

the Order of Malta

Federal Association, U.S.A.



2023 ANNUAL REPORT



ORDER OF MALTA®
FEDERAL ASSOCIATION, U.S.A.

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2023 President's Message

As we entered the year 2023, life in the Federal Association continued positively toward where we had been before the pandemic shutdowns. While in some of our regions there was no disruption at all, in others it was a complete stop. Today it continues to be a challenge to restore all our works, finding that needs and demographics have changed significantly. There are still challenges throughout the association as to how best to restore the strong sense of working hands-on, side-by-side, face-to-face with the needy as a local community, as that is where our real strength is found.

Otherwise, the familiar annual association events proceeded. A new applicant class was processed, accepted, and began formation. Then came the Lourdes medical screening and the pilgrimage preparations, and the pilgrimage itself. Many successful and interesting regional retreats took place, along with celebrations of the St. John's feast in June, and other special liturgies in every corner of our association. The International Youth Pilgrimage was held in Belgium, offering activities and a fun, European experience for the U.S. guests while providing an opportunity to interact with the younger members of other European associations—and their guests with ours. Some members of our association participated in the Order of Malta Camp USA, which is sponsored by the American Association, offering similar activities for the guests who attend in Upstate New York. Resuming all these events has been reassuring and stabilizing.

The international Lourdes Pilgrimage was very successful, especially as the first after the long Covid shutdown. It is always impressive

to join the thousands of members of the Order from around the world selflessly serving the sick. As the late Cardinal Francis George of Chicago said following his pilgrimage experience with us: "You know, I have been to Lourdes many times, but now I have come to see and to know what the Order of Malta is all about." This is a solid reinforcement to the requirement that new knights and dames attend this pilgrimage within three years of Investiture. The return to the annual August pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help, now of Champion, is quite a different experience. While Lourdes concentrates upon our members working as a community serving the malades, Champion is attended as individual members coming together as one in a peaceful and prayerful setting, building relationships across the other U.S. associations.

Investiture Weekend was the event to celebrate in a very special way the welcome of the new members, to hold our annual meeting and receive updates, to hear Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Military Services USA present the Defense of the Faith lecture this year, and to share the Library of Congress setting for the Gala Reception and Annual Dinner.

Meanwhile the aggiornamento of the Order of Malta continued with the first Chapter of the Professed meeting in Rome in January, followed by the Extraordinary Chapter General, where for the first time all three U.S. associations participated, with several capitulars allotted to each based on the size of membership. They voted from the Chapter of the Professed Terna for each member of the Sovereign Council and other councilors to



serve the Order for the next six years. Those who were earlier appointed by Pope Francis for a 90-day transition period were formally elected by the chapter. Fra' John Dunlap was elected as the Grand Master for a 10-year term; the Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, Grand Hospitaller and the Receiver of the Common Treasure, and the high-charges, each were elected to a six-year term. The Holy Father then replaced the special delegate position by appointing a Cardinal Patronus, Cardinal Gianfranco Ghirlanda. The Patronus can best be described as a nuncio between the Pope and the Order.

President's Message



It was already evident to the high-charges that a large volume of work within each department was waiting to be addressed. There was both old business as well as moving forward and adapting many aspects of the Order back to its original purpose of being a hospitaller religious order, as defined in the revised Code and Constitution of 2022. Extensive reports were prepared and distributed showing the state of the Order, with an emphasis on transparency; and this will be the focus of the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council for quite some time. The prognosis is that the Order is in very capable hands, and the worldwide membership should be aware that two major themes have emerged.

First, we are and always have been a religious order. We are not an NGO, but instead we live up to our Catholic faith foundation through the works that are done for the needy around the world. We serve the sick and poor globally in an ever-shrinking world, and we are here for each other regardless of any differences, whether it be nationality, race, ethnicity, economic or ideological positions.* To recall a well-known image, we can remove the eight-pointed cross from our service uniform, if you ask; but it is impossible to remove it from our heart and conscience as good Catholics. The second emphasis, as we move forward within the renewal, will be for each of us to understand that every work of the Order, whether provided at home in any one of our Federal Association regions, or any other continent around the world where the Order's flag flies, we can confidently say is that it is done in the name of each of us.

My fifth year as president ended earlier than expected when I was elected to the Council of the Professed and the Sovereign Council. It was a privilege to be selected, both for me and for the Federal Association. I can only say that my years as a professed member, regional hospitaller, board member, Vice President and President will provide me with a solid background. I ask you to keep a spot in your prayers for me and for the Order, and be assured as always you will be in mine.



*Considering the first point, we need to be aware of significant polarization that is happening all around us in communities, politics, and in our Church. We can see it in our own attitudes as well, another problem possibly intensified by the isolation of the pandemic and the anonymity of social media. Close to home, in our Order as well as in our Church we are many different cultures comprising one faith, one baptism, and with a focus on loving God first and foremost as well as our neighbor as ourselves. Today all around us we see a twisted emphasis on self, with too much criticism of others who are not in alignment with our thinking. And some who mean well seem to think that a privatization of pious practices is the road to sanctification. As good Catholics, we need to be aware of this and concentrate on repairing this attitude wherever and whenever we meet it. We cannot see Christ in the other nor be Christ to the other if we hold on to the role of judge and jury, banishing the person we dislike for whatever reason we have chosen.

2023 Spiritual Life

Vice President's Report on Spirituality

Wayne T. Ruth, KMOB, Vice President

The Federal Association is wholly focused on the spiritual growth of its members and those for whom our members care. This focus, aimed at making the Order one's spiritual home, encouraged by President Fra'

Thomas Mulligan, this year was robust in certain key areas:

First, personal sanctification, through regional Masses, in-person and internet-based prayer gatherings, and personal engagement of our chaplain members. This year, a series of chaplain talks was initiated so that the rich spiritual fabric of our Order could be presented and discussed by our members at home. Plans for the expansion of these talks to focus on Malta spirituality are currently underway. Additionally, the Spirituality Committee is developing a program to minister to members who are less engaged for whatever reason and to those less fortunate and underserved.

The richness of our Church and the sacraments was highlighted during our annual Defense of Faith presentation during Investiture Weekend. The membership was honored to enjoy a presentation by Archbishop Timothy Broglio, who is archbishop of the Military Services USA and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He discussed a wide range of spiritual topics, particularly frequent reception of the sacraments and the True Presence.



Also, hospitaller works are truly Malta prayer with our hands. Malta members serve communities beyond immediate personal or geographic confines. Since the earliest days of the Order, serving those in need and less fortunate, particularly our lords the poor and sick, has been the focus of the dames and knights of Malta. In our regions and developing regions our members are “praying with their hands” by feeding, clothing, and caring for those less fortunate.

This year, the return to Lourdes was met with enthusiasm and action. The Federal Association returned with a full contingent of doctors, nurses, and caregivers, all focused on the needs of our beloved malades and their caregiving companions. Accompanied by caring and devoted chaplains, the Federal Association members lifted the spirits of our guests, while gaining more than they give in the transaction.

In addition, Federal Association members were active in their communities and association-wide with Masses and prayers on the event of our patronal Feast of Saint John the Baptist, and in November for our deceased confreres.

2023 Hospitaller Report

Patrick Monaghan, KMOB, Association Hospitaller

Progress continues to be made at the regional level in the enhancement of our spiritual activities and hospitaller works in caring for the poor, the sick, and the incarcerated.

Spirituality

Well guided by our many dedicated chaplains, our spirituality is manifested in chaplain-led retreats, Lenten and Advent reflections, and regular monthly Masses. Many of our regions are hosting Zoom rosaries, the daily Angelus, and prayerful discussion groups.

Oklahoma Hospitaller Peter de Keratry has written and begun distribution of “Essential Prayers for Children” for early grade-school children.

Hospitaller Works

Knights, dames, auxiliary and volunteers in 31 regions plus five in development are involved in over 150 projects aiding the poor, sick, and incarcerated. The estimated total of association volunteer hours exceeds 60,000 per year. This does not include the untold hours in charitable Catholic board work, pro-bono professional and other non-Malta hands-on works.

Prison Ministry

After the Covid drop-off, prison visitations and the Pen Pal Programs have resumed as key projects seen in almost 70 percent of our regions.

Membership Growth and Development

Over the previous five years we have maintained a steady stream of new members at a rate of approximately 4 percent. While on the surface this would seem positive, our natural attrition is such that we are not experiencing any real net growth.

With renewed emphasis on sharing best practices and increasing focus at all levels, progress is being made. Witness our pipeline of those currently in formation and those applications being reviewed by our Membership Committee.

As always, we are most appreciative of our members in supporting their respective regions and hospitallers in the development of new members.

Summary

Last, I offer that, after association president, there is no job more important or difficult than that of regional hospitaller. Please support them. Ask “what can I do to help?” And thank them!



2023 Treasurer's Report

Charles C. Cornello, KM, Association Treasurer

2023 Financial Report—Based on Audited Financial Statements

Federal Association:

Income:

Dues & Passage Fees, net	\$ 1,734,464
Committees	384,932
Merchandise Sales - Net Cost of Sales	-
Administrative Sub-Total	<u>\$ 2,119,396</u>

Events/Spiritual Activities	
Investiture	\$ 140,247
Lourdes Pilgrimage	869,436
Domestic Programs	61,897
Events/Activities Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,071,580</u>

Expenses:

Operations/Administration	\$ 1,063,343
Assessments to SMOM	416,010
Committees/Other	155,446
Administrative Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,634,799</u>

Events/Spiritual Activities	\$ 54,951
Investiture	240,685
Lourdes Pilgrimage	1,006,385
Domestic Programs	-
Events/Activities Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,302,021</u>

<i>Subtotal - Net Income Before Contributions, Investment Income, & Grants Committee</i>	<u>\$ 254,156</u>
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Charitable Giving

Annual Appeal	\$ 917,256
Lourdes Trust	37,244
Split Interest Agreements & Planned Giving	144,722
Charitable Giving Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,099,222</u>

<i>Grants/Hospitaller Program</i>	
Grants Committee*	\$ 495,000

Other Non-operating

Investment Income	\$ 1,191,135
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Association Revenue & Support

<u>\$ 5,481,333</u>

Association Expense	<u>\$ 3,431,820</u>
Association Net Income	<u>\$ 2,049,513</u>

Investments—

Ass'n & Lourdes Endowment Trust

Operating Account	\$ -
Malta House (DC) Fund	-
Lourdes Fund	5,767,261
Blessed Gerard Fund	4,110,813
Total Investment Accounts	<u>\$ 9,878,074</u>

2023 Historian's Report

Dr. Henry Lane Hull, KGDOb, Historian

William H.G. FitzGerald, K.M., the Founder of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta

As we prepare to commemorate the semi-centennial of the founding of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta, let us begin by recognizing the vision, perseverance, aspiration, and indeed, energy of our founder, William H. G. FitzGerald. Bill FitzGerald was born in Boston on December 23, 1909, and spent his early life there until entering the U.S. Naval Academy in 1927. He was an outstanding student and a star of the Academy's baseball team. Throughout his life, engaging in sports was an important part of his daily routine.

His devotion to the Catholic Church and its teachings formed the core of his being, as well as that of his wife, Annelise. He was a profound student of history, particularly focusing on the Church's past across the centuries. Any conversation with him resonated around his love of the Church, which he applied in carrying out his daily activities.

Following his graduation from the Academy, he entered the submarine service, and coming out of the Navy in 1934, he enrolled at Harvard Law School. He left Harvard to pursue a career in investments, which he continued until being recalled by the Navy in April 1941. Throughout the Second World War he conducted submarine research, until being discharged from the service in 1946.

After the War, he recognized the need for affordable housing, causing him to set up a modular housing corporation, which was acclaimed for its quality and value for the dollar. He continued investing in a wide variety of businesses and corporations, which proved to be quite successful. His prominence in Catholic circles, led in 1959 to his being received into the American Association of The Order of Malta, which at the time served as a support for the charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

During the early years of his membership, he wanted the Order to have a presence in Washington, which led him to travel to Rome to meet with Quintin Jermy Gwyn, a Canadian then serving as the Order's Grand Chancellor. Chancellor Gwyn told him that if he could get 16 Catholic laymen together who would subscribe to the tenets of the Order, he would support the foundation of a new association.

Being well-positioned in Catholic circles in the Nation's Capital, he was able to assemble the group and submit his petition to Rome.



The American Association opposed its establishment, but ultimately in 1974 the Sovereign Council approved the establishment of the Southern Association, to be headquartered in Washington, D.C. In 1985 the name was changed to the Federal Association.

Bill FitzGerald was the first president of the Association, serving from 1974 to 1978. He was eager for the new group to be active with the Order internationally. To that end, in 1974 he and Annelise participated in the Lourdes Pilgrimage, which they continued to do every year until 1991. From 1974 through 1988 they paid for all the malades's expenses on the pilgrimage. They both were tireless in caring for the malades personally. In 1985 Annelise became the first woman to be invested in the Federal Association.



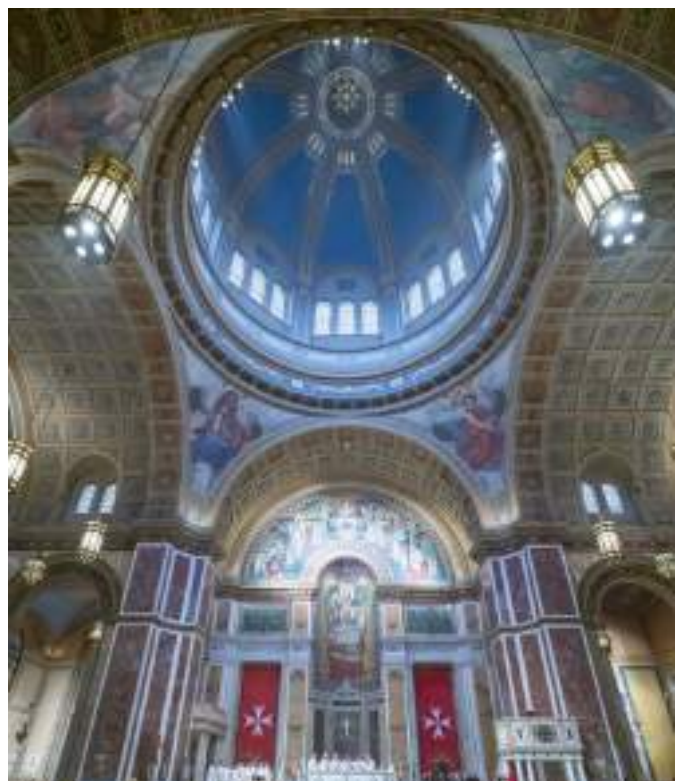
In 1978 Bill turned the presidency over to Edward McDermott, constantly remaining active in all of the Association's activities. He and Annelise donated \$100,000 as the seed money to establish the FitzGerald Lourdes Endowment, which the Board of Directors later named the FitzGerald-Callaghan Lourdes Endowment, recognizing Admiral William M. Callaghan's 15 years as the chairman of the pilgrimage.

In 1991, Bill was instrumental in arranging for the visit to Washington of the Prince and Grand Master, Fra' Andrew Bertie, who met with President Bush at The White House and was honored by a luncheon at Blair House. During the visit the President asked the Grand Master how he could be helpful, to which the Grand Master replied that the Order was experiencing difficulty in getting relief supplies to the Kurds in Iraq. The President replied that he would provide a plane for that purpose.

Bill was active in numerous Washington charities. He especially wanted to give inner city children greater opportunities. To that end he donated the William H. G. FitzGerald Tennis Center in Rock Creek Park. An athlete all his life, in his later years, tennis was his sport, and he hoped the center would provide a venue that would instill in the city's youth a worthy competitive spirit. He also donated substantially to the athletic facilities at the Naval Academy and established a fellowship for Academy graduates to be able to pursue postgraduate study at Oxford University.

In 1992 President George H W. Bush appointed Bill, at the age of 82, to be the United States Ambassador to Ireland, where he served from June 1992 until he was replaced by the new administration in June 1993. When he left, an Irish columnist wrote that his departure lowered the average ambassadorial age, but it also lowered the average ambassadorial energy level.

He and Annelise returned to Washington and continued their many charitable pursuits. On January 5, 2005, Bill died of an aneurism at the age of 96. His funeral Mass was offered at Saint Matthew's Cathedral. His legacy as the founder and first president of the Federal Association is both abiding and profound.



2023 Shared Chaplain Report

Rev. Msgr. John J.ENZLER, and Rev. Msgr. James D. Watkins



This will be the last of my reports for the chaplain corner of the Malta Annual Report. I have been the chaplain to the board of directors for over 20 years and enjoyed the camaraderie and the inspiration of the Malta leadership and the board members. We have had several presidents during my time. Each of them brought different gifts and talents to leadership. I have learned a great deal from each of them and was very often inspired by their dedication and commitment to the Order.

I'm sorry to leave, but of course will continue to remain as a chaplain to the Order for the years ahead.

I'm happy to report that Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the chief chaplain of the Order of Malta, has selected Msgr. James Watkins as the new chaplain to the board. James has a wonderful dedication to all the Order of Malta and its ministries. He is chaplain now for those who are in the Order of Obedience. He is the obvious choice to take on this new position and will lead the hospitallers to even greater service. He will support the board in its many endeavors and will lead all the chaplains in service to you and all our members.

Both Msgr. Watkins and I thank our fellow chaplains. Together all of us recommit ourselves to the Order of Malta and our many members. We will continue to support the Order and each of you in your own journey of personal growth.

By Rev. Msgr. John J.ENZLER

This last year has been a historically incredible year for the Order of Malta, with the newly promulgated Code and Constitution highlighting the renewal of the Order in its essential identity as a religious order in the Church. After more than 900 years, it is always a good thing to review, to refresh, and to renew just what it means to be a member of the Order. To that end, the renewal of the Order in its Code and Constitution will be a key source of information about this renewal and will assist all of us to examine seriously the spiritual formation of candidates and the ongoing formation of our members. As time goes on, both information and formation will become clearer as the members commit themselves to deepening their understanding and participation in the Order.

What has occurred in the last year or so is not so much reform but rather renewal. What we do as members of the Order is pretty standard: serving the Lord's sick and poor and defense of the faith. On the other hand, who we are is so very essential to a proper understanding and motivation for that service. To that end, much more is being developed to assist all of us in renewing that identity in our service to the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. From my perspective, the new Code and Constitution of the Order will renew the fundamental charisms for the solemnly professed, for those who make the Promise of Obedience, and the general membership, and, yes, for the chaplains of the Order whose role and responsibility in the spiritual formation of the members have been highlighted.

As chaplain to the board of directors of the Federal Association for over 20 years, Msgr. John ENZLER has served so faithfully and always with a genuine pastoral heart not only for the members of the board but for our chaplains in a particular way. He has always, and remains always, a true priest's priest. Msgr. ENZLER served several presidents of our association as chaplain to the board and has brought a balanced spirituality of prudent perspective with a gentle and calming effect. "Forgetful of myself," as our Daily Prayer says, Msgr. ENZLER displays the humility that is so essential to our spiritual identity and charitable service. I thank him on behalf of all our chaplains for his powerful witness, inspiration, and sound advice.

May Our Lady of Philermo, St. John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard, and all the saints of our beloved Order make us strong in our witness to this incredible Order as we renew our love for Christ and his Church and grow in sanctity by means of our participation in the Order of St. John.

By Rev. Msgr. James D. Watkins

Our Lady of Champion Pilgrimage 2023

Kathryn Signorelli, DMOB

The tenth annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Champion took place in August, 2023.

We were honored by the attendance of Prince and Grandmaster Fra' John T. Dunlap. While not his first time on the pilgrimage it was Fra' John's first as grandmaster of the Order of Malta. He was joined by Fra' Tom Mulligan, president of the Federal Association; Fra' Nicola Tegoni, regent of the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes; Ken Olsen, president of the Western Association; Peter Kelly, President of the American Association, and more than 200 knights, dames, special pilgrims, and family and friends attending the pilgrimage.

Before our pilgrimage, Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay announced exciting news. According to Bishop Ricken, "the shrine received news from the Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments confirming the shrine's ability to celebrate an annual Solemnity Day on the grounds of the apparition site under the title Our Lady of Champion." So, in keeping with other apparition sites across the world, Our Lady of Good Help will now be known as Our Lady of Champion—Champion being the name of the city where the apparition occurred in 1859. Our Lady's message was, "Do not be afraid, I will help you." We can still pray in confidence for help from Our Lady of Champion.

The pilgrimage events began on Thursday afternoon with Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral. Knights and Dames processed in robes and capes, and of course our special pilgrims were seated in a place of honor. The beautiful Malta Choir under the direction of Paul French provided music for this Mass and all our liturgies.

Our events included Mass at the Apparition Church, confessions, anointing of the sick, rosary procession, and Eucharistic healing service.

We enjoyed seeing old friends from all three U.S. associations, and meeting new ones. The pilgrimage continues to be a time of spiritual refreshment, a time to come closer to Jesus through Mary.



Grants 2023

John Gannon, KM, Grants Committee Chair

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 - Daily Prayer of the Order

The prayer of the Order is a daily reminder of the mission of our Order and the work of our members. But the Covid-19 experience reminded us of our fragility and the ongoing need to care for the poor and the sick.

The year 2023 brought back the Lourdes pilgrimage and the daily hands-on works of the Order that serve the poor and the sick. This year 16 grants were reviewed and approved, showcasing the wonderful works of the Order in their communities. Especially noteworthy were five grants awarded for the work of our members on prison ministry projects. For years, prison ministry of the Federal Association has been challenged with how best to serve the prison population, both the incarcerated and those recently released who are attempting to become productive members of society. The Order tries to introduce the teachings of the Catholic Church to provide leadership, guidance, and direction, especially to those who have been recently released, to help them return to normal productive lives.



Years ago, prison ministry was challenged even to enter prison walls, as Catholic teachings were excluded in many states. For several years, the prison ministry of the Order has worked feverishly to bring the gospel inside the prison walls and support the recently released with the hope of the gospel, greatly reducing the chances of returning to prison.

Prison ministry broke through the walls of prisons by working with Catholic Distance University, which received grants that provided computer tablet access to Catholic teachings using a unique Edovo tablet technology that is allowed in many prisons. Using this technology and the Catholic Distance University grants, the Pen Pal Program was born and has flourished with approximately 700 incarcerated pen pals.

Furthermore, Dismas Ministry has become a meaningful part of the Milwaukee Region's monthly service projects, providing incarcerated men and women with resources to strengthen or forge their Catholic faith and turn their lives around. Similar projects in the Washington, DC area with Gatekeepers and Jubilee Housing demonstrate the impact of our members fulfilling their mission to serve the incarcerated and recently released.

The King will say "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me." Matthew 25:40



Catholic Distance University, founded in 1983, is Edovo's only Catholic partner. Their courseware averages 1,580 daily engagements throughout 300 prisons. Of special note is a Texas prisoner who was awarded a Masters in Theology scholarship and who is currently evangelizing within prison walls.

Gatekeepers, a unique, highly regarded reentry program for the incarcerated, received a grant that will help offenders and ex-offenders become productive members of the community. Members of the Order work with the recently released on job strategies, housing, and tuition; and the grant will support those efforts. Gatekeepers has been recognized by the state of Maryland as a leader of reentry.

"Gatekeepers is the real deal. It is doing God's work in a field [reentry] that is so underserved, yet probably is a linchpin to the reduction of the sad state of recidivism." J. Michael McGarry, KM

Gatekeepers has had a very close association with the Order of Malta since 2014. In the Washington, DC area, 10 members provide mentorship and support for their reentry program that is focused on reducing the rate of recidivism. They have also worked with Catholic Distance University to offer their course in business and living.

Dismas Ministry has received a grant in the Milwaukee Region where members have responded to the needs of this ministry, offering faith-based certificate course work, bibles, prayer books, rosaries, and much more. Recently, the ministry office needed to move to another facility. The grant supports this with office and computer equipment. Dismas also utilizes the service and programs of Catholic Distance University.

Jubilee Housing in Washington, DC received a grant to support their ReEntry Housing Transitional Program in two main areas: housing and employment. Their yearlong transitional housing program provides a safe and welcoming environment for participants to establish a plan for success and taking the necessary steps to fulfill it.

The program provides individual and group engagement to support residents in maintaining sobriety and addressing underlying causes of problematic decision-making as well as other factors that negatively influence their health and well-being. The goal is to achieve lasting stability and self-sufficiency following incarceration. More than a dozen members of the Order are involved in the reentry program with direct discussions with participants during meetings and meals. Recently, the scope was expanded to include supporting the recovery and sobriety program. The Order of Malta grant provided office equipment and

supplies to support the needs of applicants in the job-hunting, recovery, and housing needs.

This year, the Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion (formerly Our Lady of Good Help) was officially authorized by the Vatican and celebrated at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.

A grant was awarded to The Order of Malta First Aid and Hospitality Center at the Shrine and is an outgrowth of discussions with the three U.S. associations in conjunction with the Diocese of Green Bay in Wisconsin to provide and promote the physical and spiritual welfare of pilgrims at the shrine.

The center consists of three rooms located within the recently constructed Mother of Mercy Hall, funded by contributions from each of the three U.S. associations. The center is the Order of Malta base of operations for performing and coordinating its first aid and hospitality functions at the shrine on major event days there. Major tasks of the center include: (1) hydration and real support of the pilgrims, (2) sick or injured pilgrim intake, (3) assistance of medical personnel, (4) inventory and stocking of supplies, (5) pilgrim greeting, wayfinding, and mobility assistance, and (6) distribution of Order of Malta and shrine information.



Grants 2023

continued

“The generous will themselves be blessed for they share food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9

The St. Francis Center in Charleston, South Carolina received a grant to support their mission to break the cycle of generational and situational poverty. The antipoverty programs of the center provide the basic needs of food, clothing, education, and shelter. They do this through a food pantry, mobile food distributions, a thrift shop, financial assistance to the elderly for utility and medical bills, migrant farmworker outreach, and emergency home-repair. More than 7,500 people are served annually by St. Francis. The center was founded in 1981 as a diocesan mission to the poor of Northern Beaufort County, South Carolina. Four sisters from the Order of Saints Cyril and Methodius of Pennsylvania assumed administration of the center in 2013.

Members of the developing Bluffton, South Carolina Region consider the St. Francis home repair program to be their signature project and have also assisted their food distribution program with the purchase of a large food delivery truck. In addition, a project to replace nine roofs has already been completed, and the Order of Malta Grant will cover replacement of housing roofs for an additional two or three needy families.

“We become who we love and who we love shapes what we become.” St. Clare of Assisi



A grant has been awarded to a newly created Lourdes Malade Medical and Support Foundation, whose purpose is to enhance and protect the medical care of pilgrims in Lourdes.

The resources of the Lourdes Medical Bureau have been considered minimal; members of the medical team and pilgrimage leaders fully support an improvement in the medical and infirmary services and equipment that are available at Lourdes, as well as a vehicle to improve the storage and presentation of the bureau's historic medical files and publications. Governance of the Malade Foundation consists of members of the board of directors of the Federal Association and Fra' Alessandro di Franciscis, Grand Hospitaller - Sovereign Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

A grant has been awarded to the Lafayette, Louisiana Region for the repair and reconstruction of homes of the poorest victims of the historic flooding of the region in August of 2016, and subsequent hurricanes in 2020. During each rebuilding week, between one and three homes are rebuilt by knights and dames and other volunteers of the Federal Association. Homeowners often join our members to work and pray with us. The grant primarily funds building materials while members of the Order, coupled with volunteers from Catholic Charities of Acadiana, perform a variety of construction tasks, including sheetrock installation, debris removal, exterior siding repair, and painting. A spiritual community is created among volunteers through daily Mass, service, and meals together. To date, one or more rebuilding weeks have been held since 2017. Over 125 Federal Association members have volunteered and actively participated in the rebuilding program, with over 40 members working more than once.

"We are called to honor the poor and give them precedence, out of conviction that they are the presence of Jesus in our midst." Pope Francis I

Holy Angels in Belmont, North Carolina, started in 1955 by the Sisters of Mercy, provides lifelong care for 81 fulltime residents, ages 4 to 81 years, with a broad range of developmental disabilities, physical co-morbidities, and fragilities. Three-quarters of them require fulltime nursing care to achieve the highest quality of life possible, and 64 residents are completely dependent on staff for their personal hygiene needs. Members of the Order participate in many levels of the organization's operations, including board representation, supporting personal care of residents, and providing boat rides for residents. In 2023, a blessing ceremony of the residents with Lourdes water was led by Abbot Placid Solari, OSB, chancellor of Belmont Abbey College and a chaplain of the Federal Association, and included a dozen members of the Charlotte Region. A grant has been awarded to Holy Angels for the purchase of five Arjo shower trolleys and supplies that greatly facilitate the safety and care of their residents.

The Rev. Dennis Kuhn, retired chaplain, volunteer, and current board member at Holy Angels, spreads Catholic teachings to all new staff and board members saying, "Each resident of Holy Angels is like Jesus—an innocent person with a burden to bear." This powerful analogy invites those who care for the residents to see and serve Jesus every hour and every day.



For almost 17 years, the Malta House of Care in Hartford, Connecticut has provided welcoming, compassionate, judgement-free primary health care for uninsured adults in the Greater Hartford Area, totaling more than 81,000 free patient visits. This organization, founded by members of the Federal Association, is supported entirely by philanthropy from foundations, corporations, private funding, and other nonprofits and is primarily managed by members of the Order, including service by several physicians. The Order of Malta has awarded a grant for dental services that most of these patients have never had and which is considered vital for their general health. Of the medically underserved, historically marginalized and working poor populations who make Malta House of Care their "medical home," 90 percent are living with chronic conditions. Lack of access to routine dental care threatens to aggravate or escalate the chronic disease or weakened immune systems that are treated by Malta House of Care. Dr. Tracy Graham the regional hospitaler, considers the grant funding for the dental program to be a "Godsend to so many of our patients."

A grant has been awarded to Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston that addresses communication issues for services for the poor and elderly at the Mamie George Community Center. The center was opened in 2011 in Fort Bend County, one of the poorest areas in the region. Their food pantry currently serves more than 4,500 households each month, and the Order of Malta conducts a monthly food fair. One of the biggest challenges faced by Mamie George is a lack of understanding of the services and schedules offered to the poor and the senior population. Improved signage and communications are expected to double the population served.



Grantee Highlights 2023

In this section the leaders of many Federal Association grantee organizations express their gratitude, and provide updates on their valuable works and service

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation **Washington, DC** by Ambassador Michèle B. Bowe, GCM

As the war continues to rage on in Gaza, Bethlehem is increasingly suffering the effects. Since the economy is very dependent on the pilgrimage industry, 90% of the workforce is without salaries. Inflation is rising, especially for fresh fruits, vegetables, and meat. Work permits for most workers in Jerusalem have been cancelled leaving tens of thousands from Bethlehem without work.

Hotels are shuttered and most restaurants are closed. Many businesses have failed or simply closed for the duration of the war. Beggars, never seen before, are cropping up in the streets. Patients are unable to contribute to their care as they once did in the past. While many services are free of charge (Mobile Clinic Care, Menopause Clinic Care, Gestational Diabetes care), all others are subsidized by 50%. The two social workers meet with the poorer patients and can offer sliding scale coverage all the way down to services at no charge. These services are covered by the Poor Case Fund.

Requests for Poor Case Fund coverage have increased by about 50% or more since the beginning of the war. The situation is such that patients choosing to have medical care are often foregoing meals, heating or electricity. Medical care has become a luxury few can afford. In response, we have increased the funds available to help subsidize services for all patients.

Palestine rents the New Israeli Shekel from Israel and cannot print cash to help suffering citizens. There is not a governmental safety net to keep people out of poverty. Instead, families make their tables longer and one salary is now regularly covering over 20 people. The Pastor at the local Catholic Church reports that poverty is increasing at 20% per month. Household financial reserves were wiped out during the Covid Pandemic and 18 months was not enough to replace them. It is estimated that it would take a decade to recoup the losses in Bethlehem.

The war has no end in sight. Israeli Army and Security Forces enter Bethlehem most nights. They search the 3 local refugee camps and often arrest men and sometimes women and children taking them away for unknown amounts of time. There is an air of fear which deepens at night.



There are frequent clashes with heavily armed settlers and the villages and rural roads are not safe. The Mobile Medical Clinic was unable to make its rounds in Area C among the Bedouin and isolated villages from October 8 through February 11. While the security situation has not improved, the Mobile Clinic is back in service using goat paths and back roads to avoid settlement areas and military checkpoints. The employees are dedicated to serving those with barriers to care and they could no longer bear the lack of access to care for those in Area C.

Holy Family Hospital is adapting to best meet the needs of the families of greater Bethlehem. The employees have been working 12-hour shifts to avoid travelling in the nighttime hours. The Hospital is supplied for three months and has procured two new generators to fully supply the Hospital with electricity and a backup generator in case of need. A new diesel fuel tank with twice the capacity has been installed and water storage capacity has increased. Operating under wartime conditions is not new to Holy Family Hospital as it has survived 5 wars and the Intifadas. The employees are knowledgeable about disaster plans and the staff willingly adapt.

Patient statistics demonstrate the economic and security difficulties of the war. The number of deliveries has decreased because patients coming from the south are less able to travel. Women used to regularly pass other hospitals to seek the higher level of care at Holy Family Hospital. This is no longer prudent. Some women have delivered at home rather than using the roads at night.



NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) admissions have spiked. In January, 17% of babies born at the Hospital were admitted to the NICU. In February, it was 16%. In 2022, the percentage of NICU admits was 12%. This represents about a 30% increase so far this year. The length of stay in level III care is 68% greater than in 2022. The babies in the NICU are sicker and more fragile and require longer NICU stays.

Clinic visits at the Hospital for prenatal care have fallen as have pediatric visits. In contrast, the Mobile clinic experienced a surge in visits for February since it reopened, increasing patients by 48% even though it was not operating the first 10 days of the short month.

The drop in overall Hospital census, namely deliveries and morning clinics, is partially due to the security situation of the roads and partially due to the lack of cash on hand for patients to contribute to their medical care. This means delayed care as we saw during the pandemic, which resulted in lower levels of general health for women. Specifically, we witnessed an increase in detection of later stage cancer in women.

One clinic with increased usage is the Well Women, the menopause clinic, which has experienced a significant increase of 28% month over month for February due to increased messaging about the importance of care for women beyond the childbearing age. The clinic staff have made presentations to women's unions, refugee camps and church groups to increase awareness of the need for checkups and preventative care. These efforts have resulted in the increased census of the clinic.

On the bright side, The Hospital's expansion and renovation project is progressing, albeit slowly. This work includes the updating and expansion of surgical facilities, overnight doctors' quarters, classrooms and administration. The expansion will add an additional 2000 square meters and a renovation of 1000 square meters. This work is a welcome addition to the Bethlehem streetscape and a project which will house decades of care for the mothers and babies of Bethlehem. Additionally, the project currently employs dozens of workers and sources supplies and materials locally. It provides economic leaven in an otherwise stalled economy.

No one knows how long the war will last and what the extent of the economic fallout will be. Holy Family Hospital will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the mothers and babies of the region to the best of its capabilities.

The Hospital no longer has any cash reserves. Reimbursements for contracts with UNRWA and the Palestinian Authority are largely unpaid. As poverty grows, the demand for services will increase and cashflow will diminish. Holy Family Hospital is seeking new sources of funding immediately to meet the needs of patients and the very hardworking dedicated Hospital staff.



Grantee Highlights

continued

Holy Angels

Belmont, NC by Shawn Flynn, Chief Communications Officer

Thanks to a generous \$25,000 grant from the Order of Malta, Holy Angels purchased five new shower trolleys and four replacement trolley mattresses.

"We are committed to upholding the values of dignity and empowerment," said Holy Angels President and CEO Kerri Massey. "We continually strive to provide the highest quality of life for the remarkable children and adults entrusted to our care. Personal hygiene is a fundamental aspect of daily life for our residents, and the proper use of updated equipment plays a pivotal role in delivering individualized care."

Holy Angels is a home for the differently abled in Belmont, North Carolina caring for a total of 81 residents, including 59 non-ambulatory.

Many of the existing bath trolleys were nearing the end of their lifespan after 20 years, potentially posing a safety hazard. The replacements have proven to be not only efficient, safe, and comfortable but also seamlessly adaptable to the bathroom facilities at Holy Angels.

Following up on a grant from last year, knights and dames visited Holy Angels in 2023, looking at more than a dozen specially designed chairs catering to the unique medical needs of these residents. During the visit, the members of the Order of Malta blessed the residents and prayed with the staff.

Rick Menze, hospitaller of the region, spoke passionately about the significance of this spiritual connection. "Every trip to Holy Angels is special," he said. "The residents being blessed with holy water by dames and knights is a mercy moment, a deeply meaningful experience and reflective of the special relationship our organizations share."

This is the sixth grant provided by the Order of Malta in 15 years, totaling more than \$225,000.

"To witness the residents being blessed with holy water is a poignant reminder of the spiritual support that accompanies our mission," said President Massey. "Our relationship with the Order of Malta is incredibly special, and these blessings signify the depth of compassion and care that our residents receive. We can't thank the Order of Malta enough for their financial support, blessing and prayers."



Center of Care Foundation Columbus, Ohio by Jeffrey Kaman, Esq., KM

The Center of Care Foundation in Columbus, Ohio is so grateful for the Federal Association's continued support of our service to the sick and the poor. In 2023, the Center of Care gave out 1,505 hygiene bags, saw over 250 medical patients, and 45 dental patients. These patients are the homeless and transient poor who would not otherwise have found readily available medical or dental care. We also gave out 192 coats for the homeless that were obtained from the Oklahoma City Region. As the clinic is exclusively staffed by volunteers, primarily knights and dames of Malta, we can't thank the Federal Association, the board, and the Grants Committee enough for their generosity.

In particular, the Federal Association's grant last year enabled us to purchase digital medical equipment, which enabled us to handle substantially more patients and provide better care.



Order of Malta Hospitality Center

Champion, WI by Joseph Sanders, KM, American Association, Board Chair

Because of the generosity of its donors, the Order of Malta's Hospitality Center at the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion is aiding the shrine and pilgrims who visit in two separate areas:

First Aid/Hospitality

1. Provided first aid/hospitality on more than 20 days of major pilgrim activity at the shrine;
2. Provided outdoor tenting and signage for the first aid/hospitality area for Walk to Mary, with 5,000 pilgrims in attendance after a 20-mile walk;
3. Provided first aid/hospitality for first Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion Mass in October, again with over 5,000 pilgrims in attendance;
4. Purchased O-of-M-branded kneeler pads for Mother of Mercy Hall for large-scale Masses;
5. Purchased a golf cart and branded it with the Order of Malta logo for assistance to pilgrims on major activity days, with plans to purchase an additional golf cart as pilgrim attendance grows; and
6. Preparing first aid/hospitality for major events this summer: Walk to Mary in May and National Eucharistic Pilgrimage stopover in June.



Medical Association Initiative

1. Completed digitization of Diocese of Green Bay medical case information regarding claims of unexplained cures;
2. Held a Zoom meeting with Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis of Lourdes, Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, and members of the Hospitality Center regarding the Medical Association and evaluation of cases currently in the file of the shrine;
3. Engaged a software consultant to build a database and make it accessible to doctors and other reviewers while respecting HIPAA guidelines;
4. Continued to reach out to Order of Malta doctors from each of the three United States associations for their involvement in the Medical Association; and
5. The Medical Association may also play a role in the sainthood cause for Adele Brise, who received the apparition at the site.

The Hospitality Center depends on the contributions from the three U.S. associations of the Order of Malta and individual donors. In 2023, the Hospitality Center secured over \$30,000 from individual donors and \$15,000 from the U.S. associations. These resources have enabled the Order of Malta to establish a visible presence at the shrine similar to that in Lourdes and to work to increase the awareness of the shrine through its efforts with the Medical Association.



Grantee Highlights

continued

Malta House of Care

Hartford, Connecticut by Betsy Walsh, Director of Development and Administration

Malta House of Care provides high-quality, free primary health care to uninsured adults in Greater Hartford, always with compassion and respect. Malta House has had over 77,000 patient visits since it first opened its doors in 2006 as a mobile medical clinic helping the community with its specialized 40-foot van traveling to neighborhoods in Greater Hartford. In 2022, Malta House of Care opened a new state-of-the-art stationary medical clinic in the Asylum Hill neighborhood in Hartford, complementing the van's mobile services that are delivered in Hartford's Campfield Avenue area of the South End neighborhood as well as in East Hartford.

Rooted in its belief that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, Malta House of Care of Greater Hartford began providing free mobile primary care to uninsured adults in the Greater Hartford area 17 years ago. The need continues! Approximately 9.5 percent of adults (~11,500) in the City of Hartford do not have health coverage.

While healthcare legislation has made healthcare more affordable for many, there are still barriers to access, including differences in workplace benefits, income, and eligibility factors. Black and especially Latino people are less likely to have health insurance than white people. A further contributing factor is that undocumented immigrants in our communities are not eligible to apply for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace and are excluded from Medicaid, Medicare, and the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Restrictive policies, like prohibiting undocumented adults from accessing health insurance, contribute to health disparities.

The Malta mobile clinic model, bringing free primary care to people where they live, reduces barriers to health access, including financial and transportation obstacles.

Providing care within a neighborhood enhances provider/patient trust and can serve to reconnect disenfranchised people to important health services and providers.

Regular visits by the mobile health team to the neighborhood, focusing on preventative care and chronic illness management, also show overall improved health outcomes. Approximately 90 percent of Malta House patients have one or more chronic diseases.



A community benefit of the free mobile model is to reduce the number of times patients need to use an emergency room, the most expensive setting for many health issues.

The Malta House model is effective, efficient, dignified, compassionate, trusted, and most importantly, has proven to be a critical health service for patients who would otherwise have no healthcare, since they are forced to make decisions to forgo healthcare to ensure that other basic needs (food, housing, medicine) are met.

Malta House relies entirely on revenues generated by philanthropy, and its services are made possible by its dedicated small staff and an incredible corps of volunteer doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who contribute about 1,000 hours of free medical care each year, as well as thousands of generous financial supporters.

There are only three criteria for people to receive free care from Malta House: They must be over 18, live in Connecticut, and have no health insurance.

Patients present to Malta House with a variety of needs: an incessant cough; a fever; nagging pain that won't go away; or weight loss because they're exhausted or for no apparent reason.

Many live with one or more chronic conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, or diabetes. Some need a physical so they can attend school or get a job; others seek cancer screenings or vaccinations. Many rely on Malta House to provide expensive, life-saving medications like insulin, all at no cost to patients.



Evidence shows that Malta's type of high-quality, comprehensive primary care reduces emergency department visits for patients and the community, and is associated with better outcomes.

The faces of the patients reflect the diversity of Greater Hartford—and the world. In 2023, they came from more than 61 countries and spoke more than 27 languages. Approximately 20 percent of patients are undocumented, making Malta's trusted services critical to the adults served.

The common denominators: They have no health insurance, and they are sick, in some cases very sick.

Some employers just don't offer insurance. Even if such benefits are available, many workers simply cannot afford to pay the hefty monthly premiums and high out-of-pocket deductibles because of other expenses that must come first: rent, food, transportation to work, childcare.

Although the Affordable Health Care Act increased the number of insurance options available to Americans, the reality is that the cost of coverage is still too steep for many people who live paycheck to paycheck. And this uninsured group ultimately requires high-cost emergency room care when they become sick because they often wait to seek care until their condition becomes so bad they really have no choice. Malta House of Care provides that choice.

Malta House of Care provides free, comprehensive primary care onsite without the need for a referral to a primary-care provider and serves as the medical home to thousands of residents from Hartford proper to surrounding towns.



Pregnancy Aid Clinic

Roswell, GA by Sarah Weikert, Executive Director

Abundant challenges were the hallmark of 2023. Our clients' stories were marked by homelessness, domestic violence, financial stress, medical complications, and mental health issues. We also saw childcare costs on the rise and families facing severe food insecurity. Pregnancy Aid Clinic (PAC) responded to this crisis with the Year of Hope program.

The program, in conjunction with St. Vincent de Paul Georgia and Catholic Charities Atlanta, case-managed over 150 clients. PAC identified 34 clients who would benefit from wraparound services through their pregnancy and up to a year after birth, and provided financial support. The Year of Hope program is PAC's commitment to providing basic needs for our most vulnerable clients.

Along with her husband and 5-year-old son, Client D arrived in the U.S. seeking asylum. Navigating numerous difficulties, including financial constraints, limited access to resources, a language barrier, and a lack of stable housing, Client D forged her way with the help of PAC's Year of Hope program. After meeting with a PAC advocate during a REACH (Resource Education and Community Helping Hands) appointment, Client D received assistance with rent and utilities, referrals to community resources, and meals and gifts for her family. Unfortunately, the family was surprised when their baby girl was born four weeks early and at just 4 pounds, creating even more uncertainty and complications for this vulnerable family. But with Client D's aspirations and determination to become a certified nursing assistant someday, we pray she will find her way. PAC has also provided counseling and connections to enable Client D's husband to seek employment to provide for their family. PAC will continue to be there to guide and support them.

Investiture 2023

Elizabeth Stoner, DM, Investiture Committee Chair

During the weekend of September 22-23 the Federal Association welcomed 34 new members of the Class of 2023. This year's Investiture activities were held at The Madison Hotel and the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC.

On Friday at The Madison Hotel, the annual members meeting focused on updates from the Federal Association officers: Charles Cornelio, KM, treasurer; Patrick Monaghan, KMOB, hospitaller; and Fra' Thomas N. Mulligan, president. Gregory Granitto, KM, the chancellor, presented the In Memoriam, reading the names of Federal Association members who died in the past year.

Following the annual members meeting, Charles Cornelio, introduced Archbishop Broglio, archbishop for the Military Services, conventional chaplain ad honorem, and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, as the Defense of Faith speaker. Members and their guests heard Archbishop Broglio outline his thoughts on how members of the Order can contribute to the Eucharistic Revival.

On Saturday morning at St. Matthew's, Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, celebrated the Investiture Mass and Ceremony. In his homily, Cardinal Gregory related the charitable activities of the Order to that of St. Joseph—discreet and without fanfare, but with a specific mission and purpose.

Under the direction of Christopher F. Murphy, KM, the Investiture master of ceremonies, and Msgr. James D. Watkins, conventual chaplain *ad honorem* and ecclesiastical master of ceremonies, the Solemn Liturgy of Investiture was an unforgettable event. New members of the Third Class made their promises in front of Federal Association members, clergy, distinguished guests, family and friends.

Later Saturday evening, approximately 350 guests enjoyed the Gala Reception and Annual Dinner at the Library of Congress.





Members and their guests welcomed the Class of 2023 and recognized accomplishments from the past year, including several awards:

- David L. Archer, KM - Knight Commander pro Merito Melitensi
- Alonzo A. Alvarez, KM - Knight Commander pro Merito Melitensi
- Christopher F. Murphy, DM - Knight Commander pro Merito Melitensi
- Kathleen A. Mezzalingua, DM - Cross with Crown pro Merito Melitensi
- Thaddeus J. Makarewicz, KMOB - Knight Grand Cross in Obedience
- Peter D. Scudner, KM - Knight Grand Cross Magistral Grace
- Robert M. Gallagher, KM - Knight Grand Cross Magistral Grace
- Iren Aloyan - Bronze Medal pro Merito Melitensi
- Lauren Telinde - Bronze Medal pro Merito Melitensi

The Investiture Committee would like to recognize and thank so many individuals whose dedication and collaboration helped make this weekend a success. More specifically: A tremendous thank-you to all the volunteers, team members, and staff, including Christopher F. Murphy, KM, for the beautiful Investiture Mass and Ceremony; Dr. Hugh Dempsey, GCMOB, for the beautiful gala reception and dinner; Iren Aloyan, program coordinator, for the detailed coordination of logistics throughout the past year; Deacon Michael Stankewicz, for his continual partnership and guidance; and Fra' Thomas N. Mulligan, for his leadership and support.



2023 Prison Ministry

Doug Sandvig, KM, Prison Ministry Chair

A recent television program offered predictions on practical consequences of the advancements in gene editing. A constant theme was the importance of biodiversity in healthy ecosystems. Biodiversity yields the adaptation and fruitfulness essential to survival, resilience to environmental changes, and stability to the ecosystem.

In 2013, then-Grand Master Mathew Festing wrote to the three associations in the United States, urging that prison ministry become the signature project of the Order in North America. We have a long way to go, but as reports from around the Federal Association come in, it is clear we are showing signs of biodiversity in our developing prison ministry.

Simply put, all members in every region can participate in prison ministry through their prayers, both at an individual and regional level. Every Mass has Prayers of the Faithful where we offer our intentions. Do the Masses in your region aptly reflect that prison ministry is our signature project?

There is an elephant in the room. Many of our members are not only uncomfortable but actually averse to praying for those in prison. Therein lies the paradox of prison ministry; it may be more about changing our hearts than the hearts of those behind the walls and razor wire. Every region should offer regular prayers for healing, restoration, and reconciliation of prisoners—with God and neighbor.



A number of regions have found different ways to encounter those in prison and those coming out to reenter our communities. Yet there are also regions where prison ministry is essentially dormant. Hopefully, this glimpse of what some regions are doing will spark some adaptation and fruitfulness for a healthier ecosystem in our prison ministry. As you hear about these efforts, look for something that might get traction in your region.

The Montgomery County and Washington, DC regions have joined in a close partnership with Gatekeepers, a reentry program for those who have been released. They also gather several times a year to bring a meal to these returning citizens in the Jubilee Housing Program. A shared meal is a friendly, safe encounter and is a welcoming sign of community to those who can use it.

Montgomery County and DC have made good use of the Stations of the Cross liturgy using images painted by the men on death row in Tennessee. The stations are modeled after a liturgy led by Pope Francis on Good Friday in 2020. It is beautiful and available to all on the Prison Ministry page on the Federal Association website.

In Jacksonville, Ernie Bono takes communion to prisoners every week, including those on death row. He also manages regularly to bring in bibles and religious materials. His encounters have brought several to baptism and confirmation.

Likewise, one of the knights in Kansas City visits a unit twice a week. KC has priests coming into the maximum-security unit once or twice a month. They had baptism and confirmation for three men last year.

The Milwaukee Region has close ties to Dismas Prison Ministry. All members have participated at times, and six members regularly gather to help fill orders for Dismas's religious materials requested by prisoners or chaplains.

The Lancaster Region hosted a program on prison ministry. Simple gatherings where we direct our thoughts and conversation to the challenges of prison life, the spiritual journey of the incarcerated, and healing for victims is one way we awaken our members to much-forgotten communities.

The Philadelphia Region continues to work with the American Association and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to produce videos for distribution to local jails. The videos have been shared with Catholic Distance University and reach hundreds of units nationwide using their programs on prison tablets.

Our Pen Pal Program has more than 700 matches between inside and outside writers, but we need more volunteers—lots more. It is safe, easy, and we have pals waiting for you.



For those willing to write, but not wanting the commitment of a sustained relationship, we have the Holiday Greeting Program. You can send a message of hope to several inmates for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, with no expectation of a reply or lasting connection.

The Federal Association participates in the production and distribution of a quarterly newsletter for those behind the walls. Tan Books generously provides bibles and prayer books that we distribute to chaplains or others who ask to bring them into prisons and jails.

Our partnership with Catholic Distance University continues to bear fruit. We are present on tablets in 376 units in 40 states. There have been approximately 2 million courses started. The tablets distribute our newsletter in English and Spanish and are the primary source of pen pals. The tablet version of the Gatekeeper reentry program has been completed by more than 5,600 inmates awaiting release.

In the Daily Prayer of the Order, we affirm that we have been enlisted to serve the Lord. We beg the Lord for strength to carry out our resolve. Prisons are filled with the poor and people in need of deep healing. Now is the time for us to strengthen our resolve and answer the call.



FitzGerald-Callaghan Lourdes Endowment Trust

Supporters



To support the signature work of our worldwide Order, the Federal Association started the Lourdes Endowment Fund with a very generous gift Admiral William Callaghan and his wife Elizabeth in 2013. The Lourdes Endowment Fund provides an opportunity for our entire Association, even those who cannot attend the pilgrimage, to participate in the care of our beloved Malades. The fund supports the participation of our Federal Association-sponsored Malades so that the charism of our Order, to serve the poor and the sick, can continue for generations. As we work together to build the fund, we ensure the future spiritual fruits of the Order's pilgrimage to Lourdes not just for ourselves but also for those we have been called to serve.

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The Blessed Gerard Society

The Blessed Gerard Society was established in 1998 as a way of recognizing the members of the Order who have included the Order of Malta in their will or other estate planning. In this manner, our Members ensure that the Federal Association will continue to perform the work of the Order. Knights and Dames have been sustaining the Order and its works in this manner for centuries, and it remains an important way of perpetuating the tradition, and more importantly, the noble work of the Order.

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*= Deceased



May They Rest in Peace

In Memoriam, Deceased Members of the Federal Association, 2023

Theodore P. Milos, KM, of Lincolnwood, IL. Invested 2006; died January 5.

Ted was co-founder and vice president of Metropolitan Limousine Company in Chicago. He and Fra' Thomas Mulligan, KJ, past president of the Federal Association, were business partners, best friends, and like brothers. Devoted to serving the community in humble and impactful ways, Ted volunteered with abandoned and abused children at Maryville Academy and with the elderly poor at Lawrence House. He attended several Lourdes pilgrimages and assisted often in the New Orleans and Lafayette home-rebuilding projects. He served on the Admissions Committee.

Henry J. Gailliot, KM, of Pittsburgh, PA. Invested 1991; died January 23.

An economist, Henry was a trustee of Federated Investors, senior vice president of Federated Research Corp., and chair of Federated Investment Counselling. He was a life trustee of Carnegie Mellon University, a member of the Board of Regents of the Catholic University of America, and a director of the Rehabilitation Institute of Pittsburgh. After retiring, Henry devoted his service to education, the arts, and the Catholic Church. He was instrumental in founding the National Institute for Newman Studies.

Emily Charles Donahue, DM, of Chevy Chase, MD. Invested 2002; died February 12.

A graduate of the Education for Parish Service program, Emily served her parish as a teacher in its CCD and RCIA programs. She was a Eucharistic minister and lector and sang in the choir. She volunteered at a hospital and served on the dinner committee for Save Our Aging Religious. She attended several Lourdes pilgrimages. For many years Emily was co-chair of her precinct for the Montgomery County Republican Party.

Jayne H. Plank, DM, of Kensington, MD. Invested 1983; died February 23.

A seventh-generation Washingtonian, Jayne devoted her public service career to building relationships among local, county, state, and federal legislators. She served four terms as the first woman mayor of Kensington and was appointed by President Reagan as director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and as commissioner of the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary. She was in the U.S. delegation welcoming Pope John Paul II to Puerto Rico. She served as a Eucharistic minister at her parish and at Bethesda Naval Hospital, and volunteered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Washington, DC.

James P. Hamill, KM, of Naples, FL. Invested 1983; died February 24.

Jim's 45-year career in health care took him from Davenport, Iowa, to Chicago, to Silver Spring, Maryland, where he was president and chief executive officer of Holy Cross Hospital. He later was president and chief executive officer of Meritus Health in Hagerstown, Maryland. He served on the boards of Crown Spirit Health, the Covenant Health System, and the Catholic Health Initiative.

Joseph K. Barba, KGD, of Palm Beach, FL. Invested 1980; died March 12.

A developer of shopping centers, office buildings, housing, and apartment complexes throughout New Jersey, Joe was most proud of his involvement in building Christ the King Church in his hometown of New Vernon, New Jersey. He was on the building committee of Morristown Memorial Hospital and was a member of the Serra Club. He was devoted to Saint Joseph and to Our Lady of Lourdes and prayed the rosary every day. He attended several Lourdes pilgrimages.

In Memoriam, Deceased Members of the Federal Association, 2023

continued

Fra' James Michael von Stroebel, GCKJ, of Washington, DC. Invested, 1992; Professed, 1999; died May 2.

James Michael worked in international affairs at the U.S. Dept. of Commerce and later filled foreign service posts in five countries. He volunteered with AIDS patients in Washington, DC, and worked on grants, international services, and ceremonials for the Federal Association. He served on the board of directors, the Cuba Task Force, and the Communications Committee, and attended the Lourdes pilgrimage every year for 27 years. As a professed knight, he participated in three Chapters General of the Order and translated the Constitution and Code into English. He became vice regent of the new Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in 2010 was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order.

Lawrence Bradley Camp, KM, of Dallas, TX. Invested 2018; died May 30.

Brad Camp, a real estate broker, builder, and bank officer, was chief executive officer of Wentwood Companies. He was a trustee of the Catholic Foundation, a member of the Serra Club of Metro Dallas, and a partner in the Dallas Cowboys football team. In Brad's name, his wife established the Brad Camp Scholarship Fund at his alma mater, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. Brad delighted in giving its low-income, ethnic-minority students a chance in life, and he followed many students throughout their high school and college careers.

Lee N. Leonhardy, DM, of Washington, DC. Invested 1996; died August 17.

Once a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, Lee worked as a staffer in the U.S. Senate, as a foreign service officer, and as the wife of a career diplomat. Later she earned a Master's degree in International Relations and Theology and became a leader in educating adult Catholics in the Education for Parish Service program in Washington, DC, and in Helena, MT. She was a founding member of the Cuba Task Force, served on the Formation Committee, and attended several Lourdes pilgrimages.

Donald G. Joyce, M.D, KM, of Charlotte, NC. Invested 1997; died September 20.

A Quebec native, Don worked as an orthopedic surgeon at seven Charlotte hospitals and was chief of staff at Charlotte Rehabilitation Hospital and chief of Orthopedics at Mercy Hospital. He was a founding member of the Order's Charlotte Region and served as its hospitaller. Devoted to hands-on work with the poor, particularly with persons with disabilities at Holy Angels, Don was awarded the Order of Merit pro Merito Militensi in 2010 for his service. He served on the Medical Committee of several Lourdes pilgrimages.

Michael F. Grimshaw, KM, of Dallas, TX. Invested 2009; died November 6.

Mike worked in wealth management with Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley. A graduate of Jesuit schools, he actively supported Jesuit works in Dallas and in his parish. He and his wife, Cynthia Grimshaw, DM, transferred from the American Association to the Federal Association. Mike was a longtime driver for Meals on Wheels and Bread Delivery and worked weekly feeding the homeless on the streets and in a soup kitchen. He and his wife attended the Lourdes pilgrimage.

Louis J. Boland, KM, of Bethesda, MD. Invested 2005; died November 14.

Executive vice president of Boland Trane Associates, his family business, Louie was the son of Louis, Sr., and Maureen Boland, both early members of the Federal Association. He was devoted to the Catholic Church and was a strong supporter of Catholic Charities. As a knight, he volunteered with Project Share and participated in a toy drive in his parish. He was devoted to his family and built lifetime friendships with customers, associates, and friends.

Thomas J. Bliley, KM, of Richmond, VA. Invested 1992; died November 16.

Born in Richmond, Tom served seven years as mayor of that city and for 20 years represented a Virginia district in the U.S. Congress, where he oversaw some of the nation's most important economic legislation. He served on the boards of St. Mary's and Children's Hospitals. He attended four Lourdes pilgrimages, was a frequent attendee of the Order's spiritual events in Washington, DC, and was instrumental in founding the Richmond Region of the Federal Association.





Daily Prayer of the Order of Malta

Lord Jesus,

*Thou hast seen fit to enlist me for Thy service
in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.*

*I humbly entreat Thee, through the intercession of the most holy Virgin of
Philermo, of St. John the Baptist, Blessed Gerard,
and all the saints, to keep me faithful to the traditions of our Order: Be it
mine to practice and defend the Catholic, the Apostolic, the Roman faith
against sacrilege;*

*Be it mine to practice charity towards my neighbors, especially the poor and
sick. 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.*

Amen.



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