



# Order of Malta American Association Missouri Area NEWSLETTER February, 2022

## Chaplain's Column

### *Ministry to the Sick*

“In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of His body, that is, the Church.” (Colossians 1:24) These words from St. Paul resonate well with the mission of the Order of Malta to the poor and the sick. Yet, when read for the first time, St. Paul’s idea can seem confusing. How can anything be lacking in the sufferings of Jesus for us? Jesus’ Passion and death on the cross atoned for all sins; His love is infinite. How can anyone, whether St. Paul or any Christian, dare to think they are making up for something lacking in the Savior? Jesus, both God and Man, lacks nothing.

The best answer to these questions—in fact, the best treatment on the issue of human suffering I have ever read—is found in Pope St. John Paul II’s Apostolic Letter “On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering” (Salvifici Doloris, February 11, 1984, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes). Clearly, Christ alone redeemed the world. There is nothing lacking in that perfect act of sacrificial love. However, our union with Him is so close that He participates in our own daily sufferings, and we share in His. Throughout the entire New Testament, Jesus’ teachings and the teachings of the Apostles reveal clearly how intimately united the Lord is with us. We are part of His Mystical Body.

“Human suffering has reached its culmination in the passion of Christ...it has been linked to love. (#18)

“Every man has his own share in the Redemption. Each one is also called to share in that suffering. (#19)

“Does this mean that the Redemption achieved by Christ is not complete? No. It only means that the Redemption remains always open to all love expressed in human suffering. In this dimension—the dimension of love—the Redemption which has already been completely accomplished is, in a certain sense, constantly being accomplished.” (#24)



**Msgr. Vernon Gardin, Ch.M.**

United to Christ through the Sacraments, prayer, and good works, everything we do has infinite value. Our suffering is not meaningless, whether in poverty or in sickness. Knights and Dames of Malta are especially devoted to bringing the redeeming love of Jesus to those who are poor, or sick, or who suffer in

any way. Just as Jesus’ suffering on Calvary is always present in every Mass, so too is He united to people who suffer. Through the Order of Malta, we have the honor of bringing the consolation of Christ to them.

St. John Paul’s Apostolic Letter is available through [Pauline Books and Media](#), and also on the [Vatican website](#).

## Let Not Your Hearts be Troubled . .

We begin this new year filled with gratitude for every member of our area. We are thankful for a blessed 2021! Despite the continued impact of the Pandemic, we collectively continue to live out our charism of defense of the faith and serving the sick and poor in our Area.

In 2021, we expanded the reach and impact of our mobile ministry as we brought meaningful help and the face of Christ to the homeless, those beginning a new life following the release from prison and even the citizens of Haiti. Under the guidance of our Hospitallers (Ron and Pat Hofmeister), our membership opened their hearts to support four very successful quarterly service projects in 2021. Our partnership with our Mobile Ministry allowed us to significantly expand the impact of our quarterly service projects.

In 2021, we gathered in prayer at our monthly rosary and area masses to remember our members that our Lord called home, those suffering with illness and those experiencing the joyful moments of life. We also welcomed Archbishop Rozanski as our new Conventual Chaplain, new Knights Don Burgo and Tim Gamma and several new Auxiliary members to the Order and our Area.

As we turn our attention to the new year, let us pray for and actively support our 2022 formation class that includes Joaquin Alarcon, Phyllis Heck, Jonathan Klimpel, and Larry Koesterer. Please also prayerfully

consider individuals that you know that might be interested in the Order for the 2023 formation class. We will have a potential new member reception in late Spring at Archbishop Rozanski's residence. Please share the names of individuals you think might be interested in the Order with our Membership Chair, [Chris Winkelmann](mailto:chris_winkelmann@hotmail.com) (chris\_winkelmann@hotmail.com).

We officially kick-off the American Association Capital Campaign for our Area at our Annual Meeting on March 19. Please plan on joining us for American Association and Area updates and the member reception following the meeting. It will be good to be together!

We look forward to a joyful year together serving our Lord. May we not forget that God regulates all things, that we are not alone but carried in his divine arms. We are protected by his love and should have confidence in his divine providence for each of us and the works we are called to deliver in his name.



**Kathy & Greg Gantz**



# Serving the Sick and the Poor

During the last few months, Members of the Order of Malta have been able to serve the sick and the poor in many ways. Under the leadership of our Hospitallers Ron and Pat Hofmeister, the area continued our quarterly service projects, in addition to its on-going projects, such as monthly pizza dinner for the residents of Rosati House, a St. Patrick's Center ministry. The area's unit of Malta Mobile Ministry, led by Randy Weber, continued to serve the needs it had already identified and assisted several new charitable endeavors.

## **Service Projects**

Our two most recent services projects took place in September and December 2021. Our December service project involved gathering toys and gifts for the young families and residents of [Our Lady's Inn](#) and [Marygrove](#), institutions that serve women experiencing crisis pregnancies—and often their children—and people escaping abusive environments. A great variety of new, good quality items were donated by many Malta members. They were sorted and stored by the Hofmeisters and delivered by our Malta Mobile Ministry van.

Our September Day of Service brought together a number of members of the Order of Malta family at Immacolata Parish to sort and pack toiletries and snacks for Father Bob's ministry to those in need in the North City area. We packed about 200 bags and loaded up the Mobile Ministry van for the delivery of the personal care bags directly to Father Bob's fulfillment location. A very successful service project that allowed many members across our area to participate.



**Volunteers with Basic Comfort Packs**



**The Malta Mobile Ministry Van with a Cargo of Toys and Goodies**

## **Malta Mobile Ministry**

The members who serve as drivers for Malta Mobile Ministry were delighted to be able to help with the order's service project, as well as continuing their runs in support of other charities. Every week, Malta drivers help stock the Our Lady of Guadalupe Food Bank in Florissant with the groceries that feed forty families. They help Criminal Justice Ministries furnish apartments for recently released convicts who might otherwise be homeless. And they help the St. Patrick Center keep families in decent homes.



### **What a Family Would Lose Without Our Help**

Sometimes, a family must vacate one apartment before they have found a new home and face seeing all their belongings left on the curb, even if a new home will be available in just a few days. Mobile Ministries has helped such families, getting the furniture, the clothes, and the cardboard boxes labeled "math books and board games" into storage before time runs out.



### **The Staff of St. Richard's Parish and 6,302 Socks**

One of the most urgent needs the homeless face in winter is for clean, warm socks. St. Richard's Parish in St. Louis Country sought to fill this need and collected more than six thousand pairs of socks. Thanks to Malta Mobile Ministries, they were all delivered to the St. Patrick Center for distribution.

# New Members

## ***2021 American Association Investiture***

2021 saw the return of the Order of Malta's investiture mass to St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, after the lapse of a year due to the COVID pandemic. Even with carefully enforced masking and distancing rules in place, the investiture mass and the events surrounding it were as joyful and moving as ever. Several members from our area were present to see our new confrères Archbishop Rozanski and Dr. Donald Burgo presented with their decorations by Cardinal Dolan.



**Archbishop Rozanski (second from left) and Dr. Donald Burgo (second from right)**

## ***Decorations Presented Nearer Home***

Our third new confrère, Tim Gamma, was unable to attend the investiture, but permission was obtained to present him with his decorations during our Advent Mass. Archbishop Rozanski and Msgr. Gardin made this smaller gathering every bit as moving and joyful as the glorious investiture mass at St. Patrick's.



**Msgr. Gardin Welcoming Tim Gamma to the Order of Malta**

# Prayer and Fellowship

With the relaxation of COVID protocols, our area has been able to return to a more regular schedule of gatherings for prayer, learning and enjoying each other's company. Our regular monthly rosary, often followed by dinner, has resumed at Immacolata Parish on the first Wednesday of each month. In January, the rosary was followed by the blessing of a new Area icon of Our Lady of Philermo. The icon will be present at future Area rosary and mass celebrations.



**Msgr. Gardin Blessing the New Icon**

We have also gathered for mass and dinner, and have been delighted to have our Archbishop as both the celebrant as mass and our guest at dinner. In September, we celebrated the Feast of the Apostle Matthew at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.



**Patricia Hellmuth Reads the Epistle, Msgr. Gardin Proclaims the Gospel, Archbishop Rozanski Blesses the People**



**Dames and Knights Again in their Choir Robes**

The Board of Councilors of the American Association met in St. Louis the day of our mass at the Cathedral Basilica, and many of them were able to join us afterwards at dinner at the Saint Louis Club. The speakers were our president, Dr. Peter Kelley, and Gail and Joseph Berardino. Berardinos were able to give us a preview of the “Called to Serve Campaign,” about which we will hear more at our upcoming area annual meeting.



**Peter Kelly, Gail Berardino, Joe Berardino**

On December 7, the Missouri Region gathered at Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church in St. Louis to celebrate the vigil of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Mass was concelebrated by the Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski, archbishop of St. Louis, the Rev. Msgr. Vernon Gardin, the region’s chaplain, and the Rev. Thomas French, pastor of the parish.



**The Archbishop Pronounces the Blessing; Greg Gantz Leads the Prayer of the Order**

After mass, members gathered at Old Warson Country Club. Our leaders reported on our charitable efforts during 2021 and our plans for the future. We welcomed Tom Casey, Executive Director of Criminal Justice Ministry, as our speaker at our Advent dinner at Old Warson Country Club. Tom updated Area Malta members on how our partnership has helped a number of men and women re-entering society in a meaningful way. Our Malta Mobile Ministry has allowed our area to support the Order's important Prison Ministry work in the St. Louis Area.

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**Missouri Area Annual Meeting**  
**&**  
**Social Gathering immediately Following**  
**Saturday, March 19, 2022**  
**2-4 PM**  
**Missouri Athletic Club**  
**177 Des Peres Road**  
**St Louis, MO 63121**



# Area Leadership

**Area Co-Chairs: Kathy and Greg Gantz**

**Area Chaplin: Msgr. Vernon Gardin**

**Hospitallers: Pat and Ron Hofmeister**

**Membership: Chris Winkelmann**

**Treasurer: Bill Guyol**

**Affiliate Coordinators (Associates and Auxiliary): Genie and John Wilhelm**

**Communications: Brian Abel Ragen**

**Malta Masses: Donna and Mike Roth**

**Prison Ministry: Pat Hofmeister (Women's) and Mike Mooney (Men's)**

**Grant Committee: Tyler Bender, Don Gunn, Carole Less, and Jack Pohrer**

**Malta Rosary (first Wednesday): Donna and Mike Albers**

**Daily Missal Mailings: Pat Bick**

**St Louis University Catholic Studies Liaison: Beth and Doug Van Horn**

## **MALTA MOBILE MINISTRY—ST. LOUIS**

**Director: Randy Weber**

**Finance and Operations Coordinator: Jim Bick**

**Program and Services Coordinator: Chris Winkelmann**

**Volunteer Driver Coordinator: Mike Roth**

**Vehicle Maintenance Coordinators: John and Genie Wilhelm**

**Communications: Brian Abel Ragen**