

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 charters 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