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HOSPITALLERS

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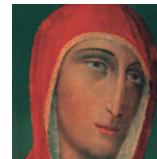
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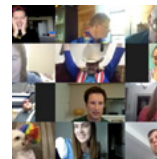
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The 2020 Grants Program

The ongoing pandemic has affected practically every aspect of our everyday lives. From how we work and interact with family and friends, to daily tasks such as going to the grocery store, our normal routine went from ordinary to extraordinary within a matter of weeks. The American Association 2020 Grants Program started off as our ordinary application process in January and transformed into an extraordinary program supporting both regular Area works and providing emergency assistance to those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As COVID-19 picked up speed and stay-at-home orders were put into place, we saw food banks and pantries being depleted of their supplies because of the rapidly increasing number of people needing assistance. More people looked for assistance in feeding their families due to loss of work. School closures led to an absence of an important source of food for many students. The majority of people in food lines were now first timers, not homeless people.

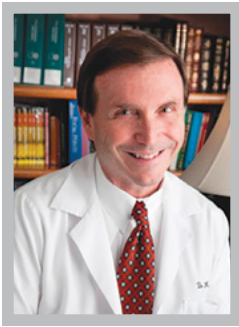
President Peter Kelly, MD, GCM, wrote to Area Leaders in April encouraging them to redirect their Area grant allocation *(continued on page 13)*

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 Magistracy 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 APPROACH THANKSGIVING, I thought I would share some of the many reasons we as members of the Order of Malta are thankful.

In view of the hardship many people have faced during the pandemic, we were able to direct \$135,000 of grant money to food projects in our areas. We also adapted many of our ministries so we could continue serving the sick and the poor despite the restrictions. We are grateful for our Area leaders who are finding ways to keep all of us engaged and for our members

who are finding ways to live the charism even in the days of restricted movement.

We are grateful for technologies like Zoom that allow us to bring members together — we were able to join with members of the Federal and Western Associations for a virtual Wisconsin Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help. Hundreds more people were able to participate than could have joined us physically in Wisconsin. We were also able to have two Board meetings on Zoom and will have our final Board meeting this year and our annual meeting on Zoom.

Despite our inability to attend the Presidents' meeting in Switzerland in person, technology provided the avenue for us to attend the live meeting virtually. Two US Association Presidents were selected as electors for the upcoming Council Complete of State in Rome, where the successor to the late Grand Master will be chosen. The Regents of the two Subpriories in the US will also be electors so we will have more representation at this election than we did at the last one.

We are grateful for the positive reception for our capital campaign, which is successfully moving forward during the silent phase. We are optimistic based on the generous response of our members who have been contacted that the campaign will be a great success.

We are blessed with a slate of highly qualified candidates for our board of Councillors election. As I write this article in late October, we have received over 500 ballots for this election. Thank you for your participation.

Our chaplains during the pandemic have been wonderful in providing for our spiritual needs. They are in the process of recording six presentations to help us grow our spirituality during these stressful times. They will be released over the next two quarters.

And I am personally thankful for your prayers for our Association, for our Order, for our country and for all those whom we seek to serve.

So as we focus on our blessings, I hope you and your families have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving and I look forward to seeing you in person in 2021.

God bless you and all that you do,

Peter J. Kelly, MD
President

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**Order of Malta – Lourdes Pilgrimage XXI –
2006 Homily – Outdoor Mass – Bois St. Francois – May 2nd 2006**

*Tuesday of the Third Week of Easter – Feast of St. Athanasius
Readings: Acts 7:51-8:1 (Stoning of St. Stephen) & John 6:30-35 (Bread of Life)
Msgr. Frank J. Caldwell, ChM.*



Many members may feel that we have never faced such challenges as the world and the Church are facing now. The reality is simple — its execution not so much. Remembering and accepting that God is here is not always easy. Msgr. Frank Caldwell, in his sermon in Lourdes in May 2006, reminds us that each of us has a calling to ‘let go’, to trust that God is there to catch us.

This sermon was delivered by Msgr. Frank J. Caldwell, ChM, at the 2006 Lourdes Pilgrimage

On this last full day in Lourdes, at this final Mass, I’d like to offer an image for us to keep in mind as we prepare to depart from this holy place. The “image” comes from the great 20th century spiritual writer — Henri Nouwen (who died in 1997). Nouwen was a world-renowned speaker, a prolific writer, a college professor and a priest from Holland. An author of a recent biography noted that Henri Nouwen had an interesting and rather unusual hobby (‘an-out-of-character’ “pastime”). His favorite leisure pursuit was going to the circus — because he was fascinated with the trapeze artists.

Nouwen was enthralled by the breath-taking performances of the trapeze acrobats and the split-second timing that went into the execution of every act. Perhaps it wasn’t very “professorial” (or professional or priestly) on his part, but nevertheless, Nouwen began to follow these “trapeze artists” (known as the “Flying Rodleights”) from city to city whenever he had free time.

As the performers came to know this famous spiritual writer, they invited Father Nouwen to attend their practice sessions. Eventually, they let him “in” on the “secret” of their performances. They told Nouwen that the “flyer” is the one who lets go, and the “catcher” is the one that catches. As the flyer swings above the crowd on the trapeze, the moment comes when he must let go. He arcs out into the air. His job is to remain as still as possible and wait for the strong hands of the catcher to pluck him from the air. The secret is this. The principal requirement is that the flyer must never look up at the catcher to make sure he or she will be there in order to make the crucial catch high above the arena floor. The flyer must wait with absolute trust. It’s the catcher’s job to make any last moment extra reach or adjustments — if necessary. So the secret is the “flyer” does nothing; and the “catcher” does everything. In fact, the worst thing the “flyer” can do is to try to catch the “catcher.” Because if he does, he’d probably break the wrists of the catcher and that would be the end of

both of them. The flyer’s job is simply to put his hands out, and wait, trusting, that the catcher will be there.

Bishop Carrin, at our first Mass (here in Lourdes) last Thursday, said, “Our job is often, to wait.” Henri Nouwen instinctively saw this high drama act of the circus trapeze artists in terms of our relationship with God. The disciple must never doubt that God will be there to make the sensational catches in life. Coming to Lourdes is a powerful reminder that life is a long series of letting go and trusting. The key is letting go of that trapeze (letting go of what we’ve been holding on to) and trusting that “the Divine Catcher” will be there for us always!

Mary had to do that from the moment of the Annunciation to the foot of the cross. The places that we visit this week and today [Bartres] remind us that St. Bernadette had to let go of her doubts and fears and trust that God was intervening in her life in a very direct way through the Blessed Mother. The scripture readings for Mass today and the feast that we celebrate also remind us of the on-going need that we have to keep letting go of whatever we’re holding on to — and (to) trust that God has a plan for each of us.

Jesus tells in today’s gospel: “whoever comes to me won’t be disappointed.” He clearly identifies himself as the “Bread of Life.” But He first applies the “condition” of being hungry and thirsty not to those who eat his flesh and drink his blood. (He’ll make that condition explicit in Thursday’s Gospel — two days from now). Today, Jesus refers instead, to those who “come to Him” and “believe in Him.” The essential and operative verbs aren’t eating and drinking (at this point) but “coming” and “believing” (or trusting — hence the image of the trapeze artists).

St. Stephen, as we heard in the first reading, entrusted himself into the arms of the “Divine Catcher” after boldly challenging the unbelievers. After he let go, “he looked up” (as the reading says) because he had already been caught! And what did He see? He “saw the glory” *(continued on page 4)*

(continued from page 3)

of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God” as he “looked intently up to heaven.” He says, “Lord Jesus, receive my Spirit.” In other words: “I know you’re there for me.”

St. Athanasius, whose feast we celebrate today (and who lived in the fourth century) is a good patron for the Order of Malta because he was one of the all-time “defenders of the Faith.” [He’s also a good one to keep in mind when the (film) “DaVinci Code” is released since Athanasius was one of the first to strongly affirm the divinity of Christ]. But for our purposes, Athanasius is even more important because he went through multiple experiences of being exiled (even by Emperor Constantine). Each time, he had to (let go and) trust that God had a plan for him and that God would be there to make the necessary interventions to “catch” him.

Application: So, the reading for Mass today, the Feast we celebrate, the image of the trapeze-artists, and our presence here in Lourdes all affirm and point to what we already proclaimed in our responsorial psalm—“Into your hands O Lord, I commend my spirit!” When we put out hands and arms out in surrender to the Father, God is there to “catch us” and lift us up into His loving embrace. The problem is that takes a lot of time and practice. It takes a great deal of surrendering one day, one experience at a time. Obviously, the trapeze artists have to get to know and trust each other very well—before they can feel confident about their performance. Life offers us many opportunities of getting to know “the Divine Catcher” better and trusting God more as we learn from Mary, Stephen, Athanasius, Bernadette and from one another.

Whatever capacity we’re in here in Lourdes, be it Malade or Caregiver, auxiliary or clergy, doctor or nurse, knight or dame, we’re here because we want to be able to let go of something and fly into the waiting arms of the Lord.

But the further removed we are from personal struggles or suffering, the easier and the “safer” it is to keep “swinging” back and forth on the trapeze of life for years and years. We might be building up a lot of sweat and speed on that trapeze, and making a decent show for the audience below us as we climb whatever ladder of fame we need to achieve. But that’s all it is — swinging back and forth, gaining momentum perhaps, but going nowhere fast. So often we refuse to let go of our own ability to save ourselves. That’s why we’re sometimes overcome by the storms in our lives — because we hold on to things that do not really anchor us down — but instead drag us down further. The trapeze artist might believe that the catcher will catch him, but until he lets go, he can never know for sure.

This annual journey to Lourdes is promoted as a pilgrimage for the Malades and the Caregivers.

For a number of years, I held onto a job (a trapeze) that wasn’t good for me as time went on. I held on to this trapeze bar partly because I had no choice, and partly because I was afraid to let go and trust that God would be there. After awhile it was merely an exercise of “swinging” comfortably but non-productively on the secure trapeze bar of boredom. Has that ever happened to you? Is it happening now?

This annual journey to Lourdes is promoted as a pilgrimage for the Malades and the Caregivers. The rest of us are here for you. But you’re also here as part of God’s plan, as a powerful “sign” to us on this yearly “retreat.” Because when we take some time to reflect on the “dynamic” of what’s happening this week, it’s very clear that you, the Caregivers and the Malades — are both an inspiration and a challenge to the rest of us.

Because of your illness, your situation, your struggles and suffering, you have had to “let go” of so much already! Many of us appear to be “in control” of our lives. Your presence and inspiration reminds us that our “control” can often be an illusion, or a crutch, or a trapeze-bar that we just can’t seem let go of.

The crowd in today’s gospel says to Jesus: “Give us a sign, show us something, that we may see and believe in you.” Well, you (the Malades and Caregivers) are that sign for us!

Just getting onto that plane last Wednesday speaks volumes! Your willingness to entrust yourselves to a group of knights and dames, doctors and nurses — most of whom you never even met before — is a tremendous act of courage and surrender — a sign of humility and trust. You let go and trusted that The Order of Malta would be there to “catch” you and bring you into the healing presence of Mary, our Mother.

That’s why the rest of us need to thank you today for making this retreat possible for us. Without you, there’s no need for us to be here as a group. With you and through you, you inspire us and teach us what Bishop Murphy said the other day. He reminded us of the message of Pope John Paul — namely, that “the purpose of this pilgrimage, and “the purpose of suffering — is to release love.” “Suffering releases love.”

Just look at all the love “released” as a result of September 11th and Hurricane Katrina. Just consider all the love “released” through your illness. You remind us also, as Bishop Rodimer said yesterday, of the “little resurrections” that are signs all around us. And you confirm for us as Bishop Carlin said (that) “we’re all Malades.”

For all of these reasons, dear Malades and Caregivers we thank you for the very clear and obvious “sign” that Jesus has given to us through you. You have shown us one of the “secrets” of spiritual success — namely, that “the flyer” does nothing except to trust and “the catcher” does everything! ■

Sleeve-Up: Applying our Humanitarian Expertise to Fight the Flu



Thank you to all the nurses, volunteers, and friends that made this event possible.



MI Americas' Executive Director, Ravi Tripptrap lending a hand at the flu vaccination campaign at St. Francis Breadline in Manhattan.

On a crisp and cloudy Sunday in mid-October, Malteser International Americas kicked-off its latest program in the United States. With the help of volunteers from the Order of Malta's American Association, the international humanitarian organization launched an influenza immunization campaign aimed at protecting homeless New Yorkers from the flu. The first event took place at St Francis Breadline in Midtown Manhattan. This new initiative is organized in partnership with ArchCare, the Continuing Care Community of the Archdiocese of New York.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that during last year's flu season (2019-2020), nearly 40 million Americans (nearly the entire population of California) contracted the flu, which resulted in 400,000 hospitalizations and 22,000 deaths. Fortunately, over half the population received the flu vaccine, which prevented approximately 6,300 deaths.

This year, Americans are preparing for a flu season with the added burden of COVID-19. Indications of a second wave seem plausible, making immunization for influenza even more critical this winter. The more people are vaccinated, the more they are protected.

"We work in 31 different countries, providing disaster response and public health aid to individuals around the globe - but this is a chance to serve the community in our own backyard," says Ravi Tripptrap, Executive Director of Malteser International Americas.

Vaccination campaigns are familiar territory for Malteser International, as it implements similar projects in vulnerable

communities throughout the world. Through medical sites as well as mobile clinics, we provide vaccines for preventable diseases such as measles and polio. Our medical team in Colombia, stationed along the border in the department of La Guajira, regularly screens and vaccinates migrants and refugees, focusing on children, from neighboring Venezuela that have fled the country due to its social and economic collapse.

There are vulnerable people in every society, including New York City, and it is our mandate to help and protect them. Homeless people are particularly at-risk because of the prevalence of underlying health conditions, as well as the cramped sleeping conditions at shelters. The propagation of the virus threatens the elderly and the over 100,000 homeless children in the city, making them susceptible to pneumonia. The vaccine also eases the burden of illness on our healthcare systems which are fighting an ongoing battle to manage COVID-19.

The volunteers of the Order of Malta's American Association have been key partners in materializing this initiative. Through their contacts, time, and expertise, we have been able to design a program that we wish to expand, and we hope will also inspire members to engage with our humanitarian work both globally, and locally.

To learn more about our work please visit www.orderofmaltarelief.org and follow us on social media:

Facebook: @MalteserInternationalAmericas

Twitter: @MalteserAmerica

LinkedIn: @Malteser-International-Americas

Pilgrimage Themes Through the Years



2004 The Sign of the Rock



2005 Be Not Afraid



2012 Ave Maria



2006 Come Be My Light



2013 Our Lady Queen of Peace



2007 Be Reconciled with God



2008 Sent to Love and Serve



2014 Walk as a Child of the Light



2009 A Personal Journey



2010 Renewing Our Vocations



2011 Life with Christ through Mary



2015 With God All Things Are Possible



2016 Our Lady, Mother of Mercy



2017 Our Mother Full of Grace



2018 God Guide and Guard You



2019 Come to Me and Rest in My Loving Presence

2020 Jesus, I Trust in You

Past Lourdes Pilgrimage Chairs

- 1986 Ann R. Peabody, GCM*
- 1987 Ann R. Peabody, CGM* and Mildred G. Ix, GCM
- 1988 Lucy F. McGrath, DM, and Patricia D. Murphy, DM*
- 1989 Mary Agnes Kiernan, DM*
- 1990 Barbara M. Cleary, DM*
- 1991 Frank Hardart, MD, KM* and Frances O'C. Hardart, GCDM*
- 1992 Donald G. Wiesen, KM, and Patricia A. Wiesen, DM*
- 1993 Francis H. Ludington, KM*, and Angela K. Ludington, DM
- 1994 Donald J. Matthews, KM, and Hope E. Carter, DMOB
- 1995 James M. Dillon, KM, and Susan K. Dillon, DM
- 1996 Dean P. Gestal, KM, and Janet S. Gestal, DM
- 1997 Robert L. Shafer, GCMOb, and Ellen S. Shafer, GCMOb
- 1998 Daniel D. McCarthy, GCMOb* and A. Patricia McCarthy, DMOB
- 1999 Charlotte E. Flatley, DM* and Paula G. Murphy, DM
- 2000 William R. Burleigh, KMOB and Anne Burleigh, DMOB
- 2001 John H. Sennett, KM, and Dianne M. Sennett, DM
- 2002 Jack E. Pohrer, GCM, and Carole B. Less, DM
- 2003 Robert J. Fredericks, GCMOb and Jeanette K. Fredericks, DM
- 2004 Carl A. Schwarz, Jr., KMOB* and Leona (Sue) Farrell, DM
- 2005 John B. Connolly, KM and JoAnne O. Connolly, DM
- 2006 Joseph G. Metz, GCMOb and Elissa M. Metz, DMOB
- 2007 Michael P. Castine, GCM and Margaret M. Lyons, DM
- 2008 Joseph H. Miller, GCMOb* and Barbara A. Miller, DM
- 2009 Howard V. Redgate, GCM and Susan T. Redgate, DM
- 2010 Joseph F. Berardino, KM and Gail T. Berardino, DM
- 2011 Kenneth R. Craig, KM and Charlotte A. Williams, DM
- 2012 Richard D. Milone, MD, GCM and Dede Milone, GCDM
- 2013 Carl J. Kuehner, KM and JoAnne M. Kuehner, DM
- 2014 Jack Sise, KM and Kristy P. Snyder, DM
- 2015 William J. Fessler, DDS, KM and Mary Beth Fessler, APRN, DM
- 2016 Thomas J. O'Brien, KM and Donna M. O'Brien, DM
- 2017 Craig B. Gibson, KM and Nancy Q. Gibson, DM
- 2018 Michael J. Donoghue, KM and M. Cecelia Donoghue, DM
- 2019 John M. Murphy, MD, KM and Nancy Murphy, DM
- 2020 William H. Besgen, KMOB, and Catherine Besgen, DMOB

*Deceased





ORDER OF MALTA

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION GRANTS FOR 2020

Not all grants have been processed.

GRANTEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Boston			
Education	Archdiocese of Boston	\$10,000	Funds for publicity, catechetical materials & closing event for Year of the Eucharist
Food	Catholic Charities of Maine	\$2,500	COVID-19
Food	Cor Unum	\$10,000	COVID-19
Education	Laboure College	\$6,500	Provide 3 nursing students with scholarship assistance
Food	Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry	\$5,000	COVID-19
Food	Saint Paul's Cathedral Food Pantry	\$2,500	COVID-19
Food	Homeless Not Hopeless	\$1,855	COVID-19
Connecticut - Eastern			
Prison Ministry	New Life Ministry of Southeastern Connecticut	\$666	Transitional housing & support systems for women upon release from York Correctional Institution
Food	St. Vincent de Paul Middletown CT	\$2,500	COVID-19
Connecticut - Southern, Western, Northern			
Pro-Life	Malta House, Inc.	\$1,405	Purchase appliances for the kitchen in new home, currently under construction
Food	New Covenant Center	\$10,000	Direct operating expenses of soup kitchen & food pantry, job skills program & a new initiative for purchasing lean protein & healthy foods
Sick	Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs	\$10,000	Access to occupational, physical, & speech/language therapy for young people with disabilities
Education	Shepherds	\$5,000	SAT/ACT preparatory classes for students to prepare for college application testing
Poor	The Thomas Merton Center/ Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc.	\$10,000	Caseworker to work with guests to help them better access medical services, mental health services, financial services, tax returns, computer skills with a focus on workforce development
Florida - Naples			
Food	Catholic Charities of Collier County	\$1,660	Provide chronically hungry elementary school children, who are homeless or at-risk of hunger, with a bag filled with nutritious food for the weekend
Pro-Life	Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc.	\$17,843	Help cover the Ultrasound Technician's annual salary, health insurance, & payroll tax
Florida - Northeast			
Sick	Association of St. Lawrence Communita Cenacolo America, Inc.	\$6,284	Purchase 24 single bed mattresses for women's house
Florida - Southeast			
Poor	St. Anns Place	\$5,000	Funds for respite program, which provides short term emergency shelter for vulnerable individuals such as children and the elderly through hotel stays.
Food	St. Vincent de Paul of NPB	\$7,500	COVID-19
Food	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Palm Beach	\$7,500	COVID-19
Florida - Vero Beach			
Food	The Hope for Families Center	\$4,767	Replace non-working kitchen equipment (commercial stove, dishwasher & ice cream maker)
Indiana - Central & Southern			
Food	The Secretariat for Worship and Evangelization - The Archdiocese of Indianapolis	\$1,950	Support Archdiocese of Indianapolis Cathedral Kitchen food program & medical ministry at St. Thomas More free clinic
Indiana - Northern			
Food	St. Vincent DePaul	\$2,817	COVID-19

GRANTEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Kansas			
Food	Catholic Charities of Northern Kansas	\$650	COVID-19
Michigan			
Sick	Dames and Knights of the Order of Malta	\$6,251	Fund cost of moving to a facility that will be co-occupied by Catholic Social Services of SE Michigan (CCSSEM) to serve handicapped
Pro-Life	Family Life Services of Washtenaw County	\$1,500	Redesign website layout & content & conduct target audience surveys to more efficiently reach women considering abortion
Sick	Rose Hill Center, Inc.	\$2,000	Purchase 50 Fitbit devices to incorporate into fitness programs residents develop as part of their treatment
Minnesota			
Pro-Life	Cradle of Hope	\$3,716	Sponsorship annual event to raise funds for pregnancy care & support 15+ needy women
Food - Homeless	Sodality of St. John the Baptist	\$3,716	Purchase trailer with jib crane to eliminate expenses spent on delivery for 12-15 events per year
Missouri			
Prison Ministry	Criminal Justice Ministry	\$6,500	Cover portion of First Service Liaison salary & provide 150+ post-incarcerated individuals/families with access to transportation & other services
Pro-Life	Our Lady's Inn	\$5,000	Provide 36 days of care & nights of shelter for homeless pregnant women
Education	Saint Louis University	\$3,000	Help send 50 students on 3-day silent Ignation retreat at St. Meinrad's Archabbey in Indiana
Poor	St. Patrick Center	\$6,000	Support Women's Night Program to cover unfunded services, including direct client aid
New Jersey			
Pro-Life	Birth Haven, Inc.	\$1,000	Replace existing shower bases, walls, & glass doors for 2 existing standing shower units
Sick - Education	Discovery Ministries	\$1,000	Bring youth to Safe Haven Farms for equine therapy & provide a safe picnic for at-risk youth & their families
Poor	Homeless Solutions, Inc.	\$1,000	Underwrite basic, recurring expenses at shelter (new mattresses for sleeping quarters)
Food	Straight and Narrow, Inc	\$1,875	Provide 240 backpacks (containing 3 family meals for the weekend) per month to low income preschool children in Paterson
Food	The Center In Asbury Park, Inc.	\$1,800	Replace 15 year old commercial dishwasher with a countertop pass through model
Pro-Life	The Mercy House	\$1,000	Replenish supplies & help individuals attend healing ministries & retreats
Food	St. Peter the Apostle Parish	\$3,600	COVID-19
Food	Franciscan Charities, Inc.	\$2,500	COVID-19
Food	St. Theresa RC Church - Loaves and Fishes Program	\$2,500	COVID-19
Food	Christ the King Roman Catholic Church	\$2,500	COVID-19
Food	St. Cecelia Church - Office of Concern Food Pantry	\$2,500	COVID-19
Food	Catholic Charities - Diocese of Patterson	\$3,600	COVID-19
Food	Catholic Charities - Diocese of Trenton	\$1,800	COVID-19
New York - Nassau & Suffolk Counties			
Poor	St. Martha's Parish Social Ministry Program	\$12,352	COVID-19
New York - NYC			
Poor	Cabrini Immigrant Services of NYC	\$3,755	Purchase additional desks, computers & chairs to accommodate new staff members & clients
Pro-Life	Pregnancy Help, Inc.	\$5,000	Provide cribs to pregnant mothers (encourages participation, resulting in live childbirth, while ensuring 40 babies have a place to sleep)
Sick	Mary Manning Walsh Home	\$5,000	Purchase an upright acoustic piano for the auditorium



GRANTEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Food	New York Common Pantry	\$5,000	Purchase a pre-owned forklift to address increased capacity at warehouse
Pro-Life	Sisters of Life	\$5,000	Purchase & install new front doors for Sacred Heart of Jesus Convent
Food	St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters	\$2,000	Continue Annual December Holiday Party for the needy children & their families
Pro-Life	St. John's Bread and Life Program, Inc.	\$5,000	Provide basic care necessities & personal care items for mothers & babies, low-income seniors, families & individuals in need, particularly homeless
Sick	Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center	\$5,000	Fund live liturgical music at Sunday Mass
New York - Upstate			
Sick - Food	Benedictine Health Foundation, Inc.	\$1,000	Provide financial assistance to patients diagnosed with cancer in the form of gift cards to purchase nutritious food & fuel to access treatment
Education	Camp Veritas	\$1,000	Provide scholarships to underprivileged teens to attend Camp Veritas
Poor	Spirit of Assisi Foundation, Inc.	\$4,800	Help chronically unemployed people in our community find & succeed at a good job
Food	St. John/ St. Ann's Welcome Table	\$1,800	Provide over 100 meals 3 days a week for the residents of the South end of Albany
Food	Cathedral Social Services/ Food Pantry	\$1,801	Provide pre-ordered food supplies to residents in the area
New York - Westchester			
Food	Caritas of Port Chester, Inc.	\$4,750	Purchase 6 month supply of paper & compostable containers for takeout meals provided by soup kitchen
Pro-Life	Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents	\$1,000	Expand ministry into three new sites in New York State
Poor	Home for the Aged of the Little Sisters of the Poor of the City of New York	\$6,000	Purchase refrigerator & furnish dining area of nursing unit with dining room chairs to enable the elderly to sit comfortably & safely
Food	Part of the Solution (POTS)	\$2,250	Purchase supplies to help staff & volunteers prepare & serve meals more efficiently in a dignified environment
Food	San Miguel Academy of Newburgh	\$1,786	Purchase 68 winter/rainproof coats, 68 pairs of gloves, & 68 pairs of waterproof boots for students to wear during PBL2 field trips
Poor	St Anthony Shelter for Renewal	\$4,150	Purchase & install glass partitions to provide safe, private meeting space
Ohio			
Food	St. Francis Seraph Ministries	\$10,401	COVID-19
Pennsylvania - Allentown			
Sick	Catholic Senior Housing and Health Care Services	\$650	Purchase supplies for Welcome Bags given to each new short-term rehabilitation patients upon arrival
Food	St. Vincent de Paul Society of Sts. Simon and Jude Parish	\$650	COVID-19
Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh			
Pro-Life	Genesis of Pittsburgh, Inc.	\$1,083	Purchase cribs for safe sleeping environment & SIDS prevention
Pennsylvania - Philadelphia			
Food	Montgomery County Catholic Social Services - FBO Martha's Choice Marketplace	\$1,000	COVID-19
Pennsylvania - Scranton			
Food	Friends of the Poor	\$2,600	COVID-19
Texas - Dallas			
Food	Catholic Charities of Dallas	\$8,234	COVID-19
Texas - Houston			
Food	St. Martha Catholic Church - Martha's Kitchen	\$2,917	COVID-19
Wisconsin - Green Bay			
Food	St. John the Evangelist Homeless Shelter	\$2,667	COVID-19

GRANTEE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Food	Paul's Pantry	\$800	COVID-19
Wisconsin - Milwaukee			
Food	Cathedral Center, Inc.	\$3,467	COVID-19
US Virgin Islands			
Food	Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands	\$1,083	COVID-19
Association Level			
Other	Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation	\$50,000	"Fund the Neediest Baby Fund, which provides lifesaving care for our most vulnerable patients, born as early as 23 weeks"
Other	The National Catholic Bioethics Center	\$25,000	Continue to provide free consultations to people in need of advice from the Catholic moral tradition in medical ethics
Other	Order of Malta Worldwide Relief Malteser International Americas	\$100,000	Support programs in capacity-building initiatives, disaster risk reduction/response, & implementation of development projects with Associations in core countries
Other	Prison Ministry	\$50,000	"To continue the board approved national ministry of the American Association."

TOTAL GRANTS TO DATE FOR 2020 \$537,250

2020-2021 ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

<p>November 13 Board of Councillors Meeting</p> <p>November 13 Virtual Annual Meeting</p> <p>November 15 World Day of the Poor</p> <p>November 26 Thanksgiving</p> <p>December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>December 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p>December 25 Christmas</p> <p style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">2021</p> <p>January 1, 2022 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God – New Year's Day</p>	<p>January 22(TBD) Virtual Pilgrimage for Life</p> <p>February 11 Our Lady of Lourdes, World Day of the sick</p> <p>February 17 Ash Wednesday</p> <p>February 18 Board of Councillors Meeting</p> <p>March 28 – April 4 Holy Week and Easter</p> <p>April 27 – May 5 Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage (dates and times TBD)</p> <p>May 13 Ascension Thursday</p> <p>May 23 Pentecost Sunday</p> <p>May 26 Board of Councillors Meeting</p>	<p>June 10-11 Detroit Joint Chaplains/Area Leadership Conference</p> <p>June 24 Feast of Saint John the Baptist</p> <p>August 5 – 8 Wisconsin Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help</p> <p>August 15 Feast of the Assumption</p> <p>September 8 Feast of Our Lady of Philermo</p> <p>September 15 – 16 St. Louis, MO Board of Councillors Meeting</p> <p>September 24 – 26 Medway, MA Association Retreat</p> <p>November 1 All Saints' Day</p>	<p>November 4 New York City Board of Councillors Meeting</p> <p>November 5 New York City Annual Meeting, Investiture, Annual Dinner</p> <p>November 6 New York City Mass for Malades, Caregivers, and Malades in Spirit</p> <p>November 6 New York City Subpriory Mass</p> <p>November 14 World Day of the Poor</p> <p>November 25 Thanksgiving</p> <p>December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception</p> <p>December 25 Christmas</p>
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On the first Wednesday of each month, there is a Spiritual Outreach call at 11AM ET





Our Lady of Philermo... *Pray For Us*

On Tuesday, September 8, 2020 the Order of Malta celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Philermo. American Association members joined the Federal Association, via livestream, for Holy Mass celebrated at St. Ann's Church in Washington, DC. This Mass was sponsored by the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation.

During Mass, attendees listened to a talk about Our Lady of Philermo presented by Michele B. Bowe, DM, a member of the Federal Association and president of the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation. The transcript from her talk is below.

As members of the Order of Malta we pray our daily prayer of the Order asking for the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin of Philermo, whose feast we celebrate today on the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother. Today we especially pray for an end to this siege of the coronavirus. Our Lady, Most Holy Virgin of Philermo, we ask you to go to your Son, and implore Him to deliver us from this Pandemic.

Throughout the centuries, Our Lady of Philermo has delivered our Order from harm and aided us through the most improbable sieges and battles where we were outmanned and out armed. The early Knights sought the intercession of Our

Lady of Philermo, praying, "You are our only help in all that afflicts us." That is so powerful. The original Icon was affixed to walls in Rhodes and in Churches on the Island of Malta. It miraculously survived devastating fires. It was tied to the masts of boats, appealing for Mary's intercession in securing victory in 1480 (the siege of Rhodes), in 1565 (The Great Siege) and in 1571 (the Battle of Lepanto).

We pray for the intercession of the Blessed Mother under her title of Our Lady of Philermo and she does indeed intercede for us. While we know of the great miracles attributed through the Icon to Our Lady of Philermo through the centuries, we can still ask her for miracles today... a great miracle of deliverance from the coronavirus and the everyday needs we hold in our hearts. Did you know between the sieges, in 1523, the Icon was brought to Naples and was processed through the streets seeking Mary's intercession to rid Naples from the scourge of the plague?

The Icon of Our Lady of Philermo has had many titles over time. It is believed that it was written by the Evangelist, St. Luke and was entitled the Madonna of Bethlehem. The Icon then made its way to Rhodes after Our Lady appeared to a nobleman suffering from despair on the hill which is now called Philermo in Rhodes. She told him of the Icon and its location in the Holy Land. He left immediately to retrieve it and placed it on the spot of the apparition where he built her a shrine. There, pilgrims came to venerate Our Lady from that day on.

The origins of our Order are in Jerusalem at our hospital in Muristan, which was staffed by pilgrims. We, as members of the Order, are a pilgrim people and the Icon of Our Lady of Philermo, likewise is a pilgrim icon with origins in the Holy Land and a history of travels throughout the Mediterranean.

As members of the Order, we continue our pilgrim tradition along with the impetus to practice charity towards our neighbors, the sick and the poor. The Hospitaller tradition of our Order is most alive today in Bethlehem at Holy Family Hospital,

where we serve the poorest of the poor in the town where Jesus was born. With great certainty, I believe that the Madonna of Bethlehem, otherwise known as Our Lady of Philermo, continues to protect our work and those we serve.

There is a twin plague in Bethlehem today consisting of great poverty due to the stoppage of pilgrimages and the plague of the coronavirus. For months, there were no cases in the hospital and we attributed it to good protocols and the protection of Our Lady. As the siege wears on and the poverty increases, coronavirus is now taking its toll on the hospital. Sick mothers are delivering sick babies and our staff is falling ill. Despite the great risks, our brave staff works under the Cross of our Order and the mantle of Our Lady. They have delivered over 2,900 babies to date. I believe this is a miracle due to the intercession of Our Lady of Philermo. She gives our staff the strength they need to carry out their tasks with faithful resolve upholding the traditions of our Order.

The employees of our hospital are the hands of the Order tenderly practicing charity towards our lords, the sick and the poor of Bethlehem and beyond. Since none of us today can travel to the Holy Land, we rely on the devoted employees of Holy Family Hospital, both Christians and Muslims to work together, protecting life and caring for the most vulnerable, promoting peace and God's glory. Please pray for our work at the hospital and be generous to support our efforts which continue the Hospitaller work of Fra Gerard from over 900 years ago.

As members of the Order during this pandemic, I suggest we each carry a depiction of Our Lady of Philermo and redouble our prayers for her intercession.

Our Lady of Philermo... Pray for Us

In all our afflictions, you are indeed our hope. ■

Michele Bowe's talk was a part of the livestreamed Mass for Our Lady of Philermo. Watch the recording of this Mass at stanndc.org/order-of-malta.





The 2020 Grants Program

(continued from cover)

money to assist their local food banks, soup kitchens, and other charities feeding those in need. Area Leaders sprang into action, nominating a variety of local charities to receive emergency food-related grants from the American Association during the pandemic. Their quick efforts helped to provide essential nourishment for people, many of whom had nowhere else to turn, throughout the country.

Putting our charism to work in a time of historical need, over \$90,000 in grants were given to a total of 25 charities providing emergency food-related assistance during the pandemic, not including additional donations made by local Area funds. These organizations include Catholic Charities and Saint Vincent de Paul locations throughout the country, as well as local food pantries, soup kitchens, and other food programs.

Still while enduring a global pandemic, the American Association's 30 Areas were able to provide an additional \$440,000 in grants to other organizations whose purposes align with our mission, "Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum", nurturing, witnessing and protecting the faith and assistance to the poor and the suffering. Over 50 regular works of our Areas, including pregnancy centers, homeless shelters, school programs, and other organizations can continue their work with the help of an Area Grant and our members as dedicated volunteers.

Through the faithful work of our members, the American Association has been able to support close to 100

organizations this year. Grant applications for 2020 continue to come in due to the ongoing needs of the pandemic and the continuing adjustments being made to our "new normal". We thank our members for their role in helping those in need by their participation in the 2020 Area Grants Program and for their hands-on assistance as Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta. ■



Prison Ministry Committee Tells the Story of Its Work

New Communication Efforts Are Up and Running

by Craig Gibson, Chair, American Association Prison Ministry Committee

With a newly re-structured Prison Ministry Committee up and running, our pastoral ministry serving our incarcerated brothers and sisters is moving forward, and so are our efforts to communicate these activities to members of the Order. Here are some of the ways we are expanding our communications.

EMAIL NEWSLETTER BRINGS MEMBERS INTO THE LIFE OF MINISTRY WORKERS

Looking to provide members a quick-and-easy read that opens a window into the world of our pastoral ministry efforts, we launched the Prison Ministry Email Newsletter in August. The newsletter is distributed monthly and focuses on first-hand accounts in three categories:

- Prison Ministry in Action, Visitation, and Reentry. This section highlights a visitation or re-entry story featuring the experiences of members, inmates, and the formerly incarcerated.
- The Word in Action, Bibles and Prayer Books. The stories focus on the Order of Malta members working to distribute the books and the impact the distribution has on inmates, staff, and others.
- Pen Pal Ministry, Supporting from a Distance. The third section tells heartfelt stories about the wonderful and growing Pen Pal Ministry, and the powerful impact between dedicated pen pal writers and inmates. Each month, we will be presenting

stories from programs throughout the American Association.

BOOK CLUB ENGAGES MEMBERS IN ASPECTS OF PRISON LIFE

We also launched a Prison Ministry Book Club. This is another way to engage with members about many aspects of prison life. Our first discussion focused on a book by Valerie Schultz, Overdue: A Dewey Decimal System of Grace. Valerie started out working in Prison Ministry through her local parish and then moved on to working in a prison library full time. The meeting took place via Zoom, and we received excellent feedback, including: “The call was wonderful.”; “Valerie was inspiring.”; “I loved sharing this book.”

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION WEBSITE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED

We are in the process of redesigning the Prison Ministry page on the American Association website. This will provide clear and updated information about our Prison Ministry activities, outreach, and programs. Articles from the email newsletter are already being posted. From the website’s Latest News page, click through to read the latest stories.

WHY COMMUNICATE ABOUT PRISON MINISTRY?

We are spreading the word about Prison Ministry because it is important for our members to understand how this ministry connects to our

charism and how they might consider ways to become involved. As the American Association’s mission directs, we are committed to promoting the glory of God through the sanctification of our members, witness to and support of the Catholic faith, and active service to the sick and the poor.

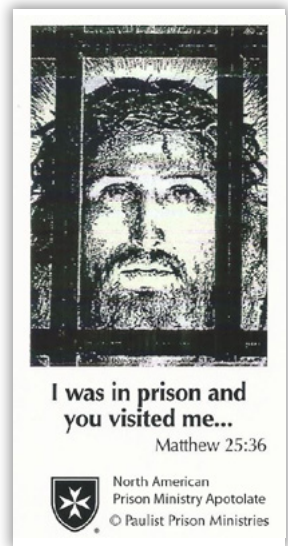
Our members’ work in Prison Ministry is one of the important ways we fulfill that commitment. Matthew 25 doesn’t tell us to serve only those we think of as upstanding citizens. Christ’s love is for all, and our pastoral ministry helps bring that message to people who often need it the most.

JOIN US IN THIS MINISTRY

We hope as you learn about our work in Prison Ministry you will be inspired to join us. A good place to start is by contacting your local Area Chair to find out about the programs in your Area. Another great resource is the Spirituality in Action Resource Book, which provides details on our 29 Prison Ministry programs. A gentle way to begin your service in this ministry might be by participating in the Pen Pal Program. Steve Hawkins, KM, from the Minnesota Area, started the American Association’s ministry and has recently launched an email newsletter for those involved in the Pen Pal Ministry.

You will find that this ministry inspires all involved to experience God’s presence and love, and is yet another meaningful to grow in the Spirit! ■

For more information about the email newsletter and book club, contact Craig Gibson, Chair of the Prison Ministry Committee at cbgibson@comcast.net.





Inmates, Bibles and Prayer Books

The American Association Prison Ministry Committee distributes Bibles and prayer books, in English and Spanish, to inmates in prisons and jails throughout the extended American Association. Association members, facility chaplains, and volunteers all play a role in the distribution process.

In New Jersey, Bob Fredericks, GCMOb, often meets with inmates while participating in a prison communion service. When he presents a Bible or prayer book directly to an inmate, he emphasizes that it now belongs to them. He informs each inmate that the Bible or prayer book is now their property. He encourages each inmate to “take it back to your cell block, read it, meditate on it, and, as a result, be able to draw closer to the Lord.” He tells the inmates to take the Bibles and prayer books with them when they leave the facility.

What are the reactions of inmates when they receive these Bibles and prayer books? Some inmates are surprised that anyone is giving them anything! Most inmates are very appreciative that someone on the outside really does care about them. Bob believes that our Bibles and prayer books are “making a big difference and lasting impact on the spiritual lives of our incarcerated brothers and sisters.”

Deceased Members: January 1 – June 22, 2020

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Joseph A. Atkinson, KM | Palm Beach, FL |
| Thomas J. Aylward IV, KM | New Canaan, CT |
| Marjorie Lane Bycraft, DM | South Bend, IN |
| Richard F. Chapdelaine, KM | Manhasset, NY |
| Mary Higgins Clark Conheeney, DM | Saddle River, NJ |
| Richard W. Collins, KM | Indian River Shores, FL |
| Roger H. Cook, KM | Marana, AZ |
| Edith C. Cunnane, DM | Creve Coeur, MO |
| Gerard W. Cunningham, KM | New Rochelle, NY |
| Robert F. Eiseman, KM | Hilton Head, SC |
| Daniel J. Ferry, Jr., KM | Kirkwood, MO |
| Ellen M. Flynn, DM | La Crosse, WI |
| Claire M. Foster, DM | St. Thomas, VI |
| Luis J. Fujimoto, DMD, KM | New York, NY |
| Thomas Garesche, KM | Holderness, NH |
| Robert C. Golden, KM | Staten Island, NY |
| Frances O’C. Hardart, GCDM | Bronxville, NY |
| James J. Hartnett, KM | Dallas, TX |
| Joseph F. Kane, KM | Portsmouth, NH |
| William M. Kearns, KM | New Vernon, NJ |
| Neta M. Kolasa, PsyD, DM | Boca Raton, FL |
| Edward A. Landry, KM | Los Angeles, CA |
| Dolores E. Loughlin, DM | Charlotte, NC |
| Sirio Maccioni, KM | New York, NY |
| Thomas M. McEvoy, KM | Larchmont, NY |
| Julie Marie C. Miller, DM | Dallas, TX |
| Peter F. Muratore, KMOB | Morristown, NJ |
| Rev. Richard Murphy, ChD | Vero Beach, FL |
| Most Rev. George V. Murry, SJ, ChC | Youngstown, OH |
| Most Rev. John J. Myers, ChC | Newark, NJ |
| James F. O’Connor, GCMOb | Wellesley Hills, MA |
| Hubert J. O’Toole, KM | Convent Station, NJ |
| Geraldine C. Pasternak, PhD, DM | Belle Harbor, NY |
| Gerard P. Peplowski, KM | Grosse Pointe Woods, MI |
| Frank H. Reis, KM | Naples, FL |
| Roberta A. Ryan, DM | Timonium, MD |
| Anthony F. Sansone, Sr, KM | St. Louis, MO |
| Kathleen O. Shine, DM | Walpole, MA |
| Scott J. Steffan, KM | Jacksonville, FL |

“Be Not Afraid”: Virtual Malta Camp 2020 Reaches Young Adults with Disabilities and Renews Faithful Community

Submitted by Christopher Carter Lee, KM, Virtual Malta Camp core team member



As COVID-19 continued into the summer, the Order’s 37th annual International Summer Camp for Disabled Youth (“International Camp” or “Malta Camp”) to be held in Rome was postponed until 2021. “Team U.S.A.” is the International Camp’s American delegation, consisting of participants with and

without disabilities in their 20s and 30s from both the American Association and Federal Association. On hearing of the camp’s postponement, neither helpers (the able-bodied volunteers) nor guests (the disabled) wanted to see a year pass without the annual opportunity to make friendships and build the supportive Christian community Malta Camp offers. In this spirit, a core team who has led the American Association to the past five years of Malta Camps in Europe began to plan a virtual program that would serve the guests in place of the International Camp in Rome.

The fruit of these efforts led to the first ever Virtual Malta Camp, held online from August 2 through 9 through the American

Association’s Zoom account. The theme that guided the Virtual Camp was “Be Not Afraid,” a scriptural reference chosen deliberately to help combat the fear that has become pervasive during this isolating time of pandemic. Just as the International Camps make wondrous cathedrals accessible and notable Mass celebrants available in order to make guests feel not just included but celebrated, opening and closing Masses were held in particularly special locations by celebrants whose presence highlighted how important the guests are to the Order of Malta community. The opening Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Seán Patrick O’Malley in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston, and the closing Mass by Monsignor David Charters in the chapel of the Residence of the Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See Mission to the United Nations in New York. The Virtual Malta Camp also included a rich and varied program of activities that mirrored many of those that make up the International Camps. It was exciting for “Team U.S.A.” to attend the first Malta Camp ever produced in the United States. For eight days, participants came together virtually for sessions of 90 minutes or more that demonstrated the power of technology to bring people “apart, together.”

The program and materials were produced over two months of planning and weekend gatherings by the core team to assemble arts



and crafts projects, test interactive Zoom-based Rosary procession and breakout rooms for pastoral sessions with a chaplain for the program's "Silent Night," design camp keepsakes in line with those that guests would have made and received at Malta Camps abroad, and record the Masses, show and tell talent videos, and personal reflections by guests that bookended the camp week. Core team member and Chair of the American Association Auxiliary Luisa Majnoni d'Intignano reflects that, "Malta Camp represents what life should be. The joy of the Gospel permeates everything we do at camp. It's extraordinary and it's contagious."

American Association President Peter J. Kelly, Chancellor Edward J. Delaney, and Hospitaller Kenneth R. Craig gave opening and closing remarks during the first and last days of the Virtual Camp. As well, leaders of the Order of Malta in Rome including the Lieutenant ad Interim and the Grand Hospitaller wrote in support and assured American Association officers and the Virtual Camp core team of their prayers throughout the eight-day program. At the same time, guests were able to share their experiences with American Association leaders. During the closing ceremony, a guest shared a photo and video montage from attending the International Camp in the past with remarks she had prepared. Among her remarks, she reflected:

- "[Malta Camp] is a community filled with joy and where everybody experiences compassion, kindness, and inclusion no matter what. Malta Camp is family, Malta Camp is love, and I am forever grateful for the positive influence Malta Camp has had on my life."
- "[At Malta Camp, unlike at home] we have friendships with people our own age and [that's] not something that we take for granted."
- "At camp it means that we can be helped when we need it and we don't feel like a burden. [That feeling] never happens, because when we need help [...] we're greeted with the biggest smiles and so much encouragement and support."
- "Camp is important because it helps me and all the other guests learn new things and experience freedoms that we don't experience in our daily lives."
- "It is also most importantly a place where we grow in our faith in Jesus Christ."

As guests confirmed their participation, the specific needs of each guest (who had all attended a Malta Camp in the past three years) were considered and individualized strategies were developed to ensure each one's full participation, from those with conditions affecting their attention spans, to those who are non-verbal, and those who process information differently. In the words of core team member Lucia Simpson, "It is a testament to the friendships and the trust of the guests that has been built over the past years of attending

Malta Camps together that we were able to make such a success of a virtual camp. Whether we were dancing, singing, praying, or just chatting, it felt like exactly the same kind of bonding, enriching, beautiful camp experience as any camp before."

American Association members in their 20s and 30s and Auxiliary members have participated in the International Summer Camp since the early 2000s. For the last five years, the American delegation has been grown from a small presence to one of the largest delegations participating in the flagship Malta Camp in Europe. While in-person Malta Camp participation relies on equitable distribution of limited spots among many participating associations, the model of the Virtual Malta Camp serves as a platform through which our Order may reach many more isolated disabled young adults whom we hope to serve, providing them with social outlets and, through inclusion in the greater Order of Malta community life, opportunities for developing their faith and renewing friendships not envisioned before COVID-19 necessitated it. The core team hopes that as more of the Order's young members and Auxiliary discover and gain formation through service and faith-filled camaraderie, this "primary work of the Order's young people" will expand in the virtual space as well as through in-person Malta Camps, allowing friendships to grow and guests and helpers to continue to experience many blessings from these camps.

Heavenly Father, we love you and praise you with all our hearts.

You are our refuge and strength.

You are the still voice of calm amid the storm.

You are the light that shines and guides us in times of darkness.

Help us to remember to be not afraid, because you are with us always.

Lord, thank you, for the great blessings we continue to receive

through camp and our camp family.

May we always be witnesses to the Joy of the Gospel,

through the Love of Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Seed Money

The Start of Something Big

Sometimes, a phone message can be a bearer of good tidings. Such was the case for Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky, KM. A message six years ago from Dr. Trexler and a follow-up discussion turned out to be a game changer. Dr. Dutkowsky learned about the Langer Trust, an endowment created to fund research for children with disabilities. The American Association had been named the trustee. A one million dollar gift had grown to \$2.5 million while the Association sought a suitable opportunity to support with a grant. Dr. Dutkowsky is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon specializing in the care of children with disabilities so Dr. Trexler contacted him to see if he could advise on where pediatric research was being conducted. Dr. Dutkowsky was stunned as money to fund research for children with disabilities was practically nonexistent.

Dr. Dutkowsky explained what happened from there, “At the time, I was holding clinics two days a week to help start the Weinberg Family Cerebral Palsy Center at Columbia. I immediately met with two close colleagues at Columbia who are world-class researchers. Dr. Sunil Agrawal, a Professor of Mechanical Engineering is the director of the Robotics and Rehabilitation (ROAR) Laboratory and an expert in robotics. Dr Andrew Gordon, Professor of Movement Science at Teacher’s College is considered the world’s foremost expert on upper extremity function in cerebral palsy. Both were amazed at the opportunity at hand and together had several shovel ready projects that we really wanted to do but for which no funding could be obtained.”

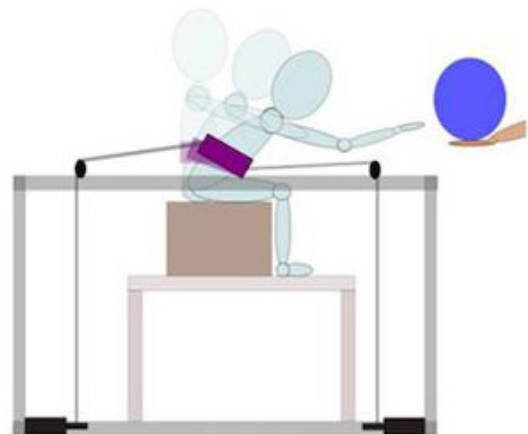
It was estimated that the Langer Trust would provide about \$110,000 a year (based on 5% of a five-year rolling average). Though not enough to sustain a major project, it

was certainly enough to generate meaningful presentable and publishable data, and more importantly, could be used to generate the pilot data necessary to compete for a major research grant. Dr. Dutkowsky stressed three essential criteria required for a project proposal: 1) research, 2) children, and 3) disabilities as integral to the research projects. The decision was made to work on two projects - a trunk support and training device, Robotic Trunk-Support-Trainer (TruST), and an instrumented shoe to evaluate gait with the potential to provide real-time feedback to the wearer. The funding would be used to develop research hardware and software and to support salaries for graduate and post doctoral students who would work on the project. Drs. Agrawal, Gordon, and Dutkowsky would receive no salary for their participation.

The TruST was ready and waiting and an Institutional Review Board approval was obtained; children with disabilities were soon being tested in the unit. Small robotic motors would assist the children with their seated stability as they performed validated measurable upper extremity tasks. Likewise, the TruST system would measure and record the trunk stability and training of the child. Data collection was slow and arduous due to the scheduling of families and the limits of stamina of the children with cerebral palsy. In time, data showed that the system was effective in improving the children’s performance and seated stability. As additional children were tested, the original children were brought back at intervals over a year to see if the increased stability and performance was maintained. It was.

To see what the children were experiencing, Dr. Dutkowsky was strapped to the TruST to feel the tugs and pull of the tiny robots. At one time, a soloist ballerina from the New York City Ballet was strapped to it (research has its light moments).

Dr. Dutkowsky explained the process of sharing the research, “Several peer review papers and presentations have come out of the TruST research. Last year, we presented a 90 minute course at the American Academy for Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine (an international academic con-





ference) that was so highly rated that we were asked to organize and lead a similar course this year with experts across the US and Canada spanning over four hours. This course was delivered in September as a Zoom meeting.”

“With the strong pilot data,

Dr. Agrawal, as principal investigator, led the effort to apply for a National Institute of Health Grant, the gold standard in research grants. In August, we learned that an NIH R01* research grant to study TruST for children with cerebral palsy was awarded to the ROAR laboratory providing over three million dollars spanning five years.”

Dr. Dutkowsky said that now that the TruST project is fully funded, he planned to devote the majority of his future effort on the instrumented shoe. A typical gait analysis requires a room full of material and only measures the child during a single gait cycle. Many orthopedic surgeries are based on this single pass in near optimal conditions. The idea behind the instrumented shoe is to be able to measure how the child with disabilities is functioning through a normal day - for example, during a school day, from their first steps off the bus through the rest of the school day as they become fatigued. This research would require real time measurements similar to what a racing team has during an Indy Car or F1 race. Given the current state of micro-sensors and wireless technology, it seems that this is achievable.

Dr. Dutkowsky explained, “The first version of the shoe did not provide enough information so the second design went from individual sensors to a phased array matrix. This gave much better information, but, at real time, the data was coming at a rate and density that couldn’t be handled by the software. To address this problem, an artificial intelligence algorithm has been developed which shows promise in solving the problem. This, however, requires time-consuming validation testing to prove that the measurements are accurate. We are working on this now. It is hoped that not only will we be able to evaluate a child with disability’s gait but that, ideally, real time feedback could be provided through the shoe to help the child during their typically busy childhood day.”

“I am very grateful to the Langer Trust for creating the endowment and the American Association for providing the opportunity to launch research projects to benefit children with disabilities. It is unlikely that an R01 NIH Grant to help children with cerebral palsy with the TruST system could have been obtained without the pilot data that this funding helped make possible. My colleagues and I appreciate the support that the American Association has continued to provide by awarding another grant for the instrumented shoe research. We ask for your prayers that our continued research

will bring greater knowledge to the medical community and more tools to benefit our patients.” ■

Dr. Joseph Dutkowsky, KM, is a member of the American Association’s Board of Councillors. He is a co-chair of the Pilgrimage for Life. Dr. Dutkowsky is an Attending Orthopaedic Surgeon at Bassett Medical Center in upstate New York and an Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at Columbia College of Physicians. He can be reached at jdutkowsky@yahoo.com.

The Research Project (R01) grant is an award made to support a discrete, specified, circumscribed project to be performed by the named investigator(s) in an area representing the investigator’s specific interest and competencies, based on the mission of the NIH. A press release on the project can be found at: <https://www.engineering.columbia.edu/press-releases/agrawal-robotic-trunk-cerebral-palsy>

■ HIGHLIGHTS

John of Würzburg

The earliest description of the first hospital of the Sovereign Military Order of St. John in Jerusalem was written by a German pilgrim John of Würzburg who visited Jerusalem in about the year 1160:

“Over against the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, on the opposite side of the way towards the south, is a beautiful church built in honour of John the Baptist, annexed to which is a hospital, wherein in various rooms is collected together an enormous multitude of sick people. Both men and women. Who are tended and restored to health daily at very great expense. When I was there I learned that the whole number of these sick people amounted to two thousand, of whom sometimes in the course of one day and night more than fifty are carried out dead, while many other fresh ones keep continually arriving. What more can I say? The same house supplies as many people outside it with victuals as it does those inside, in addition to the boundless charity which it daily bestowed upon poor people who beg their bread from door to door and do not lodge in the house, so that the whole sum of its expenses can surely never be calculated even by the managers and stewards thereof.”

Description of the Holy Land by John of Würzburg. Palestine Pilgrims’ Text Society, London, 1896, vol.5, p.44. In: E.E. Hume: Medical work of the Knights Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem. Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1940, p.8, 14-18; & E.J. King: op. cit., p.67.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Capital Campaign — An Update Report from Gail and Joe Berardino

PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE FOR NOW AND TOMORROW

In this newsletter, you will find a summary of the grants which have already been approved this year across the American Association. We are humbled by the magnitude of the impact made by all of you serving the sick and the poor. The work you do is inspiring and supports our decision to lead the Association's Capital Campaign — to further the work that you do every day when you reach out to a homebound person, serve soup to a hungry family, help a woman bring her baby into the world, happy and healthy, or send a child home from school with food for the weekend. More than anything else, the variety of ways our members serve the sick and the poor is a testament to your commitment and to your selfless observations - you see a need and you endeavor to address it.

The Capital Campaign is another service project — creating an opportunity for each of us to participate in the works being done across the Association today and the works that will be done decades from now. From the Lourdes Pilgrimage to stuffing backpacks for victims of human trafficking, from giving a small “goody bag” coupled with a sincere love to a homeless person, singing songs to handicapped children, writing a letter to a prisoner who has no one else who cares — we find a way to use our hands and hearts in meeting the challenge, “Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to Me.”

We all made a commitment when we joined the Order to follow the path of Blessed Gerard. We had no idea that our commitment would have such a profound impact on our own lives as we reach out to help those in need. What you do touches lives in big and small ways but every act of kindness reflects your commitment to live the charism, “Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum.”

Your commitment buoys our optimism about the potential success of the Capital Campaign. What we do today in service leads us to want to build a financial legacy to enable current and future Knights and Dames to continue our works.

At a time when so many sick and poor lives have been terribly disrupted by the Coronavirus, many of us have been fortunate to be able to work remotely, immune from the devastating impact the pandemic has had on many lives and to enjoy reasonable and, in some cases, outsized returns to investment portfolios in the “recovery phase.” Of those who have much, much is expected.

The fourth quarter of 2020 will be the quiet phase of our campaign. During this period, we are engaged with the Board of Councillors, the Malta Human Services Foundation Board and the Pilgrimage Foundation Board and they are providing substantial financial support for the campaign as well as sharing their ideas and experiences with us. Joe and Gail would enjoy hearing from you. Contact them at jfberardino@gmail.com or gtberardino@gmail.com

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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You can also email mail@orderofmaltaamerican.org or call our office at (212) 371-1522 with your contact information updates.