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Connecticut – SWN Area: The demand for food at 2 Connecticut – SWN Area food pantry and soup kitchens, the New Covenant Center and Thomas Merton Center, has increased by 200-300% since the beginning of the pandemic. COVID-19 Food-related Emergency Assistance grants were awarded to both organizations, where local members volunteer regularly and host food drives, to provide food to those in need.

2021 Area Grants Program Provides Support in a Time of Need

In January, the American Association opened the 2021 Area Grants Program. The ringing in of the new year brought with it positive changes to the program, which entered its 3rd year online. This year's program offered Areas three ways to provide support aligning with our mission to promote the glory of God through the sanctification of its members, witness to and support of the Catholic faith, through active service to the sick and the poor.

Our Regular Area Grants Program continued to award funds to organizations in which our members are actively involved. Members in 13 Areas nominated a total of 29 local organizations to receive a Regular Area Grant in 2021. Organizations include food pantries, medical clinics, resident and student programs, women's care centers, and more. The American Association awarded over \$160,000 in Regular Area Grants this year.

Last year saw the introduction of our COVID-19 Emergency Food-related Assistance Program to provide immediate assistance *(continued on page 6)*

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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."



RECENTLY, THE BOARD OF COUNCILLORS had what I hope will be our last zoom board meeting for a while. Although zoom has enabled us to see each other, it is not the same as interacting in person. Our next board meeting will be in person in St. Louis. It will be wonderful to not only socialize with our fellow board members but also to greet the many members in St. Louis.

When I began my term as President, I was determined to refocus our attention to hands-on activities to serve the sick and the poor. In reviewing all of the grants that were awarded this year, it was clear that our Area leaders have directed their resources to support that objective.

There is still the memory of the liability risks that can sometimes make us hesitate to enter new ministries. However, with the appropriate protections in place and maintaining our focus on our charism of serving, we can still expand our ministries. Many of you know that our Grants Program is funded by an annual transfer of cash from the Malta Human Services Foundation.

One of the two new ministries that was approved at the May Board meeting is the expansion of the mobile van ministry to New Jersey. This ministry began in 2020 as a pilot in St. Louis; the expansion now to New Jersey was made possible because of the success of the ministry in St. Louis.

The other ministry is a Summer Camp for Disabled Young Adults. This effort was started in Europe as an international camp sponsored by the Order of Malta. We are now beginning our own camp in the USA so we can make it available to more disabled young adults. Unfortunately, many disabled young adults, once they reach the age of 21, are often forgotten and essentially become “shut-ins” lacking opportunities to socialize and develop friendships with their peers. This camp will give them a chance to have a week away with friends their age and will hopefully result in friendships that survive and grow beyond the camp. Our goal is to have the first camp in the summer of 2022. We will keep you updated.

As we expand our ministries, it is important for us to remember our charism of defense or witness to our faith. We give witness to our faith by what we do — serving the sick and the poor is an important element of the witness we give, as we see Christ in the faces of those we serve. But that’s not all we need to do. We need to educate ourselves and others about our faith. Our chaplains guide us in developing our prayer lives as members of a religious order. Our prayer life provides a foundation for us to build on as we learn and share other aspects of our faith such as:

1. The Theology of the Body developed by St John Paul II so we can guide our own choices and our young people and become witnesses to the Right to Life and support the institution of marriage.
2. The Church’s teaching on end-of-life issues so we can better understand palliative and hospice care and can work to prevent the passage of legislation that supports assisted suicide and euthanasia.
3. Catholic social teachings which help us form our opinion on issues such as immigration, human trafficking, availability of health care, and capital punishment.

We will be sharing information on these topics with you in a similar format that was used to present the recent spirituality initiative modules delivered by our Chaplains. Watch our Spirituality in Action weekly email for details.

At the May Board of Councillors Meeting, Gail and Joe Berardino, Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign, gave the Board an update on the current, quiet phase of the campaign which has been extraordinarily successful thus far. One of the messages they are hearing loud and clear is that members feel blessed and joyful with the spirituality that the Order and the Association bring to their lives and that they are ready to be engaged and re-energized. Sometimes, all we have to do is ask them. The summer would be a great time to reach out to members in your Area who may have drifted away from the Order, to see how they are faring, and to ask them to join you at an Area or Association activity.

Finally, as we end this year of cancellations, I am happy to report that our Fall Retreat will take place as scheduled. You should be receiving information on registering in July. I hope to see many of you at the retreat.

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2021 BOARD OF COUNCILLORS

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A Lourdes Pilgrimage: *In the words of the Malades and Caregivers*

The views of the Lourdes Pilgrimage are seen through a variety of perspectives - Knights and Dames, Chaplains, Nurses, Doctors, Auxiliary, Volunteers. Each person brings his or her own background, expectations, hopes, faith, prayer life. Perhaps the most important perspective for members of the Order of Malta come from the Malades and Caregivers who are the focal point of the pilgrimage and the purpose why it is designed the way it is — the reason for its existence.

With the hope that they will bring you joy and a sense of what the Lourdes pilgrimage means to those whom we serve, here for your consideration are a sampling of comments provided by past Malades and Caregivers. *(continued on page 4)*

(continued from page 3)

"This trip restored my faith in humanity, with so much ugliness in the world — I looked around the room and saw so many successful people, people who certainly didn't have to do this, but they do, and with a smile on their face! Important people humbling themselves, totally serving, so inspirational! As a caregiver, it's very similar, gives me fuel to keep going"

— A Caregiver on the 2015 Pilgrimage

"This was a dream-come-true for me [which I have had] since I was 15 and discovered who St. Bernadette was. I grew up Methodist and only learned of her through a film, but was so intrigued, I have wanted to visit Lourdes and have the experiences I had with the Order of Malta ever since. I am 71 years old and have waited all those years to go to the Baths — it was well worth the wait. I have never felt so warm and special and loved in my life — I had tears and such total faith. I am Blessed to have been chosen to be with my precious husband and for him to bring me to believe in this Church and, with all my shortcomings, to have been able to experience the beautiful, serene Holy place of Lourdes."

— A Caregiver on the 2018 Pilgrimage

"This pilgrimage was life-changing, and life-giving in so many countless ways! Thank you for providing a beautiful conduit for God's grace and Mary's love to permeate our lives. Thank you for cherishing the sick-when the rest of the world makes us feel burdensome. For understanding our unique needs and those of our beloved caregivers. Thank you for your sacrifices-big and small that make a way for change and healing in our lives. In this world-you may never know the beauty of the good that you helped facilitate-but I am confident that your reward will be great in Heaven."

— A Malade on the 2018 Pilgrimage

"What a miraculous and humbling experience the trip to Lourdes was for me. Words can not express my gratitude to all of you for the second greatest experience of my life (the first was my First Holy Communion!) There is no way I can relate it to you! My only

prayer is that all of you have a similar experience. I was definitely on holy ground throughout the whole pilgrimage. I must say that not only my needs but also my wants were anticipated and provided in a flash. I think if everyone could come and experience the prayerfulness, dedication, peace, kindness, compassion, sensitivity, and genuine graciousness of the members of the Order of Malta, we would have peace in our hearts and the world. The words of John Bunyan came to my mind when contemplating all your good works. "You have not lived today until you have done

something for someone who can never repay you." May God grant you many more years in His service."

— A Malade on the 2014 Pilgrimage

"This was the most profound holy experience of my life. A two ton concrete mantle has been lifted from my shoulders. I am forever grateful to the Knights and Dames of a Malta, plus all of the volunteers and

auxiliary members, for allowing me to focus entirely on prayer, healing, and the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother. It would not be the same to travel to Lourdes any other way. Well done, good and faithful servants."

— A Malade on the 2017 Pilgrimage

The desire to return to Lourdes is fueled by the gratitude expressed by those who are served, but it stems from the deeper commitment that flows from following the charism of the Order — doing God's will through the special charism of the Order: serving the sick and the poor. The Lourdes Pilgrimage is often referred to as the signature work of the Order, exemplifying as it does the worldwide reach of the Order, the commitment to serving the sick and the poor, the search for sanctification through that service, and a camaraderie that grows out of that service together with Knights and Dames from around the world.

The Order of Malta Pilgrimage Foundation seeks to build an endowment to fully fund the expenses of bringing Malades and Caregivers to Lourdes. ■



What Will They Think of Next?

One of the challenges presented by the pandemic has been keeping people connected. The use of technology to bring people together has spotlighted a number of tools that were already available but may not have been widely used and have gained prominence during the pandemic. For Catholic Churches, figuring out how to deliver live-streamed Sunday Masses became a high priority. For many parishes, the process evolved from what seemed like run-of-the-mill home movies to highly professional, multi-camera presentations. While not the same as being there, they brought people together electronically when restrictions kept them from being together in church.

At the American Association-level and at the Area level, the use of communications technology has allowed a kind of weathering of the storm. The Sunday night Rosary has continued through more than a year. While the Lourdes Pilgrimage had to be cancelled for two years in a row, members and friends found some consolation in the Spiritual Pilgrimages that were delivered online during the days when the Pilgrimage would have occurred. Just like nothing can replace being in church at Mass, nothing can replace being on the ground in Lourdes, pulling a voiture with a jet-lagged Malade to the Rosary Basilica for the Opening Mass or ultimately, the impact of accumulated activities that open hearts and change lives, not only for the Malades and Caregivers but also for the Knights and Dames who spend a week in service, forgetful of themselves, building life-long friendships and memories for our beloved Malades.

The Spiritual Pilgrimage presented a sense of the pilgrimage for those who had never been but evoked joyful memories for those who had walked the streets of Lourdes, in hot and cold, in wet and dry, and always in service to the sick.

Other events, live-streamed or recorded for presentation, during the past fifteen months served to keep us connected, to remind us of what we are about and whetted our appetites to “get back out there”. The Wisconsin Pilgrimage, the Mass for the



Pilgrimage for Life, Cardinal Dolan's Advent message, Father Dunn's presentation of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday — there are seventeen specific events at the Association level and a similar number offered at the Area level and shared with members and friends across the Association.

For some, these events have been a bridge across a time of isolation, of missing their friends and comrades, a way to be together when being together was not possible. The great news is that these events have been preserved and are available on the Association's website. Links to many of these events can be found in the weekly Spirituality in Action newsletter that goes out every Sunday. You can access any of the events that were broadcasted and recorded in the past fifteen months through the following link: orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/virtual-events.

The challenges the shut-down created for the Candidates in Formation were different; the technology allowed them to feel connected to this new organization to which they were making a life long commitment. Many candidates in formation commented that participating in the virtual events helped to confirm their decision to join the Order.

Another change to keep members informed and engaged saw the first weekly issue of the “Spirituality in Action” newsletter distributed on April 4, 2020 — and a new issue has been in members' electronic mailboxes every weekend without fail for the past sixty-plus weeks. Previously, it had been distributed monthly. (HINT: If we do not have your email, you are not receiving these weekly communiques.)

If nothing else, the pandemic has created an awareness of the value of communication — providing access to events and to news on a regular basis. Members benefit from the flow of information and especially from the availability of events that they can participate in, even when they can't be there “in person”. Thanks to all who make it possible in the Association and in the Areas and for those who provide the content — Chaplains, Officers and Board Members, Area Leaders and Members.



The 2021 Grants Program

(continued from cover)

to organizations providing food to those in need. Just one month into the beginning of the pandemic, President Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM, urged Areas to consider redirecting some or all of their 2020 Area Grant Allocations to organizations assisting those struggling to put food on the table. One year later, communities are still in critical need and the American Association continued its efforts of expediting grants for this cause in 2021.

Members in 22 Areas nominated a total of 52 local organizations to receive a COVID-19 Emergency Food-related Assistance Grant in 2021. Organizations include several Catholic Charities locations, food banks, homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other food-based programs. The American Association awarded over \$250,000 in COVID-19 Emergency Food-related Assistance this year.

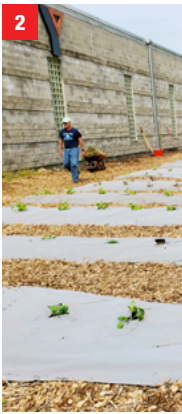
We were excited to launch the new Local Area Project Support Grants Program in 2021, which provides funding to support local Area activities that do not fall under a 501(c)3 status. This type of grant was created to offer support to projects that Areas participate in on a local level, such as Malta Walks and backpack programs. The Local Area Project Support Grants also provide Areas with the financial resource to start up a new local activity for their members to help the sick and the poor.

Members in seven Areas received funding for a total of 10 local Area activities, some new and some existing. Activities include accessibility assistance, food for food banks and soup kitchens, Malta Walks, and backpack programs for women's care centers, homeless shelters, and nursing homes. The American Association awarded over \$35,000 in Local Area Project Support Grants this year.

It was encouraging to see our members take action and work to provide funding to organizations that serve the sick and the poor in their community through the 2021 Area Grants Program. Despite the lingering effects of the pandemic continuing to restrict in-person volunteer opportunities, American Association members found ways to help from varying distances. Whether it was from afar with an American Association grant, at a food bank's doorstep with supplies, a drive-through food collection, or together, masked-up, to make care packages, Knights, Dames, Chaplains, Auxiliary, Associates, and Year of Formation Candidates stood together and stood strong to be the hands and the feet of Christ in serving the sick and the poor.

Funding for the American Association's Grants Program comes directly from the endowment in the Malta Human Services Foundation. The Foundation transferred over \$650K to the American Association for the 2021 Grants Program. ■

On page 9, you will find a listing of the 2021 Area Grants, presented by Area and grant-type.





1 Boston: Boston Area members awarded Cor Unum with a COVID-19 Food-related Emergency Assistance grant to provide food and food distribution supplies to those served at the meal center. 2021 marks the 9th year that local members have been volunteering at Cor Unum to prepare and serve meals for the poor in their community.

2 Connecticut – Eastern: The Eastern Connecticut Area awarded a COVID-19 Food-related Emergency Assistance grant to the Valley Shore YMCA to support its community garden that delivers fresh produce to local food banks. The community's needs have doubled since the beginning of the pandemic, with over 800 families in need of food assistance.

3 Florida – Naples: Naples Area members volunteer at the Catholic Charities Weekend Power Pack Food Program, a 2021 Area Grants Program recipient. Members assemble bags filled with nutritious food to send home with elementary school children, who are homeless or at-risk of hunger, for the weekend.

4 Florida – Northeast: The Northeast Florida Area was awarded a Local Area Project Support Grant for Emergency Pregnancy Services. Members put together travel bags filled with baby supplies, portable cribs, car seats, and materials for ongoing education and mentoring for new mothers.

5 Florida – Vero Beach: The Vero Beach Area awarded a COVID-19 Food-related Emergency Assistance grant to A Heart Like His Foundation, where members volunteered to prepare 7,000 food packages for hungry families helped by the foundation.

6 Florida – Southeast: Southeast Florida members distribute hot meals to those in need through St. Ann Place, which provides breakfast and lunch to those in need 7 days a week. St. Ann Place was awarded a COVID-19 Emergency Food-related Assistance grant to cover the cost of purchasing the meat portion of the hot meals.

7 Missouri: The Missouri Area launched the Malta Mobile Ministries Van in December 2020. The van, with the help of local members and a 2021 Area grant, transports large food donations to food banks and shelters as well as moves furniture for the previously incarcerated to start their new lives. This project is now in the process of being launched in the New Jersey Area as well.

8 New Jersey: New Jersey Area members purchase and assemble backpacks filled with food for children at the LaVida Child Care Center III. The Local Area Project Support Grant will be used to purchase enough supplies for 240 backpacks.

9 New York – Westchester: Part of the Solution (POTS) in the Bronx provides food to residents in need. The Bronx had one of the highest COVID-19 infection rates and at the height of the pandemic, nearly 25% of residents were unemployed. Westchester Area members, and regular POTS volunteers, awarded a COVID-19 Food-related Emergency Assistance grant to help this organization purchase food to meet the increased need of residents.

10 Pennsylvania – Philadelphia: Philadelphia Area members, through a COVID-19 Food-related Emergency Assistance grant, received funding to prepare and distribute hot meals for the homebound and "Blessing Bags", filled with food, for the homeless.

11 Texas – Houston: Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, Martha's Kitchen's costs to serve meals increased to guarantee the safety of its volunteers and those served. A Covid-19 Food-related Emergency Assistance grant was awarded to cover the costs of items needed to make this soup kitchen's meals "takeout" ready. Houston Area members regularly volunteer at Martha's Kitchen to prepare and serve meals to those in need.



The Capital Campaign – An Update

In the American Association, a member's Annual Contribution provides the resources to run the organization. Additional resources to fund the hands-on work (i.e., support the charism of serving the sick and the poor and giving witness to the faith) come from the Malta Human Services Foundation, the Pilgrimage Foundation, Area fundraising and individual donations. Much good comes from these resources as many members are engaged regularly in the hands-on work that is essential to the path to salvation that Blessed Gerard marked off for those who follow. In truth, though, there are very few significant gifts that can sustain and improve the balance sheet in the current environment.

The ability of the Association to grow membership through its support of hands-on work will require an investment for the future. Building the resources of the Malta Human Services Foundation and the Pilgrimage Foundation is an important objective of the Capital Campaign which is currently working through its quiet phase. The goal is to engage members in a more impactful way, to bring in the uninvolved with works that suit their skills and interest, to expand the reach and the depth of the projects that are supported. This will serve to create a sustainable path to growth in membership and in membership engagement.

The Capital Campaign is opening the door, starting opportunities and seeking to bring about a culture of philanthropy. While the campaign is still in the quiet phase, 79 pledges exceeding \$8.5M have already been received. Such generosity is unprecedented in recent memory and provides hope as we move forward. It is not just the average size of the pledges (exceeding \$100K) and the fact that two million-dollar pledges are among the generous gifts; maybe as important as the pledge totals so far is the out-of-the-box thinking that suggests that the seeds of philanthropy are starting to sprout.

There will be many ways in which a donor will be able to contribute to the American Association's Capital Campaign, once it moves beyond the quiet phase.

CASH and Cash Equivalents: The simplest and most direct way is through a cash gift, usually in the form of a check or a credit card payment. Some members make their annual contribution by transferring stock to the Association. Stock is liquidated, converted to cash, and then deposited in the appropriate Association account. Cash, checks, credit card payments, money orders, wired fund and gifts of securities all provide for the immediate transfer of a donor's assets to the Association.

PLANNED GIFTS: Planned gifts (also sometimes referred to as gift

planning or legacy giving) normally refer to any major gift, made in a donor's lifetime or at death, as part of an overall financial or estate plan. Gifts might be in the form of equity (stocks, bonds, IRAs or similar financial instruments), life insurance, real estate, personal property, retirement assets, or cash. Planned gifts often enable donors to make significantly larger gifts than they could make from ordinary income; often assets used in planned giving have accumulated significant value over time.

Planned gifts are usually developed with the help and advice of a financial planner and often include legal assistance to ensure that all the requirements of the commitment are met while structuring the gift in such a way to maximizes the tax benefit for the donor — the structuring of the gift to maximize the tax advantage allows the donor to provide a much bigger impact for the receiving organization than might ordinarily be possible.

In the United States, tax policies have generally been crafted to encourage individuals to donate to non-profit organizations. Although the laws have changed from time to time, there has generally been support in the legislatures and in the general environments to continue to support philanthropic giving because of the recognition that non-profit organizations serve the public good. If you need help in getting started on a planned gift, contact Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Trexler, Executive Director of the American Association at the New York office.

The needs of the American Association are for today and for the future. The goal is to deliver services to the organization's constituents today and tomorrow. That is one reason why planned giving can play an important part in the financial life and health of the Association. It can provide capital supporting the work of today's Knights and Dames and for the generations that follow.

People who give to the Capital Campaign have a nine-hundred-year history of commitment to the same charism that drives the Order today. You do not just give to an organization that will do something good with your money — you give to support an organization in which you and your fellow Knights and Dames do something good for those we serve right now. Gifts to the Capital Campaign will help to support and sustain the kind of personal involvement which is the hallmark of membership in the Order of Malta. At the same time, the Capital Campaign is intended to grow the ability to impact the sick and the poor over the decades to come.

This article was contributed by Gail and Joseph Berardino, Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign. Gail can be reached at gtberardino@gmail.com and Joe can be reached at jfberardino@gmail.com. They welcome your comments, questions and suggestions.



ORDER OF MALTA

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION GRANTS FOR 2021

| CATEGORY | GRANTEE | AMOUNT | PURPOSE |
|--|--|----------|--|
| Boston | | | |
| COVID-19 | Catholic Charities Maine | \$5,000 | Provide nutritious meals to families and individuals in Aroostook County |
| COVID-19 | Catholic Social Services of RI | \$5,000 | Provide emergency food assistance to help those whose employment was affected by the pandemic |
| COVID-19 | Cor Unum Meal Center | \$5,000 | Provide food and food distribution supplies |
| COVID-19 | Dismas Home of New Hampshire, Inc. | \$5,000 | Fill food pantry to feed residents |
| COVID-19 | Franciscan Food Center at St. Anthony Shrine | \$5,000 | Keep shelves stocked with food during the pandemic |
| COVID-19 | Homeless Not Hopeless | \$5,000 | Host memorial service an dinner honoring lives of residents who passed away within the year |
| COVID-19 | Mary Ann Brett Food Pantry | \$5,000 | Continue to serve those most impacted by the pandemic in Dorchester |
| COVID-19 | Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield | \$5,000 | Provide weekend meals for the homebound |
| COVID-19 | St. Bonaventure Fund for the Needy | \$5,000 | Maintain food pantry to feed families in need |
| COVID-19 | St. Paul Cathedral Food Pantry | \$5,000 | Provide food to elder clients, replace a freezer, and reimburse volunteer's gas mileage |
| Connecticut - Eastern | | | |
| COVID-19 | Birthingright of Greater Westbrook | \$643 | Distribute grocery store giftcards to expectant mothers |
| COVID-19 | Valley Shore YMCA, Inc. | \$5,000 | Support PARTNER TO GROW community garden to supplement local food bank |
| Connecticut - Southern, Western, Northern | | | |
| COVID-19 | New Covenant Center | \$12,500 | Provide soup kitchen and food pantry with resources for increased need since beginning of the pandemic |
| COVID-19 | Thomas Merton Center | \$15,000 | Provide soup kitchen and food pantry with resources for increased need since beginning of the pandemic |
| Regular | Malta House, Inc. | \$8,100 | Purchase outdoor benches, dining, and playground equipment for new home |
| Regular | Our Lady's Pilgrimage, Inc. | \$2,000 | Support summer 2021 hands-on works serving those most in need |
| Regular | Saint Catherine Center for Special Needs | \$11,037 | Enhance literacy program with updated technology, staff training, and purchase of new literacy resources |
| Regular | Shepherds, Inc. | \$7,500 | Support acquisition of 15 Chromebooks for targeted incoming Class of 2025 and 2 Class of 2025 students' participation in the program |
| Florida - Naples | | | |
| Local Area Project Support | Providence House | \$3,000 | Supply Welcome Home baskets for new residents along with diapers, baby wipes, and toiletries |
| Local Area Project Support | St. Matthew's House Resident Essentials | \$4,424 | Supply toiletry bags and laundry packages for residents |
| Regular | Catholic Charities | \$2,000 | Provide homeless or at-risk of hunger elementary school children with bags filled with nutritious food for the weekend |
| Regular | Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc. | \$17,308 | Cover annual salary of ultrasound technician |
| Florida - Northeast | | | |
| Local Area Project Support | Emergency Pregnancy Services | \$7,129 | Provide materials to support center |
| Florida - Southeast | | | |
| COVID-19 | KinDoo Family Center | \$7,000 | Purchase food to supplement the Cooking and Nutrition Program |
| COVID-19 | New Hope Charities | \$7,000 | Purchase food for the Food Program in Pahokee |
| COVID-19 | St. Ann Place, Inc. | \$7,500 | Serve 75 hot meals to approximately 100 people per meal |
| COVID-19 | St. Philip Benizi Catholic Church | \$4,638 | Support monthly food drive serving 120-150 families |



| CATEGORY | GRANTEE | AMOUNT | PURPOSE |
|---|--|----------|---|
| Florida - Vero Beach | | | |
| COVID-19 | A Heart Like His Foundation | \$1,000 | Provide food to the poor |
| Local Area Project Support | Our Father's Table Soup Kitchen | \$1,000 | Provide food to the poor |
| Regular | Women's Care Center | \$3,643 | Provide funding to care for 300 babies |
| Illinois | | | |
| COVID-19 | Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago | \$16,039 | Support COVID-19 services including food pantries, WIC centers, meals for the homebound, and evening meals for the homeless |
| Indiana - Central & Southern | | | |
| COVID-19 | Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral Kitchen | \$1,188 | Procure and distribute food supplies to the poor |
| COVID-19 | St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry | \$1,188 | Procure and distribute food supplies to the poor |
| Indiana - Northern | | | |
| COVID-19 | Real Services Meals on Wheels | \$2,970 | Provide food to the poor and elderly |
| Iowa | | | |
| COVID-19 | Mary's Inn Maternity Home | \$594 | Food for unwed mothers and their babies. |
| Kansas | | | |
| Local Area Project Support | Kansas Area Accessibility Assistance | \$1,485 | Assist individuals who have accessibility assistance issues in their homes |
| Michigan | | | |
| Regular | Dames and Knights of the Order of Malta Dental and Medical Clinic of SE MI | \$11,000 | Cover increased cost of additional individuals that will be served from new facility |
| Regular | Rose Hill Center, Inc. | \$3,257 | Renovate fire pit area on campus and add seating |
| Minnesota | | | |
| COVID-19 | Franciscan Brothers of Peace, Inc. | \$3,427 | Provide food for Emergency Food Shelf |
| COVID-19 | Saint Gianna's Maternity Clinic | \$709 | Purchase food for the women and children |
| Regular | Abria Pregnancy Resources | \$3,427 | Provide women with unexpected pregnancies with a safe, supporting, and nonjudgmental environment |
| Regular | Women's Care Center Duluth, Inc. | \$3,427 | Continue to serve those in need through skilled and sustained care and comprehensive education and support services |
| Missouri | | | |
| Regular | Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocesan Council of St. Louis | \$2,500 | Provide rent, food, and utility assistance to people impacted by COVID-19 |
| Regular | St. Patrick Center | \$7,000 | Fund Shamrock Club Day Treatment Program costs |
| Regular | Criminal Justice Ministry | \$10,000 | Expand contact between incarcerated mothers and their children |
| Regular | Order of Malta Mobile Ministries, Inc. | \$5,000 | Defray annual operating expenses |
| Regular | Our Lady's Inn | \$2,500 | Provide 25 days of care and nights of shelter for homeless pregnant woman |
| Nebraska | | | |
| COVID-19 | Siena Francis House | \$891 | Provide supplies |
| New Jersey | | | |
| COVID-19 | Catholic Charities Trenton Diocese | \$2,500 | Support nutrition programs and food pantries |
| COVID-19 | Christ the King Food Pantry | \$2,500 | Provide food and supplies to be distributed to those in need |
| COVID-19 | Franciscan Charities | \$2,500 | Provide food, personal hygiene products, school supplies, and other necessities to the underserved |
| COVID-19 | The Center in Asbury Park | \$2,500 | Supplement funds to serve food to HIV positive residents and clients |
| COVID-19 | The Office of Concern Food Pantry at St. Cecilia's | \$2,500 | Fund the "Nutrition Plus" Program providing fresh produce, meats, and dairy to clients |
| Local Area Project Support | Food Backpack Program | \$8,771 | Purchase food and supplies used each month to provide food backpacks to 240 children |
| Local Area Project Support | Gleaning NJ Seafood to Feed Hungry Families | \$3,500 | Fund sourcing and processing of bycatch from participating ports to be donated to food banks |

| CATEGORY | GRANTEE | AMOUNT | PURPOSE |
|---|---|----------|---|
| Local Area Project Support | Malta Walks NJ/ Auxiliary in Action | \$1,500 | Purchase branded hats and aprons, establish budget for distribution of packages to those in need |
| Regular | Birth Haven, Inc. | \$4,000 | Replace floor, toilet, and vanity in one of the shelter's bathrooms |
| Regular | Knights of Columbus Delaware Valley Council 7581 | \$1,500 | Fund Food for Families and Coats for Kids programs |
| Regular | The Center in Asbury Park, Inc | \$6,000 | Replace industrial dishwasher in kitchen |
| Regular | The Mercy House | \$5,000 | Help purchase supplies and meet clients' needs |
| New York - Nassau & Suffolk Counties | | | |
| COVID-19 | Parish Social Ministry at St. Martha's | \$17,821 | Distribute food to the needy through the food pantry |
| New York - NYC | | | |
| COVID-19 | New York Common Pantry, Inc. | \$5,000 | Help reduce hunger and promote dignity, health, and self-sufficiency |
| COVID-19 | St. John's Bread and Life Program, Inc. | \$10,000 | Provide basic necessities for mothers and their babies, low-income seniors, and families and individuals in need |
| COVID-19 | St. Francis Food Pantries and Shelters | \$15,000 | Continue Annual Holiday Party for needy children and their families |
| Regular | Pregnancy Help, Inc. | \$3,712 | Provide new crib/mattress sets with in-house assembly for expectant mothers |
| Regular | Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center | \$15,000 | Purchase large screen Tobii Dynavox Eye-Gaze Machine, roll out Virtual Visit technology and continue to support live music at the Sunday Mass |
| Regular | The Dwelling Place of NY | \$10,000 | Expand and improve food preparation area |
| New York - Upstate | | | |
| Regular | Benedictine Health Foundation, Inc | \$1,000 | Provide financial assistance to patients diagnosed with cancer |
| Regular | Camp Veritas, Inc. | \$4,000 | Provide scholarships to underprivileged teens to attend Camp Veritas |
| New York - Westchester | | | |
| COVID-19 | Caritas of Port Chester, Inc. | \$4,611 | Meet increased food demands of the working poor |
| COVID-19 | Part of the Solution (POTS) | \$4,611 | Offset increase in demand for food |
| COVID-19 | St. Anthony's Shelter for Renewal | \$4,611 | Offset increase in demand for food |
| Local Area Project Support | Order of Malta Food Ministry - Westchester/Bronx | \$4,611 | Purchase food and coordinate pick-up and delivery operations |
| Regular | Little Sisters of the Poor Jeanne Jugan Residence | \$7,100 | Add awning to back door patio to protect residents and staff |
| Ohio | | | |
| COVID-19 | City Mission of Findlay | \$4,841 | Provide meal delivery to the underserved and homeless |
| COVID-19 | Food for the Journey Project | \$4,842 | Provide meals for the underserved and homeless |
| COVID-19 | St. Francis Seraph Ministries | \$4,842 | Provide meals for the underserved and homeless |
| Pennsylvania - Allentown | | | |
| COVID-19 | Bethlehem Emergency Sheltering, Inc. | \$500 | Provide shelter, clothing, and food for homeless |
| COVID-19 | Catholic Charities Diocese of Allentown, Inc. | \$500 | Support the ecumenical soup kitchen |
| Local Area Project Support | Holy Family Manor Order of Malta Welcome Bags | \$485 | Provide supplies to new nursing home residents |
| Pennsylvania - Philadelphia | | | |
| COVID-19 | Order of Malta - Philadelphia Area | \$6,535 | Provide hot meals to homebound and meal bags to homeless |
| Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh | | | |
| Regular | Genesis of Pittsburgh | \$1,188 | Purchase cribs for expectant parents |
| Pennsylvania - Scranton | | | |
| COVID-19 | Friends of the Poor Family to Family Program | \$3,564 | Provide Easter and emergency food giveaways |
| Texas - Dallas | | | |
| COVID-19 | Catholic Charities of Dallas | \$10,000 | Provide repairs, cover unplanned expenses, and provide temporary housing and meals due to damage of winter storm |
| COVID-19 | St. Vincent De Paul of North Texas | \$5,000 | Provide immediate material needs due to damage of winter storm |
| Texas - Houston | | | |
| COVID-19 | Mamie George Community Center, Catholic Charities of Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston | \$2,000 | Fund monthly food fairs for the poor |



| CATEGORY | GRANTEE | AMOUNT | PURPOSE |
|--|---|------------------|---|
| COVID-19 | Martha's Kitchen | \$1,267 | Provide meals on a daily basis |
| US Virgin Islands | | | |
| Regular | Diocese of St. Thomas | \$1,782 | Provide assistance to children in need |
| Wisconsin - Northeast | | | |
| Regular | The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help | \$5,049 | Purchase and install automatic door operators |
| Wisconsin - Milwaukee | | | |
| COVID-19 | Women's Care Center of Madison | \$2,079 | Purchase formula for young mothers |
| COVID-19 | Women's Care Center of Milwaukee | \$2,079 | Purchase formula for young mothers |
| Association Level | | | |
| | Holy Family Hospital | \$100,000 | Support Neediest Baby Fund, which allows lifesaving care for NICU babies |
| | Order of Malta, American Association Prison Ministry | \$50,000 | Purchase Order of Malta Bibles and Prayer Books |
| | Order of Malta Worldwide Relief Malteser International Americas | \$100,000 | Provide funding for 13 projects in health, WASH, food security, agriculture, refugee assistance, COVID-19/flu vaccine clinics, and hurricane relief support |
| COVID-19 Emergency Food-related Assistance: 52 Grants Awarded a Total of | | \$259,490 | |
| Local Area Project Support: 10 Grants Awarded a Total of | | \$35,905 | |
| Regular Grants: 29 Grants Awarded a Total of | | \$165,030 | |
| Association Level: 3 Grants Awarded a Total of | | \$250,000 | |
| TOTAL GRANTS TO DATE FOR 2021 | | \$710,425 | |

2021 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| June 24 Feast of Saint John the Baptist | October 13 Feast of Blessed Gerard, Founder of the Order of Malta | November 6 New York City Subpriory Mass |
| August (TBD) Virtual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help, Wisconsin | November 1 All Saints' Day | November 14 World Day of the Poor |
| August 15 Feast of the Assumption | November 4 New York City Board of Councillors Meeting | November 25 Thanksgiving |
| September 8 Feast of Our Lady of Philermo | November 5 Saint Patrick's Cathedral, NYC Investiture Mass | December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception |
| September 21-22 St. Louis, MO Board of Councillors Meeting | November 4-6 New York City Investiture Weekend, Other Events TBD | December 25 Christmas |
| September 24-26 Medway, MA Association Retreat | | |

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

Every Sunday, there is a live Rosary hosted on Zoom at 7 PM ET.

Be sure to visit our website and read our weekly email newsletters for the latest information regarding American Association events.





Why Do We Celebrate the Feast of Saint John the Baptist?

As we approach the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist on June 24th, we look back to the early beginnings of the Order of Malta and this patron saint of our Order. When almost ten centuries before today, the Order of Malta, then known as the “Knights Hospitaller”, established a hospital in Jerusalem to care for pilgrims of any religious faith or race. This hospital, whose patron saint was Saint John the Baptist, would then influence the Order of

Malta to adopt Saint John as its own patron saint. But, who is Saint John the Baptist? We know John, son of Elizabeth and Zechariah and cousin to Jesus Christ, as a great prophet.

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

— Matthew 11:11

Saint John the Baptist brought people to Jesus, baptizing them and instruct-

ing them to follow His teachings. Yet, this man who was hailed as a prophet and followed by many, also preached humility.

*“He must become greater;
I must become less.”*

— John 3:30.

John’s humble outlook on life is reminiscent of the last line in the Daily Prayer of the Order of Malta.

“Give me the strength I need, to carry out this my resolve, forgetful of myself, learning ever from Thy Holy Gospel a spirit of deep and generous Christian devotion, striving ever to promote God’s Glory, the world’s peace, and all that may benefit the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.”

This humble saint calls everyone, including us, as Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta, to look to Jesus as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!”. When we pray the Daily Prayer of the Order, we call on Saint John the Baptist to keep us “faithful to the traditions of our Order”. An Order whose motto is nurturing, witnessing and protecting the faith and assisting the poor and the suffering. We work to live this charism which is our motto, our commitment, on our path to spiritual growth every day of our lives.

To commemorate this great prophet and patron saint of the Order of Malta, we celebrate the Feast of Saint John the Baptist every year on June 24th. All members of the American Association are obligated to attend this feast day celebration in their Area. Instead of looking at June 24th as a literal “obligation”, perhaps, we can look at this feast day as an opportunity to celebrate and honor the patron saint of our Order who guides us on our path to spiritual growth every day.

Saint John the Baptist was a prophet; he was humble; and he was a man of great faith. Let us always look to him as a source of inspiration in our spiritual lives and motivation to continue to do the work of the Lord every day as Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta. ■



The Nuns of the Order of Malta

It is not well known that the religious family of the Order of Malta has contemplative female communities: the two communities of cloistered nuns in the monastery of Saint John of Acre in Spain and the nuns in the monastery of Santa Ursula, in Malta.

In this article, we will focus on the nuns located in Spain. The female branch of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem can be traced to the year 1153 when Pope Eugenio III approved the founding of the community. Doña Sancha, wife of Alfonso II King of Aragon, being very devoted ordered the building of a monastery in Sigena and instituted a community under the rule of the Order of St. John. The monastery was a “sui iuris” (with its own right), being independent of the local bishops although they always tried to have good relations with them. The Rule was modelled on both Benedictine and Augustinian, an unicum at that time. The Servant of God Queen Sancha founded this monastery so that daughters and widows of the noblest families of the Spanish kingdoms could be received there. For this purpose, she endowed the monastery with rich income, giving it many lands. After the death of her husband, Doña Sancha retired to the monastery of Sigena along with her daughter Dulce, both becoming nuns. Doña Sancha ruled the monastery as Prioress with great reputation for sanctity, until her death in November 1208. The convent required nobility proofs to the aspiring candidates, and having family ties with the Knights of the Order, the nuns’ specific role was to pray for their relatives and for the Grand Master. At its peak, there were 10 mon-

asteries in Spain and Portugal inspired by the original in Sigena. In all of these communities over the centuries and until 1930s there were two classes of nuns: the Dominae or Sorores with an entire cross of Malta on the habits, and the legas or oboedientiales with only three arms of the cross on the habit. For centuries, some communities of consecrated men (the present Knights of Justice of the Order) also were under the jurisdiction of the Prioress of Sigena. The current convent of St. John of Acre, located in Salinas de Añana, Spain, was founded when the Order of Malta was still present in the Holy Land.

For more than eight hundred years, the sisters of the Order of St. John have dedicated themselves to pray for the members of the Order and, until the 19th century, they remained under the jurisdiction of the Grand Master. They have contributed to the Church some models of holiness worthy of admiration, such as St. Ubaldesca Taccini, St. Toscana Canoculi, and St. Flora di Beaulieu. In more recent times, Sister Patrocínio Chillida Manes and Sister Visitación Solé Yvern, martyrs in 1936 during the Spanish civil war, are in the process of beatification. Grand Master Chigi visited the nuns in 1934 and Grand Master Festing did it in 2008.





■ IN MEMORIAM

Deceased Members: January 1 – June 4, 2021

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Hilda (Cherry) Brotherman, DM | Dallas, TX |
| Donald P. Brotherman, MD, KM | Dallas, TX |
| Sarah S. Cashel, DM | Lake Wales, FL |
| Peter G. Danis, KM | Lake Forest, IL |
| Bertrand de Looz Karageorgiades, KM | New York, NY |
| Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Flynn, DM | New Canaan, CT |
| Mary Louise Formato, MD, DM | Belle Mead, NJ |
| James Patrick Furlong II, MD, KM | Sand Lake, NY |
| Peter M. Gandolfo, KMOB | Bellville, TX |
| Henry J. Humphreys, DHL, KGC | Bronxville, NY |
| Rosemary Kelly, DMOB | Bloomfield Hills, MI |
| Kevin Gerard McCarthy, KM | Island Park, NY |
| Edward F. McHugh, Jr, KM | Scituate, MA |
| John Francis (Jack) Murray, KM | New Canaan, CT |
| Rosemarie F. O'Sullivan, DM | Cincinnati, OH |
| Maureen J. Pesavento, DM | Scranton, PA |
| Mary Elizabeth Reiner, DMOB | New York, NY |
| Vincent J. Romeo, KM | Morrisville, NC |
| Joseph C. Tranfo, KHD | Stuart, FL |
| Joseph V. Vittoria, KM | Palm Beach, FL |

"The mission of religious women of the Order is to glorify God through personal sanctification; through the observance of the Holy Gospel, their vows, the Rule and the Constitution; exercising hospitality in accordance with the papal closure and praying for the sanctification of our brothers, the Knights of the Order of Malta".

Daily life: The nuns wake up at 6:30 in the morning; they sing Lauds at 7:30 and continue their prayer until the Terce at 9 in the morning. After breakfast, the Sisters dedicate to their works such as caring for the sick, taking care of the garden, and making handicrafts like their famous scented candles or Cross of Malta biscuits. Around 12:40 they begin the Divine Reading followed by the Sext. Then follows lunch, rest, the prayer of the None, and the Holy Rosary. In the afternoon, they practice religious songs and pray the Vespers at 6:15 PM. The most important time of the day is Holy Mass, which takes place at 7:00 PM, followed by Eucharistic Thanksgiving and Meditation. The sisters pray the Compline at 10:00 PM that marks the end of the day. After that, it begins the Greater Silence and the Sisters retire. Every Thursday, the Sisters have a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and every first Friday of the month, they have a spiritual retreat. They have also monthly formation with a priest.

As part of their hospital vocation, the Sisters manage a hostel that is used for spiritual exercises, parish group meetings, and pilgrimages. The nuns pray for the holiness of all the Catholic Church and specifically for the holiness of the Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta, from whom they welcome any requests of prayers.

The nuns would like to be contacted if you feel a religious vocation to join them and continue carrying out the legacy of more than 800 years of spiritual service to the Order of Malta. ■

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(continued from page 2)

Our Investiture Mass will take place at St. Patrick's Cathedral on November 5. The Intercontinental Hotel, venue for many of our activities focused around the Investiture, reopens on June 1st and we will then be able to determine what if any restrictions will be in place for our meetings and dinner. We will share that information as soon as we can.

As we recently celebrated Memorial Day weekend, remembering and honoring all those who sacrificed to allow us to live in a free country, I wish you and your families continued good health as we remain diligent to watch over those freedoms that were gained and protected at such great cost. May our world move beyond the pandemic and you and your family enjoy the summer.

God Bless you and all that you do,

Peter Kelly, *President*



HIGHLIGHTS



Baby Samah in early March (left) and on her 100th day in the NICU on April 29 (middle). Holy Family Hospital is 1,500 steps away from the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem (right).

Holy Family Hospital Foundation A Little Bit of Heaven: Baby Samah's Miraculous NICU Journey

A little bit of heaven came into the world at Holy Family Hospital recently. Baby Samah, in English, Celeste, meaning "heavenly", was born 10 weeks early and weighed just over 1 lb.

In early March, Um-Samah, a first-time mother, sought prenatal care at Holy Family's Mobile Medical Clinic in the isolated village of Nahaleen. Because of shutdowns and road closures caused by the pandemic, she received infrequent prenatal care during her pregnancy. Immediately upon examination, determining that her unborn baby was extremely small for her gestational age, they rushed Um-Samah to Holy Family Hospital. Her frightened husband, a firefighter, joined her there.

The medical team at Holy Family Hospital performed an emergency Caesarean-section. Baby Samah, at one pound, was so tiny she could fit into the palm of a doctor's hand. At first vigorous and active, Samah suddenly went into respiratory distress, requiring intubation in the Hospital's NICU. Because of a congenital obstruction, she had to be fed through her tiny newborn veins. April 29 was Samah's 100th day in the NICU. She now weighs 5 lbs. and the NICU staff is confident that she will go home any day!

Baby Samah is just one of the everyday miracles who stay 50-plus days in our NICU. This lifesaving care helps the smallest babies — micro-preemies — not only survive but thrive, despite extreme prematurity. All are followed for five years with checkups at our Development Clinic.

Holy Family Hospital is a primary work of the Order of Malta and a shared work of all three US associations (American, Federal, Western). American Association members on the Board of Holy Family Hospital Foundation include Ellen S. Shafer, Chairman of the Board, Gail T. Berardino, Jean L.P. Brunel, Thomas E. Driscoll, Michael J. Heck, Molly K. Heines, and Nicolle C. McGowan, MD. Visit birthplaceofhope.org or contact Kate Robinson, Foundation Director, at kate@hfhfoundation.org to learn more about Holy Family Hospital and our response to the COVID-19 crisis in Bethlehem.

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.