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NEW! Planned Giving

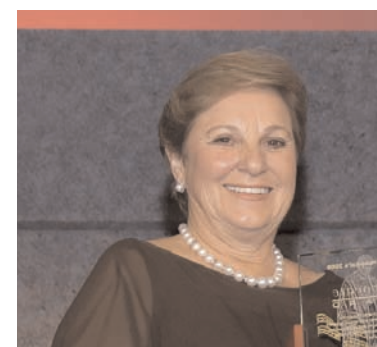
Please visit the new planned giving resources available on our site. You can familiarize yourself with the best options to suit your circumstances. There are new tools to help you compare gifts, build your gift, and a gift calculator. You can access these resources at the top, right navigation or under giving:
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President's Letter



Noreen Falcone
Report from Rome

The Code and Constitution of the Order states that the Chapter General is the supreme assembly of the Order and is composed of representatives from the

different classes. It is convened every five years to elect the members of the Sovereign Council, the members of the Government Council, and the members of the Board of Auditors. The delegates also consider modifications to the Constitution and the Code and discuss the most important issues facing the Order such as its spiritual and temporal state, the program of its hospitaller activities worldwide, and its international diplomatic relations.

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SUMMER 2009

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- A. Patrick Bright – Syracuse, New York
- William F. Grant – Alexandria, Virginia
- John J. Kitchin – Kansas City, Missouri
- J. Kevin Mueller – Baltimore, Maryland
- Paul A. Nalty – Metairie, Louisiana
- Ralph A. Wells – Potomac, Maryland

Requiescat in Pace
Please pray for these Federal Association members who have died in 2009.

FEDERAL ASSOCIATION REVIEW

From the Order of Malta - Federal Association, USA



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

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Regional Roundup

MEMPHIS

The Catholic Café: Success of radio program launches it to national syndication - *Robert Hutton*

The Catholic Café is a weekly radio program produced by the Memphis Region which discusses some aspect of the Catholic faith. With the sounds of clanking dishes in the background, listeners are made to feel as though they are in an intimate coffee house setting—in “conversation” with the host, Deacon Jeff Drzycimski, and his invited weekly guest. Listeners are invited to e-mail questions, comments, or topic suggestions, and also may download past shows online. The program addresses a variety of timely, Catholic topics such as the Eucharist, purgatory, the Blessed Mother, Indulgences, and papal primacy.



Program host Jeff Drzycimski and Bishop J. Terry Steib, of Memphis.

The show was created in September 2008—through the help of a \$10,000 grant from the Federal Association—as a Defense of the Faith project for the Memphis Region. The show has been broadcast on two radio stations in the Diocese of Memphis

and now—due to its growing success and appeal—has begun broadcasting nationally. The show ranks in the top one hundred Catholic podcasts by iTunes. Over three hundred thousand people have downloaded shows from the website. E-mails with questions and comments have come from as far away as Spain and Belize.

Its popularity led Relevant Radio, a national syndication of Catholic radio stations, to add The Catholic Café to its weekend lineup. Over thirty-four stations nation-wide will broadcast the Catholic Café twice every Sunday, 6 a.m. & 2 p.m. EST.

Join in” the conversation by listening online:
www.thecatholiccafe.com



LANCASTER

Rwandan Genocide Survivor Attracts Record Numbers to the Defense of the Faith Series

The Lancaster Region’s Defense of the Faith Series was initiated in 2007. With the assistance of a \$10,000 grant from the Federal Association, the series sponsors a twice-yearly presentation by a guest speaker preceded by Mass. On May 21st, the Lancaster Region hosted the third in its Defense of the Faith Series, which attracted a record audience of 1,500 people who were blessed with a divinely inspired message of forgiveness from Rwandan genocide survivor, Immaculée Ilibagiza. She shared her miraculous story of survival of the 1994 mass murder of one million of her fellow countrymen—but, even more importantly, she passionately shared the story of her journey on the road to personal salvation and forgiveness.

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President’s Letter continued...

I, as President, and Paul McNamara, as my delegate, were privileged to participate in a Chapter General in June. Elections of the above-mentioned members were handled exactly as we elect our own members to the Board.

We all were asked to make recommendations to the nominating committee prior to the Chapter General for the various offices, stating their qualifications. After having done so, the nominating committee came back to us with their slate of officers, chosen from the names submitted and one suggested by the nominating committee. It was strongly recommended that the voting body accept the slate as presented. Once everyone agreed on the slate proposed, it was presented for vote at the meeting of the Chapter General. The vote is primarily an affirmation of the proposed slate.

Fra’ John Dunlop, the Regent of our Lady of Lourdes Sub-Priory, was named to the Sovereign Council and had to resign as Regent; Tony Sanchez-Corea, a member of the Western Association, was re-elected to the Sovereign Council. Dan Kelly, the President of the American Association was elected to the Government Council and before accepting the position had to resign as President of the American Association. Stephen Diaz-Gavin, our chancellor was elected to the Board of Auditors and was also able to remain as Chancellor to our Association. Charlie Wolf had served two terms on the Board of Auditors and, so, was not eligible for an additional term. All in all, the U.S. Associations are well-represented. The members of the Chapter General also approved the Budget for the next five years, which included a gradual rise in yearly dues sent to Rome.

It was a very moving experience to have this rare opportunity to participate in such an important meeting of the Order. I was very intrigued by the interest the Vatican had in our elections as well. It is a reminder that the religious character of our Order is of great importance to our Church and to our relationship with the Vatican and is why we must encourage and nurture vocations to the First Class, as Knights of Justice.

It is often said that to be truly committed to a cause you must provide time, talent, and treasure—each is of equal importance. This is especially true of the members of the Order of Malta. We look to our members for hands-on work, for their professional help, and for their annual giving—which makes all that we do possible. Please know, I am most grateful that you are good examples of all the above.

The Chapter General Explained

Fra’ James-Michael von Stroebel

The Chapter General is the supreme assembly of The Sovereign Military Order of Malta. It is composed of representatives of the different classes and organizations of the Order. It is convened every five years to elect the Officers and Councillors provided by the Constitution to assist The Grand Master in the governance of the Order, and to deal with any important issues pertaining to the spiritual and temporal state of the Order, its humanitarian activities, and its diplomatic relations.

The selection of delegates, the sessions, and the elections are regulated by the Constitution and Code of the Order. The total number is in the range of 60: the Grand Master; 10 from the Sovereign Council; the Prelate; six from the Government Council; 18 from Grand Priors; five from the Subpriors; 15 from the National Associations; two from those in gremio religionis; and Professed Bailiffs (variable number).

The principal purpose is the election of the Sovereign Council, including the four High Charges [Grand Commander, Grand Chancellor, Grand Hospitaller, Receiver of the Common Treasure] and six Councillors; the six members of the Government Council; and the five members of the Board of Auditors. The Chapter General also sets the annual contribution and the passage fee.

A Chapter General may also modify the Rule of the Order. Usually, however, for major revisions, an Extraordinary Chapter General is called.

The Chapter General was held—under the chairmanship of Fra’ Matthew Festing, 79th Grandmaster of the Order—on June 8th.

The Feast of St. John the Baptist

Observance held in Syracuse

On June 18th members of the Board of Directors traveled to Syracuse to participate in the Federal Association's primary observance of the Feast of St. John the Baptist. The primary observance is held in a different city each year—with an opportunity for the region to highlight their Hospitaller projects. There are many other observances held throughout the Association's regions concurrently—thus uniting members together in spirit on the occasion of the feast day of the patron saint of the Order.



Federal Association President, Noreen Falcone, and Dennis Owen. Dennis was the first member of the Federal Association in the Syracuse-area.

The next stop was Malta House/Malta Manor, assisted living facilities for the elderly sponsored by the Federal Association. For many years this has been the primary volunteer activity of the Knights and Dames in Syracuse. The Syracuse members host monthly birthday parties for the residents and send personally written birthday cards—which for most will be the only card they receive. Additionally, all residents are welcomed to a monthly Mass and rosary—for which a special “altar on wheels” was designed by local members. Dr. Al Falcone and Elaine Scuderi gather residents around the Malta House community room for “Tea and Conversations with Alfredo” where they visit and reminisce. Dr. Falcone says he uses this time as an opportunity to find out the needs of the residents—whether it be a new entertainment center or a new patio. These Syracuse members are dedicated to the people of Malta House and take a genuine interest in their lives.

Early-arriving members of the Board and local-area Knights and Dames attended Mass and dinner on Thursday evening at the home of Noreen and Michael Falcone in nearby, picturesque Skaneateles. On Friday, the Board toured several of the local projects of Syracuse members—who proudly introduced the visitors to their Hospitaller works. The first stop was Franciscan Northside Ministries and Clinic in downtown Syracuse. This health clinic sees thousands of patients each year and is supported by free medicines provided by the Association's Clinic Program. Members Dr. Mike Fitzgerald, and Drs. Paul and Tim Fallon (father and son), volunteer their medical services at the clinic. Many other members prepare and serve a monthly pancake breakfast for the center—which the clients of the center look forward with a lot of anticipation, even taking “seconds”—just to be served by the Knights and Dames.



The last stop was Francis House—which provides a home and “extended family” to those suffering with a terminal illness whose prognosis is six months or less. This is a home in every sense of the word where those, who have no where else to turn, come to spend their last days in the peace of this tranquil, loving environment. Sister Kathleen Osbelt founded Francis House in 1991—out of a one-floor house with several rooms. It has since grown to encompass a state-of-the-art facility that has all the comforts of home. Staff and volunteers function as an extended family offering physical, emotional and spiritual support. Round-the-clock medical supervision is provided by licensed home health care agencies. Each resident has a private bedroom with telephone and cable television. Sister is determined to create an environment where the poor can come to die with dignity and compassion. There were many heart-warming stories told about their residents—whom they welcome as family and remember with fondness. Many of our members have been instrumental since Francis House's beginnings by volunteering and supporting this ministry. Both Francis House and Northside Ministries are lovingly and capably managed by Franciscan Sisters—whose presence in and service to the Syracuse community has been unwavering.

Following the official business of the Board, the weekend was capped by a special Mass at the Franciscan Motherhouse celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Costello. The Church houses a reliquary of Blessed Marianne Cope, who lived here until she answered the call to serve the lepers in Molokai, Hawaii. Those who wished were able to visit and pray by the reliquary of Marianne Cope whose example of ministry to the sick is an inspiration, as she said: “I am not afraid of any disease; hence, it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned lepers.”

Joining the Board at Mass and dinner held afterward at the Century Club were 27 Federal Association members and spouses from the Syracuse region. The group saluted W. Dennis Owen for his exceptional service to the Order in being the first Federal Association member in the area, the first Regional Hospitaller, and first Syracuse-area member of the Board of Directors.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2009

Hugh Dempsey



On April 29, 2009, a plane mostly of strangers departed Baltimore for Tarbes, France which commenced what would prove to be a life-altering journey—a pilgrimage to Lourdes. The Federal Association has participated in the Lourdes Pilgrimage many times and, yet, it never ceases to be a new and exciting experience...even for the veteran pilgrims.

It is made special and unique by the “guests of honor” the beloved Malades and their companions. Almost 300 members, volunteers, Malades, and companions shared in the 2009 pilgrimage joining thousands of Knight and Dames from all around the world in Lourdes.

This pilgrimage fosters an atmosphere for sharing fears, hopes, and prayers—many of which are never able to be fully articulated until the experience of Lourdes. As Bishop Curlin, Chaplain of the Association, reminds us: we are all, in some respect, Malades. So, regardless of status in life or nature or degree of infirmity—all pilgrims share in the mutual frailty of our humanity.

For the members of the Federal Association, the pilgrimage provides an opportunity to become true servants and to fulfill their charism to serve, “our Lords, the sick.” It also provides a rare glimpse of the global nature of the Order, as Knights and Dames gather from around the world in Lourdes to share in a common mission.

This year the Federal Association instituted the “Emeritus Program.” Some of our “senior” members, who have given so much to our Order and to the pilgrimages, were called fulfill a special role to deepen the spiritual nature of the pilgrimage. Volunteering to serve in such a capacity in Lourdes, these men and women gathered as a group, were led in prayer and reflection by Father Richard Mullins, and served as a resource to newer pilgrims. Not assigned any physical labor while in Lourdes, these members were then available to be a quiet, constant presence. Their participation enhanced the experience of all the pilgrims—especially our Malades and companions.

In Lourdes, as in no other place, we can acknowledge—in a deep humility—our need for help, our reliance upon one another, and our smallness in the presence of God. This is the place where many of our Malades may, for the first time, publicly declare themselves as “sick” and identify themselves with the many thousands of other Malades. And, often, Lourdes provides a reprieve from the challenges and limitations of one’s illness, as one of our Malades so poignantly expressed: “finally I have found a place where I am not different.”



A Lourdes Diary By First-time Order of Malta Pilgrim *Bernadette Semple*

The words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, “in as much as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it to me,” have never become more evident to me than during my first visit to Lourdes with the Order of Malta. I have visited Lourdes on two other occasions; although, any visit to this blessed city is a special experience—traveling with the Order made an indelible mark that not only deepened my faith, but also left me with a deeper gratitude to God and greater sense of responsibility.

As a candidate of the Federal Association, it was particularly enriching to join with Knights, Dames, and volunteers from all over the world as we worked to fulfill the mission of the Order. I watched and participated in wonder as members and volunteers humbly served the Malades and lovingly tended to their every need. As one member pushed, another pulled, thereby rendering service to Christ himself.

I also had the opportunity to sing in the choir at Lourdes. To participate in the Mass in this way, particularly at the International Mass, by singing in praise to God with my brothers and sisters from around the world, was both mystical and transformational.

The overall experience—though at times grueling—was life-changing. I gained an even greater appreciation and understanding of the Order into which I have been accepted. To see Roman Catholics from around the world, from all walks of life united in purpose, faith, hope, humility, and spirituality speaks volumes about the incredible faith we are a part of and how blessed we are to be able to offer our lives and gifts to the world for the service and betterment of God’s kingdom.

Regional Roundup continued...

Ms. Ilibagiza, author of the New York Times bestselling book, *Left to Tell*, delivered a profound and compelling two-hour message during which the audience was rapt with silence. She spoke of being spared death by hiding in a 3-by-4 foot bathroom with seven other women for 91 days. While there, she prayed the rosary for up to 15 hours a day.

She recalled the early days of anxiety when she questioned God: "Why me...I have done nothing to deserve this." This initial fear and anger were transformed to calmness, peace, and forgiveness—which she credits to her lifelong devotion to the Virgin Mary. Through prayer it was revealed to her, like it never had been before, that Jesus shares in our suffering as the ultimate, innocent victim in His Passion and crucifixion.

Ms. Ilibagiza implored the crowd to pray the rosary and to listen to the stories revealed in the mysteries of the rosary. She also extolled a request for all people to always make the decision to be kind rather than to be right. This virtue, she said, is what truly will spread the miracle of peace all over the world.

BALTIMORE

Hands-on service to the poor and the immigrant population encourages members' involvement. - *Patrick Monaghan*

The Baltimore Region has been fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in three hospitaller projects: My Sister's Place and Sarah's Hope—both full-service facilities for homeless inner-city women and children; and, the Esperanza Center—an outreach program for recent immigrants, primarily Hispanic, in the Baltimore area.

Each of our programs provides much needed assistance to the poor in some of Baltimore's inner-city neighborhoods. The group prepares and serves three evening meals a month as well as two additional evening meals per month that have been donated by other organizations. As a result, typically 60 to 80 guests are served per night.

The Esperanza Center—principally sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Baltimore—provides medical aid and legal assistance as well as basic computer training and language skills to those who have recently immigrated to the United States. A number of Federal Association doctors—like Dan Finkelstein and Ivan Garcia—offer their medical expertise through the Esperanza Center Clinic while other Knights and Dames have volunteered in teaching a basic course in English as a Second Language (ESL).

"The hands-on nature of these projects not only has attracted over 75% of the Baltimore-area Knights, Dames, auxiliary, and volunteers and but it also is what keeps them involved," says Regional Hospitaller, Patrick Monaghan. These Baltimore-area Knights and Dames serve as a much-needed resource and beacon of hope to those immigrating to the United States to begin a new life.

Investiture 2009

Weekend Schedule

Friday, October 23rd

- 2:00 p.m. **Investiture Mass Rehearsal**
(for the Class of 2009 only)
Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
- 4:00 p.m. **Defense of the Faith Forum**
The Mayflower Hotel
Tickets required.
- 6:00 p.m. **Cocktail Reception**
The Mayflower Hotel
Tickets required.

Saturday, October 24th

- 10:00 a.m. **Investiture Mass and Ceremony**
Class of 2009
Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
- 12:30 p.m. **Annual Meeting and Luncheon**
The Mayflower Hotel
Tickets required.
- 7:00 p.m. **The Annual Dinner**
The Mayflower Hotel
- 6:30 p.m. **VIP Reception**
Members of the Class of 2009 & their escorts
- 7:00 p.m. **General Reception**
- 8:00 p.m. **Dinner**

Sunday, October 25th

- 9:30 a.m. Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation
Breakfast for the Dames of the Federal Association
The Mayflower Hotel

Separate invitation and response card will be sent.

Weekend Accommodations

Rooms have been reserved at a special rate at two hotels situated very near St. Matthew's Cathedral: The Renaissance Mayflower Hotel (where most weekend events will occur) and The Beacon Hotel (one block from St. Matthew's). Please call the hotel directly to make your reservation. Rooms have been reserved under "Order of Malta."

The Renaissance Mayflower Hotel

1127 Connecticut Avenue
Rate: \$259/double room
Reservation Line: 1-800-228-9290
Rooms and rates will be held until September, 22, 2009.

The Beacon Hotel

17th Street & Rhode Island Avenue
(1615 Rhode Island Ave. NW)
Rate: \$189/double room
Reservation Line: 202-296-2100
Rooms and rates will be held until September 8, 2009.



News & Events

New Orleans Home Repair Program – Phase IV Announced

The Federal Association is pleased to announce Phase IV of the New Orleans Home Repair Program. The program has been extended for another seven-week session beginning September 2009 through May 2010. We will partner once again with Rebuilding Together New Orleans (RTNO) and the New Orleans Marriott Hotel. RTNO will select the houses to repair and will provide the work scope, technical supervision, and materials. Marriott will provide comfortable lodging and three meals per day for volunteers of the three U.S. Associations who come in from all over the country.

Since the program began in March 2006, Order of Malta volunteers have repaired over 30 homes. While this is an impressive number, there is still much work to be done to help rebuild the city of New Orleans.

All Knights, Dames, candidates, and auxiliary members are invited to participate as well as spouses, family members (over age 18), and friends. There is a maximum of 30 volunteers per one-week session.

There are seven six-day sessions (see below), and each volunteer is asked to pay \$600 to cover expenses.

- **September 13 – 18, 2009**
- **January 24 – 29, 2010**
- **May 9 – 14, 2010**
- **October 11 – 16, 2009**
- **February 21 – 26, 2010**
- **December 8 – 13, 2009**
- **March 28 – April 2, 2010**

Archbishop Pietro Sambì Invested as Chaplain

Archbishop Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, was invested as a Conventual Chaplain ad Honorem of the Federal Association on May 22, 2009. The Mass and ceremony were held in the private chapel at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, D.C.

Archbishop Sambì is the 3rd consecutive Apostolic Nuncio (equivalent to the ambassador of the Holy See to the U.S.) to become a chaplain of the Order. Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo and Pio Cardinal Laghi preceded Archbishop Sambì both as Nuncios and as chaplains of the Order.

The Nuncio was very gracious in his remarks and pledged both his commitment and involvement—as much as his demanding schedule permits—to the Order. There was another occasion to celebrate that evening. Monsignor W. Louis Quinn, chaplain of the Federal Association, was presented the Grand Cross of the Order pro piis meritis. Monsignor Quinn, who celebrated his 90th birthday a few days later, has been a Conventual Chaplain of the Order and chaplain to the Board of Directors since 1981.

New Hospitaller Region and new Hospitaller Named

In June, the Board approved the addition of Lafayette, Louisiana as the twenty-third Hospitaller Region of the Federal Association and named Dan Bouligny as the new region's Hospitaller. Mr. Bouligny has been instrumental in recruiting new members in Lafayette and is even more committed to growing the region. Mr. Bouligny has been a member of the Order since 1999 and has participated in the Lourdes pilgrimage on several occasions.

Dr. Nicolas Bazan has been named as the 4th Regional Hospitaller of the New Orleans region—succeeding Dr. Robert Cangelosi who had served as Hospitaller since 2003. Dr. Bazan—a neuroscientist at LSU Medical Center—has been a member of the Order since 1998. His wife, Haydee, has been a member since 2000.

Class of 2009 Approved

The Class of 2009 has been approved by the Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta and will be invested on Saturday, October 24th, with Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl—Principal Chaplain—as the chief celebrant and homilist.

The Class of 2009 includes 72 candidates representing 16 states and the District of Columbia.

New Chaplains

In addition to the 72 candidates to be invested this year, there will be several new chaplains. Joining the ranks of the Federal Association as Conventual Chaplains will be:

- *Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston*
- *Bishop Barry C. Knestout Auxiliary of Washington*
- *Bishop J. Terry Steib, S.V.D. of Memphis*
- *Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh*
- *Abbot Gregory Polan, O.S.B. of Conception Abbey, Missouri*

And, joining the Federal Association as Associate Chaplains will be:

- *Reverend Ricardo Bailey of Atlanta, GA*
- *Reverend F. Hampton Davis of Lafayette, LA*
- *Reverend John J. Hourican of Memphis, TN*

2009

Sept. 12 **Mass for the Sanctity of Life – Washington, DC Region**
 Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bethesda, MD
 Most Reverend Donald Wuerl

Investiture Weekend – Washington, DC

Oct. 23 **2:00** Mass and Investiture Rehearsal – St. Matthew's Cathedral
4:00 Annual Defense of the Faith Forum – The Mayflower Hotel
6:00 Cocktail Reception – The Mayflower

Oct. 24 **10:00** Investiture Mass – St. Matthew's Cathedral
12:30 Annual Meeting – The Mayflower
7:00 Annual Dinner – The Mayflower

Oct. 25 **9:30** HFH Breakfast – The Mayflower

Nov. 6 - Nov. 8 **Western Pennsylvania Retreat**
 St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, PA
 Rev. Justin Matros, O.S.B.

Nov. 7 - Nov. 8 **Retreat of the Carolinas**
 Belmont Abbey College, Charlotte, NC
 Abbot Placid Solari, O.S.B.

Nov 13 - Nov. 15 **Fall Retreat**
 Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House, Dallas, TX
 Rev. William Casey

2010

Jan 22 - Jan 24 **Florida Retreat**
 Marywood Retreat Center, Jacksonville, FL
 Rev. Jude Michael Krill

Jan 22 **National March for Life – The JPII Center, Washington, DC**

April 16 **Day of Formation—Class of 2010**
 Georgetown University

April 17 **Day of Reflection**
 Washington Theological Union

April 28 - May 5 **Order of Malta Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

June 11- June 12 **Spring Retreat**
 St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore, MD

June 18 **Feast of St. John the Baptist – Atlanta, GA**

Oct 22 - Oct 23 **Investiture Weekend – Washington, DC**