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IN THIS ISSUE



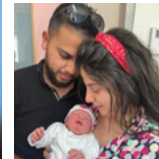
5 Books Behind Bars:
 A Legacy of John F.
 "Jack" Murray, KM



6 And Still,
 Haiti Goes On



8 The Capital
 Campaign



12 Prayers Needed for
 Holy Family Hospital
 of Bethlehem

Pilgrimages: A "Way" of Life for Members of the Order

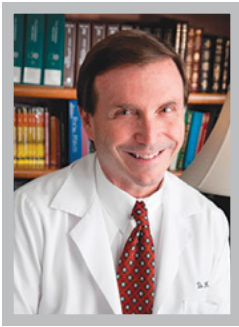
One of the great disappointments of the pandemic, beyond the tragedy of death and sickness and isolation, has been the necessity to make choices to protect the most vulnerable among us. In the case of the American Association, it has meant the cancellation of many activities in person; high on the list are the Lourdes Pilgrimage, cancelled for three years in a row, the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help, cancelled for two years, and the Pilgrimage for Life, cancelled for one year. There is great hope and many prayers that future pilgrimages will be possible without interruption, beginning with the 2022 Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in August 2022. Because the Pilgrimage for Life does not include participation by Malades, there is hope that the Association will be able to participate in January 2022, with appropriate safeguards in place.

(continued on page 3)

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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 Magistry in the "About the Order" section.

Since its redesign, the Order of Malta, American Association mobile app continues to be updated regularly with new photos and user friendly improvements to its features such as daily prayers and the member directory. This app is available for Android and iOS devices in the app store when you search "Order of Malta, American Association."



AS I WRITE THIS MESSAGE, I have just returned from a busy week of Malta activities.

We had our first in person board meeting in St Louis which was a refreshing return to safe interaction with our fellow board members and a wonderful Mass, reception, and dinner with many St Louis members. The excitement of coming together was palpable during the 2 days in St Louis. We are excited that their new Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski will be invested as a chaplain of the Order in November.

After returning from St Louis, we attended our fall retreat in Medway, Massachusetts. Our retreat leader, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, skillfully guided us through 2 days of reflection on Holiness. Again, the safe interaction among members was a welcome return to in person dialogue that we all took for granted and have missed over the past 18 months.

This week we will attend one of many receptions we are having throughout the areas to introduce our members to the capital campaign. We are blessed to have Cardinal Dolan attend this reception in NYC to support our campaign.

Next week I leave for a meeting of the Presidents of all the associations around the world with Cardinal Tomasi, the papal delegate to our Order, in Rome. We will be discussing the proposed reforms and hopefully will be moving to the final stage of voting for the constitutional changes in 2022. Please continue to pray to the Holy Spirit to guide us through this process.

You should have received your invitation to the investiture by email and I am hopeful that many of you will be able to attend. It will be a beautiful ceremony where 120 new members will be invested. Cardinal Dolan will celebrate the Mass and will also be our speaker at the Investiture dinner.

There are still significant concerns about Covid, and we will be following the guidelines mandated by New York City and the Hotel to provide as safe an environment as possible. However, your decision to attend is a personal one based on your comfort level.

Finally, our Capital campaign is concluding a successful silent phase where we have raised \$10 million from 95 donors. Gail and Joe Berardino have done a great job chairing this campaign, aided by a campaign cabinet of members of the Order as well as CCS which provides professional fundraising guidance. The Board of Councillors at our last meeting approved continuing the CCS contract for another 8 months and to begin a search for a full-time development person in the office to guide us through the conclusion of the 5-year campaign and into the future.

As we conclude this year and enter 2022, we will be initiating and expanding new Association wide ministries. The mobile van ministry will be expanding to New Jersey. The Anti-Human Trafficking initiative, thanks to the generosity of Deb and Steve Rusckowski, will be actively fighting this terrible scourge with the support and assistance of our members. And the Palliative care initiative will be made available to all members as we attempt to combat euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

I am excited about the many activities occurring throughout our Areas to care for the sick and the poor and defend our faith. Thank you for all that you do and for all of your support.

God bless you,

Peter Kelly, *President*

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Pilgrimages: A “Way” of Life for Members of the Order

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Travelling to a sacred place, praying together in unison for the graces offered through pilgrimage and the camaraderie provided when sharing time and space with other Knights and Dames and with the sick that we bring physically or in spirit with us are all part of the great joys of membership in the Order of Malta. Many are feeling a hole in their calendar and in their hearts.

The Association has filled the gap with virtual presentations during the days when members would have been traveling — these virtual events have allowed more people, including those who would not have been able to actually go to Wisconsin or Lourdes or to Washington, DC, to join together. While these electronic events are a great benefit for those who participate, the physical presence at these religious events can not be replaced by Zoom.

Why is it that these pilgrimages are so important to members of the Association? Lourdes is often referred to as the “signature work of the Order.” For most, there is no other activity that brings them together with members from all over the world in a work of service that directly expresses

the charism for which they joined the Order. Add to that the fact that the domain is one of the most important physical locations in the world that recognizes the apparitions of Mary. Her multiple visits, the unfolding of the drama when Bernadette’s revelations about “the Lady”, which were at first rebuffed and then attempts were made to suppress her story, increase the interest in the young peasant girl and Mary’s choice to visit the least of society.

For many, the most important reason to go on pilgrimage to Lourdes is for the peace they find. In some cases, the peace comes from acceptance of crosses that they bear, for the realization that their life is in God’s hands and that Mary willingly intercedes on their behalf. In other cases, the realization that God is in their midst, that Mary was here in this very spot, and that the steady line of pilgrims reminds them that their faith is expressed by their own presence there — an affirmation that they believe in the promise of Mary, the mercy and love of God and in their own hope for salvation.

The American Association began its Lourdes pilgrimages with the Order of Malta in 1986 — the Order had been going since 1958, the centennial anniversary of the apparitions. It began small (very small) and has grown over the years and has averaged 390 pilgrims over the last five pilgrimages with slightly over 100 Malades and Caregivers participating in each pilgrimage.

(continued on page 4)



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In 2015, Dr. Jeffrey Trexler and several other American Association members joined the Federal Association in Champion, Wisconsin, for their pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. Like the good women back in 1985 who scouted out the pilgrimage to Lourdes, the American Association members went to see if the Pilgrimage could be a destination for future American Association Pilgrimages. The decision was that the Shrine clearly had the potential for abundant graces; the American Association joined the Federal and Western Associations for four days in Wisconsin starting in 2016. The Association has averaged about 100 participants for each of the last three Wisconsin Pilgrimages.

The Pilgrimage for Life offers the opportunity for members to give strong support by their prayers, their witness and their physical presence in Washington, DC in January — this Pilgrimage links with the March for Life, a major National event that brings hundreds of thousands of peaceful marchers to the nation's capital to give witness to the importance of protecting life from conception to natural death. The Association began its Pilgrimage for Life in 2013 when a strong advocate for the unborn, Karen Dutkowsky, DM, presented the idea of getting members of the Association to Washington, DC, to participate in the annual March for Life.

The Pilgrimage for Life involves more than marching although that is an important component of the journey. There is prayer, reflection, several Masses including an important visit to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the Vigil Mass for the March. Like other Association events, the Pilgrimage for Life involves camaraderie, the chance to connect with other Knights and Dames.

Both the Pilgrimage to Wisconsin and the Pilgrimage for Life have gained the attention and the support of the Grand Magistry. The former Grant Master, Frá Matthew Festing, has recognized the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help as meeting the requirement for a Marian Pilgrimage in the early years of a Knight or Dame's entry into the Order. The Prelate of the Order, Bishop Jean Laffitte, indicates that attending the Pilgrimage for Life is a worthy action for Knights and Dames. Both Pilgrimages provide the same relief for early participation in a Lourdes pilgrimage, when such attendance in Lourdes is a great challenge for personal reasons. Both the Grand Master and the Prelate reiterate the importance of all Knights and Dames attending Lourdes as soon as their circumstances permit.

Bishop Frank Caggiano, ChC, has referred to Pilgrimages as retreats held in sacred places. We all look forward to the opening of the world again and the countdown to liftoff to Lourdes, Champion and Washington, DC. ■

Books Behind Bars: A Legacy Started by John F. “Jack” Murray, KM



The Connecticut – Southern, Western, & Northern Area bid farewell to John F. “Jack” Murray, KM, who slipped into eternal life and the glory of God on February 10th, 2021.

“And He said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.’ ”
— Mark 16:15

In the Bible, Jesus calls on us to go out into the world and make disciples. Jack did just that in all aspects of his faith-filled life, especially as a Knight in the Order of Malta, American Association. Jack was an active volunteer for the American Association’s Prison Ministry and went on to found the Connecticut Area’s Books Behind Bars Prison Ministry Program in 2007.

The Books Behind Bars Prison Ministry Program collects surplus books from Connecticut Public Libraries, Area book drives and book sales and delivers them to prisons in Connecticut and New York. The program currently partners with 10-15 active libraries, mostly within Fairfield county in Connecticut, to deliver books to 16 Connecticut prisons and several New York women’s prisons in Bedford Hills. Since book donations can only be made quarterly, program coordinators work closely with prison chaplains to configure the distribution of books and coordinate orders for Order of Malta Bibles and Prayer Books as well.

Since the program’s beginnings, Jack orchestrated the collection of thousands of books annually from local libraries and book sales. These books were distributed to facilities in Connecticut, where he also served as a regular visitor to people whom many deem unimportant and not worthy: prisoners. Jack’s life is a shining testament to Jesus’ unconditional love. Everyone mattered to Jack, including the incarcerated.

Sherry Anandappa, DM, a fellow Connecticut Area member, carries on Jack’s legacy today as the new leader of the Books Behind Bars Prison Ministry Program. Sherry worked closely with Jack in 2020 to ensure a smooth transition as lead contact for Books Behind Bars. Jack was thrilled with her enthusiasm and commitment to the program.

As pandemic restrictions begin to lessen, we are slowly bringing books into the prisons again after a suspension of several months due to COVID-19 health and safety guidelines. While the pandemic has changed how the program operates, Sherry continues to make these donations happen.

In the past, volunteers worked with libraries to obtain donations at the end of community book sales. With most book sales canceled in 2020, Sherry pursued a different way to make sure prisoners received these valuable books. Donations are now collected via book drives hosted by different organizations, expanding the opportunity for book donations and community outreach.

The book drives were a huge success and the program actually received more donations than the prisons could manage! Currently, Sherry is slowly moving the books into the prisons, as the prisons have been significantly limiting donations due to the pandemic. However, as the pandemic wains, donations into the prisons will pick up again.

In 2020, the Books Behind Bars Prison Ministry Program moved more than 6,000 books into prisons and collected more than 15,000 books despite the effects of the pandemic. This year, over 800 books have already been collected from libraries and just under 2,000 books have been delivered to 5 prisons. More book drives are planned in the coming months to continue these collections.

HOW CAN I HELP?

We hope that you will help us carry on Jack’s legacy and work with the Books Behind Bars Prison Ministry Program in any way you can. The generosity of our volunteers makes an immeasurable difference in the lives of people who are incarcerated and means the difference between dignity and despair. On a local level, nearby members can volunteer to drive book donations to prisons, collect books at book drives, serve as prison coordinators, and help distribute Order of Malta Bibles and Prayer Books to prisons.

If you are not local to the Connecticut Area, we hope this will inspire you to become involved in your Area’s Prison Ministry program or to start this program in your Area. Remember when Jesus calls on us to “Go ye into all the world...”.

Contact Sherry Anandappa, DM, for more information regarding the Books Behind Bars Prison Ministry Program.





And Still, Haiti Goes On

Yollette Etienne has now lived and worked through both of Haiti's most violent and damaging earthquakes in recently history. And still, "tragedy", "misfortune", and "catastrophe", are not words you will find in her lexicon. Driven by deeply personal experiences, she has channeled them into her work as a humanitarian expert, and now as MI Americas' Country Coordinator in Haiti.

WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF INTERVIEWING HER A MONTH AFTER HAITI'S MOST RECENT EARTHQUAKE IN AUGUST 2021.

Q: You were in Haiti during the 2010 earthquake. How is this earthquake different?

The main difference is location: in 2010, Port-au-Prince (Haiti's capital) was the epicenter, unlike in August, when the damage was concentrated in the rural south. The size, impact, and loss of life in 2010 was enormous, we were all overwhelmed at the national and international level. We didn't know where to start.

This time, there's an added cultural loss. Many churches and monuments of our patrimony were destroyed. Beyond their symbolic and spiritual importance for the population,

these could have generated income through tourism, but now, it's all lost.

In 2010, there was a feeling of invasion of international organizations, which completely marginalized the population of Haiti, the government, and local organizations. Now, we seem to have understood that it's better to leave space for local organizations. Time will tell how coordination efforts will play out in the long-term this time.

Q: There has been much criticism about the way aid has been handled in Haiti. Are cash distributions — a rising trend in humanitarian aid — the best way to get aid directly to the Haitian people?

Cash, alone, is not a solution. But as a component of good programming, it's a dignified way to aid the people whom we serve — and makes economic sense.

The first cash distribution we did in the earthquake's immediate aftermath was symbolic in quantity. But it showed the population that we trust them to know what they, as individuals, need better than we do. If we show people how to invest this cash sustainably, we can help them regain their livelihoods, which is fundamentally why we're here.

It also makes economic sense for Haitian markets, many of which — in Les Cayes, Jérémie, and Miragoane — remained intact. By giving them limited cash instead of large food distributions, we are sustaining these local markets.

The important thing is transparency, access, and accountability. Speaking with the communities from the get-go, we ensured everyone was aware who we were there to help:

women, the elderly, and those with disabilities. We're also prioritizing access. Many NGOs will set up their distributions in larger cities, which makes it more difficult and dangerous to access for those who live in rural areas. We're localizing, and here we focus on accountability. We work with local authorities, but we're also aware of how rampant corruption is at this level. To increase accountability, we're present at every step of the process with our local partners, AHAAMES. We've also built relationships with the local population over many years, we know their situations.

Q: I imagine the insecurity in Haiti has an impact on humanitarian efforts overall. How has it affected our work particularly regarding cash distributions?

The short answer is yes, it's certainly an issue, and we need to step up our security efforts.

Gangs have the power to limit our movement, they attack convoys and aid workers. Our general feeling is that the government and the police are not in control of this insecurity, so we cannot rely on them for assistance. While gang violence is normally concentrated in urban areas, we've witnessed a rise in insecurity in rural areas, which is concerning.

Q: Going forward, what is MI Americas' plan in Haiti?

We will focus on education, facilitating access to safe drinking water, supporting medical centers, and widespread mental health support for communities and school children, as well as cash distributions.

To close, we wanted to touch on something more personal. In the early days of the emergency, our team had created an internal group chat to coordinate our efforts and share information. At one point, Yolette mentioned one of the 2,200 casualties of the earthquake was one of her dearest friends, a priest named Emile Beldor. In the heat of things, we quickly moved onto logistical and security tasks, but I hadn't forgotten about that message and wanted to follow up.

Q: This is your home, these are your friends, your family. How are you coping?

It was the same thing in 2010. In 2010, I lost my mother in the earthquake, as well as kids I considered my own. It was very painful, and the only way I found to overcome such experiences was by supporting others. If you don't have that, I don't think you can deal with this kind of situation, and it's the same thing now.

The friend I lost in this most recent earthquake was a friend I'd known for over 40 years. He was a priest, completely dedicated to the population. And if he was alive, he would have been the first to support hundreds, thousands of people too.

Tomorrow, his funeral will take place, and I will not be able to attend because it will be in an area where insecurity is dominant, and I need to do my job. It's the best way to honor him.

That's why I thank MI Americas and appreciate the type of work I do: I get to put all my energy into ensuring we are doing this right.

It was only until these last few minutes that it became clear what makes Yolette such an effective leader and humanitarian.

We are all touched by loss and grief. In this field, we are often faced with desperation and loss of life at unimaginable scales. And even then, it's easier to separate from our own experiences when we're working on projects in other countries.

But this was not possible for Yolette. Haiti is her home. She has lost family and friends in the earthquakes, floods, and insecurity that has so deeply affected her country. And still, she forges ahead despite "such experiences", as she calls them, with grace, fortitude, and steadfast dedication. ■

This interview was edited for clarity and conciseness. To learn more about MI Americas' work, please visit www.orderofmaltarelief.org, and subscribe to our newsletter at www.orderofmaltarelief.org/newsletter.





The Capital Campaign Called To Serve: Securing Our Legacy of Care For The Sick And The Poor



When we said yes to Dr. Kelly's request that we chair the American Association's Capital Campaign, we had no idea where this would go. Our "yes" was predicated on several essential components being put into place — the support of the leadership of the Association and the Foundations and the engagement of professional support. Both of those conditions have been met, and we are making significant progress in engaging our members in the quiet phase and honing the case for support to reflect what the Capital Campaign means, its profound impact on our hands-on work, and what it is expected to deliver to the American Association.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

PHASE 1

MARCH – AUGUST 2020:

Member Outreach; Building A Case; Assembling/Engaging the Campaign Cabinet

The first step was to engage CCS, a top-tier consultant to the Catholic Community in raising funds and, more importantly, on building a foundation on which to transform the Association's vision of philanthropy.

From March to August 2020, the Campaign was in what lawyers would call the discovery phase. By reaching out to several hundred members in various leadership groups, including Board members, Area Chairs, Chaplains, and past leaders in the Association, we found there was an opportunity to raise awareness of how the finances of the American Association were handled, how the Grants Program was funded, and how our annual contributions supported our call to serve.

Given the ongoing pandemic, Zoom and conference calling took the place of face-to-face meetings, and a select number of members agreed to fill the roles of the Campaign Cabinet — ambassadors and champions for the Campaign and liaisons for this initiative to individual members.

PHASE 2

SEPTEMBER 2020 – APRIL 2022:

Quiet Phase

With the groundwork completed, the next phase, the quiet phase began. From September 2020 to the current moment, the

campaign has been involved in basic block-building: a) the critical activity of directly engaging individual members in the discussion about the case; and b) demonstrating how they might participate in the transformational work of the Campaign, raising money and transforming the culture. The quiet phase continues as this edition of the Hospitallers goes to press.

PHASE 3

JUNE 2021 – ONGOING:

Member Engagement; Area Receptions

The next step in the process has been member engagement through Area receptions. A series of meetings have been held, and more have been scheduled to allow members to get an overview of the Campaign, its objectives, aspirational goals, and ask any questions they may have. This sharing of information and engagement with interested members opens the minds and hearts of members to personal follow-ups. Chaplains have been engaged and supportive at the Area receptions, including:

PHASE 4

LATE 2021 – APRIL 2022:

Public Phase (Membership Roll Out)

The groundwork has been laid; in April 2022, we will begin the public phase of the Campaign and invite all members to join this historic effort

June: Long Island

July: Boston

September: New Jersey

September: St Louis

October: Connecticut

October: Green Bay, Wisconsin

November: Investiture Weekend

December: Michigan

December: Boston

February 2022: Naples, Florida

WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED

MEMBERS ENGAGED AT AREA LEVEL (MEETING THEM WHERE THEY ARE AT)

Much of the work so far has been spent engaging members, having a conversation about what is important to them, the role of the two foundations, and how the Association interacts with the two Foundations in carrying out its mission. Members shared their interests and goals; some discussions focused on how the Campaign could meet members where they are, rather than having a 'one size fits all' approach. Our Cardinals, Bishops, and Chaplains have also been very supportive in many Areas.

(continued on page 10)



HIGHLIGHTS

(continued from page 9)

UNPRECEDENTED LEVEL OF GIVING

During the silent phase, ninety-five commitments totaling \$10,000,000 have already been received, including two at \$1,000,000 each. This total represents the participation of less than 1% of our membership and an average commitment of more than \$100,000.

ENDORSEMENT FROM SIGNIFICANT CATHOLIC FOUNDATIONS

The Lynch Foundation, a prominent Catholic Foundation in the Boston Area, has made a significant commitment to the Campaign. Other Family Foundations have also made meaningful commitments.

NEW MINISTRIES

- A fund has been established by a member that is expected to grow to \$1M to support Anti-Human Trafficking efforts, including providing members with the opportunity to be engaged in this work.
- A family foundation has provided significant funding toward purchasing and maintaining the second van in the Malta Mobile Ministry project to be deployed in New Jersey during 2021.

A lot of work has been done by dedicated people, we have generated significant momentum, and a lot more needs to be done to secure our legacy of care for the sick and the poor. We look forward to engaging all of our membership as we move forward in the Campaign.

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.



New Formation Program for Prison Ministry Addresses the Whole Person

By Craig Gibson

SEPARATION FROM SOCIETY BUT NOT FROM GOD

Separation is the price prisoners pay for breaking the law. To pay their debts to society, they are deprived of that same society. However, estrangement from civic life does not mean abandonment by God. The compassion and mercy of the Lord who commanded us to visit prisoners (Matthew 25:36) and who came to set the prisoners free (Luke 4:18) are infinite, and we, as members of the Order of Malta, are called to be the Lord's emissaries. Knowing that we all stumble at times on our journeys of faith, it is for us to lend a helping hand to others along the way.

The Order of Malta Prison Ministry Committee is in the process of creating a new formation program that will more deeply prepare our members to provide that helping hand. Since the spring we have been collaborating with representatives of three Catholic Groups involved in prison ministry:

- The National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC), David Lichter, Executive Director;
- Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition (CPMC), Karen Clifton and Joe Cotton;
- The Office of Chaplaincy Programs for the Archdiocese of Boston, Deacon Jim Greer, Director.

FORMATION THAT ADDRESSES THE WHOLE PERSON

The program is in the early stages of development, but it will consist of a series of modules led by clergy and members experienced in prison ministry. It will contain two tracks. The



first track will provide ongoing formation for our members already involved in prison ministry. Track Two will provide formation for those new to the ministry. Both tracks will seek to provide a formation of the whole person.

“When we talk about preparing for any ministry in the Church, there are common approaches that the Church has used,” said Msgr. James P. Moroney, Magistral Chaplain from the Boston Area. “Just as there have been various documents that talk about priestly formation, the bishops had a need to be able to say what kind of preparation is needed for people in lay ecclesial ministry.” Msgr. Moroney is referring to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The document the bishops created to guide laity in formation is called *Co-workers in the Vineyard*.

Msgr. Moroney went on to quote *Co-workers in the Vineyard*. “Effective formation addresses the whole person, their emotions, their imagination, their will, their heart, their mind. “It’s the whole person who is becoming a minister, so the whole person needs to be the subject of formation. Before I can give Christ to others, I must be formed into the image and likeness of Christ.”

The role of prison ministry is to help those striving to repair their relationships with God and community. It is a hands-on, face-to-face process that requires an understanding both of the realities of prison life and of how interaction with the incarcerated can be an important step in an inmate’s faith journey. Such responsibility requires that we who serve it undergo a formation process guided by the principles laid out in *Co-workers in the Vineyard*.

Karen Clifton of Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition said critical components of formation in this ministry are discernment and understanding. “It’s important for those involved in prison ministry to discern why they’re involved and then to develop an understanding of what they’re getting into, whom they’re ministering to, and the issues inmates face.” She also emphasized the importance of listening skills, of being present, and of not trying to be a fixer. “This is a ministry of accompaniment.”

Dr. Peter J. Kelly, President of the American Association, said such a program will be invaluable. “It will help our members who serve in prison ministry better understand the framework required for interacting with the incarcerated, and it will strengthen our members’ spirituality,” he said. “This is a path to living our charism in a more informed way.”

PROGRESS MADE TO DATE

We will be developing the program over the next two years with Track One expected to be available in early 2022 and Track Two available later in 2022. To date, we have held two sessions with members of the committee during which we have explored key issues:

- **Pilot Program for Ongoing Formation in Pastoral Ministry**
Led by: Deacon Jim Greer, Director The Office of Chaplaincy Programs for the Archdiocese of Boston
Moderated by: Craig Gibson, Chair, Prison Ministry Committee
Deacon Jim Greer led a pilot program in April designed to

provide an overview of key elements for pastoral ministry, including pastoral care, identity of a pastoral minister, listening, accompaniment, and the practicalities of visiting prisons.

- **Prison Ministry Formation Basics**

Led by: Msgr. James P. Moroney, Magistral Chaplain from the Boston Area

Moderated by: Craig Gibson, Chair, Prison Ministry Committee
Msgr. Moroney led the Prison Ministry Committee in a discussion of the meaning of formation in August, bringing his experience as a pastor, seminary rector and director in charge of sacred liturgy for the USCCB to the topic. During this session, participants delved into the four areas of formation described in *Co-workers in the Vineyard*: human qualities, spirituality and practice of prayer, adequate theological and pastoral knowledge, and practical abilities called for in the particular ministry.

THE STEPS MOVING FORWARD

Working in tandem with the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, Catholic Prison Ministries Coalition, and the Office of Chaplaincy Programs for the Archdiocese of Boston, we are developing:

- Workshop providing ongoing formation for members involved in prison ministry;
- Workshop providing initial formation for members who are planning to become involved in prison ministry;
- Pilot program for a panel discussion format to be used with individual Areas; and
- Plan to engage members throughout the American Association in the vital work of prison ministry.

Those of us who enter prison ministry are filled with the fire of faith. There is so much we want to do. There is so much we want to say. We need to hang on to that passion and that joy, but we also need to be prepared. We must prepare to bring a spirituality of loving presence, to bring our own faith journeys as members of the Order of Malta into interactions with those behind bars. We give, and we receive. Most importantly, We share together the good news of God’s presence in the world. ■





Prayers Needed for Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem

Reflections by Ambassador Michèle Burke Bowe, President of Holy, Family Hospital Foundation

Bethlehem has endured almost 17 months of the pandemic and the ensuing humanitarian and economic crisis. During this time, the economy has come to a complete halt without the usual influx of 500 tourist buses a day. 90% of the workforce is still without salaries. Some have managed to find occasional work as day laborers when they can. The streets remain devoid of people and the shops' shutters are closed tightly. Middle class families are selling their household goods to buy groceries to feed their families, wondering how much longer the crisis will last. Poverty is growing along with food insecurity. Many say this period is the most difficult they have seen, even more so than 1948.

Despite this hardship, on my recent visit I could see the trademark resilience of the Palestinians. Life goes on. Families share with their extended relatives and neighbors help one another. Weddings occur as regulations allow, students receive their college placement scores, and families mark birthday milestones even without cakes and presents. Perhaps most importantly, families rejoice with great hope at the birth of a new baby in the family. The generations of the families come together to celebrate life and hope for a brighter future. After all, what could be more hopeful and emblematic of a brighter future than a new baby born in Bethlehem.

Entering Holy Family Hospital each morning of my visit, I could feel the joy of new life and hope, perhaps even stronger than ever before. The 191 Palestinian employees are grateful to have high quality employment and pension plans. Given the circumstances, they seem to work a little harder to create a joyful atmosphere celebrating each of the dozen births a day as if each one were the first. The Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit is close to full with more babies needing Level III care and requiring longer stays. The good news is that the moms and dads, with proper PPE, can still visit their sick or premature babies and bond with them in this crucial period of their lives.

Thanks to the infection control team and generous donors, the Hospital gleams in the sunlight with increased cleaning and infection control measures. On May 30, the Hospital celebrated its 90,000th delivery with the arrival of Baby Wateen. This year alone over 2,600 babies have been born so far.

Holy Family Hospital offers the best Maternal and Neo-Natal care for a catchment area of one million people. It serves as the only hospital in the region that can deliver and care for babies born before 32 weeks. It offers more than just healthcare though; it delivers dignity to the families who can no longer contribute towards their healthcare costs as our generous donors help us subsidize or fully cover every service offered at the Hospital.

As the largest employer in Bethlehem, Holy Family Hospital also provides hope through employment. Many of our staff are the only ones, in their apartment buildings or families, receiving salaries. They share their hope by cooking for extended family and neighbors true to the Palestinian code of hospitality.

The eleven resident doctors add to the atmosphere of hope eagerly rounding patients each morning with the heads of the residency programs. They are proud of their achievements and look forward to their careers in Pediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynecology when they complete their training.

I am proud to say that the Hospital itself also shares its bounty. Since the pandemic began, Holy Family Hospital has increased operations of its oxygen extraction system from

eight to twenty- four hours a day to send oxygen to local hospitals and Covid treatment centers for free. Since oxygen cannot readily cross the borders, this gesture saves countless lives. Knowing the costs of the additional man hours and shortened life of the system, has not stopped the Hospital from generously extending lifesaving hospitality to its neighbors. We trust that our loyal donors will help us cover the additional costs and spare parts when the time comes.

We know that God will provide, and we pray that the pandemic recedes, and pilgrimages will soon be restored to end the suffering of Bethlehem. For now, Holy Family Hospital Foundation is redoubling its efforts to find new donors and raise additional funds to maintain the dignity of those in need and to provide hope to the families of Bethlehem. Please add your prayers to ours for an end to the suffering and for adequate funding so that Holy Family Hospital remains a beacon of hope and a refuge of peace for the mothers and babies of Bethlehem.

We are grateful for the 75 families from across the American Association that joined Holy Family Hospital Foundation virtually, to pray and celebrate the mothers and babies of Bethlehem on August 12. The evening event was a great success thanks to Ellen Shafer, Chairman of the Board of Holy Family Hospital Foundation, Gail Berardino, Holy Family Hospital Foundation Board Member, Dr. Michael Espiritu, Guest Speaker, and the Mass celebrant, Msgr. James Swiader, ChD, St. Joseph Church, Garden City, NY. ■

For additional information, please visit birthplaceofhope.org



Deceased Members: January 1 – September 28, 2021

Donald P. Brotherman, KM	Dallas, TX	Robert E. Jacoby, Jr, KM	Ponte Vedra Beach, FL
Hilda Brotherman, DM	Dallas, TX	George J. Kadri, KM	Bonita Springs, FL
Theodora S. Budnik, MD, DM	Poughkeepsie, NY	Rosemary Kelly, DMOB	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Sarah S. Cashel, DM	Lake Wales, FL	Michael J. Mastrangelo, KM	Ft. Wayne, IN
Noreen D. Centracchio, DM	Naples, FL	Joan M. Mattison, DM	Jupiter, FL
Peter G. Danis, Jr, KM	Lake Forest, IL	Kevin Gerard McCarthy, KM	Island Park, NY
Bertrand de Looz Karageorgiades, KM	New York, NY	Edward F. McHugh, Jr, KM	Scituate, MA
Mary DeFrancisco, DM	Andover, MA	John Francis Murray, KM	New Canaan, CT
Lucille Regina DeVane, DM	Jupiter, FL	Rosemarie F. O'Sullivan, DM	Cincinnati, OH
Elizabeth B. Flynn, DM	New Canaan, CT	Maureen J. Pesavento, DM	Scranton, PA
Mary Louise Formato, MD, DM	Belle Mead, NJ	William B. Picotte, KM	Albany, NY
James Patrick Furlong II, MD, KM	Sand Lake, NY	Frank Kelly Reilly, KM	Notre Dame, IN
Peter M. Gandolfo, KMOB	Bellville, TX	Mary Elisabeth Reiner, DMOB	New York, NY
Mariola B. Haggar, DM	New York, NY	Vincent J. Romeo, KM	Morrisville, NC
Jay F. Higgins, KM	North Palm Beach, FL	John Patrick Tierney, KM	Bloomfield Hills, MI
Richard John Huether, KM	Schenectady, NY	Joseph C. Tranfo, KHD	Stuart, FL
Henry J. Humphreys, DHL, KGC	Bronxville, NY	Joseph V. Vittoria, KM	Palm Beach, FL

2022 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

January 1

Solemnity, Mary of God

January 14

**Bethany Retreat Center,
Lutz, FL**

Board of Councillors Meeting

January 14 – 16

**Bethany Retreat Center,
Lutz, FL**

Association Retreat

February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes/World
Day of the Sick

March 2

Ash Wednesday

April 10

Palm Sunday
(Beginning of Holy Week)

April 17

Easter Sunday

April 27

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage
(TBD)

May 19

New York City
Board of Councillors Meeting

May 26

Ascension Thursday

June 5

Pentecost Sunday

June 9 – 10

Detroit
Area Leadership Meeting/
Chaplains' Convocation

June 24

Saint John the Baptist

August 4 - 7

Champion, WI
Wisconsin Pilgrimage

August 15

Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary

September 19

Chicago
Board of Councillors Meeting

October 13

Feast of Blessed Gerard,
Founder of the Order of Malta

November 1

All Saints' Day

November 13

World Day of the Poor

November 17 - 19

New York City
Investiture Weekend

November 17

New York City
Board of Councillors Meeting

November 18

New York City
Annual Meeting

November 18

**Saint Patrick's Cathedral,
New York City**
Investiture Mass

November 19

New York City
Subpriory Mass

November 25

Thanksgiving

December 8

Feast of the Immaculate
Conception

December 25

Christmas

On the first Wednesday of each month, there is a Spiritual Outreach call at 11AM ET. Every Sunday, there is a live Rosary at 7 PM ET. Be sure to visit our website and read our weekly email newsletters for the latest information regarding American Association events.



From Letters to Emails...What's Next for Communications?



Snail mail and email, posting on social media and texting, the way we communicate has evolved drastically over the last few decades as new advancements in communication have been adapted by people all over the world. When the American Association was founded in New York City in 1927 at the request of Pope Pius XI, could its founding members have possibly imagined just how much the Association has grown since?

From naming a new Association President and identifying a new Area, to announcing the dates of next year's Lourdes Pilgrimage and sharing news of the pandemic, the American Association has consistently worked towards keeping its members informed through letters, newsletters, emails, and website posts. As we begin to prepare for the New Year and what is to come in 2022, the American Association's Communications Committee takes into consideration ways in which we can improve how we communicate with you as members of the Order of Malta, American Association.

The last few years have seen the introduction of a newly redesigned website and mobile app, accompanied by a strategic plan for communicating with members regularly via email regarding event registration, e-newsletters, and important announcements. These advancements, coupled with the onset of the pandemic last year, brought the standardization of virtual participation and virtual events, as well as weekly e-newsletters delivered to members every Sunday morning. As times change, so do preferred methods of communications.

As has been done every few years, the Communications Committee put together a 2021 Communications Survey that members could fill out online and share their thoughts on the American Association's current communications efforts. In 2018, feedback from this survey became the basis of our work to improve our website, mobile app, virtual meetings, and other communications-related initiatives.

During the late summer, the Communications Committee distributed the 2021 Communications survey, seeking input on the current state of our communications-related efforts as we slowly return to "normal" life. The response was overall positive regarding how members experience our website, mobile app, emails, and other communications materials. The Committee is already at work, planning for new ways in which we can improve on what we have done and be responsive to the ever-changing requirements of our members.

We are always looking to make improvements that will better help Knights, Dames, Affiliates, and Chaplains on their spiritual paths and service efforts. Whether it is making an online form easier to fill out or sending an email to remind you of an upcoming event, we continue to seek your input on how we can enhance your role as a member. You don't have to wait for a formal survey. If you have an idea, a question, a comment, or a concern, send an email to staff@orderofmaltaamerican.org and it will be shared with the Communications Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS

Why Do We Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Philermo?



Members of the Order of Malta, and Catholics around the world, gather together every year on September 8th to celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, known to the Order of Malta as Our Lady of Philermo. The Blessed Mother, through the Icon of Our Lady of Philermo, is the Patroness of The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta. This icon, which is now kept in the Museum of Art in Cetinje, Montenegro, has a long history with the Order of Malta, dating back to the early 1300's.

In the beginning of the 14th century, the then Order of Saint John acquired the Island of Rhodes. On this island on Mount Philermos were the remains of a Byzantine Church, which housed an icon of the Blessed Mother, accredited to having been painted by Saint Luke the Evangelist and brought to this mount from Jerusalem. This icon, venerated by the Order as Our Lady of All Mercies for its miraculous attributions, would eventually become known as the Icon of Our Lady of Philermo and the Order of Malta's protector and patroness.

Since the early 14th century, the Icon of Our Lady of Philermo has miraculously withstood the test of time, living out its meaning as the protector and patroness of the Order of Malta.

1530: The Order moved to the island of Malta, by Emperor Charles V with the approval of Pope Clement VII, and the icon was placed in the Church of Saint Lawrence. Although the Church was badly damaged by fire, the icon was unscathed.

1565: The Great Siege of Malta by the Ottomans began and, although greatly outnumbered, the Order was able to withstand the attacks. A relief army landed on the island to provide assistance and on the next day, September 8th, the Feast of Our Lady of Philermo, the Ottomans fled.

1798: After Napoleon Bonaparte occupied the island of Malta, the Order was forced to leave. The icon then came under the protection Russia, after Paul I of Russia placed the icon in the Priory Palace at Gatchina, near St. Petersburg.

1917: The icon survived the October Revolution and was taken to Copenhagen in 1919.

1931: The icon was then transferred to Yugoslavia and placed under the protection of King Alexander I of Yugoslavia, where it was kept in the chapel of St. Andrew in the royal palace at Dedinje until 1941.

1941: When Yugoslavia was invaded by the Nazis, the icon was moved and hidden in the Ostrog Monastery in Montenegro.

1951: Special forces captured the icon and placed it in the vault of the Museum of Art in Cetinje, Montenegro.

1993: Considered lost for some time, the Icon of Our Lady of Philermo was rediscovered and can now be seen at the Museum of Art in Cetinje, Montenegro.

Every year, we look forward to seeing members throughout our Areas celebrate this special feast day with a history of such significance. However, it is important to remember the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Philermo, every day, as told in the Daily Prayer of the Order of Malta. This prayer provides us with a special kind of peace knowing that Knights and Dames all around the world celebrate Our Lady of Philermo as our patroness, our protector, and as our guide in our everyday lives.

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.