



Order Of Malta

Saint Louis Area

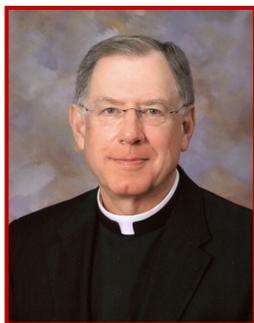
July 2019

JULY DEVOTION



THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

Anastpaul



Reverend Monsignor
Vernon Gardin

“Our loving Mother Mary guided each of us to bring the compassion and hope of our Lord to our Malades as we celebrated Mass, the Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation and the Rosary Procession.”

“Ad Multos Annos”

The Latin phrase “*ad multos annos*,” translated as “to more years,” is a traditional toast to a priest on a special occasion; “*may he live many more years!*” Sometimes the phrase is added (in Latin), “*and glorious years!*” This custom expresses the heart-felt wishes of all of us in Malta on the occasion of the 75th birthday of Archbishop Robert Carlson (June 30) and the tenth anniversary of his service as Archbishop of St. Louis. He was installed as the ninth Archbishop of St. Louis June 10, 2009.

The recent issue of *St. Louis Catholic* (June/July 2019) presented an impressive summary of key numbers during his pastoral leadership in St. Louis. Some of the statistics are 49 men ordained to the priesthood, 80 to the permanent diaconate; over 80,000 gradu-

ated from Catholic grade schools, high schools, and PSR programs. \$145 million has been pledged to the Annual Catholic Appeal, and \$110 million to the Beyond Sunday Campaign. A major accomplishment has been the establishment of the Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri, which is providing a secure financial basis for the Church in St. Louis for years to come.

Statistics alone of course do not tell the whole story. The June 6 issue of *The St. Louis Review* includes a beautiful article on the Archbishop’s priorities during his ten years in St. Louis: Catholic education, vocations, and a culture of life. In the midst of significant challenges in our country, Archbishop Carlson has been steadfast in enlisting the faithful to

Msgr. Vernon Gardin, PH.D., ChM

support these key aspects in our Catholic faith. Against difficult odds, in troublesome times, his unswerving support has borne good results; his leadership is much appreciated. People in need—whether Catholic or not Catholic—have been supported through the many charitable, pastoral, and educational endeavors of the Archdiocese which have continued because of the Archbishop’s support.

Above all, Archbishop Carlson has been a man of prayer, a faithful priest, and a trustworthy bishop dedicated to serving God’s people. We have indeed been blessed! As Knights and Dames of Malta, we join everyone throughout the Archdiocese in thanking God for the Archbishop, and we pray for him every day. *Ad multos annos gloriosaque annos!*

St. Louis Area Co-Chairs Lourdes Pilgrimage Report Kathy and Greg Gantz, DM and KM

This year marked the 34th year of the American Association’s annual Lourdes Pilgrimage. Over 415 Knights, Dames, Auxiliary, Student Nurses and Volunteers answered the call to “Come to Me and Rest in My Loving Presence” (the

pilgrimage theme) as we served 54 Malades (including 13 children) and their Caregivers.

Our loving Mother Mary guided each of us to bring the compassion and hope of our Lord to our Malades as we celebrated Mass, the Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation and the Rosary Procession.

Once again, we were blessed by the presence of wonderful clergy, including Cardinal Dolan, who brought the face of Christ to each of us through

quiet presence, spiritual guidance and numerous acts of love and kindness. It was a gift to have these Shepherds among us!

It is always difficult to leave behind the miracle of Lourdes and the Malades and Caregivers that have become a part of the Malta family. However, as we continue to carry the Malades and their Caregivers in our hearts and prayers, we are brought back to the grotto and the loving arms of our Mother Mary. We left Lourdes with the confidence that Mary will continue to respond to our prayers to intercede on behalf of the Malades, Malades-in-Spirit and their Caregivers in the days to come. *Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us.*



St. Nicholas

The Christmas celebration on the feast of St. Nicholas, one of the world's most popular saints, prompted my researching and recalling lore about his life for a newsletter article.

On a trip to Turkey, I had the good fortune of being in Myra, the city where St. Nicholas presided as archbishop during the fourth century. The earliest accounts of his life were written centuries after his death and, consequently, contain many legends. One of the most famous of these is the tale of his visits at night to the home of three young maidens, covertly dropping sacks of gold through a window. St. Nicho-

las's beneficence enabled their father to pay for his daughters' dowries and avoid a terrible fate -- their being sold into servitude. St. Nick's role as the grantor of gifts undoubtedly developed out of old stories of his generosity, especially this one.

Interestingly, pawnbrokers adopted three golden balls as their symbol (representing the three bags of gold) and, to this day, replicas hang at the doors of such shops.

St. Nicholas's reputation as an extraordinary benefactor grew and, by the end of the ninth century, he was well on the way of becoming the medieval equivalent of an interna-

Bebe Kennedy, DM

tional celebrity, and thus became the patron saint of cities, e.g., Aberdeen, Scotland, and of countries including Greece and the Netherlands.

He became especially beloved in the U.S. because of Kenneth Clarke Moore's poem, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" - the poem about the "jolly old elf with the little round belly that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly."

There are three churches in the St. Louis area named after St. Nicholas - two Greek Orthodox and one Catholic. Because of his kindness and generosity to those in need, he is an exemplar for the members of the Order of Malta.



Message from St. Louis Area Co-Chairs

Kathy and Greg Gantz, DM and KM

The St. Louis Area of the Order of Malta has been truly blessed thus far in the year 2019. We are reminded on a daily basis of these blessings through the efforts of our Knights, Dames, and Auxiliary. So many of our members act "under the radar" with incredible generosity to serve the sick and the poor, and in their practice of, and witness to our faith. We are reminded that the more we serve, the more we are blessed.

There are many examples of such service, but just a couple will highlight the nature of these blessings. You will recall that the "Let's Start" program for women's prison ministry was struggling in the quest for survival as a viable program. With the assistance of Malta, and very generous individuals, the program was able to continue its ministry, now in formal conjunction with the Criminal Justice Ministry. to serve those who need help to recon-

nect with our community.

Occasionally, our members will be honored by the organizations they serve. An example is Michael J. Heck, KM, who was recognized by St. Patrick Center as the 2019 Leo Paradis Volunteer Champion. Mike has been helping to ensure that St. Patrick Center will have a beautiful chapel, and Malta has assisted in providing pews for the chapel. It will be a beautiful place of worship and prayer for all of those associated with this marvelous mission.

From hospital ministries, bingo at St. Agnes Home, work with Our Lady's Inn, and many other efforts, we are blessed to have so many opportunities to serve.

The Mass honoring St. John the Baptist, followed by the dinner honoring our wonderful shepherd, Archbishop Carlson, was truly historic, being the first joint effort with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre,

to pray and celebrate together in our area. It was yet another reminder of how blessed and fortunate we are.

We have much to share from the Area Chair meeting in New York in June. In the coming days look for those updates, and a news of our membership initiative.

We should all remember that we have much to offer and share with other faithful and qualified Catholics in our area. Perhaps they are only waiting for an invitation. Please pause and think of someone who may be waiting for the call to serve among the Knights and Dames of St. John of Jerusalem. Please contact us, or Chris Winkelmann, KM, our membership chair, to assist in getting the process started.

It is such an honor to serve with you all. Thank you for everything you do. God bless you all!!



Kathy and Greg Gantz
St. Louis Area Co-Chairs

Our Lady of Lourdes Mass & Breakfast

The frigid temps brought to St. Louis by the "polar vortex" did not dissuade Malta members from celebrating the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 9th. The hardy faithful ventured out to attend Holy Mass at Immacolata Church and to dine at Schneithorst's for breakfast and, happily, no cases of frostbite were reported.

Of note was the attendance by candidate Lloyd Noble who resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Lloyd was advised by the Order's New York office that the St. Louis Area Malta was closest in proximity to Tulsa and would accommodate his can-

didacy. So, with extraordinary and most commendable zeal, candidate Noble flew into Spirit of St. Louis airport on that cold morning, rented a car, joined us for the OLL event, and promptly returned to Spirit for his return trip home. Noble indeed!



Bebe Kennedy, DM



Our Lady's Inn Angel Gala

Darryl and Ellen Ross and the Len and Pat Dino Family Charitable Foundation were major hosting sponsors of Our Lady's Inn Angel Gala at Old Warson Country Club on April 14.

It was a delightful occasion beginning with cocktails and dinner and concluding with a

successful auction led by Glenn Zimmerman. In between, the Thomas More Society was honored for its various legal activities protecting life.

And, "Michelle," accompanied by her infant son Bryan, expressed with heartfelt grati-

Bebe Kennedy, DM

tude the loving kindness she received upon her admission to, and her stay at Our Lady's Inn. She stated that the caring support of the staff enabled her to cope and move forward with positive steps in resolving her difficulties.



Mike Heck Award

Congratulations to Mike Heck for receiving St. Patrick's Center's Gala and Golf Tournament Open's Volunteer Champion Award. He was honored with this distinction on June 1st at Union Station at a dinner, and at the golf tournament on June 3rd at Norwood Hills CC.

Mike served as a founding member and president of the Young Friends Board, and subsequently as a member, then

president of the governing Board of Directors. Noteworthy to Mike's service to the Center were his: regional leadership of homeless services; participation in raising more than \$10 million to renovate the current facility; co-leading of the recruitment of the CEO; securing large sums of federal funds to expand programs and services; designation by President George W. Bush as a SHINING

Bebe Kennedy, DM

LIGHT OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM; establishment of the Board of Trustees; and, his spearheading the effort to build a chapel to care for the spiritual enrichment of clients.

Well done Mike!!!

ORDER OF MALTA

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Kathy and Greg Gantz

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Beth and Doug Van Horn

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Greg Goltermann

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Genie and John Wilhelm

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Pat Bick

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Archbishop Carlson's Birthday/20 Yrs Service Gala

The evening commenced with Mass at Cathedral Basilica to celebrate the feast day of St. John the Baptist. The Mass (and dinner gala) were noteworthy, given attendance by both our membership and that of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, in especial recognition of the evening's honoree, Archbishop Carlson. Following Holy Mass, festivities continued with cocktails and a delicious filet mignon dinner hosted by Darryl and Ellen Ross and Vince and Judy Shaw at Old

Warson Country Club. After Randy Weber's (Holy Sepulchre) opening dinner remarks, Greg Gantz thanked the Archbishop for being such an outstanding shepherd. He presented him with a cake, and all sang Happy Birthday. At the conclusion, Archbishop Carlson expressed his deep appreciation for the many services rendered by the Orders and thanked everyone for such strong support. He reported the good news that the Archdiocese was first in the national ranking of the

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ratio of priests-to-parishioners, and that the number of seminarians has increased. Regarding the extension of his service as Archbishop, his resignation has been submitted to the Vatican, with a response expected in July or August. If he remains another year, he will be here for the ordination of the seminarians and the fiftieth anniversary of his reception of Holy Orders, both falling on the same date. He concluded with a blessing and saying, "I love you."

