples at the Holy Meal we call the Eucharist.

Jesus, risen from the dead, remains present to us today, really and truly, in the Most Holy Eucharist.

At every Mass, Jesus invites us to have a meal with Him. At every Eucharist Jesus prepares a banquet for us. At every meal, He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to us in Holy Communion.

Ad ogni Messa, Gesù ci invita ad avere un pasto con Lui. Ad ogni Eucaristia Gesù prepara un banchetto per noi. Ad ogni pasto prende il pane, lo benedice, lo spezza e lo dona a noi nella santa comunione.

Last week we heard the gospel passage of Jesus and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. When it seemed as if Jesus was going to leave the two, they begged Him, "Stay with us, Lord!" Mane nobiscum Domine!

He did. Then what happened? He went in, took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.

Jesus answers our prayer, "Stay with us, Lord!" in the Holy Eucharist. That's why we're here.



Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

August 1st to 4th
A Journey of Hope

Odds are that you could be a Green Bay Packers fan because many Americans are (estimated at 5.31 million Facebook fans) but there is a good chance you may never have been to Green Bay. Located in the beautiful state of Wisconsin, it is a little off the beaten path in the eastern part of Wisconsin right on beautiful Green Bay, jutting off Lake Michigan, about a two hour drive from Chicago; Green Bay is a little over four hours from Minneapolis-Saint Paul if you drive the speed limit, almost six hours from Indianapolis and it is about a seven hour drive from Saint Louis.

You can get to Green Bay by Trains, Planes and Automobiles and you can get there by boat from any boat ramp on Lake Superior, Lake Huron or Lake Michigan. So, it is hard to repeat the old saying that “You can’t get there from here.” And there are lots of reasons to go there — it

is a beautiful Midwestern city with wide streets, beautiful neighborhoods, beautiful lakeside venues and more than fifteen Catholic Churches. Nicknamed “Title Town” because of the Packers’ record of winning more championships than any other NFL team, it is a small city by some standards (pop 105,116 estimate in 2017) but proud of its heritage and its friendly Midwestern personality.

Did you ever notice that the Blessed Mother does not normally show up in famous hotels, seaside resorts, mountain chalets or vacation theme parks? She finds her way to simple, holy people in wholly simple places - like Lourdes where a grotto by a muddy stream in a little town in the mountains brought Bernadette face to face with the Lady; like Knock or Fatima which both still remain off the beaten path; Mexico City has expanded its borders to be one of the largest cities in the world, but it was not that way when Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in 1531.

Travel east-northeast of Green Bay to Champion and you will see a lot of cornfields; some say there are more than the eye can see. And down what are clear, flat and well-paved two lane roads, you come upon a break in a cornfield and discover what really has no business being there — a parking lot fronting a church (some would call it a chapel) and lovely grounds. To the right of the church, there is a small graveyard with some nondescript gravestones that mark the burial places of some of the people who were part of an extraordinary event in such a very ordinary spot.



The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help marks the spot where the border between Heaven and Earth opened for sacred moments in 1859. Our Blessed Mother chose a young immigrant woman from Belgium, Adele Brise, to carry a message of hope and concern for the children; Mary told her unlikely visionary to teach the Catechism to the children. Adele was not well educated, but took direction from the Blessed Mother and carried out her instructions. It never turns out to be an easy route to follow for those selected by Mary to be her messenger, but for those who accept the assignment, it is life-changing, not only for them but for generations who come after them.

One hundred sixty years later, members of the three US Associations of the Order of Malta have chosen to follow the path to that special place, to lay their prayers, their hopes, their secret intentions before Our Lady of Good Help and seek her intercession. The parallel to Lourdes is visible in that people leave both shrines with peace. Miracles do happen but it is the peace that many seek, the peace that the earth cannot give that is the gift that Our Lady puts out there for all who make the journey to seek it.

People come with faith and leave with hope; that is the nature of the gift that Mary offers — a renewed commitment for all who come to the purpose and value of prayer, to the commitment to the camaraderie that is part of the nature of being in the Order and to the special relationship that the Order has to the Blessed Mother under any of her titles.

Three Associations hoping to pray together will bring over two hundred people to the shrine in August. Will you be able to find your way by train, plane, or automobile to Green Bay to be one of them?

The Pilgrimage from Thursday afternoon, August 1 to Sunday morning, August 4, is a gift you should consider giving yourself, your family and even friends who might be interested in understanding what the Order is and why you are committed to its mission.

You can find more information on the Association website at www.orderofmaltaamerican.org — there is a link to the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help materials on the home page.

■ HIGHLIGHTS

Looking for A Chance to Go Back to School? Self-Study Resources As Close As Your Computer

Have you ever thought about going back to school to learn something entirely new or to expand your knowledge in a subject which you already know and love? If that subject is the Order of Malta, there are excellent resources as close as your keyboard.

The Year of Formation Curriculum delivers a completely contemporary set of modules — if you haven't taken a look, you are in for a big surprise. Built on the edX platform, an open online course provider, the modules, based on current education techniques that are proving effective through numerous courses being delivered, are modern, contemporary, easy to use and filled with important information that every committed member of the Order should know. The principal purpose of the modules is to introduce candidates for admission to a comprehensive set of information that they need to become a member of the Order. But it is just as important for members to keep up to date on this same information. "Try it; you'll like it!" There is no cost, no commitment and a very good chance that you are going to really enjoy working your way through each of the information-packed modules.

Each module is built in easy-to-complete sections that include text, video and readings. You can start and stop, pick up right where you left off and finish each of the eight modules in

less than an hour. If you have been a member for a while, a refresher course might be just the trigger to remind you why you joined the Order; it is likely that you will learn things you did not know and be reminded of many things you knew but had forgotten: History, Mission, Works and Ministries, Pilgrimages, Retreats and more.

You can find the link to the Year of Formation Workroom on the Association website under "American Association." You will need your members only id and password. Need help to get in? Contact the New York office at 212-371-1522 for some easy to follow directions to get started on your educational adventure.

Looking for something a little less 'high-tech' to get you started? If you are more comfortable curling up in a chair and reading about subjects you are interested in, the Year of Preparation Primer might be just what you are looking for — it is available on the website in the "Year of Formation" section under American Association — no password required. You can read it right from its current PDF format (or if you really want your own printed copy, send an email to staff@orderofmaltaamerican.org or call the New York office.)

With either the edX Curriculum or the Year of Preparation Primer, you will be on your way.



The Evening Rosary of Common Petition

An Incredible Story of a Growing Devotion Behind Bars and Among Outsiders

Many comments have been made that Prison Ministry is not for everyone. The Evening Rosary of Common Petition Project opens an avenue that allows members to reach into prisons and into the hearts of inmates on the strong chain of the Rosary. The program was started to bring our incarcerated brothers and sisters closer to Mary through circles of prayer — saying the Rosary at 8PM every day in prisons around the world with a specific intention each day of the week. But there is an untapped element that may be just what members are looking for as they search for ways to participate in the work of the American Association's Prison Ministry Apostolate.

One knows that habits are hard to form and hard to break. One of the positive outcomes of the project whose specific goal is to get inmates to say Rosary every evening at 8PM (local time) is that forming the habit of praying the Rosary can carry one far into the future, into a daily meeting with the Blessed Mother in the circle of hundreds of others who join in. An inmate receives a certificate after he or she has completed 1,000 rosaries; at that point, the habit of prayer

hopefully has become a part of his or her daily life. It would not be a stretch to think that our Blessed Mother is pleased with the inmate and with the efforts to foster and encourage that ongoing devotion to her.

In May, the eleventh "Certificate of Recognition" was presented from the Order of Malta to an inmate for having said 1000 Rosaries! There are 43 other inmates registered for the program. And there is no way to calculate the numbers who are participating while not actually registering for the program.

The project is promulgated with an insert that is included with the distribution of The Serving Brother — this insert includes a paper set of Rosary beads (normal Rosary beads would not be permitted through the mailing process in most prisons), a guide on how to say the Rosary, and the daily petitions for which the inmate offers his or her prayers each day of the week. To see the actual insert, go to the Prison Ministry section that is housed in the Spirituality in Action section on the American Association website: www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/prison/evening-rosary-common-petition/

"Praying together to Our Lord through Mary, we grow in faith together as a community. Praying the Rosary daily we may come to experience the deep peace that only comes through life in Christ. By joining together every night precisely at 8 PM, men and women in prisons throughout the world create a circle of light and hope in the darkness. By sharing a common prayer each evening, voices are allied and strengthened as they band together to pray for each other and the world. As it follows the setting sun around the globe, the prayer of the Rosary will circle the world with love."



This effort started in December of 2016, and two and a half years later, the program has experienced explosive growth. Florida was the point of origin for the program where a handful of stapled papers were distributed at the Palm Beach County Jail. Now, 20,000 units per year are being distributed, just for Florida. The project is entering new ground in bringing this Marian devotion to places of incarceration outside the United States where many inmates have never even seen a rosary. The inserts are being shipped to 37 countries.

Members of the Apostolate Board are committed to this devotion, as members of the Order of Malta, as prison ministers, as Catholics, as those committed to the poor-in-spirit. The Chairman of the North American Apostolate who is in the Federal Association confirms that Rosary cards are now in Maryland, New Hampshire and Texas, with Pennsylvania, Virginia and Georgia considering the matter; the Federal Association is paying for their own distribution. This is another example of the American and the Federal Associations working together seamlessly.

The American Association and the North American Apostolate are very grateful to the South Florida Area for participating in this great work. Those involved believe that, in just a few more years, this Rosary distribution project which reaches tens of thousands of the poor-in-spirit will be a signature work of the Order, as is our Lourdes Pilgrimage.

The current costs of the program (printing and distributing the materials) is ten thousand dollars per year. This funding for the next three years is coming principally from the Southeastern Florida Area and Hawley and Jack McAuliffe. The donation is to be used exclusively for the Rosary Project, adding the Rosary Insert to the Caribbean Basin and Oceania copies of TSB. Strong support for the program has also come from Fr. Patrick O'Neill, a Chaplain in Southeastern Florida and Sean Clancy, Southeastern Florida Area Chair.

The on-going objective of The Evening Rosary of Common Petition Program is to build prayer circles that increase in size over time. To achieve that objective, it is hoped that an insert can be included with every copy of The Serving Brother, with extra copies for additional readers as the issues of The Serving Brother are shared among inmates. Moreover, it is hoped that copies will be shared with family members and friends in the community to participate in the ongoing, and ever expanding, prayer group.

For members who believe that Prison Ministry may have been calling them but they were uncertain or uncomfortable in finding a way to respond, every evening at 8PM your time, join the many who are saying The Evening Rosary of Common Petition. You may be surprised that you have found a comfortable home in the prison ministry family.

(This article was compiled with contributions from Andrew Vissicchio, Michael McGarry and Robert Fredericks, active participants in the Prison Ministry Apostolate.)

The Seven Petitions of the Rosary Project

MONDAYS

Together we pray for the families of all the incarcerated: that the Blessed Mother will watch over these families and keep them from want, and that their children will be properly cared for.

TUESDAYS

Together we pray to the Blessed Mother to intercede on behalf of those who have been falsely accused: that the justice system will bring to light all the facts surrounding their arrest, and they may be treated with the justice they deserve.

WEDNESDAYS

Together we pray to the Blessed Mother to intercede for the poor of the world: that those who have will enthusiastically share with those who have not; that God will shower the poorest of the poor with His grace and relieve their suffering.

THURSDAYS

Together we pray for each other: that each will receive the fair evaluation that is necessary to render fair judgment; that God will inspire mercy from the judges of those receiving sentences.

FRIDAYS

Together we pray to Our Lord in thanksgiving for His suffering and death on the cross. On this day Christ died for our sins. We petition God for the forgiveness of sins, and resolve to renew our commitment to a better life.

SATURDAYS

Together we pray to the Blessed Mother for her help and protection against the evils and injustices of the world; that the Blessed Mother will intercede with Our Lord on behalf of all nations to govern its people with justice and true compassion.

SUNDAYS

Together we celebrate the resurrection of Christ: that as difficult as the world might seem, Our Lord and Savior has risen from the dead and promised to deliver all who seek him out. We pray that the evils of the world will not sway us from following the teachings of Christ. May we grow daily in our love of God.

The 2019 Strategic Planning Process: Looking Ahead While Looking Within

When President Peter Kelly took office in 2018, he proposed that in 2019, a Strategic Plan should be developed to map the course for the Association for the next five years. This thoughtful approach laid the groundwork for the establishment of the Committee in the first quarter of 2019. Dr. Kelly, Mr. Edward Delaney, Chancellor, and Dr. Trexler considered carefully the needs of such a committee and identified the members who would serve. With Mr. Delaney as the Chair, the Committee included members who have or are serving in various roles in the Association as well as being representative across the Association's geography.

Members of the Committee serving with Mr. Delaney include Peter Bewley, Area Chair from Naples Florida, Hope Carter – former Area Chair and Board Member, Karol Corbin Walker, Association Secretary and recently appointed Area Co-Chair in New Jersey, Michael Donoghue – Board Member and Area Co-Chair in Connecticut, George Molinsky – former Area Chair and Board Member, Thomas Schlafly – former Board Member and Msgr. Dennis Sheehan, Conventual Chaplain from the Boston Area. In addition, Dr. Jeffrey Trexler and Mr. Raymond LaRose are working closely with the Committee.

Mr. Delaney had a good framework in which to begin the process — the 2013-2014 Strategic Plan had been the driver of a number of very important and significant changes for the Association. Dr. Richard Milone, former Association Chancellor, recently remarked on the accomplishments that stemmed from that Committee's work. "Four major outcomes of the process have had a very positive impact on the Association. The redesign of the Grants Program put the decision-making responsibility for grants for Area hands-on work at the Area level. This empowered the Areas to focus their allocations where they considered the money would do the most good — for the organizations who benefitted and for the members who served those organizations."

"Two very important outcomes," continued Dr. Milone, "were the re-establishment of an annual gathering of Area Leaders to

discuss, share, and learn from each other and from the leadership of the Association. The Committee also received repeated input that we should find ways to get our Chaplains more involved. The Chaplains' Convocation has become an important annual gathering that continues to bear fruit for the Association." Dr. Milone noted, "The complete revamp of the communications work at the Association level was spurred by the Board's commitment to fund a new position, the Communications Specialist. Combining that with resources already on staff has resulted in a renaissance of communications improvements, from the redesign and constant update of the website, to the app, to the development of online tools that support the work of our members and areas."

Mr. Delaney said that the current Strategic Plan would build on the work of the 2013-2014 Committee. He noted, "We have been given the task of looking at the Association, identifying the opportunities to move forward and developing a plan to get there. We have been very active already in gathering input — a survey of the membership provided input from more than two hundred fifty members. Over one thousand comments have given our Committee lots to digest and work on. Several subcommittees have been established which will use input from the Strategic Plan Survey as well as the Area Leadership Survey as a basis for building the plan. Additionally, the subcommittees will gather input along the way to test ideas and clarify issues."

Mr. Delaney concluded, "The opportunities are there — we need to harness the strengths of our membership to ensure that what we develop and deliver will advance the mission of our Order and our Association — 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"

The members of the Association have a lot to look forward to as the Committee moves forward in its work.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the revised Daily Prayer of the Order. This Prayer was the rewritten through a collaboration among the three US Associations and reflects only small but significant changes.

- Knights and Dames are not specifically mentioned because this prayer is designed for Knights, Dames, Auxiliary, Volunteers and Malades. Each of us has been called in a different way by Our Lord to serve the poor and sick with the Order.
- There are many versions of the word, "Philermo" — what is important is that all three Associations have agreed to use the same version.
- The term, "enemies of Religion," has been replaced by "sacrilege." "Religion" referred to the Order and "enemies" referred to those with whom the Order was fighting. Modern translations of this term in other languages refer to impiety, the condition of being sacrilegious. We are called to defend the Church against unholiness, from whatever source.

Camino de Santiago de Compostela



For centuries, the Order of Malta in Spain has assisted pilgrims walking the Camino from Pamplona at the base of the Pyrenees to Santiago. Today, the Order operates two hostels, one in Navarra and one at the Spanish mid-point near Palencia. The Spanish Association also staffs a First Aid Station at the Cathedral of Santiago. All staff are members of the Order or volunteers and the Association fields, on a weekly basis, teams of 2-3 people in the hostels and 4-6 people at the First Aid Station from May to September.

This year, as well as in 2020, and particularly in the Jubilee Year of 2021, the Spanish Association would welcome volunteers from other Associations of the Order. Help is needed both at the hostels and at the First Aid Station. Fluency in Spanish is not a requirement nor are medical skills, although a basic knowledge of CPR would be helpful. All that is required is a willingness to commit a week of your time. Most weeks for this year have been staffed at this point, but the schedule for 2020 and 2021 is wide open. You are invited to participate with a group of friends or individually. The Spanish Association will provide local accommodations.

THE WAY ON WHEELS

Ever dream of walking part of the Camino yourself? Or others who might want to accompany you? Know a physically disabled or elderly individual who shares the dream? Here is an opportunity to consider which fulfills that dream while living the mission of the Order: the Spanish Association organizes The Way on Wheels, a 9-10 day trek from Palencia to Santiago de Compostela. The pilgrimage uses Joelette wheelchairs which are specially designed for the terrain and the Spanish Association can make these chairs available to a SMOM group wishing to take one or more (up to 4) disabled pilgrims on the Camino. Each pod requires 4 helpers plus 1-2 more volunteers. Volunteers are also welcome to join other teams making the pilgrimage.

If interested in any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact the American Association Hospitaller (camillekelleher@aol.com) for more information and contact with the Spanish Association.



Boston Area Hosts Frà Alessandro de Franciscis

“Cures and Miracles in Lourdes”



In February, the Boston Area hosted Frà Alessandro de Franciscis, MD, ScM., who presented “Cures and Miracles in Lourdes” at St. Paul Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Frà de Franciscis is President of the Lourdes Office of Medical Observations and President of the Lourdes International Medical Association. His office examines the cases of alleged cures at Lourdes.

“We were honored to welcome Frà de Franciscis as well as our confrères from Massachusetts and nearby states,” said Craig Gibson, Co-Chair with Nancy Gibson of the Boston Area Order of Malta. “His presentation was inspirational, and this was a great opportunity to spend time with our fellow members.”

The presentation focused on the comprehensive process, one that takes years, involved in investigating claims of miraculous cures. Frà de Franciscis emphasized his job is not to determine that something is a miracle but rather that, after rigorous investigative examination, a scientific explanation for the cure cannot be determined.

“There were quite a number of doctors in the audience, and they were surprised at how strict the criteria are,” said Frà de Franciscis. “It is not enough to be told someone had cancer and now does not,” he said. “There must first have been a medical diagnosis that the condition is severe. The cure must be instantaneous, sudden, complete and lasting. As far as I know, there is no other place in religion in the world where there is such scrutiny.”

One of the doctors in the audience was Donna Coletti, MD, a member of the American Association’s Lourdes Medical Team and the Founding Medical Director for Palliative Care Services at Greenwich Hospital in Greenwich, Connecticut. “It was fascinating,” she said. “How do you distinguish between a miracle and a cure? When a cure happens in conjunction with a religious experience, it deserves attention. If someone experiences a confluence of mind,

body and spirit, it’s hard to deny the validity of that connection.”

Msgr. James P. Moroney, Deputy Chaplain of the Order of Malta and Interim Rector of Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester, said of the presentation: “I was impressed by the rigorous medical criteria which Frà de Franciscis applies every day to the cures reported to the Medical Bureau and the declarations of miracles which have resulted from them.”

In addition to doctors and clergy, the audience included local parishioners; Order of Malta members from the Boston Area, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey; and Frà de Franciscis’ colleagues from Harvard. “I felt the people in the room understood and shared with me what I felt about Lourdes,” Frà de Franciscis said. “I felt at home.”

Timothy McGuirk, an active member of the Auxiliary for many years who drove up from New York for the presentation, commented on the diversity among attendees: “The presence of so many different expertises in the audience reflected both the City of Boston’s character and the rich universality of Church.” While Tim recently moved to New York, he grew up in Massachusetts. He has known Frà de Franciscis for 10 years, since Tim’s first visit to Lourdes as part of a high-school, youth pilgrimage with the American Association. “The Order’s extraordinary ability to bring people together around a topic of faith and reason is an example of what the Church is at Her very best,” Tim said.

As important as Frà de Franciscis’ scientific work is, he reminds us not to define Lourdes in medical terms. “Lourdes is not a clinic,” he said. “We go to Lourdes because Our Blessed Mother invites us. We are called to experience the mercy of God Our Father. Jesus does not perform cures in the sense of taking over the job of doctors. Jesus cures with faith to show he has been sent to forgive our sins. This is Lourdes.”

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

June 13-14, 2019 New York City Area Leadership Meeting	November 15, 2019 New York City Annual Meeting, Investiture, Annual Dinner	Jan 31-Feb 2, 2020 Association Retreat (Lutz, FL)	September 8, 2020 Feast of Our Lady of Philermo
June 24, 2019 Feast of Saint John the Baptist	November 17, 2019 World Day of the Poor	February 10-11, 2020 New York City Chaplains' Convocation	September 25-27, 2020 Medway, MA Association Retreat
August 1- 4, 2019 Wisconsin Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help	November 28, 2019 Thanksgiving	February 11, 2020 Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the sick	November 1, 2020 All Saints' Day
August 15, 2019 Feast of the Assumption	December 8, 2019 Feast of the Immaculate Conception (celebrated December 9)	April 5-12, 2020 Holy Week and Easter	November 12, 2020 New York City Board of Councillors Meeting
September 6-8, 2019 Medway, MA Association Retreat	December 25, 2019 Christmas	April 28-May 5, 2020 Lourdes Pilgrimage (note extra day at start of pilgrimage)	November 13, 2020 New York City Annual Meeting, Investiture, Annual Dinner
September 8, 2019 Feast of Our Lady of Philermo	2020	May 21, 2020 Ascension Thursday	November 15, 2020 World Day of the Poor
September 19, 2019 Boston, MA Board of Councillors Meeting	January 1, 2020 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God — New Year's Day	June 24, 2020 Feast of Saint John the Baptist	November 26, 2020 Thanksgiving
November 1, 2019 All Saints' Day	January 23-24, 2020 Washington, DC Pilgrimage for Life	August 6-9, 2020 Wisconsin Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help	December 8, 2020 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
November 14, 2019 New York City Board of Councillors Meeting	January 28, 2020 Naples, FL Board of Councillors Meeting	August 15, 2020 Feast of the Assumption	December 25, 2020 Christmas

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

IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members: January 1, 2019 – Present

Edward V. Atnally, KM	Bronxville, NY	James G. Houlihan, KM	White Plains, NY
Richard F. Baalman, Sr, KM	St. Louis, MO	Dennis Joseph Lynch, KM	Naples, FL
Barbara Miller Burns, DM	New Canaan, CT	Louis J. Mahoney, KM	Rochester Hills, MI
John T. Bycraft III, KM	South Bend, IN	Carrol A. Muccia, Jr, KM	Greenwich, CT
Ralph T. Dimpel, KM	Bronxville, NY	Catherine R. Murphy, DM	Delray Beach, FL
Robert Anthony Dolehide, MD, KM	Darien, IL	Most Rev. John M. Smith, ChC	Lawrenceville, NJ
John J. Finn, DDS, KM	Ottsville, PA		



HIGHLIGHTS

Faten's Story: A Story of Hope Realized



Faten, a Palestinian social worker from Gaza, was 33 weeks pregnant with twins when she traveled to Bethlehem to attend a training course.

Upon her arrival to Bethlehem, Faten suddenly found herself in pre-term labor. As the only hospital in the region capable of delivering and caring for high-risk premature babies, she was immediately rushed to Holy Family Hospital to save the lives of her twins.

Fourteen hours later, Faten gave birth via emergency C-section to her two sons, Muhamad and Abed. The twins were immediately rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for highly specialized care.

Faten was concerned for the lives of her premature twins and anxious about the cost of medical care. She was alone with no place to stay in Bethlehem, exhausted from her C-section and homesick for her family in Gaza.

The staff at Holy Family Hospital immediately jumped into action, embracing Faten and easing her emotional distress by providing her and the babies with the best possible care.

Holy Family Hospital's social workers offered her pastoral counseling and explained that the Hospital's Poor Case Fund would cover all healthcare costs. Holy Family Hospital provided Faten a room with a shower and three hot meals a day while her sons were being cared for in the NICU. When Muhamad was discharged, he joined his mother in her room, where they stayed for three weeks waiting for Abed to be strong enough to travel back to Gaza.

Faten, grateful for the care and support that she and her babies received at Holy Family Hospital, exclaimed, "I was afraid of everything, and I was very worried about my newborn babies while my family was far from me, but Holy Family Hospital provided me and my babies with the best medical care and psychological support that led me now to feel as if my family were with me."

She continued, "You are my family now and I will never forget you. It was God's will to put me in your hands so that my babies would have the best medical care. They will have an excellent quality of life thanks to your efforts. I will never forget that you gave me a safe and warm place in the hospital close to my babies to wait for their discharge from the NICU."

Holy Family Hospital, the Order of Malta's hospital in the Holy Land, remains committed to protecting life and offering care to the most defenseless amongst us. There is always room at the Inn.

For more information visit: www.birthplaceofhope.org

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.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

1011 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 1350
NEW YORK, NY 10022-4112 USA

Telephone: 212-371-1522 Fax: 212-486-9427

www.orderofmaltaamerican.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICE STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jeffrey R. Trexler
Executive Director

Raymond J. LaRose
Assistant Executive Director,
Newsletter, Board Meetings

Jacqueline M. Finnen
Controller

Maria Di Giacomo
Administrative Assistant
for Member Services

Carla L. Gunerard
Program Coordinator
for Major Events

Matthew T. LaRose
IT Systems Manager

Tiffany A. Mazza
Communications Specialist

Miquan A. McLaurin
Administrative/Accounting Assistant

Design/Production: Studio Rappy

Articles for future issues of this
newsletter should be mailed to:

Raymond J. LaRose
American Association

1011 First Avenue, Suite 1350,
New York, NY 10022

or sent via email to:

rlarose@orderofmaltaamerican.org

© 2019 Order of Malta®,
American Association, U.S.A.

*Photos for this issue have been graciously provided by
Michelle Babyak and others.*

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.