

## ***Newsletter of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes***

**June, 2023**



### **Annual Retreat**



Members of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes and guests gathered in Malvern, PA from May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup> for its first five-day retreat in accordance with the new Constitution of the Order of Malta. Our professed members stayed on another three days to fulfill their new eight-day retreat obligation. 63 members attended, including the three Chaplains of our Subpriory: Msgr. James Watkins, Fr. Joseph Cavoto, OFM, and Fr. Timothy Brown, SJ; as well as Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB, Chaplain of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Philermos in the Western U.S.

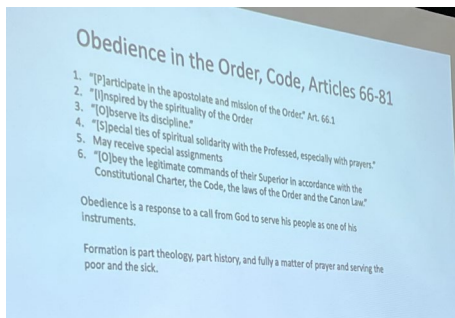
The theme of the retreat was “The Virtue in the Promised and Vowed Life.” Conference topics included “Meeting the Divinity in Silence”, “Promise of Obedience”, “Praying the Liturgy of the Hours”, “Humility: St. Benedict’s Guide to True Self Esteem” and “Pride: The Enemy of (Religious) Life.” Additional sessions included a discussion on the new Constitution and Code and a presentation by H.E. Michael Grace, KGDOb, member of the Sovereign Council and Coordinator of the Second Class, entitled: “Obedience in the Order: A Glimpse of the Future.” The latter provided some guidance on the newly introduced concept of extended formation and three periods of a three-year

“simple” Promise prior to making the final Promise of Obedience.

During lunches, in an effort to inform our members of the international works of the Order, presentations were made on the work of the Order’s Mission to the U.N. (Peter McGuire); of Malteser International Americas (Tom Wessels and Camille Kelleher); and Holy Family Hospital (Hugh Dempsey).

Our final Mass, on Trinity Sunday, concluded with a procession to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the grounds of the Malvern Retreat Center.

Many thanks to our Regent, Frà Nicola Tegoni, Msgr. Watkins, Frà Richard Wolff and Hugh Dempsey for their efforts in organizing such a stimulating retreat.



## The Passing of Frà James-Michael von Stroebel



Frà James-Michael von Stroebel, Grand Cross of Justice, and the first Professed Knight of Malta in the United States, returned to God on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, just a day before his former novice, Frà John Dunlap, was elected Grand Master of the Order. Frà James-Michael and Frà John were instrumental in the establishment of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes. Frà James-Michael also worked tirelessly in recent years to promote reforms within the Order. He lived to see most of those reforms enacted in the new Constitution of the Order.

He was a font of knowledge about the history and protocols of the Order and could always be counted upon to have an answer to any question pertaining to the Order of Malta.

His funeral Mass, celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl, BGCHD, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C., was held at St. Ann's Church. It was well attended by members of both the Federal and American Associations. Our new Grand Master, H.M.E.H. Frà John Dunlap, was present, as were the other 3 Professed Knights of the SubPriory: Frà Tom Mulligan, Frà Richard Wolff, and Frà Nicola Tegoni. Dr. Peter Kelly, GCM, President of the American Association, also attended.

During the retreat in Malvern, a Memorial Mass for Frà James-Michael was celebrated by Msgr. Watkins.

## **Member Outreach Program**

A spiritual outreach committee within the Subpriory has been established to send out Our Lady of Lourdes Mass cards to the families of recently deceased Knights and Dames of the American and Federal Associations of the Order of Malta.

Additionally, if you know of ill or aging members of the Order, especially those who may no longer be able to attend various Order of Malta activities, who might appreciate receiving an Our Lady of Lourdes prayer note card, the committee would like to be informed.

Please contact Karen Tanzola, DMOB, at [krtanzola@gmail.com](mailto:krtanzola@gmail.com) (American Association) or Kathryn Abell, GCMOB, at [kathrynabell1@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynabell1@gmail.com) (Federal Association). A committee member will follow up.