



Archbishop Sardi, new Order Patron

Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Archbishop Paolo Sardi Pro-Patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Italian, Vice Chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, since 1996 Archbishop Sardi has been Apostolic Nuncio with special responsibilities. He succeeds Cardinal Pio Laghi who died in January.

Born in 1934 in Ricaldone, province of Alessandria, Archbishop Sardi has, since the pontificate of John Paul II, coordinated the Vatican office which edits the Pope's texts and addresses.

Ordained 29 June 1958, he graduated in canon law and jurisprudence, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan and taught moral theology in Turin until 1976, when he was called to the Vatican Secretariat of State. In 1996 he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio with special responsibilities, and titular Archbishop of Sutrium.

On 6 January 1997, Pope John Paul II ordained him bishop.

He was nominated Vice Camerlengo (chamberlain) of the Church in October 2004.

As Pro-Patron, Archbishop Paolo Sardi has the task of promoting the spiritual interests of the Order of Malta and its members and its relations with the Holy See.

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing and the Sovereign Council received by Pope Benedict XVI

Centuries old bond reinforced in annual audience

In the traditional audience granted every year, on this 25 June the Grand Master referred to the spiritual, humanitarian and diplomatic activities of the Order, highlighting the strategies for the next ten years, elaborated at the Order's International Strategy Seminar in Venice in January; the ecumenical dialogue developed between the Order and the Patriarchs of Moscow and Minsk; special medical and social assistance in the Holy Land and in

Lebanon; and, closer to home, the help still provided by the Order's Italian Emergency Corps in the Abruzzo following the recent earthquakes. The Holy Father, in his reply, praised the Order's continuing activities to help the poor and the sick, exemplifying their Christian faith and charity. Following the audience, the Grand Master and the members of the Sovereign Council also met with the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone. ■



■ Vatican City: Pope Benedict XVI with Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing and the government of the Order

INSIDE ■ Order of Malta Chapter General ■ Annual worldwide celebration on St. John's Day ■ President of Czech Republic in State Visit ■ Bulgarian President Parvanov pays State Visit ■ Grand Master receives Polish President ■ Belarus President, on first European mission in 15 years ■ Work continues unabated in Abruzzo earthquake region ■ Pakistan: Problem of internally displaced persons grows ■ Lourdes pilgrimage breaks attendance records ■ Solemn vows in Lourdes ■ International Summer Camp for Young Disabled goes to Segovia ■ Budapest: 20 years after Iron Curtain falls ■

Order of Malta elections

The governing bodies for the next five years are sworn in

Early June saw the arrival in Rome of 60 international representatives of the Order, called together every five years in a Chapter General. The participants included the outgoing government and representatives of the Grand Priors, the Regents of the Sub-Priors and the elected Presidents of the 47 national Associations. Presided over by the Grand Master (whose position is for life), the Chapter General elects the members of the Sovereign Council (the government of the Order), the Government Council and the Board of Auditors, amends the Constitutional Charter and Code as appropriate, and discusses the most important issues facing the Order in the 21st century, covering spirituality, the Order's humanitarian activities and its diplomatic relations. ■

ELECTED TO THE SOVEREIGN COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 2009-2014:

Grand Commander

Fra' Gherardo Hercolani Fava
Simonetti

Grand Chancellor

Jean-Pierre Mazery

Grand Hospitaller

Albrecht von Boeselager

Receiver of the Common Treasure

Gian Luca Chiavari

Members

Fra' Carlo d'Ippolito di Sant'Ippolito
Fra' John T. Dunlap
Duncan Gallie
Emmanuel Rousseau
Antonio Sanchez-Corea, Jr.
Winfried Henckel von Donnersmarck

ELECTED TO THE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL:

Fausto Solaro del Borgo
Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas Boas
Raphaël Georges Debbané
Juan Tomás O'Naghten y Chacón
Simon Grenfell
Daniel Joseph Kelly

ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF AUDITORS:

President
Franz von Harnoncourt-Unverzagt

Members

Roberto Massi Gentiloni Silverj
Bruno de Seguins Pazzis d'Aubignan
Emanuele Emmanuele
Lancelot d'Ursel

Alternates

Stephen Diaz-Gavin
Janos Esterhazy de Galanthia

24 June: 12,500 members around the world commemorate the feast day of their patron saint, St. John Baptist

Annual worldwide celebration on St. John's Day

In Rome, the ceremony is held in the Order's church of Santa Maria dell'Aventino.

Under a cloudless early morning sky, the Grand Master welcomed the diplomatic corps accredited to the Order which was led by the Dean, Ambassador of Honduras Alejandro Valladares Lanza, as well as many Order officials and friends, to join with him and the members of the Sovereign Council in marking the customary day with a solemn high Mass celebrated by the Pro-

Patron of the order of Malta, Archbishop Paolo Sardi, and a reception in the gardens of the Magistral villa.

In the first Mass celebrated as new Pro-Patron of the Order, Archbishop Sardi recalled the service of the late Cardinal Pio Laghi and expressed his gratitude for the Grand Master's warm welcome.

He encouraged all the members of the Order to follow the example of St. John Baptist and to remain faithful to their vocation. ■



■ Archbishop Paolo Sardi

Lukashenko's visit strengthens the Order's humanitarian aid in Belarus

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko was received on Official Visit to the Order of Malta by Grand Master Festing at the Magistral Villa, on 28 April. Earlier, Lukashenko had met with the Pope in the Vatican. A bilateral Agreement was signed, extending the Order's humanitarian aid in Belarus, where diplomatic relations exist since 1996. Polish, Belgian and Italian Order Associations collaborated to help children stricken by the Chernobyl disaster. The President acknowledged "your efforts to mitigate the effects of the disaster by organising summer visits for the

children, providing medical equipment and training health personnel." Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery and Belarusian Foreign Minister Sergey Martynov signed a Postal Agreement.

At the lunch which followed, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone recalled his 2008 Belarus visit; the President again invited him to organise a meeting of the Pope and Moscow Patriarch Kirill in Minsk. "It is significant that the Holy See and the Order of Malta are seated beside you," Bertone told Lukashenko, "because they are pursuing their common mission to bring to the international

community and to every part of the world the high ideals of Christian faith that are also part of Belarus' history, civilization and culture." ■



■ Belarus President, on first European mission in 15 years

At the Magistral Villa, Grand Master receives Polish President

Polish President Lech Kaczynski made a State Visit to the Order of Malta on 18 May, reciprocating the State Visit of 78th Grand Master Frà Andrew Bertie in 2007. Grand Master Festing and the President discussed the bilateral relations established in 1990 and the Order's healthcare services in Poland, intensified after the Cooperation Agreement signed two years ago. "Poland, now a NATO member, is one of the most respected members of the European Union," the Grand Master said. Its current achievements are also thanks to those who, like the President, "over 25 years ago risked their lives to put an end to the injustices of Communism, to combat intolerance and to promote freedom, human rights and democracy in their countries." The



■ The Grand Master with President Kaczyński

Order, present in Poland since the 12th century, saw the creation of a Polish Association in 1920. After the second world war its operations were suspended until the fall of the Iron Curtain. Its health, welfare and charitable programmes resumed in 1992. Last summer, in close coordination with the Order's embassy

in Poland and in Tbilisi, the Polish Association with the help of the Polish Presidency aided victims of the conflict between Georgia and Russia, organising healthcare services and medical supplies, food and other basic necessities, and distributing aid to refugees and those affected by the fighting. ■

President of Czech Republic Václav Klaus in State Visit

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing received on 30 May the President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus, at the Order of Malta's Magistral Villa, Rome. The visit, held during the Czech Presidency of the European Union, gave the two Heads of State the opportunity to discuss the world economic crisis, the health and welfare work of Maltezska Pomoc – the Order's Hospitaller service in the Czech republic - and the possibility of joint initiatives in developing countries. President Klaus spoke of the importance to the Czech Republic of the Order's Grand Priory of Bohemia with its 850 year history, dating from the 12th century, never abolished nor secularised. However, the Order's members have often been persecuted and, during last century, Nazi and Communist regimes banned them operating. But "Thanks to the personal

courage and devotion of its members, the Order has been able to preserve the meaning of its existence and, after the fall of Communism, has been able to operate again."

The Grand Master said: "I am convinced that fighting for freedom and the dignity of human beings

(it has been your fight and success against fascism and communism), for liberty of thinking and of religion, is our major stake within Europe. We need a free market economy which includes solidarity for the poor, the sick, and the weakest and most vulnerable people." ■



■ President of Czech Republic Vaclav Klaus receives military honours during his State Visit

Bulgarian President Parvanov pays State Visit

Fra' Matthew Festing welcomed President Georgi Parvanov to the Order of Malta on 22 May, marking his State visit with a dinner to honour the Bulgarian President and his delegation, which included the Minister of Culture Stefan Danailov and representatives of the Holy Synod and the Bulgarian Episcopal Conference. President Parvanov praised the Order for its "example of extraordinary and admirable actions in favour of those who suffer, whether they be lepers in

Africa or the victims of the devastating earthquake in Abruzzo." The President received military honours in the Piazzale del Cedro and in his discussions with the Grand Master, acknowledged the important actions of the Order in Bulgaria and its "donations of indispensable medical equipment and supplies to hospitals and health centres. The Order has never abandoned its main vocation of offering moral and material help to the sick, the poor and the most disadvantaged," he said. ■



■ Grand Master greets President Parvanov

Historic ties and shared projects: visit of Maltese President George Abela

An extended and cordial meeting took place on 18 June between the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing and the President of Malta, George Abela. Discussions in this first meeting between the two Heads of State touched on the deep historical and cultural ties which bind the Order and the Maltese Republic, and on a possible medical and humanitarian Agreement, as well as the current international situation. "Malta, with its remarkable history, occupies

a special place in the hearts of all the members of the Order," declared the Grand Master, "both for the very close historical ties which bind us, and because we share the same values of Christian civilisation: values which are firmly rooted in rights of liberty and democracy, which is today the patrimony of our large European family." The visit concluded with a dinner in honour of President Abela and his delegation in the gardens of the Magistral Villa. ■



■ The Grand Master with Maltese President Abela



The Grand Master receives the President of the Canadian Senate

The Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, received on 16 May at the Magistral Palace the President of the Senate of Canada, Noel A. Kinsella, who was accompanied by his wife and a delegation of senators.

Italian Coastguard receives Order decoration

Members of the Italian coastguard have received the Order of Malta medal to mark their work with the Order's Italian Emergency Corps in the humanitarian activities carried out in the Straits of Sicily, where thousands of immigrants are washed

ashore, often in desperate states of health. The Grand Chancellor of the Order, Jean-Pierre Mazery, presented the decoration to the Maritime Director of Western Sicily, Admiral Ferdinando Lavaggi and to sailors and officers of the Coastguard. ■



■ Jean-Pierre Mazery with Admiral Ferdinando Lavaggi

Work continues unabated in Abruzzo earthquake region

A volunteer's experience of a remarkable activity

As the world returns to its own cares, the tent people of the Abruzzo in Central Italy still face difficult months. In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake shocks in



■ The Grand Master visits Poggio di Roio camp

April - more than 300 dead, 1,600 injured, 65,000 homeless - the teams of volunteers from the Italian Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta set up two large tents – at Poggio di Roio and San Felice d'Ocre. The tents and the teams are still there, working to help the afflicted, organising life in tents, preparing the 2,000 meals required each day, attending to the myriad needs of the inhabitants, of differing ages and states of health.

Aline and Harry Dobrzensky joined the team for a week. "It was exhausting," says Aline. "We were all up at 6 every day to help prepare the meals, and collapsed into our army cots at around 11pm, having worked non stop. The volunteers all had dinner together around 10.30, swapping stories of their

day - some sad, some funny. In between cooking, serving and cleaning up, we all helped lift the empty tents, redoing the foul mushy ground under them and then spreading ash and gravel, before lowering the tents back down, and cleaning and disinfecting them inside. We dreamt of the hot showers and comfortable beds we would find back at home – and then felt bad at leaving all those poor people behind, living in tents, for months." ■

The Grand Master has made two visits to the region, inspecting the camps and meeting with the Order's medical teams and many of the homeless.



■ Volunteers of the Order at work in the tent camps

Pakistan: problem of internally displaced persons grows

Malteser International's mobile medical teams join humanitarian efforts

In early June Malteser International sent two medical teams to northwest Pakistan as internally displaced persons envelop the region and 2.5 million people cry for urgent care. “Displaced persons (IDPs) are exposed to ongoing fighting and extreme weather: 40 Celsius by day, zero at night,” says MI country coordinator Dr Branko Dubajic. “Hunger, thirst, disease and exhaustion make things worse.” Most fled the northwest near the Afghan border when the Pakistani army recently launched an offensive to

expel occupying Taliban militants, he explains. 80% sheltered in neighbouring communities; IDPs camps were set up. But there are not enough sanitary and medical amenities for the ever-growing numbers. “The facilities need improving fast, to avoid epidemics and outbreak of water-borne diseases.” Malteser International is focussing care on pregnant and breast-feeding women and young children. Its doctors and midwives are working with 27 other teams on the spot and will join immunisation campaigns and support registration of the malnourished and dehydrated. ■

Malteser International is the Order of Malta worldwide relief service. It provides aid in 200 projects in over 20 countries regardless of religion, race or political persuasion. Its work is founded on Christian values and the humanitarian principles of impartiality and independence.

For more information:
www.malteser-international.org



■ Observers and medical workers warn against risks of humanitarian catastrophe in Pakistan

Lourdes pilgrimage breaks attendance records

The Order of Malta's annual international pilgrimage was this year attended by a record number of Order members, malades and volunteers, making a total of 6,390 pilgrims, from 35 countries. Some were there for the first time, some for their 35th. From 1 – 5 May, they all joined in prayer and procession, in magnificent spring sunshine, to honour the shrine where 151 years ago a fourteen year old girl, Bernadette Soubiroux, had

received visions of the Virgin Mary. Since then, the site has become one of the most visited religious shrines in the world and pilgrims come from every corner of the globe to seek peace and succour, in a place where the sick are surrounded by love and care and every pilgrim, whatever his need, is aware of the serenity of the environment. The 52nd annual international pilgrimage of the Order to Lourdes will take place 30 April-4 May 2010. ■



■ Over 6,000 people attend the Order's pilgrimage to Lourdes



Australian musicologist takes solemn vows in Lourdes

4 May: The first member of the Order in the Southern Hemisphere to become a Professed Knight, taking religious vows, is Australian conductor, musicologist and composer Richard Dival, who was received by the Grand Master in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Accueil Saint-Frais, Lourdes. The special Mass was celebrated by a Chaplain of the Australian Association, Fr. Anthony Robbie. Dival is a former Music Director of the Victorian State Opera, and principal resident conductor of the Australian Opera; he is currently Associate Professor in Music at the University of Melbourne and engaged on special research projects, including a study of the Order's music during its three centuries in Malta. Frà Richard Dival described the Order's works around the world – "Everywhere we went, we built hospitals," he said, and, nearer to home: "In Melbourne, we operate palliative care and a school for Somali and Sudanese refugees."

International Summer Camp for Young Disabled goes to Segovia

Countdown to the Order's 26th annual European event

Almost 400 participants from 19 countries are expected in Segovia, Spain, for the week of 15-22 August, and the young team of Order members, friends and volunteers has planned seven packed days of adventure, fun and sightseeing, spiritual activities, and the enjoyment of being together. The staff are all volunteers and will include Spaniards, English, Austrians and Italians, with five doctors, six nurses and 11 priests on campus all week. As in other years, a highlight will be the visit of the Grand Master together with senior Order members. The weather forecast is excellent and

expectations for the event are running high. Funding for this project includes a grant of 49,000 Euro from

the European Commission's Youth Programme.

For more information, see:
www.maltacamp2009.com ■



Budapest: 20 years after Iron Curtain falls

Grand Master in attendance

At the invitation of the President of Hungary, László Sólyom, on 27 June the Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, participated in the celebrations in Budapest for the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain, together with other Heads of State, including Horst Koehler, Germany, Heinz Fischer, Austria, and Tarja Kaarina Halonen, Finland. It was twenty years to the day that Hungary had opened its borders with Austria, giving thousands of citizens of the former German Democratic Republic the possibility of returning to their homes in West Germany through Austria – a first step in the events that led to the collapse of the Berlin Wall later in 1989

and the dissolution of Communist regimes in Central Europe. Throughout that memorable summer, the Order of Malta provided humanitarian assistance to the refugees in the tent camps along the national borders. The Hungarian celebrations began in Kossuth Lajos Square, in front of the Parliament building, with addresses by President Sólyom, Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai and the President of the Parliament, Katalin Szili. A military parade then culminated in the playing of the Ode to Joy, official hymn of the European Union. At the opening of a special exhibition and films on the events of 1989, among the speeches was a moving

tribute to Order members and volunteers by Fr. Imre Kozma, who that same year had founded the Order of Malta's Hungarian Maltese Charity Service (Magyar Maltai Szeretetszolgálat – MMSZ). He spoke of the Corps' work which, born in times of sore need, is now, twenty years later, the country's largest provider of social care, offering traditional charitable activities, such as collection and distribution of donations, running social and healthcare institutions and developing special focus programmes for the disadvantaged. The Grand Master of the Order of Malta had already met President Sólyom during his state visit to Hungary last February. ■



■ Budapest, 27 June. From left: President of Slovenia Danilo Türk, President of Switzerland Hans-Rudolf Merz, President of Hungary László Sólyom, President of Finland Tarja Halonen, President of Austria Heinz Fischer, President of Germany Horst Köhler, President of Albania Bamir Topi and Grand Master of the Order of Malta Fra' Matthew Festing

Order of Malta Diplomatic Network

Recent nominations, 2008 - 2009

The Grand Master and the Sovereign Council of the Order have nominated the following as Heads of Mission:

Country	Region	Head of Diplomatic Mission	Nationality	Nomination
Chad	Africa	HEIDSIECK Jean Christophe	French	16-4-2008
Kenya	Africa	CICOGNA MOZZONI Gianfranco	Italian	16-4-2008
Ethiopia	Africa	BERTOLDI Alberto	Italian	16-4-2008
Costa Rica	Americas	LOMBARDI Antonio Nicola	Italian	16-4-2008
Portugal	Europe	POLIGNAC MASCARENHAS de BARROS Miguel	French	16-4-2008
Ukraine	Europe	FUHRHERR VON Paul Friedrich	German	16-4-2008
Morocco	Africa	GRASSET Frédéric	French	20-6-2008
Guinea	Africa	DUTHEIL de LA ROCHERE Gérard	French	20-6-2008
Bosnia Herzegovina	Europe	FRITZEN Christof Maria	German	20-6-2008
Bolivia	Americas	BERTERO GUTIERREZ Mauro	Italian/Bolivian	9-10-2008
Timor Leste	Asia	SCARF David Charles	Australian	9-10-2008
Philippines	Asia	VERA Leonida L.	Philippine	9-10-2008
Chile	Americas	HABSBURGO-LORENA de RIESLE Alexandra	Austrian	3-12-2008
Turkmenistan	Asia	BONFERRONI Franco	Italian	3-12-2008
Tadjikistan	Asia	BONFERRONI Franco	Italian	3-12-2008
Liberia	Africa	NARDIS Pierluigi	Italian	3-12-2008
Georgia	Asia	CELESTINI Marcello	Italian	12-2-2009
Bahamas	Americas	CROTHERS Frank J.	Canadian	12-2-2009
Namibia	Africa	BANDETTINI Marcello	Italian	12-2-2009

Belgium	Europe	QUERTON André	Belgian	30-1-2008
Germany	Europe	HEYDEL Maciej	German	3-12-2008
Switzerland	Europe	BECK-von BUREN Roland	Swiss	25-6-2009

UNEP		CICOGNA MOZZONI Gianfranco	Italian	23-4-2009
UNESCO		LEONE Ugo	Italian	25-6-2009
UN Vienna		GRANSER Gunther	Austrian	25-6-2009

Waiting for agreements from the countries where they will serve				
Kiribati	Oceania	CONDON Thomas J.	American	16-4-2008
Micronesia	Oceania	CONDON Thomas J.	American	16-4-2008
Benin	Africa	LONCLE de FORVILLE Paul	French	3-12-2008
Angola	Africa	DE MELLO Antonio Maria	Portuguese	12-2-2009
Egypt	Africa	BELLINGHAM John	Irish	5-6-2009
San Marino	Europe	BLANCHARD Pierre	French	5-6-2009
Slovakia	Europe	O'DONNELL Francis	Irish	5-6-2009

THE ORDER'S BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: NEW AMBASSADORS

The Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, last 19 May 2009 received for the presentation of their Letters of Credence the new Ambassador of:

- **Egypt**, HE Lamia Aly Hamada Mekhemar
- **Brasil**, HE Luiz Felipe de Seixas Corrêa. ■

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CURRENT ACTIONS AROUND THE WORLD

The Order's homes for the elderly in Britain host senior celebrities

In the Order's homes for the elderly in England, achieving senior celebrity status doesn't occur until residents turn 100. There are already over 90 celebrities in the Homes, Chairman Peter Loyd affirms, with the most recent celebrations being reserved for resident Mr Fred Cain, who lives at Seymour House, Wiltshire, and who celebrated his 102nd birthday this June. Next month celebrations will be in order for a Gloucestershire Homes resident who will turn 109.

The British Association of the Order, in recognition of the work carried out in the Homes Trust by its dedicated staff and volunteers, awarded medals to 10 outstanding members at the Association's recent St. John's Day ceremonies, in honour of their exceptional service and commitment to their elderly charges.

The Orders of St. John Trust Care Homes now number 74, with an annual turnover of over £100 million. ■

For more information:

www.orderofmalta.org.uk and
www.osjct.co.uk

Fleuron Saint Jean 10 years old this June

Since June 1999 over 8,500 homeless have been cared for on the Order's Fleuron Saint Jean barge on the Seine in Paris. It is operated all year round by members and volunteers of Ordre de Malte France in cooperation with the 'Thirty Million Friends' Foundation and provides its guests – aged between 18 and 75 - with a comfortable bed, clean linen, breakfast and, perhaps most important of all, a sympathetic ear for their troubles and concerns. The ten year celebrations for this special care activity were attended by the president of Ordre de Malte France, Thierry de Beaumont-Beynac, who noted that after their maximum three-week stay, a significant percentage of the homeless were able to leave the barge having found employment. ■

MALTESER GERMANY IS GROWING



Over 978,000 members and supporters, 35,000 volunteers, 12,000 employees: the latest figures for 2008 testify to Malteser Germany's constant growth. It is present in 700 locations in Germany with 10 hospitals, 22 homes for the

elderly, 8 immigration centres and 26 units for ex-drug addicts (23 in 2007). The volunteers who follow terminal patients with palliative treatment have also increased (from 2,000 to 2,282).

SRI LANKA: POST WAR AID FOR DISPLACED CIVILIANS

Since the beginning of March Malteser International staff have been working in overcrowded camps for displaced persons, where up to 200,000 are surviving in tents in the region of Vavunya. Measures include distributing food supplies, improving sanitary conditions and providing water tank vehicles to alleviate the constant shortage of drinking water, with emergency aid focussing on psycho-social care by trained Malteser International volunteers.

Weeks after the war between the army and the Tamil Tigers ended, the real implications of the emergency remain, with many complaining about the inhuman conditions in which 300,000 war refugees are held. Malteser International has appealed to the Sri Lankan authorities to secure access for staff and vehicles to the camps so that aid can be guaranteed. ■



the Order of Malta
Newsletter

The email newsletter of
the Sovereign Military
Hospitaller Order of
St. John of Jerusalem
of Rhodes and of Malta

Editorial
Order of Malta
Communications Office
Via Condotti 68
00187 Rome Italy

www.orderofmalta.org
info@orderofmalta.org

Design & DTP
Vertigo Design