

the Order of Malta

Federal Association, U.S.A.



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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

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President's Message

At the beginning of 2015, our Federal Association had the honor to welcome His Most Eminent Highness Fra' Matthew Festing, our Grand Master, to receive the solemn vows of Knight of Justice from John Harvey. Over 220 members and guests of our Association had an opportunity to greet the Grand Master and listen to his words of encouragement. Accompanying the Grand Master were Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, Grand Chancellor, and Dominique Prince de la Rochefoucauld-Montbel, Grand Hospitaller, who met with leaders of both the American Association and the Federal Association.

Our Association continues to grow, adding 59 new members at our investiture in September, allowing us to reach the 1,000 mark. We also welcomed 68 candidates for membership at our Formation weekend. One of our strategic goals is to strengthen our formation year, helping our candidates deepen their knowledge of our Order, its history, its spiritual life and its charism of hands-on work to serve those in need. Building on our current Formation program, we made improvements this year and will continue such efforts in coming years.

In this report is the personal experience of one of our members who went on pilgrimage to Lourdes as a *Malade*. Our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes continues to be one of our Association's most important activities. In 2015, 48 *Malades*, 63 companions, and 229 members and volunteers

participated in the pilgrimage. Through Our Lady our pilgrims approached our Lord during an intense week of prayer and genuine fellowship with the Order's members and *Malades* from many parts of the world.

Realizing that we cannot accommodate everyone on the Lourdes pilgrimage, we initiated a U.S. pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help in Green Bay, Wisconsin, the only apparition site in this country recognized by the local diocesan bishop. Beginning with 54 pilgrims this past year, and working with our confreres from the American Association, we hope to expand those numbers in 2016.

These pilgrimages as well as our local retreats, reflection days, monthly meetings and special written and on-line resources help us achieve a vital goal of an Association—to assist our members in developing their spiritual life.

Intrinsically linked to our Order's spirituality are our hands-on works. This Annual Report shows only a sampling of these works that our Association and our regions actively support—through direct participation as well as generous contributions to our Annual Fund, the Blessed Gerard Fund and the Lourdes Trust Fund.

I am grateful for the leadership of so many members in carrying out our mission and I thank especially our staff for providing effective and dedicated support to our Federal Association.

Margaret Melady, DM
President



“A vital goal of our Association is to assist our members in developing their spiritual life.”

Spiritual Life

Two Sides of the Same Coin

Fra' Tom Mulligan, Vice President

T*uitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*, and its English translation, are well known to every member of the Order of Malta. Latin can be notoriously difficult to translate, as meanings and emphases have changed in response to the changes in the world during the Order's nine centuries of history.

In the past several centuries, members have understood *obsequium pauperum* to mean serving the poor and the sick in hospitals. However *obsequium* meant, and still means, more than merely serving; it includes homage, worship, deference, respect, as well as obedience. Historically, most members of the Order were of the noble class who not only served the sick and the poor but made it their goal to mentally switch places with them in their personal relationships. They looked upon those for whom they cared as their "lords" in the medieval sense. While today's social structure differs considerably, it would be an excellent practice for all members of the Order to try to emulate this tradition.

Defense of the Faith

Tuitio Fidei is a little more complex. In the first seven centuries of the life of the Order, it was simple: defense by military force against those who sought the destruction not

only of the Catholic faith, of Christendom itself, but all of European civilization—ultimately the submission of the world.

Today, the charism and duty of the Order have changed. The broader meanings of *tuitio* provide a guide to fulfillment of that duty in the modern world by the members of the Order—to include the duty to guard, defend, protect, uphold, save, regard, look at, maintain. *Tuitio* can also imply nurture and witness.

On October 13, 1997, on the feast of our founder Blessed Fra' Gerard, Pope John Paul II referred to the Order's mission to defend the faith, saying that "defending the faith often means, especially in our time, defending the great values that human reason without the light of Revelation risks misunderstanding in their integral and radical nature. These are for example human dignity, the nature of the family and the fundamental right to life."

A previous *Cardinalis Patronus* of the Order, Cardinal Pio Laghi, reminded us that in today's secular world we are often confronted by those opposed to the very foundation of our faith and that we really do need to understand our faith if there is any hope of upholding it.

Our Defense of the Faith Committee assists members in carrying out the first of the two promises they make at investiture and repeat daily in the Prayer of the Order: "*be it mine to practice and defend the catholic, the apostolic, the Roman faith...*"



The committee aims to do this by first encouraging our members to participate more frequently in public and private prayer and devotions, where our relationship with God has every potential to approach a whole new dimension. Second, the committee helps educate members about their faith and about contemporary issues challenging Catholic beliefs, all in order to strengthen their ability and resolve to defend the faith in their own lives. This work also helps members become better-informed citizens when participating in political life in support of Catholic teachings.

Charity

A previous prelate of the Order, Archbishop Donato de Bonis, called help of the sick and defense of the faith as two sides of the same coin—of charity if they are integrated with a spirit of evangelization.

Our former Grand Master, the Venerable Fra' Andrew Bertie, emphasized the example of our works of mercy throughout the world as our strongest “defense of the faith”, and our most effective form of spreading the Gospel message of love. Emphasis on this theme continues under our current Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing.

In further guidance and assistance to the members, the Defense of the Faith Committee is preparing a bibliography of reading and study material on important questions facing the Church and the world. The committee also assists with



local presentations and programs. During 2015 several regions presented “defense of the faith” programs and it is hoped that this will expand each year.

We are defined as members of the Order of Malta through our practice of the virtues and demonstration of our beliefs to others through action. In the end we need to be strengthened for those times when we must go against the tide in supporting the teachings of the Church in all aspects of our daily lives. Ideally, each of us is working through *tuitio fidei* as it relates to our own response to the call to become a part of the life of the Order of Malta.



2015 Hospitaller Report

Bob Signorelli, KMOB, Association Hospitaller

The year 2015 was an active one as the Federal Association started new initiatives, opened a new region, and grew in membership.

We had three hospitaller meetings in 2015: two in person, in conjunction with formation weekend and investiture, and a teleconference in January.

Our spring meeting included presentations from various committees such as communications, Lourdes, nominating, auxiliary, development committees. We also used this meeting to follow up on the previous year's discussion of what we should stop doing, start doing, continue doing, and do better. In response, several new initiatives were put in place this year, starting with enhanced regional communications within regions.

At our fall meeting, each region received a communication handbook on how to set up Facebook pages, Constant Contact, PayPal accounts and other online communications. Some hospitallers presented reports on their projects, spiritual activities and membership initiatives, as a means of spreading new ideas for all regions to consider.

We have 28 regions in the Federal Association, with Milwaukee as the most recent one to form. Seven new hospitallers started three-year terms and two began their second terms, as listed to the right.

Region	Outgoing Hospitaller	New Hospitaller
Dallas	Kip Rolland	Lawrence Neuhoff
Charlotte	Jerry Schmitt	Joe Tronco
Jacksonville	Lou Walsh	Jane Lanier
Milwaukee	N/A	Gerard Randall
Pittsburgh	Dan McGrogan	Tony Barna
Lancaster	Pete Scudner	Gerry Ganse
Wilmington	Dorcas Gamble	Lisa Howard

Second Term Renewal

Region	Current Hospitaller
Memphis	Dave Archer
Hartford	Pauline Olsen

We implemented a new hospitaller installation Mass and commitment service where the new hospitallers make a commitment to care for our members, preserve and enhance spirituality, take care of the sick and poor, and defend the faith in their respective regions. Members in the region participate in this Mass and pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and assist the new hospitaller in the work. This is important because without the regional hospitallers the Order cannot function.



The Federal Association priorities for regions are:

1. spirituality
2. works and projects
3. membership development, including education and recruitment

Spirituality

We introduced a plan to implement monthly Holy Hours and a Year of Mercy initiative in the regions.

Each region has a monthly Mass, a St. John the Baptist feast day Mass, and Sanctity of Life and Deceased Members Mass. Most regions have an anointing Mass and a Christmas Mass as well, and many also have Lenten and Advent reflections presided over by their chaplains.

These occasions typically include social events for strengthening bonds among members.

Membership Development

We all have an obligation to bring new members into our Order. The Order plays an important role in our world; therefore it's incumbent upon us to invite other Catholics to join. The Order is clearly a helpful path to heaven. Faith without works does not go far, and our Order affords many opportunities to express our faith through good works.

The Federal Association now has 1,015 members. In 2015, 21 members died (please keep them in your prayers), 59 were invested in September, and 68 candidates entered formation. The following shows membership by region:

Ranking	Region	# of Members
1	Montgomery County	124
2	Washington, DC	113
3	Northern Virginia	108
4	Chicago	50
4	Houston	50
6	Dallas	49
7	Baltimore	48
8	Atlanta	44
8	Kansas City	44
10	Charlotte	43
11	Pittsburgh	37
12	Jacksonville	35
13	Syracuse	28
14	Lancaster	27
14	New Orleans	27
16	Hartford	26
17	Columbus	19
18	Greensboro	17
19	Memphis	15
20	Lafayette	14
21	Delaware Valley—Wilmington	13
22	Milwaukee	11
22	Richmond	11
24	St Joseph	10
25	Delaware Valley—Philadelphia	9
25	Southern Maryland	9
27	Des Moines	5
28	Tallahassee	5



2015 Hospitaller Report continued

Works and Projects

Regional works provide members with the opportunity to work together in caring for the sick and poor, and defending our faith.

Projects throughout the Federal Association include food kitchens, food distribution, elderly care, child care, VA hospital visits, medical clinics, radio programming, Catholic radio support, mobile medical vans, home rebuilding, public education forums for defense of our faith, prison ministry, and many other works.

Another project common among many regions is Prayer in Action, or Malta Cares, which involves caring for our own members who are sick or otherwise in need. This includes visiting members in assisted living facilities, members who are home-bound, and those suffering with family problems. Members take the responsibility to visit those who cannot

participate fully, or else assist them in attending our events. In addition, many regions send a weekly text to members praying for those who are sick or struggling.

Other Activities

Most regions provide educational forums for our members to learn more about the Order, the Catholic Church, and ways to increase our spirituality. Among the subjects covered at these events in 2015 were:

- Regulations and Commentary of the Order
- Lumen Gentium
- Lectio Divina
- Book studies
- Bible studies



Our second annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help in Green Bay, Wisconsin, held August 7-9, attracted 48 Knights and Dames and 14 *Malades*. In 2016 the American Association will be joining us on the pilgrimage scheduled for August 4-7. As approved by our board of directors, it is now an official pilgrimage of the Federal Association.

During this coming year we have many initiatives underway, including:

1. Improvement of our Federal Association website to be more useful to regions
2. A Facebook page for every region;
3. A monthly Holy Hour across the Association;
4. More direction for regional treasurers;
5. Creation of a regional advisory panel;
6. Increased involvement of regional hospitallers in the Lourdes process;

7. More member input in regional strategic planning; and
8. A membership recruitment initiative or plan for each region.

Finally, our mission is to encourage all regions to work in an entrepreneurial fashion to promote spirituality, bring members to work together on projects, educate each other, and socialize together—all paving a pathway to heaven together.

Thank you for making the Federal Association world class.



2015 Treasurer's Report

2015 Financial Report—Based on Audited Financial Statements

Federal Association:

Income:

Membership Dues & Passage Fees	\$ 1,106,937
Testamentary Gifts & Change in Value	42,702
Investment Income	68,152
Committees	54,656
Sale of Merchandise	52,174

Administrative Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,324,621</u>
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Events/Spiritual Activities	49,602
Investiture	180,145
Lourdes Pilgrimage	985,513
New Orleans Home Repair	32,125

Events/Activities Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,247,385</u>
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Charitable Giving

Annual Appeal	989,124
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Charitable Giving Sub-Total	<u>\$ 989,124</u>
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Association Revenue and Support	<u>\$ 3,561,130</u>
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Expenses:

Operations/Administration	\$ 897,721
Assessments to SMOM	276,988
Committees/Other	69,575

Administrative Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,244,284</u>
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Events/Spiritual Activities	38,855
Investiture	201,860
Lourdes Pilgrimage	971,593
New Orleans Home Repair	36,308

Events/Activities Sub-Total	<u>\$ 1,248,616</u>
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Grants/Hospitaller Program

Grants Committee*	974,320
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Grants/Hospitaller Sub-Total	<u>\$ 974,320</u>
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Association Expense	<u>\$ 3,467,220</u>
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Association Net Income	<u>\$ 93,910</u>
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Investments— Ass'n & Lourdes Endowment Trust

Operating Account	\$ 40,821
Malta House (DC) Fund	125,993
Lourdes Fund**	2,060,789
Blessed Gerard Fund	2,531,764
Total Investment Accounts	<u>\$ 4,759,367</u>

* \$200,000 was granted to the Lourdes Pilgrimage and has been reflected in this report as Lourdes Pilgrimage Revenue and Grants Committee Expense. These amounts are not considered revenue and expense for GAAP audit purposes but were included in this report as a better reflection of the financial results from these programs.

** The Lourdes Fund was transferred into the Lourdes Endowment Trust. (Note: Trust Assets are not assets of the Association.)



2015 Investiture

On September 12th, 2015, the Federal Association welcomed 59 new Knights and Dames at the Investiture Mass and Ceremony at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C. At the Mass, three Magistral Chaplains were invested, as well as one Associate Chaplain and one Associate Deacon Chaplain. Archbishop Leonard Blair of Hartford, Conn. and Archbishop Blase Cupich of Chicago, who were also named Conventual Chaplains *ad honorem* of the Federal Association this year, were unable to attend. Nearly 500 people attended the Mass, which was celebrated by the Principal Chaplain of the Federal Association, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington. Also in attendance was Bishop Barry Knestout, auxiliary bishop of Washington, as well as representatives of the Sovereign Council, the Venerable Order of St. John, the Johanniter Order, and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

A highlight of the Investiture Weekend was the Defense of the Faith Forum on the Order's work for persecuted Christians and refugees in the Middle East, featuring Ambassador Justin Simpson and Michele Bowe, DM as speakers.

At the Annual Dinner, held at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce building, new members had the opportunity to be introduced to Cardinal Wuerl, Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., Bishop Knestout, and D. Geoffrey Gamble of the Sovereign Council.

Speaking to nearly 500 members, family, friends, and the newly invested at the Investiture Mass, Cardinal Wuerl placed his message in the larger context of the then forthcoming visit of Pope Francis to this country. He spoke of those who have drifted from the Church, and of the cultural challenges facing our nation, calling on all of us to reflect on our Catholic identity.



2015 Investiture continued



“As Knights and Dames of the Sovereign Order of Malta, we take on a particular responsibility to manifest in our words and deeds that Catholic identity that is symbolized by the cross we wear on our uniform,” he said in his homily. Drawing on the words of Pope Francis, he added, “that all baptized...share the responsibility for the primary mission of the Church to evangelize and share our faith with the world.”

This solemn Mass anchored a weekend that brought together members from 26 regions for an annual members’ meeting with Association leadership, presentation of awards, and a Defense of the Faith program, topped off with the annual dinner dance.

On behalf of the Sovereign Council, Federal Association President Margaret Melady presented the Grand Cross pro piis meritis to Msgr. Edward J. Dillon, Magistral Chaplain, and the Cross pro Merito Melitensi to Thomas J. Hughes, KM, Robert M. Gallagher, KM, and Lawrence O. Demaree, KM. Additionally the Cross pro piis meritis was presented to Rev. Daniel Anthony Flens in Chicago in June of 2015.

The next day President Melady presented her President’s Awards to Lawrence B. Neuhoff, KM, Joan M. Cincotta, DM, Cynthia M. Wilkinson, DM, Marguerite Baxter, DM, Loretto Kane, DM, Jeffrey D. Ludwig, KM, Leon T. Knauer, KM, Sidney D. Spencer, KM, and Frances L.V. Spencer, DM.

President Melady was joined by other officers of the Federal Association in presenting a summary of the spiritual and hospitaller works of the Order for the year 2014 along with a financial review.



Lourdes Pilgrimage—2015

The Federal Association participated in the Order of Malta's annual international pilgrimage to the Marian shrine at Lourdes, France from April 29 through May 6. We brought along with us 48 *Malades* and 63 of their companions as part of our total of about 345 pilgrims in 2015.

Highlights from our pilgrimage are shared on our Lourdes Facebook page.

In our closing Mass in the Rosary Basilica, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, encouraged us to see our return from the pilgrimage as a continuation of the apostolic "adventure" to bring the joy of the Risen Christ to all.



A Malade's View of Lourdes

Rocco Martino, KMOB

All of us live in the expectation of our own mortality, which we always assume will occur many years in the future. It comes as a jolt to suddenly realize instead that the event may be imminent. And so it is with our blessed *Malades*. All of them hope for the miracle of a cure or at least some amelioration of their illness. My wife and I had been to Lourdes 10 times before this year's trip, which was my first as a *Malade*. It was different.

The significance of the annual pilgrimage by the Order is twofold. First is the obvious exercise of our love and devotion to our lords the sick and the poor. Each year we take a selected

number of the very sick to Lourdes—for the spiritual grace of this public demonstration of faith, and for the immersion in the healing waters of Lourdes, where many miracles and instant cures have occurred over the years. It is this hope of a cure that is the center point for all who enter the baths. For me it was particularly moving because this time I was one of those deathly ill. I was hoping that my disease would either disappear or at least be mitigated. That is the first aspect of Lourdes.

The second in my opinion, even as a *Malade*, is more important. It is the receipt of the grace to accept the illness, not as a punishment but as a source of grace and increased spirituality. The candlelight processions, Mass in the cavernous crypt church which seats more than 20,000, the blessings by the many priests in attendance, and the continual loving



care creates an atmosphere that elevates the spirit to a greater awareness of God. The story of Bernadette is one of deep faith, a shining example for all who proceed to Lourdes.

For me as a *Malade*, while I hoped for some form of cure, it really didn't matter. I received a greater gift of acceptance and increased faith in the all-encompassing loving embrace of God.

As a Knight, I experienced a unique privilege and source of strength. All about me were brothers and sisters of this venerable and noble Order.

That is the meaning of Lourdes.



Holy Family Hospital Michele Burke Bowe, DM, President Holy Family Hospital Foundation

Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem is a shared work of the world-wide Associations of the Order of Malta. Located in Bethlehem a mere 1,500 steps away from the manger where the Christ Child was born, it serves as the only dedicated infant and maternal hospital in the region. The hospital, run by the Order's International Hospital Board, on which Dr. Harry Johnson and I serve as directors, promotes the health and well-being of mothers and babies while providing top-quality employment for more than 150 Palestinians.

One may wonder why our Order runs a hospital in Bethlehem. The answer is two-fold. We are a hospitaller order, and running hospitals generally, particularly in the Holy Land, has been our calling for more than 900 years. Our first hospital, in the Old City of Jerusalem, served men and women of the Catholic, Muslim and Jewish faiths. Artifacts suggest that a section of this hospital served as a maternity wing. Our

second hospital was opened a few years later, six miles away on the edge of Bethlehem on a hill called Tantour. The land for this hospital was a gift from King Baldwin I of Jerusalem in the year 1110. The Order ran this hospital along with the hospital in Akko serving women, men and children of all faiths until its departure to Cyprus. The reputation for dignified care of patients was so great that Saladin himself bequeathed a thousand bezants of gold each year to the Grand Master in appreciation and gratitude for the charity of our Order.

In 1873, the hospital of the Order was reestablished at Tantour to care for men, women and babies, and included a



wing for malnourished children. This hospital operated under the auspices of the Order until the First World War. Later, after the visit of Paul VI, the Order donated half the land for the establishment of an ecumenical institute.

Today, the remaining lands of Tantour constitute the Monastery of St. John of Jerusalem, which is being renovated to include administration offices for Holy Family Hospital, productive ancient olive groves and a guesthouse with a chapel. The monastery will be open to receive pilgrims and to provide a place of prayer for peace in the Holy Land.

By running a state of the art hospital in Bethlehem, the Order continues its 900-year hospitaller mission of serving the sick and the poor. Since 1990, our hospital has delivered more than 68,000 babies and touched the lives of close to a million residents of the region. This breadth of service has furthered the reputation of the Order, the Catholic Church and us as

Americans, as people of faith who serve without regard to race or religion. We serve because we are Catholic.

This work is made possible by your generosity as members of the Federal Association. The generous grant to the Holy Family Hospital Foundation from the Annual Fund and your direct gifts allow the staff of the hospital to save the lives of the tiniest premature babies weighing less than two pounds, to restore health and dignity to older women suffering from gynecologic disorders and to train Muslim and Christian doctors, midwives and nurses to work together in service to the poor. Blessed Fra' Gerard would be proud.



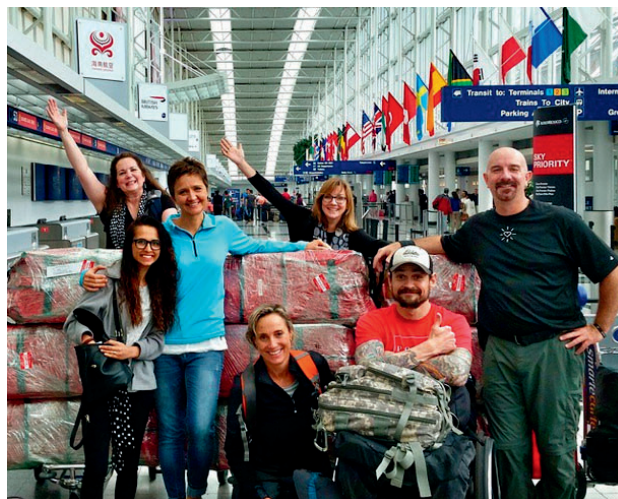
2015 Grants Barbara Laughlin, DM, Grants Committee Chair

Through his book “The Name of God is Mercy” Pope Francis shares his concern for the plight of the sick and the poor, as particularly exemplified by this short excerpt: “In this holy year we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outmost fringes... It is my burning desire that during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience too often grown dull in the face of poverty.”

In each region of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta the Pope’s message is heeded and fulfilled by Knights, Dames and their families through an array of programs and services in which hands-on participation assures that the needy are served with compassion and dedication. Members have shared their time, talent, treasure and compassion with thousands of those in need through regional projects and initiatives that include food services, health services, counseling, construction programs, and more. In addition,

member support of the Annual Fund significantly serves the needy in locations where the Order may not have a presence.

Donations to the Annual Fund provided more than \$300,000 to enhance regional programs in 2015. After thorough review, the Grants Committee awarded funds to 13 applicants with a record of successful operation, significant impact to the constituents served, regional financial support and substantial hands-on participation in both the governance and delivery of service by Knights and Dames. Among these is Malta House of Care in Baltimore, which received the second of two, \$50,000 grants to support the delivery of health care to the underserved by providing diagnostic testing and related treatment to an ever growing constituency. Members of the Order staff the Malta Mobile Clinic, replete with examination and testing facilities, and with doctors, medical assistants and administrative staff to improve the health of those least able to afford care.



Annual Fund contributions allow the Federal Association to serve the poor and the sick in keeping with the request from Rome to focus on those countries in the Caribbean Basin, Central and South America. International grants were awarded in the amount of \$285,000. Regional applications for funding of international programs received \$85,000 to assist Order-supported programs, including those in Nicaragua, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. The Order also contributed \$100,000 to Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem as well as \$100,000 to Malteser International Americas, in support of international crises including Syrian refugee assistance. Additionally, \$50,000 is given to Catholic Café radio program, and \$5,000 is given to the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library at Saint John's University.

The commitment to provide spiritual and physical assistance to the *Malades* with whom we share the pilgrimage to Lourdes was enhanced as members of the Order, through support of the Annual Fund, provided \$200,000 to cover the expense of travel and lodging for *Malades* and their companions. As the

Lourdes Fund grows, *Malades* can be assured for years to come that participation in the pilgrimage will be available to all, regardless of individual financial circumstances.

In addition to the work of the Annual Fund at the Association level, many regions support their programs of their own through entirely local fundraising among their members. These programs for the homeless, refugees, immigrants, pregnant women, sick, and others are evidence of the commitment of each Knight and Dame to “open our hearts to those living on the fringes”, fulfilling Pope Francis’s directives in this Jubilee Year of Mercy.



Prison Ministry

The Order's prison ministry was established by the Board of Directors in October of 2013 pursuant to the Grand Master's request that the three U.S. Associations work together on this as a signature project. The result was the North American Prison Ministry Apostolate, which the Canadian Association has since joined.

The apostolate currently is comprised of members from 17 of our regions, with the goal of having all regions eventually represented. Approximately 100 members are now engaged in some aspect of this ministry.

More than 600 Members of the Order are engaged in prison ministry in 31 states. The work includes distributing Bibles, prayer books, prayer cards, and a quarterly newsletter called "The Serving Brother". In addition, members correspond with

inmates and those recently released, mentor them, help with job placement, visit the inmates in prison and reach out to their families.

In 2015 the Federal Association, in conjunction with the American, Western and Canadian Associations, hosted a Prison Ministry Symposium in Washington DC that attracted more than 75 people. Prisoner recidivism was the focus of the eight presentations of the day.

At the outset, the attendees were informed that more people are in prison in the U.S. (2.5 million) than in any other country; Russia is second. We have 22.4% of the world's inmates. Our recidivism rate is also the highest, at about 60%. Our state and federal corrections facilities spend on average more than \$20,000 annually to house an inmate versus \$40 annually on rehabilitation of the inmate. When a commitment is made to rehabilitate, as it is in Norway and New Zealand, the recidivism rate drops to 15% to 20%.

Among current efforts to address this issue is a faith-based approach known as "restorative justice", which one of the conference speakers discussed as a program designed to engage the victim, the survivors, the offender and the community in a dialog to evaluate the impact of the crime. The emphasis is on achieving spiritual, psychological and emotional healing for all parties.

Another speaker described the post-release program of the Archdiocese of Chicago's Kolbe House, in which volunteers write to those in prison and help them after release, working with them on their journey back into society. This effort has resulted in fewer participants returning to prison.

Another presentation featured a video of Bishop William Curlin, retired from the Diocese of Charlotte, N.C., and a dear friend of the Order. In urging members of the Order to consider participating in prison ministry, he asked, "How can we say we are Christians and not reach out to those who are hurting the most, who are on the edge? Jesus reached out to those no one wanted to be bothered with: the lepers, demoniacs, the woman to be stoned. Ask yourself, what have I done for the unwanted and unloved? Look for the ones the world is passing by."



Our Lady of Good Help Pilgrimage

August 6–9, 2015

The second annual Federal Association pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help and the National Shrine of St. Joseph drew 61 members of the Order, volunteers and *Malades*.

The 2015 pilgrimage began August 6 with Mass at the historic St. Francis Xavier Cathedral celebrated by Msgr. Edward J. Dillon, a chaplain of the Order, and concelebrated by Rev. Peter Strycker, chaplain of the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, and Rev. Joseph Dorner, rector of the cathedral. Deacon Harold Jopp; Deacon Michael Stankewicz, the Federal Association executive director; and Deacon Jeff Trexler, the American Association executive director, all assisted.

The next morning we made our first visit to the shrine itself, which was approved by the local bishop as a Marian apparition site on December 8, 2010, currently the only one in the United States. Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay was the main celebrant at Mass that day.

Our next visit was to the Shrine of St. Joseph, located at the Norbertine Abbey, in Des Peres. The sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick was celebrated by Fr. James Baraniak, prior of the Abbey, and Msgr. Dillon.



Our Lady of Good Help Pilgrimage continued

The two-plus days of the pilgrimage gave all who attended time for Mass, the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation, the Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and certainly time to visit and enjoy each other's company.

Msgr. Dillon has agreed to be the official chaplain of this pilgrimage in the future. We will be joined in the next one, scheduled for August 4–6, 2016, by members of the American Association.

Thanks to all those who traveled to Green Bay to attend the pilgrimage, and to all those who helped organize it: Kate Signorelli, Les and Taffy Hewitt, Collins Whitfield, Fra' Tom Mulligan, and Wayne Ruth.



Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes Joe Metz, GCMOb

Role in the Spiritual Life of Knights and Dames

Established in 2006 to assist members of the Federal and American Associations in the First and Second Classes to fulfill their spiritual obligations, the Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes has 76 members in the Second Class (Obedience), approximately 25 members in preparation for Obedience, and six members in the First Class (Knights of Justice).

Membership in the subpriory is additional to membership in the Associations, so members belong to both.

The subpriory is legally a “juridical person” with the structure of the Order (Code, Art. 220). A modern creation, it resulted from the establishment of a new “Second Class” within the Order of Malta by Pope Pius XII in 1956. Membership was extended to Dames and non-nobles and the title of “Knights of Obedience” was changed to “Knights and Dames in Obedience.”

Both Professed (First Class) and Knights and Dames in Obedience (Second Class) belong to the subpriory. The Regent, elected by the membership and appointed by the Grand Master, is the religious superior of the subpriory, chosen from among the First or Second Class members.

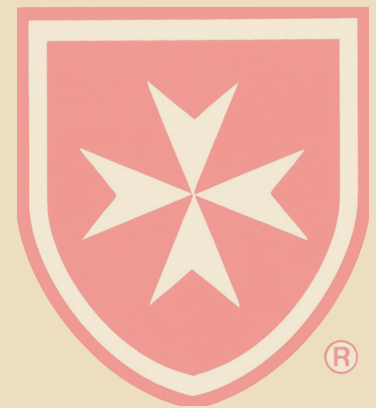
Obedience as a Life Decision and Higher Commitment

The bond established by the “Promise of Obedience” is stronger than the promise of Tertiaries or Oblates. Obedience is a life decision before God through one’s religious superiors in the Order. As such it cannot be abrogated. The “promise” the member makes is to live a life leading to perfection in the spirit of the works of the Order. Specifically, this is done by attending Mass frequently and reciting daily prayers, taking part each year in a three-day silent retreat of the subpriory, and by regularly seeking the counsel of a spiritual director. A member in Obedience is also obliged to be an active member of one’s Association to the extent of one’s abilities and circumstances. To become a Knight or Dame in Obedience is to become a member of a spiritual family

(the subpriory) within the larger family (the Association) and to continue to help those in need, following the Word and receiving the Sacraments on a regular basis. Joining the subpriory is not to step away from the Federal Association and its charism but rather to enter further into the mission of the Association, to witness to the faith and to serve the poor, sick, and all others in need.

Who can enter the Second Class and the subpriory?

The subpriory welcomes all Knights and Dames who have been members of the Order for five years and have made three or more pilgrimages to Lourdes or to another Marian shrine with *Malades*. Obedience strengthens members in their works and ministries within their respective Associations. The Subpriory is a family of prayer within the larger family of the Order of Malta.



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Their selfless gifts will ensure the Lourdes Pilgrimage
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Knights and Dames of Malta 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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May They Rest in Peace

These Members have passed away since the publication of the last Annual Report

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Charles B. Reeves, Jr.	June 27
Ron Linton	June 28
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Barbara Colby	July 16
H.E. William Cardinal Baum	July 23
Thomas Baldwin	July 30
Byron Thompson	August 4
John Robertshaw	September 12
Jeanne Degnan Forte	September 22
Frank J. Guyol	September 27
Col. John Q. Deaver, (Ret.)	October 17
Johannes (John) Koelemij	November 6
Patrick McGahan	November 29
Thomas Zimmerman	December 4

2016

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Joseph Mead	March 8
Joseph Swift	March 10
Hon. Frederick B. Ugast	April 6
Richard W. Miller	April 15
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