



ORDER OF MALTA

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

NAPLES AREA NEWSLETTER

October 2020

October 1st Friday Mass and Dinner

Our 1st Friday Mass and Dinner was held on October 4. Twenty-four of us were at Mass including Betsy Maher whose birthday we acknowledged right after Mass. Twenty-one of us stayed for dinner at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. Mass was in the church at St. Ann rather than the chapel to facilitate social distancing. Also for safety, dinner was not preceded by stand-up cocktails, but drinks were served at the tables. Tables were limited to 6 people. Attendees were happy to be getting together again, having missed 1st Fridays since our last one in March.

We welcomed first time attendees Jim and Kathy Darling. Jim is a knight who has transferred from the Western Association. Jim and Kathy are now fulltime residents of Naples.

We recognized Lucia Barone who is now a Dame, although her investiture will be delayed until next year.

Singing "Happy Birthday!", we celebrated 5 birthdays occurring from July through October. Ken Peach in July, Pete and Lee Bewley in August and Anne Peach and Michael Rothmeier in September.

Pete Bewley thanked JoAnne and Carl Kuehner in absentia for organizing and managing our "calling ministry" during the early stages of the Covid virus. Volunteers JoAnne, Tom O'Reilly, Chris and Tom Kroeger, Charlotte Williams, Teresa Claugus, Gerrie and Jean-Paul Musicco and Pete teamed up to call 18 of our "at risk" members or their spouses on a weekly basis to check on their wellbeing and offer assistance. Thankfully all remained safe, except Frank Reis who succumbed to cancer after a long battle.

Pete also thanked Jean-Paul Musicco for co-ordinating with Catholic Charities on behalf of the Area. As a result of Jean-Paul's contact with Catholic Charities, we became aware of an opportunity to volunteer over the summer at a food pantry at St. Leo in Bonita. Leo Stec, Harry and Patty Witt volunteered. Harry reported that it was a wonderful experience, much needed and appreciated by the community.

In preparation for Respect Life Sunday, BJ Barone and Gary Ingold spoke of the success of our Respect Life Ministry and Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc. Our prayerful witness has apparently results in a halt of abortions at Planned Parenthood in Naples.

Chris and Tom Kroeger, who started and managed the Human Trafficking Backpack Ministry in Lee County, have moved to Naples. Sharon and Steve Niehaus, longtime participants in the ministry, have agreed to assume the leadership. They are already planning a packing event in December.

Announcements

Investiture-Recruiting: Covid has forced a postponement of Investiture to next November. It has delayed the membership recruitment and preparation process. If you know of someone who is interested in exploring membership in the Order, there is still time to begin the process in time for investiture next year. Please contact Gerrie Musicco at (gerriemusicco@gmail.com) if you would like to recommend someone.

November 1st Friday Mass and Dinner: November 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be held on November 6. We will employ the same safety protocol that we used in October.

Ministries

Power Pack: Is packing 200 weekend bags for elementary school children in Naples. We meet at 8:00AM every Wednesday morning at Catholic Charities, 3174 Tamiami Trail, East Naples. Contact Tom O'Reilly at (toriinap@aol.com) to volunteer.

Respect Life: Meets every Monday morning at 8:45AM to pray the Rosary in front of Planned Parenthood at the corner of Creech and Goodlette Frank Roads. Contact BJ Barone at (BJB@BJBarone.com) for more information.

Eucharistic Procession Opportunity

Courtney Price has alerted us to a potential Defense of the Faith project. It involves organizing a public eucharistic procession. See uniteournation.net for more information or contact Pete if you are interested.