

February Mini-Retreat and 1st Friday

Our Mini-Retreat and First Friday was held on February 7, 2020. Mass was concelebrated by Monsignor Robert Ritchie, our retreat master, and Father Ratzmann, our Chaplain, and five other priests who we invited to introduce to the Order, Father Bill Davis and Father Reji Joseph from St. Ann, Father Chuck Ruoff from St. Peter the Apostle, Father Jonathan Romanoski from Corpus Christi Chapel and Father Piotr Paciorek from Ave Maria. Father Steve Clemente also joined us for dinner. Seventy-eight members and guests attended the dinner, and six additional attended the mini-retreat. One of our candidates for investiture in November, Tommye Schiro, was on hand, along with Anne Swinford, a candidate from the Western Association.



Six attendees were with us for the first time, including Margie and Skip Counselman, Federal Association members who have recently purchased a home in Naples. Mark Genereau from Boston, who is well known to many of us as a chariot-er in Lourdes, Kaye McGarry from Charlotte, NC who is also a Federal Association member, and Dr. Miguel and Irene Lis-Planells, Naples members who are long-time Michiganders, but now live in the Tampa area.



Miguel received during dinner his five-year pin

Also in attendance were several guests, including Lou and Marti Eyde, guests of the Newmans from Michigan, Susannah Patton, guests of the Prices, and Mary Ellen Kelly, guest of Mary Ann Kelly MacDonald.

**Prayer for the Health of Members and Family Members**

We began the evening with a prayer for the recovery of the health of several of our members and family members, including Tommy O'Reilly, son and Jo and Tom O'Reilly, Sue Dillon, Tom Redmond, Jeanne Murtaugh, Brendan Murtaugh, Al and Kathleen Cinotti and Noreen Centracchio.

**Birthdays**

Ave Bransford, Paul Broughton, Chris Kroeger, Marcella Logue, Mary Ann Kelly MacDonald, Ken Muraski, Tom O'Reilly and Nancy Stec celebrate birthdays this month. We serenaded them with a rousing

***"Happy Birthday!"***



# ORDER OF MALTA AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

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### Spring Membership Drive

For the benefit of the guests and first-timers, Pete provided a short description of the Order. He noted that we had invited several priests to join us in hopes that they would become more familiar with the Order so that they would be willing to recommend potential candidates to us when we approach them. This is the beginning of a renewed effort to identify and recruit new members. Gerrie Musicco, our new Membership Chair, and BJ Barone are spearheading a spring membership drive based around three "town hall" meetings. Members are asked to identify candidates to invite to one of the town halls. Details and a schedule were emailed to everyone this past Saturday. The success of this effort depends on each of us bringing one person along. For more information contact Gerrie 203-273-0980 or at [gerriemusicco@gmail.com](mailto:gerriemusicco@gmail.com).

### Area Donation

We presented David Joyce, who is, in addition to the Co-Vice Chair of the Naples Area, the Chairman of the Board of Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc., a check for \$1,500, a Naples Area donation from the profits from the sale of the Order of Malta Pendants. Many of our Dames now wear this pendant. If you would like to order a pendant. Contact Pete at ([pbewely@alumni.princeton.edu](mailto:pbewely@alumni.princeton.edu)) or 510- 759-5912.



### Special Thanks

Pete thanks Debbie Brunel., Leo Stec and Jo O'Reilly for their efforts in putting together a wonderful retreat. He also thanked Courtney Price for her constant willingness to try new ministries. Courtney pioneered and leads our Mobile Food Pantry ministry and is developing a ministry to provide a social hour for the elderly attendees at St. William's 8:00AM mass on Wednesdays. More information will be provided after Courtney tests the ministry during the rest of this month.

### Benefit Tables

Pete asked that anyone who is attending any of the three major benefits supported by many of our members and who wants to sit at a table with other members of the Order, let him know so that he can coordinate seating with event chairs.

Hope for Haiti	February 15
Celtic Ball	February 21
Emerald Ball	March 7

### American Association Spring Retreat

The American Association Spring Retreat was held at Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, FL on the weekend of January 31 to February 2. Bishop Caggiano from Bridgeport, Connecticut was the retreat master. Of the 82 attendees, over 30 were Naples Area members and seasonal visitors.



Bishop Caggiano was inspiring, speaking on becoming a People of Hope. Pete quoted Jeanne Murtaugh's brief description of the core of Bishop Caggiano's message: The theme was Hope—Hope is really the ultimate desire of your heart! What is that Desire—to be with Christ in Heaven! By Faith, one knows that you want to go to Heaven, Hope is Desire for Eternal Life. It sounds fairly simple, yet we explored from Friday to Sunday morning how to strive to achieve Hope. It is a journey of the Heart. How to build a closer relationship with God through prayer and by fostering the disposition to feel the presence of God in everything and everywhere. WOW—it enables peace in all matters!

### Future Dates

March 1st Friday	March 6
April 1st Friday	April 3
May 1st Friday	May 8

May 1st Friday will be the second Friday, May 8 because we will be in Lourdes on May 1

**Membership information nights ("town halls") will be held on February 19, March 24 and May 13 Contact Gerrie Musicco for more information or to sign up to being a prospective candidate.**