



HOSPITALLERS IS PUBLISHED BY THE  
**SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF  
 JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA™**  
 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, U.S.A.

# HOSPITALLERS

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## Frá John Dunlap Appointed Lieutenant of the Grand Master

*I, John Timothy Dunlap, vow and promise to God Almighty, to the Blessed Mary, the Ever-Virgin Mother of God, and to St. John the Baptist, that with the perpetual help of God, I will serve with true obedience any superior who is appointed over me. (From The Solemn Mass of Perpetual Religious Profession of Frá John Timothy Dunlap, Knight of Justice on June 7, 2008)*

**L**ittle did Frá John Dunlap know that his commitment to obedience in June 2008 would find him fourteen years later, again on a June weekend, in the presence of the Pope and the Cardinal delegate to the Order. And it would have been hard to fathom the events that would lead to his accepting the appointment from Pope Francis to lead the Order.

Lieutenant of the Grand Master Frá Marco Luzzago died suddenly on June 7th at the age of 71. The funeral ceremony on June 14th was officiated by Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, Special Delegate of *(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."



AS I WRITE THIS MESSAGE, I am still celebrating that Frá John Dunlap was appointed Lieutenant of the Grand Master of our Order. He is the first North American to hold this position. I have been asked many questions about the next steps in this process so let me suggest what I think is going on.

I believe that the Pope chose Frá John so that he could work with Cardinal Tomasi and his team of canon lawyers to finalize a draft of reforms of the Order's constitution. Once that draft is completed it will be presented to an Extraordinary Chapter General to discuss and approve.

One of the proposed reforms is to eliminate the nobility requirement for Grandmaster. I have been told that everyone has agreed to this reform.

After the reforms have been approved by the Extraordinary Chapter General, there will be a Council Complete of State to elect a Grandmaster. I am hopeful that Frá John will be elected as Grandmaster for life at that time.

It has always been Cardinal Tomasi's plan to complete this process as quickly as possible and with Frá John's appointment I am confident that it will be completed soon. I would expect the reforms to be passed and a new Grandmaster be elected by the Fall 2022.

The position of Lieutenant of the Grandmaster is a temporary position that, according to our current constitution, should last only a year. However, the Pope extended the term of the previous Lieutenant of the Grandmaster so he might also extend Frá John's term if necessary.

Please keep Frá John, the Sovereign Council, and the entire Order in your prayers as the work of finalizing the reform continues. I recommend and request that we all start or continue saying the Prayer of Intercession for the Sovereign Order of Malta, written by the Prelate of the Order, Bishop Jean Laffitte, Titular Bishop of Entrevaux. We can add it to our recitation of the Daily Prayer of the Order. A Prayer Card with both prayers is included in the mailing envelope with this issue of the Hospitallers.

At the May meeting of the Board of Councillors, all seventy applications for admission were approved and sent immediately to Rome. On June 2nd, the Sovereign Council completed the process by electing the thirty-nine men and thirty-one women to be Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta. Congratulations! We look forward to the Investiture at Saint Patrick's Cathedral on November 18th.

On another note, we completed a two-day leadership conference in Detroit, Michigan, on June 9th and 10th. There were over 50 leaders from our areas in attendance. Robert and Barbara Wilson, Michigan Area Chairs, did a wonderful job hosting us and the meeting was considered a success by all who attended. There were many ideas and best practices shared enthusiastically during the panel discussions. Peter Bewley, Association Secretary and Chair of the Area Support and Development Committee, organized the meeting and picked great people to lead and participate in the panel discussions.

We are excited to be returning to Wisconsin for our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, after missing the last 2 years. There will be over 300 people attending from the three US Associations — the Pilgrimage is scheduled for August 4th to August 7th.

Shortly after the pilgrimage, we will finally be taking our cruise to Malta with Cardinal Dolan. So we have a busy summer ahead of us and I look forward to seeing many of you!

I cannot fully express the joy that I and many of our members are feeling as we gather together in prayer, in service and in fellowship. The time apart has been very challenging; while we will always be cognizant of the safety of our members, we also recognize that the soul and the spirit require that we join together.

May God bless you and all that you do,

Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM  
President

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## Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry Off to a Great Start in 2022

**A**t the Board of Councillors Meeting on September 22, 2021, President Peter J. Kelly, MD, GCM, announced the funding of a new official Association ministry to fight against human trafficking. The Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry, led by Deborah O'Hara-Rusckowski, RN, DM, fulfills one of the key initiatives President Kelly had challenged the American Association to develop upon beginning his role as president in 2018.

### WHY THIS ISSUE NOW?

It is estimated that there are approximately 40 million people worldwide who are currently being trafficked. Deborah states, "I believe this is a gross underestimation because this statistic hasn't changed since 2018 and does not take into account the current US border crisis, Afghanistan crisis, or the tsunami of trafficked victims that will be flowing out from Eastern Europe due to the Ukrainian war. This is devastating and we need to view this with a sense of urgency."

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), there are annually about \$150 billion in illicit profits as a direct result of human trafficking. The COVID-19 pandemic only increased this horrific crime, as traffickers moved their business from the streets to social media to more easily target children and teenagers isolated at home and deprived of healthy and positive opportunities to engage with others.

As a part of the American Association's Called to Serve Capital Campaign, Deborah and her husband Stephen, made a \$250,000 donation and matching grant of \$250,000 to address the issue of human trafficking and support victims. Matching gifts and an additional generous contribution made by a prominent family foundation in the

northeast has brought the total to \$1 million. Over time, we expect to create a long-term endowment that will not only be sustainable but have the potential to replicate the model of Catholic healthcare clinics, which provide resources for victims of human trafficking and their children and help place them in safe homes.

### WHERE DO WE START?

Victims of human trafficking have unique needs to heal and recover and to do so in an environment where they are and feel safe. The focus of the Association's Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry is to make an impact on the extreme scarcity of long-term beds for victims. In *(continued on page 4)*

"The Sisters are 'the secret sauce', they are not expected to 'run' the homes, but rather to be the loving, nurturing presence the victims so badly need on their journey to become survivors."

DEBORAH O'HARA-RUSCKOWSKI, RN, DM



2019, it was reported that there were only 45 beds, not all long-term, in New England for victims of human trafficking. Many facilities are unable to house victims for more than 30-90 days, instead of the 1-2 years needed to help the victims recover and transition to living more normal lives. Sadly, victims who are placed in short-term facilities are seven times more likely to return to a life of trafficking.

Another challenge with homes for victims is that the employees who provide the daily care and companionship for the victims rapidly experience burn-out, so the average turnover rate is 4-12 staff members turning over every 6-8 months. It is a tremendous challenge for victims who then feel abandoned.

Despite these challenges, there are meaningful examples of hope. A home in Louisiana called Metanoia Manor has recruited religious Sisters from Nigeria who are experienced working with victims of human trafficking. They found that these Sisters are able to work with the victims for 1-2 years without turnover because three or four of the Sisters live in community with the victims. Their spirituality and community allow them to remain with the victims and help the victims experience continuity of care.

The Catholic Church has a huge opportunity to begin restoring the lives of hundreds of thousands caught in the horrors of trafficking. By repurposing currently empty Church-owned buildings, previously used as convents or rectories, we can offer a place of healing to so many suffering from complex trauma. Our goal should be one new safe house in every diocese.

The AVODAH Collective, a space created for women survivors of sex trafficking, families, and young people to find restoration, was awarded an American Association grant this year to help finance a new home in Massachusetts. The AVODAH Collective is based in Colorado and opened its first safe home, AVODAH Farms, in January 2022. AVODAH Farms, the Massachusetts Home, and future homes will use the Metanoia Manor model, which has 24/7 live-in religious Sisters with the residents. The AVODAH Collective is looking to establish other homes in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin.

The AVODAH Massachusetts Home will welcome up to 11 female survivors who are either pregnant or have an infant. The women will be given 24/7 care by Sisters and staff members, which includes a comprehensive program of

healing, life-skills, and other tools to help the women reintegrate into society with a deep appreciation of their dignity as children of God. This grant will help bring 24 Sisters from Nigeria to the US, support four of them in their first year as they help run the Massachusetts Home, and provide funding to hire and train three new staff members for one year. This is the first step in our fight against human trafficking.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

Training is the integral first step. President Peter Kelly and Deborah O'Hara-Rusckowski have been working with the NY Office and OnWatch, a survivor-led training program, to create an online training course for members interested in volunteering. This online course will be set up like the Year of Formation and Chaplains Formation online courses. Training will include several modules with informative videos to help prepare you to become a volunteer.

Once members complete the online training course, they can participate in a variety of activities such as furnishing and refurbishing the homes for the victims, providing transportation to doctors' appointments, and teaching basic life skills and caring for their young children. We anticipate this course to be released shortly, so please keep an eye out for an email announcement.

Volunteering at one of these homes is not, and will not, be our only means to support anti-human trafficking efforts. It is only the start. Plans are already in the works to support homes in Connecticut and Missouri. We hope to continue to award grants to homes throughout the Association's various Areas that follow Catholic principles and where our members can volunteer their efforts in providing a safe and welcoming environment for victims to heal and recover.

*If you have any questions about the Anti-Human Trafficking Ministry, please contact Deborah O'Hara-Rusckowski, RN, DM, at [deb.ohara.rusckowski@gmail.com](mailto:deb.ohara.rusckowski@gmail.com).*

“With the gift from Deb and her husband, Stephen, we can now help fund non-profit organizations that specialize in providing housing and rehabilitation for victims and abide by Catholic teachings.

We will not own these facilities or be on their Boards; we will provide only a portion of funding needed to open and to maintain the facilities, but it will demonstrate that the Order of Malta is trying to help end this terrible problem.”

PETER J. KELLY, MD, GCM



## We Are All on the Membership Committee

*by Thomas J. Reedy, KMOB, Chancellor and Admissions Committee Chair*

The American Association's Admission Committee proposed and the Board of Councillors approved seventy candidates for admission in 2022. Those seventy applications were submitted to Rome for review and approval. The Sovereign Council met in early June and approved all seventy applications.

A tremendous amount of work brought the seventy applicants to this point — work by the applicant who has been in his or her year of formation; the sponsors who accompanied the candidate on the journey and will continue to support their candidate through and beyond the Investiture in November; the Area Chairs and Area Membership Chairs who worked tirelessly to identify and assist that candidate and the sponsors where needed; the team in the New York office who supported the application used and managed and tracked each candidate throughout the year of formation.

As American Association Chancellor and Chair of the Admissions Committee, I am pleased with the results — for a class that made its way through the year of formation in the second year of the pandemic, and all seventy candidates were approved by the Admissions Committee, the Board of Councillors and the Sovereign Council was a tremendous achievement. The entire Association is looking forward to the Investiture Mass where all seventy Knights and Dames will stand and make the commitment to follow Blessed Gerard in serving the sick and the poor on their path to greater sanctity.

Every Knight and Dame is a member of the Membership Committee. In your life and activities, you have the opportunity to identify and sponsor potential members who would meet the requirements of membership and would benefit from the unique spirituality that the Order offers to those who answer the call to service among the Knights and Dames of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. The locations are numerous: in your parish, next to you at a soup kitchen, marching along with like-minded people in the Pilgrimage for Life, driving with you to a prison to share the Word of God with prisoners. As a member of a 900-year-old lay religious Order, you have the benefits of a unique charism from which many Catholics could benefit. You know them but you may never have made the connection.

As you participate in the activities of your life, you can look at the people who work with you and identify those who might fit well in the Order. Speak to them about the Order; talk to them about the activities in your Area and in the Association. Invite them to any recruiting activities your Area may be sponsoring. Ask the Area Chair and/or Area Membership Chair to join you at lunch with the potential candidate.

One of the most important 'recruiting activities' every member can undertake is to pray for vocations to the Order. Do what you can — don't leave it to the others — you may be the only one to recruit that person next to you at the food bank. When you join your candidate at the 2023 Investiture, you will experience the joy and satisfaction of sharing the spiritual path you have found.





## Frá John Dunlap Appointed Lieutenant of the Grand Master

*(continued from cover)*

the Pope, and concelebrated by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, Dean of the College of Cardinals, and Monsignor Jean Laffitte, Prelate of the Order of Malta.

Recalling the deceased's kindness and sincere goodness of spirit, his frank smile and direct gaze, Cardinal Tomasi in his homily highlighted how 'Frá Marco loved Jesus, the Church and the Order.'

After the solemn funeral of Frá Marco Luzzago, Frá John Dunlap took the oath of office and assumed the full role and responsibility of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Order of Malta.

### THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM A STATEMENT PUBLISHED ON THE ORDER'S WEBSITE IN ROME:

*"In his letter of appointment, Pope Francis states that 'the sudden departure of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Frá Marco Luzzago, a few months before the celebration of the Extraordinary Chapter General, brings the Order of Malta to a new moment of dismay and uncertainty. Pope Francis' decision will allow the Order of Malta to accelerate the reform process and return to an ordinary administration under a Grand Master soon afterwards. The Order of Malta is grateful to the Holy Father for his paternal solicitude. The new Lieutenant of the Grand Master together with the Pope's Special Delegate and the Sovereign Council will continue*

*the process of constitutional reform of the Sovereign Order of Malta.*

*In 1986, Frá Dunlap joined the law firm of Dunnington, Bartholow & Miller in New York, becoming a partner in 1993. He specialised in corporate and immigration law. An internationally respected lawyer, he is since 1997 a legal advisor to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations.*

*Admitted to the Order of Malta in 1996, he took temporary vows as a Knight of Justice in 2004. In 2006, he was elected first Regent (religious superior), of the Sub-Priory of Our Lady of Lourdes, based in New York. On June 7th, 2008, he took his solemn vows as the first American member.*

*In 2009, Dunlap was elected for a five-year term as a member of the Sovereign Council. He was re-elected for another five-year term by the Chapter General — the Order's elective body — in 2014 and 2019."*

Frá John Dunlap is the first North American to hold the position of Lieutenant of the Grand Master. As the Pope said, the Order will be advancing the reforms that have been in process for several years. Frá John Dunlap will play an important role in helping to advance the process.

There may be nothing more important that the members of the Order can do for the new Lieutenant of the Grand Master than praying for him, for the work of the reform and for the Order.

*For more information on the appointment of Frá John Dunlap and the death and funeral of Frá Marco Luzzago, visit the Order's website at [www.orderofmalta.int/](http://www.orderofmalta.int/)*





## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

Lord, our God, we thank You for our family of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, and we bless You for calling us to be a part of it. Following the example of all those who have gone before us, give us the courage to give witness to the faith of the Church, and to serve our brothers, our lords, the Sick and the Poor, with a generous heart. Today we entrust to You those who have received the mission of leading our Order, and especially in the present time, all those who strive to cooperate in the Reform to which we have been called by the maternal solicitude of Your Holy Church.

Lord, God of mercy and of kindness, look tenderly upon your children, as they turn to You to receive the Gift of Your Wisdom. Grant them Prudence and Counsel through the Gift of Your Holy Spirit. Give them the spirit of intelligence, of truth and of peace. May they work under Your watchful care with humility, in a spirit of service and of purity of heart. May their only intent be to do Your holy Will; and, excluding all attitudes of a partisan kind, may they work with the sole desire of deepening the charisms which Your kindness has showered upon our family.

We ask this through the intercession of Our Lady of Philermos, our Holy Patron Saint John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard our Founder, and all the Saints and Blessed of our Order.

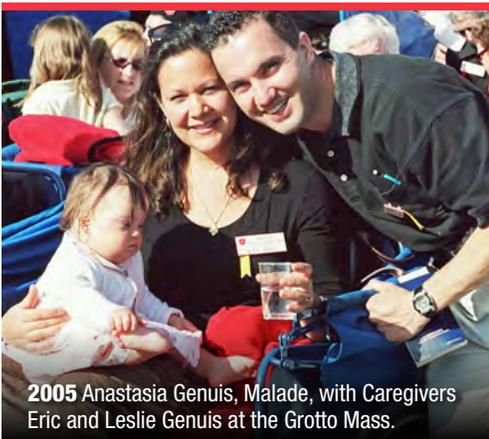
Amen.



The year 2022 marks the 64th anniversary of the Order of Malta's first pilgrimage to Lourdes and the 164th anniversary of the apparitions. As we eagerly await our return to our beloved Lourdes Pilgrimage, we hope you enjoy a look back at the Association's pilgrimages over the years.



**2004** Robert Tanzola, KMOB, Karen Tanzola, DMOB, Mary McCooley, GCDM, Maryann O'Rourke, DM, Peggy Lyons, DMOB, and Dennis Perry, KM, with Ross Perry, Malade.



**2005** Anastasia Genuis, Malade, with Caregivers Eric and Leslie Genuis at the Grotto Mass.



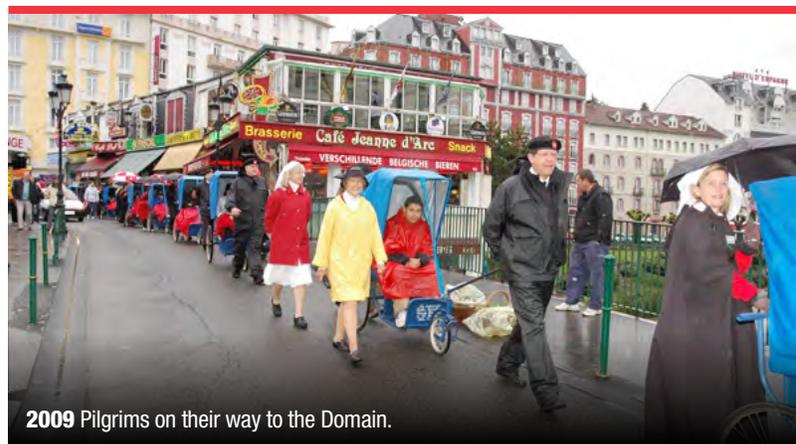
**2006** Rory Kelleher, KMOB, the Most Rev. William F. Murphy, ChC, and Camille Kelleher, DMOB.



**2007** Michele Pecora, DM, and Joan Stout, RN, DM, bring Edmond Saliba, Malade, through the Grotto for this first time.



**2008** Roger Jean Charles, MD, KM, Peggy Dillmeier, DM, and Gregory Oussani, KM, with Carmen Gomez, Malade, and Brunilda Rua, Caregiver.



**2009** Pilgrims on their way to the Domain.



**2010** Ann Peabody, GCM, at the Candlelight Procession.



**2011** James O'Connor, GCMOB, waves to the camera.





2012 Mike Donoghue, KM, escorting Luke Dillon, Malade, along the Footsteps of Bernadette tour.



2013 Knights and Dames lead the Candlelight Procession.



2014 Danny Lam, AUX, escorting Monica Darvish, Malade, back to the hotel after Mass.



2015 Rev. Ian Jeremiah, ChM, and the Most Rev. Frank Caggiano, ChC, anoint a Dame during the Anointing of the Sick.



2016 Pilgrims attending Mass at the Grotto.



2017 Kirk Babyak, KM, and Jack Pohrer, GCM, help direct pilgrims as they process back from the Domain.



2019 Zoe Nguyen, Malade, plays the violin during Mass at the Grotto.



2018 Peggy Stanton, DM, Cissie Ix, GCDM, Hope Carter, GCMOb, and Margaret Melady, DMOB, seated at the Grotto Mass.



## CALLED TO SERVE SECURING OUR LEGACY OF CARE FOR THE SICK AND THE POOR A Campaign for the Order of Malta, American Association

As we continue through the summer months, we are grateful to be able to report that the Capital Campaign is making great progress, thanks to a lot of hard work by a lot of people and the unprecedented generosity of our members around the country.

What we are finding is a consistent attitude of love toward the spirituality of the Order, a commitment to its charism of serving the sick and the poor and giving witness to the faith, and a sincere appreciation for being able to walk the path of Blessed Gerard with other Knights and Dames committed to the same goals. We also found a pervasive interest in ensuring the legacy of what we are so that what we do will go on long after we do.

With that work completed, in May, we were able to present a case to the Board of Councillors and to the Boards of the Pilgrimage Foundation and the Malta Human Services Foundation that a capital campaign of \$20 million could be successful and obtain the authorization to formally begin the public phase of the Capital Campaign. Remember, we are looking to raise \$7 million to fund our Pilgrimage Foundation to fully underwrite sending malades and caregivers to Lourdes on Pilgrimage in perpetuity. Further, we are raising \$13 million to double our Malta Human Services Foundation which enables the local works in your area.

Most successful capital campaigns begin in earnest with a silent phase, a critical period where the case is refined, the story is told, and key members of the organization are solicited. Our silent phase ran from September 2020 through May 2022 and has yielded remarkable results.

As we continue to transition this summer to the Area Engagement Phase, we will build on the one hundred fifty-four households or Foundations who have contributed pledges totaling over \$14.5 million. This is over 70% of our total campaign goal. We are pleased at the level of commitment we have received from families we have met; we are grateful that several Foundations have felt that our story was authentic — we were able to secure significant grants for the campaign from them.

Since we started working on the campaign, it has been our contention that the Association, its collective of dedicated and generous Knights and Dames, has a great story to tell — we have said, with evidence that continues to confirm it, that all we have to do is tell the story. It is a story of lived faith, a story of a dedicated group of people following in the tradition of a nine-hundred-year-old lay religious Order. It is the story of walking the streets to feed the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the sick, proclaiming and protecting the value of life, pulling a Malade in Lourdes or sharing a Bible with a man behind bars. It is your story — the story of Knights and Dames on a journey, reaching out to live the Beatitudes.

In the Fall, this campaign will open its public phase. At that point, we will be formally asking you to make a pledge to the campaign. Generous members have opened their homes or their clubs to have a serious chat with small groups of members, discussing how we can build on what you are doing now and secure your legacy of care for the sick and the poor.

We have been to Long Island, Vero Beach (by Zoom), Green Bay and Connecticut once already and have been at least twice to New York City, New Jersey, Boston, Naples, Saint Louis, Southeast Florida and Detroit. We have spoken to large groups and to small gatherings; on the phone, on Zoom and face to face. We spoke at the Investiture. These conversations are very important. Over the summer, we will continue to have small gatherings with twenty to thirty people. The story is always the same — We Are Called To Serve. It is a simple story of commitment and legacy.

And to be honest, we cannot wait to tell the story to you in your Area. Look for us in a location near you in the Fall!

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



## Awaiting Our Return to Champion...



As you read this newsletter, the 2022 Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is nearly sold out. Knights, Dames, Chaplains, Associates, Auxiliary, Candidates, family, and friends will travel from across the country to the only Marian apparition in the United States approved by the Catholic Church on our first in-person Pilgrimage in over 2 years.

A reunion of sorts, pilgrims will gather together from August 4th — 7th to attend Mass, the Sacraments, a Rosary Procession, talks, dinners, fellowship, and more in Champion, Wisconsin, a small, unincorporated community in Brown County, Wisconsin, United States, just 15 miles outside of the City of Green Bay. If you've attended the Wisconsin Pilgrimage before, you remember the smell of fresh air and overwhelming sense of peace when you first stepped foot off the bus and onto the grounds of the Shrine. With endless rows of corn on either side and the beautiful Shrine straight ahead, Our Lady of Good Help calls each of us there with a purpose, as she did with Adele Brise over 160 years ago.

After Adele Brise, a young Belgian immigrant, witnessed the Blessed Mother through a series of apparitions in October of 1859, she would soon devote the rest of her life to fulfilling the mission of the "Queen of Heaven who prays for the conversion of sinners". This mission was to teach the Catholic faith to "the children in the wild country". Empowered by this message, Adele started out traveling from house to house, offering families to do housework in exchange for time to teach their children about the faith.

This travel soon led to the founding of St. Mary's Boarding Academy near the site of the apparitions, which is located next to the current chapel at the Shrine. A miraculous event occurred in 1871 during the Great Peshtigo Fire, where locals gathered with Adele at the chapel to pray for relief from the fire. While this is known to be the most devastating forest fire in American history, claiming over 1,200 lives and scorching over one million acres, the Shrine's grounds and buildings were astonishingly left untouched, as their prayers were answered with a night of rain.

In 1885, Adele would orchestrate the building of a school, a chapel and a convent with the help of the local Belgian community. For the next 150 years and continuing today, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help has been the source of many spiritual and physical healings, reminding all of the Blessed Mother's original message to Adele. She devoted the rest of her life to the Queen of Heaven, all the way until her death in 1896. Her work lives on through the Shrine — you can see the site of her burial when you visit — as pilgrims travel from around the world in search of physical healing, spiritual healing, or a moment of peace.

If you have not been on one of the earlier pilgrimages to the Shrine, what can you expect? This 4-day retreat-like pilgrimage provides the perfect opportunity to reflect and reset on a spiritual level. Not only may you leave with a sense of spiritual enrichment, but a sense of joy and camaraderie as you experience this special pilgrimage with members from all three of the US Associations of the Order of Malta. You'll join for the opening Mass at the Cathedral in Green Bay. You'll travel to the National Shrine of St. Joseph for the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. You'll file into the pews of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, sitting side by side, American, Federal, and Western, before walking the grounds for the Rosary Procession. And you'll spend time with friends, old and new, over breakfasts, lunches, and dinners each day.

If this isn't your first Wisconsin Pilgrimage, what are you looking forward to the most? Is it the familiar faces of fellow Knights and Dames you'll reconnect with? Or the welcoming feeling when you arrive at the Shrine and spend time reflecting in the special kind of quiet of a shrine on farmland? New or returning pilgrims alike will all leave this pilgrimage feeling refreshed after spending a long weekend with Our Lord and the Blessed Mother. The lifelong legacy of Adele Brise is felt throughout the entire pilgrimage as we remember the Blessed Mother's instruction to "Go and fear nothing, I will help you."

*For more information about the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help, visit the American Association website at [www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/annual-pilgrimage-national-shrine-lady-good-help/](http://www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/spirituality-in-action/annual-pilgrimage-national-shrine-lady-good-help/). For information on the Shrine, visit: [www.championshrine.org/](http://www.championshrine.org/)*





## Lest We Forget Bethlehem

By Ambassador Michele Burke Bowe

In his recent remarks, His Beatitude Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa said, “the Church is not only European, the Church is universal, and we must find a common and shared language for all”. I believe this language is that of Caritas, true Christian Charity meaning love. This love or true Christian Charity persists today where our Order was founded serving the sick and the poor. Just a few miles away from our first hospital in Jerusalem where Fra’ Gerard and the Hospitallers served the sick and the poor, Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem delivers and cares for babies as small as one pound. In the spirit of true charity, our Catholic teaching Hospital continues the work of Fra’ Gerard offering hope and medical treatment to the forgotten of Bethlehem; that is older women, families in isolated Bedouin villages, refugees and those who risk losing hope due to the persisting economic crisis in Bethlehem. Holy Family Hospital offers hope through employment, new life and restored health and dignity without regard to need or creed.

The eyes of the world are locked on the Ukraine and Eastern Europe. The humanitarian and economic needs

of this region are growing. Further East, the town of Bethlehem is being forgotten as it slips into a persistent poverty. Pregnant women are arriving in labor without having eaten and with little prenatal care. Their babies are born with complications and low birth weights. Women are arriving with gynecological cancers already in stage III or IV because they have delayed care.

The NICU runs full, often with extra bassinets or incubators pulled in to care for an additional two to four fragile newborns. The babies stay longer and require more complicated procedures. Despite the extra work, the staff remains dedicated in their efforts to focus on each individual patient to provide the best care and to restore dignity to families, especially the fathers who are no longer employed.

While the rest of the world has begun to travel, go to gatherings and dine in restaurants, few pilgrimages have returned to Bethlehem. The hotels remain largely shuttered and many restaurants and businesses have failed. Those in the industry are now waiting for hope to arrive in spring 2023. They wonder if they can hold out that long with almost no income. The government does not have its own currency and must rent the Israeli Shekel, which they cannot print to issue stimulus checks for families in need. There are no safety nets.

A grandfather came recently to the NICU head bowed and hands behind his back. He explained he was there on

behalf of his son, somberly and tearfully stating theirs was a poor family and they couldn’t possibly afford the specialized care of the NICU for his tiny grandson. He was unemployed, struggling to feed his family and medical care was a luxury far out of reach. He asked to take the baby home that day knowing his chances for survival were little to none. When we told him about the social work office and the sliding scale fees, his eyes widened, filled with tears and he could not stop blessing us. He grew at least 4 inches as he left the NICU to see Mary, our head social worker, in the company of a reassuring Neonatologist. You see his grandson was on a respirator without which he would have surely died. This is a beautiful example of Caritas which flows through the halls of Holy Family Hospital each day. It is care for the whole family- restoring both health and dignity.

We must not forget Bethlehem. The small town which had no room at the inn is struggling. Beggars are becoming commonplace in the streets. A new class of people has arisen which has never been seen before, it is the urban Christian. While the rest of the world focuses on Gaza, Eastern Europe and Russia, Bethlehem is suffering. The Christian community is planning its emigration. This economic crisis seems to be endless.

At this time of greatest need, Holy Family Hospital stands firm as a beacon of hope offering top quality employment, training and unique advancement possibilities. The staff continues to receive those in need with open arms to deliver life, peace and hope. Holy Family Hospital embodies our 900-year-old commitment of the best for the poor and welcome arms for all without regard for need or creed. Our Hospital helps to keep Christians in the Holy Land. ■

*Help us remember Bethlehem by sharing the “good news.” Holy Family Hospital Foundation is grateful for your prayers and for your continued generosity. For more information on the hospital and its work, please visit our website at <https://birthplaceofhope.org/>*

## Retreats: Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why



**The facts:** The American Association is again offering retreats for members and candidates in formation in the fall and in the late winter/ early spring.

**WHAT, WHEN and WHERE:** The Fall 2022 Retreat will run from late Friday afternoon, September 23rd to Sunday morning, September 25th at the Betania II Spiritual Retreat & Conference Center in Medway, MA. The Retreat Master will be Father Eric Hollas, OSB.

Fr. Eric is a Benedictine monk and priest of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, MN. Born in Oklahoma City, he received his B.A. in history at Princeton University. Following seminary studies at Saint John's University (MN), he received the Ph.D. in medieval studies at Yale University.

Since 1980, he has been a member of the faculty and staff of Saint John's University (MN), and for nine years served as executive director of the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library. For 40+ years, that library has worked to preserve the archives of the Order of Malta; and, today it is the largest such resource on the history of the Order outside of Malta. Fr. Eric was also instrumental in initiating The Saint John's Bible, a project in which the monks of Saint John's Abbey commissioned Donald Jackson, scribe to the Queen of England, to create a hand-written and illuminated Bible.

Fr. Eric serves as a conventual chaplain ad honorem in the Western Association of the Order of Malta and is the chief chaplain of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Philermo. He is in the tenth year of writing a weekly blog, which can be found at monkschronicle.wordpress.com.

The theme Father Hollas has chosen for the Fall Retreat is "Tuitio Fidei." When you consider the topic, you probably should consider attending the retreat.

The Winter/Spring 2023 Retreat will run from late Friday afternoon, February 24th to Sunday morning, February 26th. The retreat will be held at the Bethany Retreat Center in Lutz, Florida.

**WHO, WHY:** Part of the answer about the "who" of retreats has to come from you. Participating in an Annual Retreat is called out in the Regulations and Commentary in a section called REGULATIONS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE THIRD CLASS: "To participate yearly at a retreat aimed at deepening the inner spiritual life... This also

provides for a good occasion to reflect on and examine, whether the Membership in the Order is given enough importance shaping one's life."

Not every member can attend an Association retreat every year. Space limitations alone would preclude that from happening. On the other hand, an Association Retreat offers some advantages of the three S's: Spirituality, Service and Social aspects. Spirituality and camaraderie are both essential components of an Association retreat. World-class retreat masters who know, understand, and support the Order, bring messages that help members to grow spiritually. The social aspects of a retreat unfold as Knights, Dames, and Year of Formation candidates gather to pray, listen, shares meals and social gatherings.

With time in the schedule for Stations, the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass each day, morning and evening prayers and quiet meditation, a retreat presents an important opportunity to ground oneself in the spiritual nature of the Order and to focus on one's personal commitment to the path of Blessed Gerard. The answer to the "Who?" should be you! Just to be clear, while not everyone can go to a retreat, there has never been a waiting list — as they say, there is always room for one more — that one could be you. After more than two years of pandemic cancellations, you might need a retreat now more than ever.

Some Areas offer retreats; most offer days of reflection, usually during the Advent and Lenten seasons. While parishes and other organizations offer wonderful retreats, the opportunity to attend a retreat or day of reflection based on the unique spirituality of the Order offers a special experience that can help you focus on the vocation for which the Lord Jesus has seen fit to enlist you. How is that going, anyway? Could a few days without normal distractions provide an opportunity to re-charge your commitment?

**HOW:** This is the easy part. Visit the American Association's website at [www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/member-retreats/](http://www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/members/member-retreats/) and click the link on the home page to register for the next retreat. We are accepting reservations through Friday, August 19th. You will not regret giving this time to yourself and to the Lord.



Ambassador Beresford-Hill meets with elders of the Bab al Salam refugee camp



Ambassador Beresford-Hill visits a Turkish school for Syrian refugee children

## Order of Malta's UN Ambassador Visits Hospital and Refugee Camp in Syria During Visit to Turkey

In early March, H.E. Ambassador Paul Beresford-Hill was invited to speak at the Eurasian Higher Education Summit in Istanbul, Turkey. His topic was the response of higher education to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. While he was in Turkey, he undertook two important activities on behalf of the Sovereign Order of Malta. One was an audience with His All Holiness, Bartholomew 1st, Patriarch of Constantinople-New Rome and leader of the global Orthodox Church. The other was a visit, firstly to a center for the education of Syrian refugees in the town of Kilis in southern Turkey, and then across the Syrian border to visit a hospital operated under the auspices of the Syrian Independent Doctor's Association (IDA), which is supported by Malteser International, the crisis response arm of the Order of Malta. Following his time at the hospital, he then visited a nearby refugee camp inside Turkish occupied Syria, operated independently by the refugee community. In addition, Dr. Beresford-Hill also visited two Turkish refugee centers, one in Istanbul which provides support for newly arrived Afghan refugees. According to the Director's sources, it is estimated that at this point, the influx had reached almost half a million refugees from Afghanistan.

Additionally, the Ambassador visited the International Blue Crescent refugee and training center and school in Kilis.

### **SPEAKING OF HIS VISIT WITH THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH, AMBASSADOR BERESFORD-HILL NOTED:**

*'His All Holiness is an inspiring and humble servant of God, a true religious leader who has forged a strong and enduring relationship with our Holy Father, Pope Francis. We spoke of the aspirational unity between our communions, something that both leaders are totally committed to. Our conversation also touched on the humanitarian issues involved in refugee assistance, both in Turkey and in Ukraine, where the Patriarch recently recognized the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, much to the chagrin of the Russian Patriarch Kiril. Patriarch Bartholomew, who has lived in Rome for many years when he was studying theology at the Oriental College there, was very familiar with the work of the Sovereign Order of Malta and, at the end of the audience, he gave his blessing to the work of the Order and to its mission of service to the sick and the poor.'*

### **IN RESPECT OF HIS VISIT TO THE HOSPITAL AND REFUGEE CAMP, THE AMBASSADOR HAD THIS TO SAY:**

*'Sitting in at the United Nations, either in the General Assembly, or during conferences and meetings, it is one thing to discuss the plight of refugees, their care and the necessity of medical support and assistance in war torn areas of the world, but those deliberations take on an entirely different tone when you have seen at first hand the privation and suffering, along with the enormous sacrifice of those who both endure and those who serve. My visit to Bar al Salam inside Syria, in an area recently liberated by the Turkish military from the control of ISIS, was indeed an eyeopener. The hospital, a former warehouse, which has been extensively converted and renovated to serve a population mass*

of 1.2 million people, was relatively quiet, as my tour coincided with the Moslem holy day. My visit took over 4 hours and I was fortunate to talk to Syrian doctors and medics, many of them educated in the West, who do an absolutely fantastic job in bringing to those who are literally 'left behind' the best medical care and support they can, supported by the Sovereign Order of Malta, UNICEF, the German government aid agency and other supporting bodies. Our involvement there is overseen by Malteser International, who provide medicines and essential supplies, medical equipment and a level of support that the people need to ensure not only good health, but also hope. The thing that struck me most was the amount of love and deeply rooted care that everyone exhibited when talking about their patients, particularly the children and babies in the pediatric wards and the neo-natal center.

While power for the hospital is provided by the Turkish government, it is local aid agencies that pay the expenses and support the work of the medics, doctors, nurses, aides and administrative staff, that keep the center going. The Syrian 'Independent Doctors Association' was founded by a group of medics who had been forced to leave their medical work in and around Aleppo, when it was heavily bombed and almost destroyed by Russian attacks. Unwilling or unable to re-qualify in Turkey, many of them chose to continue working for the Syrian people in safe and liberated areas of the country and managed to find support and encouragement from both the UN and from organizations like Malteser International which, in addition to the hospital, also supports mobile clinics and other health centers in north-west Syria.

The refugee camp, only a short distance from the hospital, filled with over 10,000 refugees, many of them long term residents who had settled there after the destruction of Aleppo, had a distinct character. It comprised a combination of the elderly and the young — the older residents resigned to a life that seemed to offer little in the way of transition to something better, the young, as always, with

hope and aspiration and with the youthful excitement you would find anywhere, especially when strangers came to visit, with candies and small gifts. The mud roads and pathways led to an almost endless vista of tents and shanty homes, inhabited by many generations of one family, crowded together. I was greeted by one elderly lady who lived in a tent which had seen better days, its framing warped and broken in places. It had rained heavily the day before, and there was an unmistakable smell of mold and decay as I stepped into the living area that was still soggy with water, buckets put there to catch rain still unemptied. Her husband, a paraplegic, had been injured by a land mine some years prior and had been a patient at the hospital. The doctor who accompanied me, and who had been treating the elderly man, revealed that he had come back to his family to die. And while he could barely lift his hand in greeting, he seemed thrilled that someone from outside had come to acknowledge his existence, inquire about him, smile with him. There was hope all around me, but it was flickering, easy to extinguish, until re-kindled by those who continue to provide support and encouragement and who selflessly dedicate themselves to the service of Our Lords the sick and the poor.'

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During his visit to Kilis, Gazantheip and Bab al Salam, Ambassador Beresford-Hill was accompanied by Mr. Daniel del Valle Blanco, Attache for Political and Youth Affairs at the Mission in New York. The visit there was coordinated by Ms. Janine Lietmeyer, Malteser International Head of the Regional Group Middle East. Ms. Lietmeyer led the delegation, and Ambassador Beresford Hill particularly gives his thanks to her, and also to Dr. Mahmoud Mustafa, the General Director of the Independent Doctors Association, which manages and administers the hospital, along with Dr. Mustafa's team of incredibly dedicated professionals. ■



Ambassador Beresford-Hill with Ms. Janine Lietmeyer Mr. Del valle Blanco, Dr. Mahmoud Mustafa and members of the hospital medical team



Ambassador Beresford-Hill with His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew Ist of Constantinople-New Rome



Ambassador Beresford-Hill with Professor Mustafa Aydin, President of Aydin University, Istanbul, host of the Eurasia Higher Education Summit



## Malteser International Americas Board Members Visit Operations in Colombia

In early March, members of the Board of Directors of Malteser International Americas (MIA), including Marissa del Rosario-Blackett, DM, and Camille Kelleher, DMOB, of the American Association, visited a number of MIA's operations in the northeast Colombia provinces of Magdalena and La Guajira. This area has some of the country's most beautiful geography; but, these are also two of the poorest regions of Colombia. The landscape at the coast gives way to a very arid reality beyond the city of Riohacha, the headquarters of MIA's humanitarian efforts in Colombia, and is less than an hour's drive from the official Venezuelan border.

Since 2017, more than 6 million people have crossed from Venezuela into Colombia, fleeing a severe dictatorial government and extreme poverty, with most travelling on foot by way of over 180 unofficial crossings. MI Americas has been there almost from the beginning, providing increasing levels of humanitarian relief and assistance as the number of migrants has grown.

MIA's mission in Colombia has 3 primary goals: promote primary health care services, improved nutrition, and food security; provide access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene; and create and operate programs which help people secure their livelihoods and earn an income, making them less vulnerable and reducing structural poverty.

Below are the impressions of MIA's projects, as recounted by Marissa and Camille.

### *Mangroves: An Eco-friendly Initiative to Combat Food Insecurity*

*By Marissa del Rosario-Blackett, DM*

As I entered a mangrove nursery during a visit to one of MIA's projects, a very pregnant woman, Maricel, welcomed me and my fellow visitors with a sign that said "Cultivando Vida" — cultivating life. I had to do a double take — Wait! Was she talking about herself or something else? Well, as it turns out, it was a mission statement!

Maricel is one of 22 women heads of household who cultivate over 3,000 mangrove seedlings in nurseries in Tasajera. Their mission, together with many other families in Santa Marta, is to rejuvenate a food source that was decimated by the deforestation caused by the construction of a highway — a project which destroyed 90% of the mangrove plants over hundreds of square kilometers and caused massive ecological destruction.

In the face of this challenge, MIA has joined with a lo-

cal partner, Asociación de Biólogos de la Universidad del Atlántico, to assist the community in reviving the mangroves, the broad variety of species they support, and the environmental benefits they generate: carbon capture, coastal defense, and water filtration. Mangroves are coastal trees that grow in saline environments where fresh and saltwater bodies meet. It creates an ecosystem which 80% of the local marine species depend on to flourish, making them one of the most productive ecological systems in the world. Their roots release aquaculture food for fish, which in turn provide a source of food and livelihood for thousands of people.

Maricel and her group of women volunteers brought us to see their nurseries which were adjacent to their humble abodes. They spoke about how their entire families participate, as well as the importance of educating their children on the value of mangroves, raising environmental awareness even among the youngest. For me, the message I took away most vividly was the strong sense of empowerment and the community cohesion that the program has engendered.

The benefits of the mangrove nurseries came to full realization when we visited the mangroves at Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta, now a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Dressed to ward off mosquitos and the sun, we canoed to a breathtaking mangrove area, an area replete with fish and birds.

Back at the hotel, as I scraped off the mud from my rubber boots, I couldn't help but feel pride at the accomplishments of the women and fishermen we met during our mangrove visits at Santa Marta. They were our lords, the poor, but they were filled with profound gratitude for MIA's development work. Our program has provided them a sustainable source of livelihood and a life of hope and dignity.

## Dignity and Hope

By Camille M. Kelleher, DMOB

Having read many of the reports of MIA's projects in Latin America, I thought I knew what to expect when visiting the MIA project sites near Riohacha. To some extent, I was right. The Pre-natal Care Clinic, which MIA operates within a well-established local health care provider, was immaculate, efficient, and busy. We met with Venezuelan refugee mothers served by our clinic who had delivered happy and healthy babies and were extremely grateful for the pre and post-natal care that would not have been available without MIA. Equally impressive was the Mental Health Clinic, the first of its kind in Riohacha. Set up in a repurposed school building, with co-funding from the US government, the site offers consultations and medications.

It was when we went out into the field, in some cases literally the desert, to visit local communities that I encountered the unexpected situations which left a lasting impression!

In La Lucha, a peri-urban multi-ethnic (Colombian, Venezuelan, and indigenous Wayuu) community, we visited one of MIA's roving medical clinics. These units come to areas every 6-7 weeks to provide primary health care and medications, principally for malnourished children and pregnant mothers. The team has also trained members in the local community to be Focal Points, able to identify potential health situations and communicate important information to their community. Equally important, the clinic assists the displaced population register for recognition by the Colombian government. It takes two years to

*(continued on page 17)*



A Decimated Mangrove



Community Nursery in Tasajera



Mangroves in Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta



*Distribution of Nourishing Foods*



*A Focal Point Rep (in blue)*



*A Medical Consultation*



*A home that is built largely of plastic and poles sits next to an existing building*



*Presenting a Housewarming Gift to Our Hostess*



*Meeting with Mother of a Malnourished Child*

complete the paperwork; but, without it, people cannot legally work, apply for benefits, or even attend university. We spoke with a young man who had served as a Focal Point and was close to completing the 2-year documentation process; he is excitedly looking forward to furthering his education!

The housing conditions of the refugees were quite difficult. We chatted with a family who had set up a dwelling on property adjacent to someone else's house, with the owner's permission. The structure was little more than a hut, constructed of scavenged materials and housing a family of 6. Nearby was a water tank built by MIA, with funding support from USAID, to provide the community with safe drinking water, along with the safe storage kits MIA has provided. Yet, the people of La Lucha seemed happy and hopeful.

Hopefulness was evident as well in El Pasito, a community of indigenous Wayuu people. Truly in a barren wasteland with no official roads, this Colombian Wayuu community had welcomed their Venezuelan refugee Wayuu brethren to their village, despite the resulting overcrowded conditions. Recognizing the tensions created by overcrowding, MIA stepped in to build new housing for the migrants and repair existing housing for the original inhabitants.

We were welcomed to El Pasito by the community's elder spokesman and participated in a "town hall" meeting with the community to learn more about each other. MIA was thanked for its efforts and encouraged to continue to find ways to assist the Wayuu. MIA, in partnership with a local contractor, has built 20 new homes (at a cost of \$4,000 each) and repaired 20; another 20 new and 20 repaired houses are planned near term. In keeping with local traditions, the houses are one room. Existing Wayuu housing has only a door and no windows; the new housing incorporates both windows for ventilation and a covered patio for a kitchen. With funding from USAID, MIA has also built water tanks in the community and implemented its WASH program aimed at preventing COVID-19 and promoting clean water, hygiene, handwashing, and safe water storage.

As a woman with 2 children proudly invited us into her new home, I saw a sparsely furnished room with two hammocks suspended from the ceiling and mats on the floor for the children. On the patio, there was a simple space for cooking and washing up. The true sign that this was a happy home, though, was the drawing on the wall of 2 Paw Patrol characters from our grandsons' favorite cartoon!

## ■ IN MEMORIAM

Finally, we traveled to Barrio Milagro de Dios, an informal settlement of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. It consists of an encampment of squatters on private land. Housing is little more than shacks constructed of whatever is available, built cheek by jowl, and often housing 3-4 families in a single room. Such conditions foster crime, often violent, but all was peaceful on the day of our visit. Unlike settlements I have seen in Soweto and in the slums of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, the residents here seemed to take pride in their surroundings. The camp appeared clean with no trash scattered about.

Here, we met with mothers whose young children had been treated for malnutrition by MIA's medical brigades and learned of the challenges Malteser International Americas encounters in treating pediatric malnutrition within a larger food-insecure family. MIA's continuous support ensures full recovery of the child and includes food for the child, medical support, nutritional training of the parent, and food kits for the full family so that the therapeutic rations are reserved for the child.

MIA has achieved much here in fulfilling its mission: helping the vulnerable live a healthy life with dignity. Yet there is so much more to be done, especially to help people secure their livelihoods and earn a living. The challenge is finding the talent and funding to create economic opportunities that can provide employment for as many people as the Mangrove Project! ■

### Deceased Members: January 1, 2022 – June 16, 2022

Paul Laurence Broughton, KM	Naples, FL
John Morgan Callagy, KM	Darien, CT
Barbara Anne Dimpel, DM	Bronxville, NY
Rosemary H. Dobbin, DM	Bronxville, NY
John P. Driscoll, Jr, KM	Boston, MA
Carol Stephens Dubuque, DM	Saint Louis, MO
William M. Ellinghaus, KM	Bronxville, NY
Rev. Msgr. Peter G. Finn, ChM	Staten Island, NY
Mary Ellen Ivers, DM	Cincinnati, OH
John Edward Joyce, KM	Wellesley, MA
John V. McManmon, Jr, KM	Centerville, MA
Kenneth Sapeta, KMOB	Cold Spring, NY
Richard J. Schmeelk, KM	Lawrence, NY
Mary Judith Shaw, DM	Saint Louis, MO
Victor D. Ziminsky, Jr, KM	Pound Ridge, NY

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

### August 4-7 Wisconsin

Pilgrimage to Our Lady  
of Good Help

### August 15

Feast of the Assumption

### August 20-29

Order of Malta Cruise to Icon  
of Our Lady of Philermo

### September 8

Feast of Our Lady of Philermo

### September 14-15

Chicago, IL  
Board of Councillors Dinner  
and Board Meeting

### September 23-25 Betania

Association Retreat

### October 13

Feast of Blessed Gerard

### November 1

All Saints' Day

### November 2

All Souls' Day

### November 13

World Day of the Poor

### November 17

New York City  
Board of Councillors Meeting

### November 18 New York City

Annual Meeting, Investiture,  
Annual Dinner

### November 19

Mass for Malades, Caregivers,  
and Malades in Spirit

### November 19 New York City

Subpriory Mass

### November 24

Thanksgiving Day

### December 8

Feast of the Immaculate  
Conception

### December 25

Christmas Day

### January 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary,  
the Holy Mother of God

### January 2, 2023

Epiphany of the Lord

### January 9, 2023

Baptism of the Lord

### January 19-20, 2023

Washington, D.C.  
Pilgrimage for Life

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

On Sunday evenings at 7PM ET, there is a live Rosary conference call.

Visit our website calendar on [www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/events/](http://www.orderofmaltaamerican.org/events/) for more information regarding upcoming events



## HIGHLIGHTS

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

As the members of the Order of Malta in places around the world completed their celebrations of the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist, we looked back to the beginnings of the Order of Malta and this patron saint of our Order. 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 lead the Order of Malta to adopt Saint John as its own patron saint. 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 instructing 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 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, 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 in June. All members of the American Association are obligated to attend this feast day celebration in their Area. Instead of looking at this feast day as an “obligation,” we should 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. He led a life of discipleship, always leading people to Jesus and His teachings. Let us look to Saint John the Baptist as a source of inspiration in our spiritual lives and motivation to continue to do the work of the Lord, who led by love, every day as Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta.

*Some of this article was originally printed in the Hospitallers in the Summer of 2021.*

### 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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*Photos for this issue have been graciously provided from a variety of sources including the Holy Family Hospital Foundation, Malteser International Americas, Order of Malta Mission to the United Nations and others.*

#### 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](http://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](mailto:mail@orderofmaltaamerican.org) or call our office at (212) 371-1522 with your contact information updates.