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HOSPITALERS

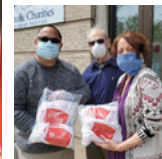
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The Order of Malta Mourns the Death of Our 80th Grand Master: *His Most Eminent Highness the Prince, Frá Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto*

On Wednesday, April 29, 2020 the Grand Magistry announced the death of His Most Eminent Highness the Prince, Frá Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, the 80th Grand Master of the Order of Malta. Until his death, Frá Giacomo was serving his second year as the Grand Master and dealing with the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

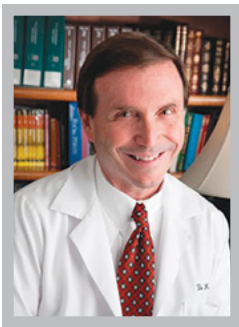
Frá Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto was born in Rome, Italy on December 9, 1944. He studied literature and philosophy, which a specialization in Christian archaeology and art history, *(continued on page 3)*

orderof
malta
american.
org

Please visit our website at:

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 Magistry in the "About the Order" section.

Since its redesign, 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."



AS WE ENTER SUMMER, some areas of the country are relaxing some of the restrictions from the pandemic and many of us are thankfully able to return to daily Mass and the Eucharist. It's amazing how much we appreciate the importance of the Eucharist in our lives when we are unable to receive it.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our Wisconsin pilgrimage and will be arranging a spiritual pilgrimage to occur during the same time the pilgrimage was scheduled as we

did for Lourdes.

We also cancelled our Leadership conference but had a successful zoom conference call with Area Leaders to update them on a new mobile van ministry, the new Leadership for the Auxiliary and the spirituality initiative recommended by the strategic planning committee.

We are hopeful that we will be able to have our board meeting in St Louis in September and our retreat in Medway, MA, in October. Our retreat leader is Father Eric Hollas, OSB, who has led us on wonderful retreats in the past. I would encourage you to try to attend the retreat since it will be the first opportunity we will have to come together in person as a community.

I have been impressed with all of the virtual initiatives our Area Leadership have begun since March. Our office staff has kept us informed weekly with the spiritual update email. Although we haven't been able to come together in person, these initiatives have kept us together spiritually during this challenging time.

The study to determine the readiness for a Capital Campaign is moving forward. Approved by the Board last year, the study is being led by Chairs Gail and Joe Berardino. More than fifty interviews have been conducted by CCS Fundraising, the consultant engaged to direct the study. Overviews have been presented to the Steering Committee, the Board of Councilors, the Boards of the Malta Human Services Foundation and The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation, as well as the Area Leadership. There is much work to be done before we are ready to announce a campaign. As the plan unfolds, you will be hearing more about it.

Finally, we were saddened by the death of our beloved Treasurer, Jim O'Connor. Jim truly loved the Order. He was an enthusiastic supporter of all our ministries and especially enjoyed our pilgrimages to Lourdes. Please keep Jim and his family in your prayers.

I hope you and your families have a relaxing and peaceful summer and stay healthy and safe.

God bless you and all that you do,

Peter J. Kelly, MD
President

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The Order of Malta Mourns the Death of Our 80th Grand Master

(continued from cover)

at the Sapienza University of Rome. He taught classical Greek at Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome, while serving as the university's chief librarian and archivist and publishing a range of academic articles and essays on aspects of mediaeval art history.

He entered the Order of Malta as a Knight of Honor and Devotion in 1985 and took his solemn vows in 1993. From 1994 to 1999, Frá Giacomo was the Grand Prior of Lombardy and Venice and from 1999 to 2004, he served as a member of the Sovereign Council in Rome. He was elected Grand Commander at the Chapter General of 2004 and on the death of the 78th Grand Master, Frá Andrew Bertie, in February 2008, he became Lieutenant ad interim. From 2008 to 2017, Frá Giacomo Dalla Torre held the position of Grand Prior of Rome. Upon the resignation of the 79th Grand Master, Frá Matthew Festing, the Council Complete of State elected him Lieutenant of the Grand Master for a year on April 29, 2017. In the subsequent Council Complete of State, he was elected 80th Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, on May 2, 2018.

The 80th Grand Master truly lived the charism of the Order. He was a man of great spirituality and warmth. He dedicated his time with the Order of Malta to charitable

works and never stopped looking for ways to help those in need and providing meals to the homeless in train stations in Rome, even on frigid winter nights. "I am at the service of the Order of Malta and of the people who need us," he often repeated. He joined the Order of Malta on many of its pilgrimages to Lourdes, Loreto, and Assisi and he found great joy in participating in the Order of Malta's International Summer Camp for young disabled adults, always greeting the campers and volunteers with affection and a smile.

As Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Frá Giacomo carried out numerous official and state journeys to many countries, including Benin, Bulgaira, Cameroon, Germany, and Slovenia. During his travels, he always made an effort to visit the Order of Malta's local facilities and personally greet its staff members and patients and visitors.

On Saturday, May 2, 2020, the Order of Malta dedicated a live streamed Mass celebrated at the Grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes in memory of the Grand Master, on behalf of the Sanctuary and priests of Lourdes. On Tuesday, May 5, 2020, over 10,000 members of the Order of Malta worldwide watched from their homes as Frá Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto was laid to rest in the Church of Santa Maria in the Magistral Villa in Rome in an olivewood coffin. The simple wooden casket of a Knight of Justice was placed directly on the floor as a sign of humility.

Due to the restrictions brought on by COVID-19, his funeral was celebrated four times on *(continued on page 4)*



(continued from page 3)

May 5th to allow his relatives, closest collaborators, the Order of Malta's government, diplomatic mission, as well as the doctors who had treated Frá Giacomo over the past months and some of the Order of Malta volunteers to pay their last respects. Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Becciu, the Pope's Special Delegate to the Sovereign Order of Malta, officiated the funeral Mass and recalled Pope Francis's heartfelt message about the death of the Grand Master, remembering him as a "zealous man of culture and faith." After the funeral, Frá Giacomo was buried in the crypt of St. Mary on the Aventine, alongside two of his predecessors, Frá Angelo de Mojana di Cologna and Frá Andrew Bertie.

A marked spirituality and a profound dedication to charitable works have always inspired the 80th Grand Master of the Order of Malta, who will be remembered by all who knew him for his humility and affection. "The loss of Frá Giacomo Dalla Torre leaves in all of us a void difficult to fill. As head of the Sovereign Order of Malta he showed great diplomatic finesse and an unparalleled charisma. He was and will remain an inspiration for many members and volunteers," said Frá Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas Boas, who has assumed the leadership of the Order of Malta as Lieutenant ad interim and will remain head of the Order until a new Grand Master is elected. ■



■ IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members: January 1 – June 22, 2020

Thomas James Aylward IV, KM	New Canaan, CT	Neta Marie Kolasa, DM	Boca Raton, FL
Marjorie Lane Bycraft, DM	South Bend, IN	Dolores E. Loughlin, DM	Charlotte, NC
Mary Higgins Clark Conheeneey, DM	Saddle River, NJ	Thomas M. McEvoy, KM	Larchmont, NY
Richard W. Collins, KM	Indian River Shores, FL	Peter Frederick Muratore, KMOB	Morristown, NJ
Roger Holmes Cook, KM	Marana, AZ	Rev. Richard Murphy, ChD	Vero Beach, FL
Edith C. Cunnane, DM	Creve Coeur, MO	James F. O'Connor, GCMOB	Wellesley Hills, MA
Robert F. Eiseman, KM	Hilton Head, SC	Hubert J. O'Toole, KM	Convent Station, NJ
Daniel J. Ferry, Jr., KM	Kirkwood, MO	Geraldine Chapey Pasternak, PhD, DM	Belle Harbor, NY
Ellen M. Flynn, DM	La Crosse, WI	Gerard P. Peplowski, KM	Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
Claire Marie Foster, DM	St. Thomas, VI	Frank H. Reis, KM	Naples, FL
Luis J. Fujimoto, DMD, KM	New York, NY	Roberta Arend Ryan, DM	Timonium, MD
Thomas Garesche, KM	Holderness, NH	Anthony F. Sansone, Sr., KM	St. Louis, MO
Robert Charles Golden, KM	Staten Island, NY	Kathleen O. Shine, DM	Walpole, MA
Frances O'Connor Hardart, GCDM	Bronxville, NY	Scott J. Steffan, KM	Jacksonville, FL
James J. Hartnett, KM	Dallas, TX		





2020 Lourdes Spiritual Pilgrimage

*A time of Hope,
A time of Healing*

When we said yes to being the Pilgrimage Chairs for the American Association's 2020 Pilgrimage to Lourdes, we could not have conceived that it would be groundbreaking in the way it had unfolded. During the course of our chair roles, two separate plane contracts were voided. Soon after, the world was hit with a fifth pandemic in the last 102 years. By March, with less than 2 months to the pilgrimage, the American Association announced the official cancellation of the 2020 Lourdes Pilgrimage due to the rapidly increasing risks of COVID-19. This would mark the first year that the American Association did not travel to Lourdes since its very first pilgrimage in 1986. Subsequently the Order in Rome cancelled all Malta Pilgrimages and the Domain in Lourdes was closed to all Pilgrims for the first time ever since the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette.

Although our hearts were broken by the news that we would not be bringing our dear Malades and Caregivers to this holy place, we did not lose hope. "We Trusted in Jesus".

A hardworking team of Knights, Dames, Auxiliary members, and the NY Office Staff was put together to bring Lourdes to everyone in a new way, the only way for 2020. The pandemic put social distancing guidelines and stay at home orders in place faster than we had anticipated; but the Lourdes Spiritual Pilgrimage team sent emails, made phone calls, and got to work.

With only a few weeks between the announcement of the cancellation and the original Lourdes Pilgrimage dates, our team assembled a more than perfect group of chaplains to lead spiritual reflections, members to open up each evening's event, and singers to make us feel like we were right there in the Grotto for Mass. Each evening of the 8-day virtual pilgrimage was set up for all to experience the spiritual strength of Lourdes from the comfort of our own homes.

Knights, Dames, Auxiliary, Year of Formation Candidates, Malades, and Caregivers, experienced the Candlelight Rosary Procession, the Tri-Association Mass from the Grotto, Adoration and Blessing of the Sick, the Stations of the Cross, and even the sing-a-long over Zoom. Youth Malades were treated to a specially designed program as well, just like in Lourdes. They were led on a virtual tour of Lourdes, their very own Stations of the Cross, spiritual discussions, a Youth Mass and even their own biodegradable balloon release.

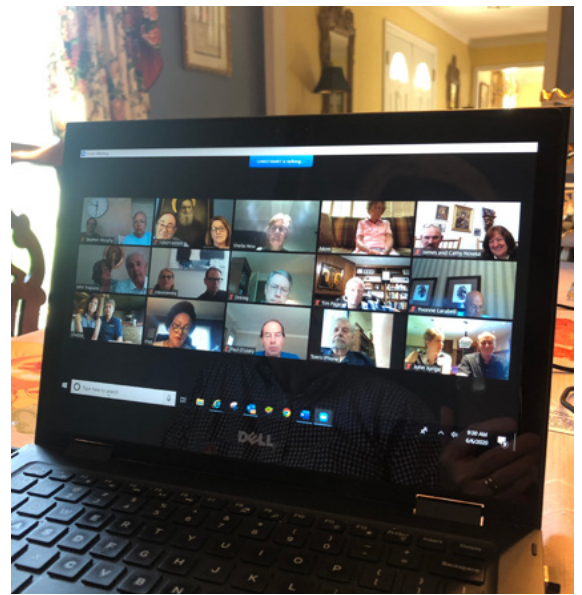
While we could not bring our pilgrims to Lourdes physically, the Lourdes Spiritual Pilgrimage team did everything they could to bring our pilgrims to Lourdes virtually. Zoom became our best friend during this 8-day journey. This tool allowed us to reach even more people than we could have fit on any charter plane to France. Attendance each night reached an average of 365 households! Each day of the pilgrimage has been recorded and posted on our website for all to view. Just visit the "Lourdes Pilgrimage" page under the "Spirituality in Action" tab on our website.

As we all continue to pray for an end to this pandemic and for the lives lost because of it, we also pray for the opportunity to travel to Lourdes with this special group of people once again. We look forward to the next time we all can board the charter plane to Lourdes in the evening and touch down the next morning; to the moment we begin our walk from our hotels to the Candlelight Rosary Procession with fellow members of the Order of Malta worldwide; to the early morning rise for Mass in the Grotto and our trip to the Baths to bring healing to our Malades and Caregivers; to the quality time we spend with fellow members of the Association that we may only see this one time of year; and finally to the trip home, fueled by an extra special type of happiness and spiritual peace from a week with Our Lady.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for Us,
Jesus, I Trust in You

Cathy and Bill Besgen





The American Association
During a
Pandemic:
*Adjusting to Our
New Normal*



When news of the coronavirus outbreaks appeared in breaking news on television and in emergency alerts on our phones, we immediately thought, “What do we do?” “How do we keep moving forward?”

With churches closed and major events canceled indefinitely, we started from there and kept going. We set up online opportunities for members to pray together for an end to the virus. Ideas from Knights and Dames throughout the Association and people all over the world inspire us every day to do more. Our members sprang into action.

Knights and Dames throughout the American Association quickly adapted their regular in-person activities to fit social distancing guidelines and stay-at-home orders. Members met virtually to pray the Rosary, hosted prayer calls led by chaplains, and live streamed Masses. They lived out their charism in many new ways, by setting up call trees to keep in touch with elderly members and those at risk, sending well over 1,000 handwritten notes and cards to COVID-19 patients and nursing home residents, and making Mass and religious services accessible by helping manage the requirements of opening up, slowly, to group activities.

Our members dealt with social distancing requirements while they prepared food packages and hygiene kits for the homeless, food insecure, first responders, and healthcare workers. They distributed soap to children in vulnerable areas and donated food and money to local food banks and pantries. They provided protection in the form of over 3,000 face masks to healthcare workers and first responders on the front line of this pandemic.

With food banks being depleted of supplies due to a larger number of people out of work and in need, the American Association urged local Areas to step in and help. Thanks to the diligent work of our Area Leaders,

the American Association was able to provide over \$95,000 to 25 COVID-19 food-related efforts such as homeless shelters and food pantries.

Weekly updates from the NY Office provided Areas with encouragement to do even more, drawing inspiration from their fellow members and adapting pandemic-related initiatives in their own Areas. As the weeks under stay-at-home orders flew by, we continued to collect and distribute important information to our members, including ways to help, opportunities to pray, and more.

We joined together online for 8 full days of spiritual reflections, Mass, the Rosary, and more during our first ever virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage. With an average of 365 Zoom accounts that joined us each night, many of them families, the American Association journeyed to Lourdes in a different, but spiritually powerful, way. Pilgrims, including Knights, Dames, Auxiliary, Year of Formation Candidates, Malades, and Caregivers, took part in the Rosary Procession, the Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Blessing of the Sick, Mass at the Grotto, and even the tradi-

tional sing-a-long from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

This virtual pilgrimage has paved the way for our “new normal”, other virtual American Association events that had to be held online due to the continuing effects of the pandemic. We hosted our first virtual Board of Councillors Meeting in May and Area Leadership Meeting and New Area Chair Bootcamp in June. On Sunday evenings, we host a live Rosary led by two different members each week. This year’s Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin will also be hosted online from August 5-8, 2020.

As we reflect on the many actions taken by the American Association and its members, we ask that you keep in your prayers those whose lives were lost due to the coronavirus and their families. During a time when every day brings more breaking news, we ask that you continue to pray, to lend a helping hand from afar, and to join in any way you can in working and supporting those who are working towards an end to this pandemic. ■





COVID-19: A Lesson in Preparing Communities to Protect Themselves

As the world came to a standstill to curb the transmission of COVID-19, international humanitarian organizations were faced with the difficult task of adapting their life-saving activities while expanding their work to address the imminent threat of COVID-19 head-on.

For thousands of families around the Western Hemisphere, Malteser International Americas is the first line of primary care and an important source of public health knowledge. Our work is rooted in the 900-year-old tradition of the Order of Malta, and it stands on its Catholic values and humanitarian principles.

Responding to global pandemics has been a constant aspect of Malteser International's history — from the Ebola crisis to cholera — each outbreak has taught us valuable lessons. COVID-19 has been no different. And while some parts of the United States have curbed transmission and are currently reopening, many countries in the developing world are still vulnerable and suffering great losses.

During this time, our core strategies have proven effective. Among these are our commitment to long-term development projects, our focus on emergency preparedness, and partnerships with local authorities and businesses have been rewarding.

“Strengthening the capacity of communities to deal with emergencies is key. But this is accomplished incrementally and over time. There are no short-cuts with this type of work,” says Ravi Tripptrap, Executive Director of Malteser International Americas.

One of the great challenges has been adapting to each country's COVID-19 response, which have varied in approach and intensity. In some places, restrictions on travel and economic activities have not only affected the people we serve but also the ways in which we deliver our services.

In Lima, Peru, a soup kitchen for poor children we support has gone mobile. Many of the parents have lost their livelihoods during the country's strict lockdown and are in dire need of assistance. Our partner, Malteser Peru, has been taking the food and hygiene provisions to their neighborhoods. During their April and May visits, they identified families that were living in extreme poverty and malnutrition.

In Colombia, our prenatal care services for Venezuelan women are essential for hundreds of migrants and refugees that face barriers to healthcare. Pausing this program was not an option and would have endangered many new lives. Instead, we introduced biosecurity measures to ensure that

consultations and follow-ups were kept without endangering our patients or staff.

Countries with existing humanitarian crises are particularly vulnerable and less equipped to respond to COVID-19. La Guajira — a focal point of our programs — is one of Colombia's poorest regions and among the most affected by the large-scale migration from Venezuela. Approximately 200,000 migrants and refugees have settled in the state, putting a significant strain on an already precarious health system.

The transmission of COVID-19 has been slow in La Guajira, with 108 cases reported out of a national total of 39,000 (as of mid-June 2020). Strict social distancing measures have been successful, yet the population is reeling from an abrupt economic downturn.

Traditional markets are closed, retail, hotels and restaurants have shuttered, travel is heavily restricted — Colombia banned all air travel in March. As usual, the poorest are the first to suffer.

Our staff in Colombia is working with partners to expand the reach of our regular food distribution activities, which typically benefit migrants and refugee families, to include Colombian families as well. Not only does this improve the general health of the community, it also reduces spikes in xenophobia which can peak during hard times.

Countries with existing humanitarian crises are particularly vulnerable and less equipped to respond to COVID-19.

“In the following months, we will be implementing COVID19- specific activities in indigenous communities, as well as migrant and refugee communities, to increase the preparedness of those communities and ensure that the messages reach them in a way that is respectful of their language and culture,” says Maria-Bonita Amorim, Medical Coordinator for Malteser International Americas' office in Colombia.

Much like what we saw in the United States, COVID-19 has made gaps in health and hygiene in Colombia more visible and alarming. These are issues we have been working to fix in La Guajira since we arrived in 2014.

In the region's arid, rural areas which the indigenous Wayuu inhabit, extreme water shortages, overcrowded living-conditions and poor hygienic practices greatly contribute to the risk of contamination of COVID-19.

Access to clean water and plumbing is fundamental to public health and recent news of rising coronavirus infections and deaths in indigenous communities throughout the country is of great concern.

In the following weeks, with the support of our donors and the United States government, we will be improving water storage capacity infrastructure for 1,300 families in Wayuu communities, and working hand-in-hand with the local government to secure water supply.

(continued on page 10)



Photos: Malteser International Americas in Colombia

(continued from page 9)

The approach to protect the Wayuu must be comprehensive and we are working on the entire chain. From community prevention, through the distribution of handwashing kits and training of community hygiene volunteers, to hospital triage; each step is designed to make sure communities are not forgotten and receive the health knowledge and care that adapts to their culture and traditions.

Local partnerships and solutions can also be lifesaving. Early on, our medical teams in Colombia became alarmed as shortages of personal protective equipment threatened the COVID-19 response in the region.

Face masks, hand-sanitizers and other medical supplies are crucial tools to safeguard the people we serve as well as our personnel. As local sources of these materials were depleted, and importing them became increasingly difficult, we chose to direct our resources towards promoting production.

We are launching a partnership with the University of Magdalena in Santa Marta, to produce facemasks and disinfectants. This will boost the local economy and create a more sustainable supply-chain for these types of items. This type of intervention also contributes to achieving the goals of emergency preparedness planning and local resiliency.

Early on, our medical teams in Colombia became alarmed as shortages of personal protective equipment threatened the COVID-19 response in the region.

Collaboration is at the heart of Malteser International's approach to humanitarian work. We partner with 27 National Associations and Pories of the Order of Malta that support our activities within their jurisdictions. As our presence in the Western Hemisphere continues to grow, so do our historic and productive ties with the members of the Order.

In New York City — our hometown — we recently worked with the New York City Police Department and members of the American Association of the Order of Malta to deliver food and

hand-sanitizers to food pantries in Queens. This symbolic effort is representative of our commitment to help communities throughout the Americas where we distributed face masks and other personal protective equipment to individuals in more than 40 parishes.

COVID-19, a global pandemic like none other we had seen in our lifetime, has required that we come together to develop a global, coordinated response. We believe that the values of the Order of Malta have prepared us for the task and the many challenges that lie ahead. ■

For more information, please visit www.orderofmalta-relief.org and follow us on social media: Facebook @MalteserInternationalAmericas; Instagram @malteserinternational; Twitter @MalteserAmericas.



Photos: Malteser International Americas in Peru

Join the Tri-Association for A Virtual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help



The Queen of Heaven statue (circa 1930) was in very poor shape and now looks really great. The “new” altar is from 1920 and started life in Ohio.

One of the things that many organizations and individuals have learned since the beginning of March is that if people cannot come to you, you can go to them. Virtual activities are going on in almost every facet of life. Masses, prayer sessions, doctor visits, work meetings, birthday parties, graduation celebrations and family visits are just a few of the activities that have taken to the airwaves.

With the announcement of the cancellation of the Lourdes Pilgrimage, a team stepped into place to deliver a virtual pilgrimage to Lourdes that was ‘attended’ by an estimated average of over five hundred people per night. Feedback was very positive, encouraging the Tri-Association to plan a virtual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. Information will be coming out soon for this special Pilgrimage that will take place during the planned days of the Pilgrimage — August 5th through August 8th.

The three US Associations have cooperated in the planning and execution of the Pilgrimage to the Shrine for a number of years — the Federal Association began traveling there first; the American and Western Associations collaborated with them for the last four years. From a few original pilgrims, the Pilgrimage has grown to over 250 from the combined Associations. Had the pandemic not interfered this year, 300 pilgrims were expected this year among the three Associations.

For those who wished to participate this year, the opportunity to pray together virtually will have to take the place of the peace and tranquility that transcends the faithful as they enter the small carved out grounds of the Shrine, surrounded by cornfields. For those who have not been there, the virtual pilgrimage will open your eyes and possibly your hearts to the special place where Mary chose to appear. Wisconsin was but eleven years into statehood when the Blessed Mother appeared to Adele Brise between two trees in a relatively uninhabited stretch of woods sixteen miles outside Green Bay.

“In December 2010, after a period of prayerful discernment during which he reviewed years of research and investigation by expert Mariologists, The Most Rev. David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, determined it to be ‘worthy of belief’ that the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Adele Brise.

On August 15, 2016, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops declared Champion a ‘National Shrine,’ by formal decree, distinguishing ‘The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help’ as the first and only Catholic Shrine in America with a Church-approved Marian Apparition Site.” from the Shrine’s website: <https://championshrine.org/>

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us with your family and so many friends across the three Associations for this special August event.



Promoting the Glory of God Through Prison Ministry

By Craig Gibson, Chair, American Association Prison Ministry Committee

PRISON MINISTRY AND SANCTIFICATION

“The mission of the American Association of the Order of Malta is the promotion of the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, witness to and support of the Catholic faith, and active service to the sick and the poor.

— *The 2019 American Association Strategic Plan – A Roadmap for the Future*

Prison Ministry provides tremendous opportunity to promote the glory of God through our members' sanctification. It's easy to care for those we deem worthy. It takes a different level of compassion to reach out to those who have fallen from our spiritual or civic ideals. And yet, which of our fellow human beings need us more than those struggling to find the way home? And given that need, where are we more likely to discover our own path toward greater spirituality?

2020 REVIEW

At the end of 2019, Bob Fredericks, who had led and helped grow Prison Ministry for 14 years, retired as Chair of the American Association Prison Ministry Committee. Recognized by the Grand Master for his work, Bob has played a significant role in nurturing Prison Ministry to become active in all three United States Associations as well as in Canada. I have the honor of succeeding Bob and have been working with the New York office staff, our Prison Ministry Area Coordinators, and our members participating in the ministry to conduct a comprehensive review of the program. We are now seeking ways to expand the activity and create efficiencies. I would like to share with you the work we are doing and encourage you to join us in this uplifting ministry.

OUR WORK

Throughout the American Association, we have 28 Prison Ministry programs

within 13 Areas. Just over 185 of our regular members and almost 70 auxiliary members participate. Our work falls into five categories:

- **Visitation and Outreach—Being Present Inside the Walls:** This is the largest direct contact we have through Prison Ministry. Our members and chaplains visit inmates to participate in the Liturgy, provide support and fellowship, pray the rosary together, conduct weekend retreats, provide spiritual direction, lead Bible Study, bring books purchased from local library book sales, and share an overall sense of fellowship.
- **Re-entry—Helping to Rebuild Lives:** At the point inmates are leaving incarceration, our members provide mentoring, assistance with locating housing and higher education, and help with job searches.
- **Bible and Prayer Book Distribution—Bringing the Word of God:** We provide bibles and prayer books to inmates, offering the opportunity for spiritual nourishment and growth in the spirit.
- **The Pen Pal Program—Supporting From a Distance:** Many of our members participate in the Pen Pal Program, a secure way to visit. From a distance, our members develop connections to prisoners, often the only connection an inmate may have to the outside world.

IMPORTANCE OF PRISON MINISTRY

“By providing to its members sufficient opportunities to give witness to and support the Catholic faith and to care for the sick and the poor, its members will have enriched their lives and the lives of those they serve, and will have made significant progress in achieving their spiritual goals.”

— *Vision Statement: The 2019 American Association Strategic Plan – A Roadmap for the Future*

The work we do as members of the Order of Malta supports those in need and deepens our own spirituality. Bill

Mattison's response to his work in Prison Ministry reflects that ideal: "I drive to the prison, but I fly home," he said, speaking of the good feeling he gets from the visits. Bill has been a member of the Order of Malta for 35 years and has worked in Prison Ministry for 15. The Liturgy and fellowship are all components of his weekly visits to prisons in Florida, where Bill gets as much out of the experience as he gives. "I get more emotional fulfillment in supporting these prisoners than from almost anything else on earth. Helping these men understand how the Gospel affects their lives deepens my own understanding of the Gospel and helps me grow in faith."

Fran Buckley has been visiting women prisoners over the past 10 years, mostly in upstate New York. "Our ministry is one of presence," she said. "We visit, listen, and pray." She said she didn't go into the work for any type of return, but the return is absolutely there. "We do it because the Lord has commissioned us to love our neighbor, to feed the hungry, to visit the imprisoned. We're giving praise to God by doing what He has commissioned us to do. And that helps my own spirituality, the spirituality of all of us working in Prison Ministry."

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

With so many programs throughout our Areas, it is difficult to talk about all of them. We recommend you look at the Spirituality in Action Resource Book in the member section of our website to get a sense of the true scope of our work. The following are a few representative samples.

- Naples Jail Center, Naples, Florida: A wonderful example of our visitation work is the program serving Naples Jail Center in East Naples, Florida. Members of the Order visit weekly, seeing men and women on separate days. Our members hold prayer services; give out Communion; hand out weekly prayers; coordinate the provision of bibles, prayer books and

rosaries; and coordinate the hearing of Confession.

- Let's Start Prison Ministry, St. Louis, Missouri: Through the Let's Start Prison Ministry program, our members work with formerly incarcerated women and their children to assist in recovery and reentry. Our members hold a weekly support group; provide Malta Bibles, items for personal care, and household goods; and, through the generosity of members of the Order, arrange monthly bus trips for children, along with their caregivers, to visit their mothers in prison. Every third week they provide a full dinner for up to 50 women and children.
- Prison Pen Pals, Norwalk, Connecticut: While the Pen Pal program supports inmates from a distance, our members who participate in the program in the Norwalk, Connecticut area, have created a way to support one another. These members gather quarterly for fellowship and friendship. Along with a dinner of pizza, there is time for prayer and reflection upon their shared experience as well as questions.

GETTING INVOLVED

"You must think about interior renewal and hope to begin again. Every penalty must be open to the horizon of hope."

— Pope Francis: *Good Friday 2020*

At the Stations of the Cross by Prisoners

- As an Individual: If your Area has a Prison Ministry Program, we encourage you to talk to your Area Coordinator to discover opportunities to participate. Whether you feel the call to be part of the ministry of presence inside the walls, are more comfortable in the Pen Pal program, or believe you can make a difference in the reentry process, you will find the work rewarding on so many levels.
- As an Area: Many of our Areas do not yet have Prison Ministry programs. We would be happy to help you set one up. Email me at cbgibson@comcast.net to get started. Or check out the Spirituality in Action Resource Book, where you will find descriptions of other Prison Ministry programs. I'm sure any one of the Area Chairs would be delighted to talk to you about the ministry in their Area. ■



The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation: Bringing Malades and Caregivers to the Blessed Mother

Many of the Knights and Dames of the Association know that we have a growing, thriving Order from which our members derive great spiritual rewards. Our members are capable and interested in learning more about how increased funding for our two Foundations will enable us to impact more fully the needs of the poor and the sick. We will be presenting to our members more information on the impacts of our works historically and the case for change that a campaign of this magnitude will enable.

In the last edition of the *Hospitallers*, one of the new focus areas identified by the Strategic Planning Committee was discussed - a possible capital campaign to support the American Association's charism of helping the sick and the poor and giving witness to the Faith. For many, the hallmark ministry of the American Association is bringing Malades and Caregivers to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes — a pilgrimage that could only be interrupted by a worldwide pandemic. As the journey is just beginning toward the American Association's capital campaign, we are providing more information about The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation and the positive impact it will be providing for the signature work of the Order and a mission that is deeply engrained in the hearts and minds of so many Knights and Dames in the American Association and in the Order across the world.

MEMBERS, LONG-STANDING AND NEW, MAY HAVE SIMILAR QUESTIONS: WHAT IS THE ORDER OF MALTA PILGRIMAGE FOUNDATION? HOW DOES IT WORK? WHO RUNS IT?

In December 2014, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation was established to secure monies raised in support of the Lourdes



Pilgrimage. The ultimate goal of the Foundation is to ensure the financial viability of the Lourdes Pilgrimage and will be achieved when the endowment grows to provide the annual income to cover the annual costs of bringing Malades and Caregivers to the Grotto on the Order of Malta's Annual Pilgrimage.

As an independent corporation, the Foundation is run by its Board of Directors, consisting of American Association members who have had significant involvement with the Lourdes Pilgrimage. The President is FJ McCarthy, Secretary is Deacon John Powers, and additional Board members are Cissie IX, Jack Pohrer, and Charlotte Williams.

HOW EXACTLY DOES THE FOUNDATION PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE LOURDES PILGRIMAGE?

As you may already know, a major source of funding for the Lourdes

Pilgrimage is through the reservation fees paid by Knights, Dames, and volunteers. When you sign up to attend the Lourdes Pilgrimage, your reservation fee covers the cost of your pilgrimage plus some of the other costs of the pilgrimage. However, the registration fees do not cover all of the expenses required to host the Malades and Caregivers on the annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The cost of the Lourdes Pilgrimage will exceed \$1.2 million dollars in 2021. This cost covers everything that is required to make the Pilgrimage a success for all those who participate. The list of expenses is very long but includes such items at the cost of the charter plane (including any fuel surcharges), room and board for over 400 pilgrims (including over 100 Malades and Caregivers), payments for the Domain for the use of the facilities, security, ground transportation, insurance, medical supplies and equipment, audio-visual support, printing, medals, nametags, planning and coordinating the pilgrimage, and a variety of smaller expenses. The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation has offered to cover any



shortfalls by providing a contribution for Malades. In 2019, the Foundation contributed over \$64,000 to cover the difference and make the Lourdes Pilgrimage possible.

The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation has been able to support the Lourdes Pilgrimage from current donations it receives while still building the endowment. As of May 2020, The Foundation had over \$2.4 million in assets, resulting from current donations, surpluses from prior pilgrimages, previous money that is restricted for the Lourdes Pilgrimage and investment income.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

With the average cost of hosting the Lourdes Pilgrimage increasing each year, the Foundation is working to build an endowment that exceeds \$7,500,000. At a 5% spending rate, once the goal is achieved, the Foundation expects to be able to fund 110 Malades and Caregivers on the Lourdes Pilgrimage each and every year after that.

However, they have been cautious in drawing money from the endowment portfolio until the endowment grows to provide the income necessary to meet its primary goal. Instead, it has used the proceeds from annual fundraising to provide grants and to meet other cash

requirements. In exceptional circumstances, the Board could consider requests from the American Association's Board of Councillors to cover emergency funding for expenditures related to the support of Malades and Caregivers.

HOW CAN MEMBERS HELP?

In its Strategic Plan, the American Association's Board of Councillors endorsed a plan that has the potential to provide the necessary funding to meet The Pilgrimage Foundation's primary objective of supporting the Lourdes Pilgrimage's Malades and caregivers. Most of the money currently in the endowment is restricted for this ultimate purpose.

As the plan for the Capital Campaign unfolds, opportunities will be provided to build a legacy of support for this primary goal of The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation, along with opportunities to support the American Association's grants program which is funded by the Malta Human Services Foundation.

Look for more information in the months ahead. If you have any questions or comments about the Capital Campaign, please contact the Campaign Chairs, Gail (gtberardino@gmail.com) and Joe Berardino (jberardino@gmail.com).

ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

August 6-9

Spiritual (Virtual)
Pilgrimage to Our Lady of
Good Help, Wisconsin

August 15

Feast of the Assumption

September 8

Feast of Our Lady
of Philermo

September 17

Board of Councillors Meeting

October 2-4

Medway, MA (TBD)
Association Retreat

October 13

Feast of Blessed Gerard

November 1

All Saints' Day

November 12

Board of Councillors Meeting

November 15

World Day of the Poor

November 26

Thanksgiving

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate
Conception

December 12

Feast of Our Lady of
Guadalupe

December 25

Christmas

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



HIGHLIGHTS

The Capital Campaign — A Preliminary Report

As you may know, the Association is currently engaged in a feasibility study to determine whether a Capital campaign is possible and what steps need to be completed to make it a success if the Association decides to move forward. To determine the right answers (and the correct questions), the consulting firm, CCS Fundraising, was engaged to conduct the study.

After more than fifty interviews with members from across the Association, our consultant was able to tell us some important things about ourselves as an organization. The study presented critical initiatives core to our mission: our cherished pilgrimages and devotion to serving the sick and the poor. These are central to our shared experiences as members and call to mind our pledge to service.

Members in the Order experience a deep spiritual commitment to our faith. The Association is truly a spiritual home for our members. That was apparent to the interviewers by what you said about the Order and by the activities in which you are involved. For many of you, engaging in activities that provided you with an opportunity for hands-on work represented a direct link to your spiritual growth.

The members who were interviewed told the consultant that you wanted more information about the Pilgrimage Foundation and the Malta Human Services Foundation and a better understanding about how monies are being spent and what impact substantial increases to these endowments would enable in the future.

Many of you wanted to know if the capital campaign would create an ability for the Association to respond more quickly and with greater impact to future events such as the pandemic which is severely affecting the sick and the poor.

Discernment continues. We will be communicating over the coming months to engage you in a constructive conversation about our future.

We ask for your prayers and for your feedback. You can contact us at jfberardino@gmail.com or gtberardino@gmail.com.

This article was contributed by Gail and Joseph Berardino, Chairs of the Capital Campaign Study Group

Our Mission

The American Association of the Order of Malta has as its mission to promote the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, through witness to and support of the Catholic faith and through active service to the sick and the poor.

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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.