

Why should I consider the Order of Malta?

You should consider accepting an invitation to join the Order of Malta and beginning a Year of Preparation if you:

- Are a practicing Roman Catholic in good standing who faithfully provides service to the Church and leads an exemplary Catholic life. Must be 25 years or older.
- Wish to deepen your understanding of your Catholic faith and enhance your own spirituality.
- Are engaged in, or desire to engage in, hands-on works consistent with the mission of the Order, volunteering time and providing financial support in aid of the sick and the poor.
- Are willing to make a lifelong commitment to upholding the mission of the Order—"Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum"—Defense of the faith and service to the poor.
- Are willing to publicly declare your support for the protection of human life from conception to natural death.



Once you have submitted an application for membership in the Order, you will begin a Year of Preparation. During this year of discernment, you will learn more about the history of the Order, its charism and mission, its hospitaller works and participate in the spiritual and corporal works of the Order in your Area.

You will be invited to participate in the Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage. You are encouraged to participate either in your Year of Preparation or within the first 3 years after investiture. Alternatively, you may participate in the annual Pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin.

Investiture takes place each year in November during a solemn Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City.

More about the Order.....

- The Order was founded in Jerusalem in 1099 by Blessed Gerard as an order of 'hospitallers' to care for the sick and the poor, as well as pilgrims, in the hospice of St. John the Baptist.
- Out of necessity to protect themselves and Christians in the Holy Land, the Knights took up arms and successively held positions in Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta.
- Throughout the centuries, the Knights, and more recently Dames, have continued to stand at the forefront of the care of the sick and the poor by establishing hospitals throughout Europe.
- Today, the Order dedicates itself solely to its hospitaller origins by caring for the sick and the poor, and defending the Roman Catholic faith, worldwide.

To Learn more about the Order of Malta, visit:

The American Association's Website:

www.orderofmaltaamerican.org

Website of The Order's International Headquarters:

www.orderofmalta.int

The Order's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/OrderofMalta/>

**Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order
of St. John of Jerusalem
of Rhodes and of Malta
American Association, U.S.A.**



What is the Order of Malta?

What does the Order of Malta do?

Why should I consider the Order of Malta?

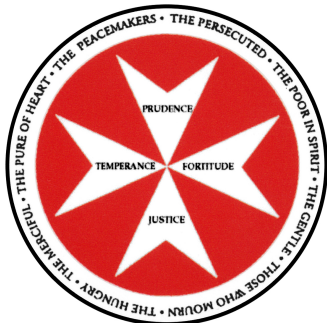
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What is the Order of Malta?

The Order of Malta is a lay religious Order of the Roman Catholic Church which seeks to glorify God by promoting the sanctification of each member through his/her work with the sick and the poor and his/her defense of the Catholic faith

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- In accomplishing these objectives, the Order of Malta has become the oldest established charitable institution in the world, running hospitals and ambulance corps in many countries, establishing mission hospitals, providing disaster relief and serving the poor around the world.
- The Order is headquartered in Rome with national associations and priories in 59 countries. It has over 13,500 members worldwide.
- The Order also has over 80,000 volunteers who perform charitable works in over 120 countries.
- The American Association was founded in 1927. As the Order grew, the Western and Federal Associations were formed in 1952 and 1973 respectively

What does the Order of Malta do?

Internationally, the Order :

- Provides humanitarian assistance and carries out charitable works for the poor, the needy, and those marginalized by society in over 120 countries.
 - For example, in answer to the current Middle Eastern Crisis, the Order operates refugee camps in Syria and Lebanon; provides assistance for those refugees traveling to Europe over land; actively rescues refugees seeking asylum across the Mediterranean.



- Delivers disaster relief in the wake of earthquakes, tsunamis and floods through the efforts of Malteser International, the Order's relief organization which is second only to the International Red Cross
- Operates or staffs hospitals and nursing homes, ambulance services, mobile clinics and day-care centers in Europe and in developing countries.
 - Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem and its mobile clinics offer high quality maternity services to all women, regardless of race, religion, or social condition.



- Maintains full diplomatic relations with 107 countries as well as Permanent Observer Missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

What does the American Association do?

Members of the American Association administer, volunteer and/or provide significant financial support to a variety of organizations serving the sick and the poor:

- Our members volunteer locally at soup-kitchens, homeless shelters, hospitals and nursing homes . They support homes for pregnant women and support other pro-life causes. There are over 200 activities in which members offer service and support.
- Annually, the American Association charts a plane to take "malades" and their care-givers as our guests to Our Lady's Grotto in Lourdes to participate in religious services, bathe in the waters and seek God's graces. The Pilgrimage is an international gathering of members of the Order and their malades from around the world.



- The American Association also participates in the Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. and a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion Wisconsin.
- The Association is engaged in Prison Ministry, a program providing bibles, prayer books and newsletters to over 600 prisons. Members also provide counseling, job training, placement and support for prisoners and their families

As a lay religious order, members are provided with numerous ways to enhance their own spirituality.

- Locally, members gather for Masses and seasonal days of recollection, as well as forums and colloquia on topics relevant to our second mission: Defense of the Faith
- Semi-annual weekend retreats
- Spiritual outreach conference calls and topical essays written by our chaplains.

Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum