

the Order of Malta

Federal Association, U.S.A.



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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

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President's Message

I am very pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta.

This was a transitional year. Our Association was honored last June when our President Geoffrey Gamble was elected to the Sovereign Council and while he had to relinquish his role as president, he now represents us in Rome. After the election of the Sovereign Council in June, your Board of Directors elected me to assume the responsibilities of leading our association. The change in the presidency also coincided with the change in executive director as well as other staff.

In 2014, our Association reached the 40th year mark. In this report, our historian, Henry Hull, remembers those beginning years and the people responsible for the founding of our Association. From a group of 16 Knights in 1974, we grew to 982 Knights and Dames and 61 chaplains in 2014. With 27 active regions, our Association continues its commitment to spiritual growth and service to those in need. This Annual Report highlights those spiritual and hands-on-service activities that help witness the faith and sustain our Order.

In February 2014, your officers participated in the Order's five-year Vision Planning Sessions in Rhodes to discuss the future of our Order. This process continues as we prioritize the many proposals and ideas, seeking to apply these at the association and regional levels. For example, the core of our Order is its religious nature, sustained by those Members under vows or Knights of Justice. It is crucial that we pray for and encourage vocations. Our Association is blessed by having three Professed Knights who help to sustain the religious nature of our Order. We are also fortunate to have growing numbers of Members who by virtue of the promise of obedience bind themselves more closely to the spiritual life and works of the Order.

As Members of this lay religious Order and true to our Catholic faith, we are all called to seek the Kingdom of God. Fortunately we do not face the journey alone. As Members of the Order of Malta, we nurture our faith and serve the poor and the sick together—in community. I am truly grateful for the assistance and support of all our members and staff.

With warm confraternal wishes,

Margaret Melady, DM

President



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Spiritual Life

We are often reminded that the spiritual activities in our Hospitaller regions provide a solid foundation to our members and volunteers. They fortify our hands for works of hospitality as we roll up our sleeves and serve.

If it were not for our Catholic foundation of serving others as if we were serving Christ himself, for all practical purposes we would not be much more than a relief or social service agency or an NGO doing nice things for others.

Instead, we find that by coming together as a community in the liturgical celebrations, weekend retreats and days of recollection and other programs designed to nurture our faith, we are better witnesses to the Gospel mandate. We come together on a journey to forge the bonds that unite us, receive God's grace and become better able to serve Christ in other people. This includes both our fellow Members in the Order of Malta as well as our lords the sick and the poor.

Our spiritual strength builds by attending our spiritual activities, and these help us take the time to see the person we are serving as an individual and to listen to that person in a caring way. Whether we realize it or not, we are transformed into better Members of the Order of Malta and of the Church, which arms us with a powerful form of evangelization. At the same time, we are personally rewarded with a sense of joy for having made someone feel better, or having improved their life circumstances a little for the better.

The Order began with the care of pilgrims, and pilgrims and pilgrimages have been important throughout its history. That is still true in our age, in which a spiritual highlight is the annual international pilgrimage to Lourdes. But there are

also other marvelous opportunities for spiritual development and growth of our religious community.

In our Regulations and Commentary (Sec.V), we are reminded that Members are “firmly recommended...to participate at a retreat aimed at deepening the inner spiritual life”. Retreats are offered in multiple areas and various times throughout the year. There is a significant benefit derived from the conferences as well as from the time spent together, getting know each other, strengthening our community life. And what better way for candidates in formation to get to know others while discerning their own vocation in the Order of Malta? This past year, retreat attendance showed an increase with offerings at Jacksonville, Dallas, Pittsburgh and Chicago. Additionally many of our regions are now holding very successful Days of Recollection.

In every region, the annual celebration of the Feast of St. John the Baptist is held each June, and most areas meet for Mass monthly, a yearly Mass to remember deceased Members, anointing and Sanctity of Life celebrations. In addition, there are a variety of Masses and times of prayer leading up to the departure of the annual Lourdes pilgrimage.

We are reminded in St. Mark's gospel (6:30) that after the apostles reported to Jesus all they had done, Jesus told them “to come away by yourselves to a deserted place to rest awhile.” We are all busy, and yet, by taking time away to rest ourselves and hear God's message, we achieve the balance of work and prayer, contemplation and action to effectively see and serve Christ in other people. This is the foundation for everything we do as Members of the Order of Malta community.



2014 Hospitaller Report

2014 was a very active year in which the Federal Association was able to implement many new initiatives and start several works now in progress.

We had three Hospitaller meetings in 2014, two in person (April 2, and October 16) and a teleconference concerning Lourdes' *Malades* in March.

The April meeting covered many topics with presentations from all our committee chairs, updating Hospitallers on association initiatives. Our meeting in October had the Hospitallers breaking into groups to discuss how the association can help the regions, how to improve our association and either start, stop, or continue with various initiatives. We broke into four groups according to topic: spirituality, communications, service projects and administration.

The association priorities for regions are:

- Spirituality;
- Works/Projects; and
- Membership Development (education of members and recruitment).

If each region begins with spirituality then all else flows from there. Every region has a monthly Mass, and at minimum has three major Masses of the Order where Members wear robes:

- St. John the Baptist Feast Day Mass;
- Deceased Members of the Order Mass; and
- Sanctity of Life Mass.

In addition, most regions have an Anointing Mass, Christmas Mass, Lenten and Advent Reflections. Most of these events are followed by a social event where our Members come closer together to strengthen Malta family ties.

Regional projects provide Members with opportunities to work together aiding the sick and the poor. Projects throughout our association include food kitchens, food distribution, elderly care, childcare, VA Hospitals, medical clinics, education programs, radio programming, and home rebuilding.



Recruiting new Members is an obligation we each have. The role of our Order is so important in the world; it is incumbent on us to invite other Catholics to join. The Order is clearly a helpful path to Heaven. Faith without works does not go far, and the Order affords many opportunities to express our faith through good works. Regions are encouraged to have someone lead the recruiting effort.

As part of membership development all regions are encouraged to have educational forums for their Members. Suggested topics include: Rules of the Order; Lumen Gentium; and How to Pray (Lectio Divina).

Many regions have implemented educational programs covering these topics and many more. Several also put on book studies that are well attended.

Prison ministry is active in almost every region under local leadership, with Mike McGarry and Collins Whitfield heading the effort at the association level. Members are praying for prisoners, writing them letters of encouragement, and visiting them.



A new ministry was initiated in 2014 called Prayer in Action or PIA. This is a ministry that cares for our own sick, infirm, elderly, or those suffering with family problems and includes visits to our Members who are homebound and rides to our events for those unable to drive. There is also a weekly prayer request sent to each region so all can remember to pray for our sick confreres. Some regions have extended this to include malades who have been to Lourdes with us.

In 2014 the Federal Association held its first annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help Shrine outside Green Bay, Wisconsin. It is the only Church-approved Marian apparition site in the United States, and has hundreds of cures.

The pilgrimage was held October 7–10 with 43 attendees, and four malades. Participants in a survey gave the pilgrimage a rating of 4.8 out of 5, and recommended that it become an annual Order event. Our Members and clergy requested we plan the pilgrimage over a weekend in the summer. Therefore, the pilgrimage this year will be August 6–10.

We plan on many more malades this year, expecting 75-plus to attend. Both the American and Western Associations will be sending representatives to participate

with us in 2015, and are considering fully joining the pilgrimage in 2016.

In 2014 we implemented a Hospitaller selection process that seven regions have used so far. This process allows the region Members to nominate their own Hospitaller for a three-year term, renewable for a second three-year term if agreeable to both the Hospitaller and the Members.

We also set up a chaplain approval process that gives each region guidelines on how to obtain approval for an associate chaplain, and Chaplain of Magistral Grace. The requests go through our Federal Association vice president, Fra' Tom Mulligan.

2014 was the first full year all the regions had their own regional checking accounts, each using the Federal Association tax identification number. This allows donations and region dues to be tax deductible. Most regions spend their dues on: local projects; Order identification, for example, banners, flags, posters; stipends for priests, cantors, servers; worship aids; and brochures.

All regions have an annual calendar of events that includes spiritual, social and service projects. We are working to make our website more user-friendly and to have regional calendars available to all Members not only so they know what's going on locally but so they will have the opportunity to participate in different regional events as they travel to different cities.

Many regions have Facebook accounts and all are encouraged to do so. This helps market their events to communities across the country. Chuck Mifsud, Hospitaller of Columbus, has offered all region Hospitallers help in setting this up.

We encourage all regions to work in an entrepreneurial fashion to promote spirituality, projects where Members can work together, educate each other, and grow the membership. This all equates to the Federal Association being a family that prays together, does good work together, plays together, and someday, meets in Heaven together. Thank you all for making the Federal Association world class.

Bob Signorelli, KM
Hospitaller

2014 Treasurer's Report

2014 Financial Report-Based on Audited Financial Statements

Federal Association:

Income:

Membership Dues & Passage Fees	\$ 990,237
Testamentary Gifts & Change in Value	85,661
Investment Income	255,226
Committees	88,211
Sale of Merchandise	38,401

Administrative Sub-Total \$ 1,457,736

Events / Spiritual Activities	27,398
Investiture	149,352
Lourdes Pilgrimage	733,987
New Orleans Home Repair	8,300

Events/Activities Sub-Total \$ 919,037

Charitable Giving

Annual Appeal	934,235
Pass-Thru Contributions	110,125

Charitable Giving Sub-Total \$ 1,044,360

Association Revenue and Support \$ 3,421,133

Expenses:

Operations/Administration	\$ 1,030,229
Assessments to SMOM	348,451
Committees/Other	75,091

Administrative Sub-Total \$ 1,453,771

Events / Spiritual Activities	32,745
Investiture	186,078
Lourdes Pilgrimage	983,087
New Orleans Home Repair	53,061

Events/Activities Sub-Total \$ 1,254,971

Grants / Hospitaller Program

Grants Committee	744,196
Defense of the Faith Committee	16,060
New Orleans Home Repair	30,000

Grants/Hospitaller Sub-Total \$ 790,256

Association Expense \$ 3,498,998

Association Net Income \$ (77,865)

Investments— Ass'n & Lourdes Endowment Trust

Operating Account	\$ 15,860
Malta House (DC) Fund	127,168
Lourdes Endowment Trust	2,035,538
Blessed Gerard Fund	3,186,860
Total Investment Accounts	<u>\$ 5,365,426</u>



2014 Investiture

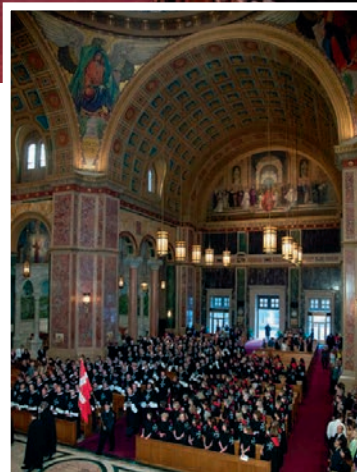
The Order of Malta invested 49 Knights and Dames into the Federal Association on Saturday, October 18th. The new Members hail from 14 states and the District of Columbia. The annual Investiture ceremony was held at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC and presided over by Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore.

In his homily, Archbishop Lori called attention to the fact that the Investiture was taking place on the feast day of Saint Luke and reflected on St. Luke's background as a physician and his clear emphasis on the healing power of God's mercy, saying, "I naturally thought of the Order of Malta's love and

reverence for the poor and the sick. I thought especially of the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes and the love and care which members of the Order offer to the malades."

The Archbishop mentioned that, "In this and in so many other ways, the Order reinforces in us the lesson that the poor and the sick are not burdens but rather they are our lords and ladies. It is a privilege to serve them, for in them we see the face of Christ and in them we discover the truth and beauty of God's tender love."

Dr. Margaret Melady, the Federal Association president added, "We welcome these new Members, who are both leaders and followers in the service of others, exercising charity to their neighbors, especially the sick and the poor, as is our mission. We are proud and honored to have such capable people be called to join us."



Lourdes Pilgrimage—2014

The Federal Association sent 365 total pilgrims, from all over the country, to the Marian shrine in Lourdes, France. Of these, 48 were *Malades* and 71 were companions. Despite some scheduling and technical difficulties at the outset, our Association's stay in Lourdes was filled with good weather, beautiful Masses and processions, and a tremendous spirit of compassion and camaraderie. Our Conventual Chaplain, Archbishop Timothy Broglio (Archdiocese of U.S. Military Services), joined our group for a few days and was the celebrant at the Grotto Mass on the morning of Saturday, May 3, 2014.



2014 New Orleans Repair Program

Seventy-five volunteers, representing the three U.S. associations and the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta, completed the hurricane-damaged New Orleans home of Theresa Llopis this year, which was started in 2013.

Theresa grew up in the home and then raised her four children there. In 2002, she became disabled with arthritis in her back and could no longer work. She lost everything in Hurricane Katrina and then lived in a trailer for two years. She was defrauded by a contractor in the rebuilding of her house and therefore could not finish the work.

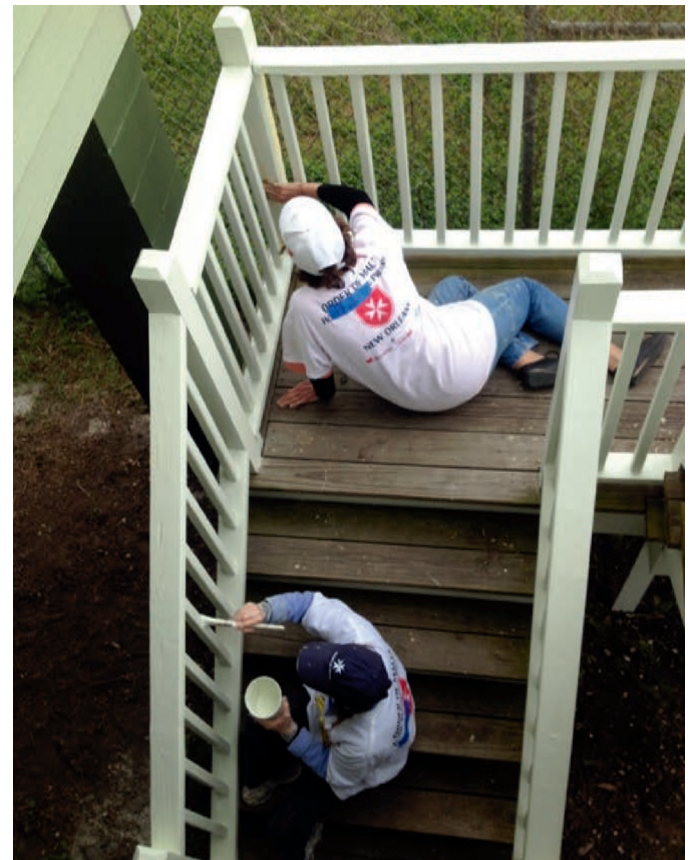
The Order donated funds for building materials, and four groups of our volunteers worked through late 2013 and early 2014 installing flooring, cabinets, doors, and trim, then painting inside and out. Theresa returned to her finished home in May of 2014.

Last fall, the Federal Association approved a grant to fund the program in 2015 for the Order's tenth year of service in New Orleans.

Since 2006, the Order of Malta and its New Orleans partner, Rebuilding Together, have repaired 55 homes. More than 1,000 Order of Malta volunteers have donated a total of over 50,000 hours of service.

John F.X. Reilly, KM

Chairman, New Orleans Task Force



Holy Family Hospital

The Holy Family Hospital is the most advanced maternity hospital in the West Bank and fully supported by the Order of Malta. Two Members of the Federal Association, Dr. Harry W. Johnson, Jr. and Michelle B. Bowe, serve on the International Board of Trustees of the Holy Family Hospital. Dr. Johnson serves as president of the International Medical Committee, which is made up of physicians from Europe and the U.S., with specialists in OBGYN, urogynecology, gynecologic surgery, obstetric anesthesia, neonatology, pediatrics, and midwifery.

With support of the Swiss Order of Malta the hospital's International Medical Committee is establishing a Visiting Professor Program to teach the resident physicians, attending physicians and hospital staff. Goals of this new program include keeping the hospital at the forefront of maternity, gynecologic, and neonatal care. The hospital practices to European and Western standards, and equipment in specialty units is on par with modern Western and European medical centers.

In the coming month Dr. Johnson will be accompanying a perinatologist (maternal fetal medicine) specializing in high-risk obstetrics, a neonatologist, an OBGYN specializing in international medicine and an urogynecologist as part of the Visiting Professor Program. Two of these specialists traveling in November are from the University of Maryland where Dr. Johnson serves as associate vice chair and associate professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, which was recently named a Center of Excellence. There is a third visiting physician/professor from the University of Maryland scheduled for February, 2015.



Among other goals, the International Medical Committee and participating Visiting Professors will review hospital protocols, evaluate care in all subspecialty units, and ensure all units are properly equipped and that equipment is properly used and maintained.

Some recent programs established under the International Medical Committee include a diabetes in pregnancy clinic, gynecologic care of women over 40, and NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) caring for infants born prematurely after 26 weeks. There is a high rate of multiples with twins, triplets and quadruplets. Also, last year a new medical van was donated by the Holy Family Hospital Foundation (supported by the three associations of the Order of Malta in the USA) to the hospital to increase mobile clinic care for the Bedouin people in the desert as well as to serve four Palestinian refugee camps.

2014 Grants

Throughout the month of September the 11-member Grants Committee reviewed 26 applications for funding that had been sponsored by Knights and Dames of the Order. Application sponsors did an excellent job of working with candidate organizations to provide complete information about programs, financial status and involvement of Knights and Dames in services and oversight.

On September 23 the committee met to discuss each application and determine the best allocation of approximately \$500,000 to support regional projects assisting the sick and the poor. In advance of the meeting each application was assigned to one committee member for in-depth review and recommendation. Before the final meeting every application was read and assessed by each member. They then cast their votes and made recommendations to be presented to the board.

The determining criteria in selecting an application for funding is, as always, service to the sick and the poor. The hands-on involvement of Knights and Dames in the delivery of these services weighed significantly in the selection process as well. The more engaged Members of the Order were in



the management and delivery of a program, the higher the likelihood it was funded. Likewise, the financial impact of the grant on a program was taken into consideration. Organizations with sizeable endowments and/or very large income history were less likely candidates for our grants when the amount we are able to offer is insignificant within the organization's sources of income overall.

The Board of Directors approved the slate of 18 applications recommended by the committee on October 17th. International grants totaling just under \$100,000 were provided to programs conducting medical missions in Haiti, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Twelve domestic grants ranging in size from \$17,500 to \$25,000 were awarded to regions from Dallas to Philadelphia. Two multi-year grants of \$50,000 each were awarded to Malta House of Care in Hartford and St. Mary's Soup Kitchen in Memphis. These two organizations will be eligible for funding at this level again in 2015 and are part of a board initiative to encourage substantial programs in which the Order of Malta is the participant leader. Opportunities for multi-year funding of other programs will be available again in 2016.

The Grants Committee would like to extend its thanks to the sponsors who submitted the applications, the Hospitallers who organized these activities in the regions and the numerous volunteer Knights and Dames without whom the programs to serve the sick and the poor would not be possible. Your commitment is inspiring.



Prison Ministry

The Order's prison ministry was established by the Board 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 Tri-Association Prison Ministry Committee, which the Canadian Association has since joined.

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

Here is a list of what the prison ministry has undertaken so far:

- Distribution of more than 2,300 English and Spanish Bibles to inmates, at no cost to the Federal Association, owing to the generous contributions of two Members of the Order;
- Preparation of prayer books in English and Spanish, to be available by year-end for distribution to all the inmates who have received Bibles;

- Printing of prayer cards, in English and Spanish, with an icon written by an Ohio inmate and a prayer composed by a North Carolina inmate, to be included in the distribution of Bibles and prayer cards;
- Quarterly publication of 10,000 copies of "The Serving Brother" by the Tri-Association Committee, in English but with a Spanish version coming soon, delivered to those receiving Bibles and prayer books;
- Approximately 20 volunteers involved in one-way communication through greeting cards to recent releases, one each month for two years; and approximately 40 volunteers sending them monthly to those still in prison.
- Two-way communication, involving 15 to 20 volunteers as pen pals to inmates;
- 15 to 20 volunteers working with prison chaplains, deacons and experienced lay people in distributing Bibles and visiting inmates for conversation, encouragement and mentoring, as well as participation with them at Mass and Communion services;
- Preparation of material to promote the prison ministry within the Order, including a publication to be completed this winter and a video for use in formation and regional meetings; and
- Several other activities to aid and encourage inmates and recent releases, including re-entry kits, birthday cards, Christmas gifts and caroling, Christmas parties, donations to upgrade prison computers, providing Catholic books in Spanish for prison library, and participation in job training programs.



Our Lady of Good Help Pilgrimage

October 7–9, 2014

Did you know that on December 8, 2010, Bishop David Ricken approved as “worthy of belief” the appearance of Mary at the Marion Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help (OLOGH) near Green Bay, Wisconsin? This is the only site in the United States where the appearance of Mary has been officially approved by the Catholic Church. Collins Whitfield, Wayne Ruth, Taffy and Les Hewitt, and Bob and Kate Signorelli organized the first pilgrimage to OLOGH for the Order on the anniversaries of the Apparition and a second miracle known as the Peshtigo Fire.

On October 9, 1859, Mary appeared to a young Belgian immigrant, Adele Brise, whose life was forever changed when Mary proclaimed to Adele that she was the Queen of Heaven and enlisted Adele to teach the children what they should know for salvation. Mary said, “go and fear nothing, I will help you.” From that day until her death in 1896, Adele devoted her life to Mary’s wishes. In 1864, Adele founded a small third order known as the Sisters of Good Help, and in 1867, she established St. Mary’s Academy on the Apparition grounds where a chapel had been built in 1861.

The miracle of the Apparition was confirmed in 1871, when a monstrous fire began nearby in Peshtigo and ultimately engulfed an area of 50 by 20 miles and killed over 1,500 people. As the fire raged toward the Apparition site, Adele, joined by her companions and neighbors, ignored their own safety and processed the grounds holding a statue of Mary, many on their knees, praying the Rosary for God’s saving grace. By morning, all surrounding lands had been

burned, but the fire had miraculously stopped at the fence surrounding the shrine!

While not well chronicled, there have been many miracles at the shrine, as evidenced by the wall of crutches displayed in the crypt of Mary. In recent years, a young boy was cured of leukemia, a young girl, fed only by a feeding tube, was miraculously cured, and hearing was restored to a gentleman. Undoubtedly, the miraculous presence of Mary brings the healing hand of God to this holy place.

The pilgrimage of October 7–9 was attended by 43 members of the Order, volunteers, and *Malades*. On arrival, Mass was held at the Cathedral of St. Francis Xavier. On Wednesday morning, we traveled to the beautiful but simple church at the shrine, where after Reconciliation and Mass, we prayed in the presence of Mary. In the afternoon, we visited the beautiful St. Norbert Abbey, where Prior Jim Braniak presided over the Anointing of the Sick at the Abbey’s Shrine of St. Joseph. Father Braniak then gave us a wonderful tour of the Chapel of St. Norbert, and some of its beautiful rooms.

That evening, we returned to the shrine to be part of a beautiful candlelight Rosary procession and Adoration led by Bishop Ricken. We returned the next morning for Mass presided over by the Bishop, who then gave us a closing Benediction and special blessing for our pilgrimage.

This wonderful pilgrimage was an opportunity for Knights and Dames as well as *Malades* to seek Mary’s refuge and the healing blessings of our Lord right here in America.



The Origins and Early Years of the Federal Association

By Henry Lane Hull, KGDOb



As the Federal Association completes its first 40 years, the time is right to reflect on its past, initially by looking at the milieu in which it came into being. Although Members of the Order, such as the Comte de Grasse who commanded the French Fleet in the Battle of Yorktown in 1781, had played significant roles in the early history of the United States, the formal structure of the Order of Malta in America began with the establishment of the American Association in New York in 1926, followed by that of the Western Association in California in 1957. Contemporaneously with the existence of these two associations, several Members from Europe lived in the United States, but not in the traditionally structured environment of priories and associations.

In 1959 William H. G. FitzGerald, a prominent Washington investor and businessman became a Member of the Order of Malta, being received into the American Association

in New York. He dutifully traveled to the meetings of the association, participating in as many activities as he could despite the distance. At the time three other Members lived in the greater D.C. area, Count Olgerd Sherbowitz-Wetzor and Prince Cyril Toumanoff, both naturalized American citizens living in Washington, where they were professors in the Department of History at Georgetown University, and Margrave Charles Pallavicini, a research scientist at the National Institutes of Health, living in suburban Maryland. The former two were Members in *gremio religionis*, meaning “in the lap of religion”, indicating that they were not part of a grand priory or national association. The latter was a Member of the Hungarian Association in exile. These three had been the first Members resident in the Washington area.

As the years passed Mr. FitzGerald hoped to have a greater presence for the Order in the nation’s capital, leading him to approach Grand Chancellor Quintin Jeremy Quin in Rome about the prospects of the

Grand Master and Sovereign Council establishing a separate foundation in Washington. Chancellor Quin informed him that if he could put together a group of 16 prospective Knights, he would support the project. As a Canadian himself, the Grand Chancellor was encouraging about the possibility of the Order having a larger presence in the New World.

By 1974 Mr. FitzGerald had succeeded in gathering the 16 from the Washington area legal, diplomatic, military and business community. The group included retired U. S. Army General Andrew P. O’Meara, former commander of all U.S. forces in Europe, who had become a Member in 1962 while posted in Europe, and who had retired to Arlington, Virginia in 1967. The Sovereign Council approved the new foundation, designating it the Southern Association, despite objections from the American Association. Thereafter ensued a controversy over the

association's existence, but the Grand Master, Fra' Angelo de Mojana di Cologna, who had become friends with Mr. FitzGerald, gave his approval, and the initial candidate Knights were received into the Order. Each year the numbers grew, with Mr. FitzGerald serving as president of the new body until 1978.

With the establishment of the Southern Association, Mr. FitzGerald and his wife, Annelise, began attending the Lourdes pilgrimage in 1974, a practice they encouraged all Members to adopt, and which they personally continued for over 20 years. In 1978 Edward McDermott, a Washington attorney, became the second president of the association, followed three years later by a fellow Washington attorney, Donald O. Lincoln. In 1984 Edward Bennett Williams succeeded Mr. Lincoln, and served until shortly before his death in 1988. During these early years the association grew rapidly, due in large measure to the efforts of Jeremiah Collins, another Washington attorney, who served as chairman of the admissions committee, and later as the association's

chancellor. Mr. Collins was known throughout the Catholic community in and beyond the confines of Washington, and thus was able to attract worthy candidates with whom he had worked on other Catholic projects.

In 1985 Annelise FitzGerald became the first Dame admitted to the association. In the same year the Sovereign Council approved the Board of Directors' request to change the name of the association from Southern to Federal Association, thereby reflecting the increasing national composition of the membership.

In 1988 W. Shepherdson Abell, the son of William S. Abell, one of the initial 16 Knights who formed the association, then serving as chancellor, became the fifth president. During his tenure, he strongly supported the Federal Association actively participating in the Lourdes pilgrimage. Although the

association had sent a small contingent, including malades, to Lourdes each year since 1974, with his enthusiastic support in 1989, 49 Members, malades and volunteers joined the pilgrimage, followed the next year by 78. In 1991 due to the Gulf War the number of pilgrims declined, but the tradition of participation was maintained as 16 Federal Association pilgrims attended. From 1992 onward the numbers have grown from over 100 that year to recent contingents numbering over 300. Since 1974 the Federal Association has enjoyed a presence at Lourdes every year.

Across the years the Board of Directors has modified the charter and bylaws several times, advancing the two-fold mission of the Order in defending the faith and serving our lords, the poor and the sick. It has established regions to unite members to pray and work together more effectively in various areas around the country, with a regional Hospitaller in each

coordinating the group's undertakings and facilitating local fellowship. It has set up a structured committee system, formed an auxiliary for children of members and other young people, designated an historian, and most recently begun sponsorship of a domestic pilgrimage to Our Lady of Good Help Shrine in Wisconsin. In 2006 Noreen Falcone, a Member of the Federal Association, became the Order's first Dame to serve as president of a national association.

In 2014 the Federal Association celebrated its 40th anniversary with over 950 Knights and Dames coming from 27 regions throughout America, perpetuating the traditions begun by Blessed Fra' Gerard and his followers in the Holy Land over 900 years earlier, forming a Christian army of knights, dames and volunteers to carry out the biblical mandates of defending the faith and serving our lords, the poor and the sick.

Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes

Unlike most things in the Order of Malta, the organizational unit known as a “subpriory” is not ancient. It is a modern creation. It is an example of the ability of the Order to adjust to new needs and changing circumstances.

As a religious order of the Church, the Order is required to be under the direct leadership of its religiously professed members, the Knights of Justice. Because of circumstances following the Second World War, the number of Knights of Justice available to fill all the offices became dangerously low. To help fill the gap, in 1956 the Order, with the close cooperation of the Holy See, established the Second Class, Knights of Obedience. Although not professed in religious vows, their special promise qualified them sufficiently in the eyes of the Holy See to permit them to fill certain offices that required Knights of Justice. In 1998, membership in the Second Class was extended to Dames and non-nobles, and the title was changed to “Knights and Dames in Obedience”.

Under Canon Law, all “religious” are required to have a religious superior. While not fully religious as such, those of Obedience were sufficiently similar to require one. While a prior is a religious superior, an association president is not. So, as a spiritual home for Knights of Obedience who were not in a priory, the Order established the unit known as a “subpriory”, the head of which is a religious superior. This was an innovation within the norms of the Church, showing again the close cooperation between the Church and the Order. Being a spiritual entity, it ranks above national associations but below priories and grand priories in the structure of the Order. Currently there are six subpriories: Australia, Germany, Ireland, Spain, USA west, and the subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes in the territory of the American and Federal Associations, founded in 2006.

The Subpriory of Our Lady of Lourdes is not an administrative body. It is spiritual community, a community of charity; not the charity of good works, but of Christian love. The Members are together to perfect not only themselves but also each other. Members join together in

spiritual activities as the subpriory, but also include themselves in the spiritual activities of the associations. Membership is not separate from the associations; it is additional. In fulfilling the charism of the Order to help our neighbors, the subpriory does not have separate charitable works, but rather the Members participate in the works of the associations

Being a Knight or Dame in Obedience is not a promotion or an honor, it is a commitment to a deeper spirituality within the Order, and availability to perform further duties for the Order. It is a bilateral obligation between the member and the Church, with the superiors of the Order representing the Church. Thus the Member’s obligation is with God.

The subpriory is administered by a regent with the assistance of a council of nine. The major religious superior is the Grand Master, but the immediate religious superior is the Grand Commander. Membership at the end of 2014 included, of the First Class, five Knights of Justice, and of the Second Class, 67 Knights and Dames in Obedience, and 20 more in preparation. About one-third are Dames. There were also two Knights of Justice and five in Obedience in association with the subpriory: four Canadian, one French, one Hungarian and one Venezuelan. It has the largest membership of any subpriory.

The subpriory has three major Masses annually: New York in November, Washington DC in September, and Lourdes in May. It also has its primary retreat at Malvern, Pennsylvania at the beginning of June. In addition, Members join together in virtual community every Friday in praying for deceased and ill Members, *Malades* and special intentions.

Persons who have been Members of the Order for five years or longer, and who are interested in making the Promise of Obedience, should contact the regent, Joseph G. Metz (elissaandjoe@aol.com) or the vice-regent, Fra’ James-Michael von Stroebel (JMvonStroebel@hotmail.com). One of the prerequisites is having participated in three pilgrimages of the Order such as to Lourdes, Loreto or Assisi.

FitzGerald-Callaghan Lourdes Endowment Trust

FitzGerald-Callaghan Legacy

In 1974, not long after the first pilgrimage to Lourdes led by the Grand Master in 1963, Ambassador William H. G. FitzGerald, a founding member of the Federal Association, and his beloved wife, Annelise, began joining the pilgrimage and sponsoring malades to come with them to Lourdes. The FitzGerald's enthusiastic testimony to one and all inspired the growth of the pilgrimage, until finally the first sizeable contingent of almost 50 pilgrims from the Federal Association made the pilgrimage in 1989.

Admiral Bill Callaghan, along with his wife Betty, were also among the very first members of our Association to participate on pilgrimage. In 1992, he became the third Chairman of the Lourdes Committee, and under Bill's leadership the Federal Association's group had expanded from 100 to 250 when he retired in '06.

Tall, ramrod straight and utterly imperturbable, Bill cast an imposing figure. However he also quietly served the forgotten among us through a determined outreach to inner-city parishes to see if the pastor might recommend a malade. The Association was able to fund these malades largely through recurring annual support from the FitzGeralds. They understood that funding these malades in their time of need was part of the Members' responsibility in our care for them. They continued that care through a generous legacy gift which formed the core of the current Lourdes Trust, which has reduced costs for malades for the past 10 years. For over forty years, thanks largely to these Members living the mission of our Order through generous leadership and dedicated service, thousands of malades and companions from around the country have been able to answer the Blessed Mother's call and visit her shrine at Lourdes.

Establishment of the Trust

This past year the Association officially established the FitzGerald-Callaghan Order of Malta Lourdes Endowment Trust. Over the years contributions, such as the FitzGeralds', have generously been made in different ways to support the Lourdes pilgrimage. However, they were all accounted for separately due to varying levels of restriction. The Board of Directors recognized that to afford the best legal protection and guarantee that funds are always used for their intended purpose, it was time to establish a separate entity as a Trust for all pilgrimage contributions.

The Lourdes Endowment Trust is governed by three trustees, appointed by the Board of Directors to serve three year staggered terms. Currently the trustees are Craig Jarchow, KMOB, Ed Festa, KM, and Neal Howard, KM. The trust has enacted long-term investment policies appropriate for endowed funds, and contributes approximately 4% of its corpus each year to the Lourdes pilgrimage. As of the end of 2014, the trust had a corpus of \$2,035,538.

Lourdes Endowment Campaign

Today, the Federal Association Lourdes Pilgrimage has grown to over 350 pilgrims serving over 45 *Malades* and their companions. It is the hope of the Board of Directors that the Lourdes Endowment Trust will grow, so that ultimately all *Malades* and companions needing financial assistance who join the Federal Association on the Lourdes pilgrimage will have the cost of their pilgrimage paid for by the Trust.

Until that time the Board of Directors has authorized temporary gap funding through a portion of the Annual Appeal to cover the travel expenses of each *Malade* and companion. It is imperative that together as an Association we secure the pilgrimage for our beloved malades for perpetuity. This bold step will be remembered by future generations with the same respect and admiration we have for the leadership of the FitzGeralds and Callaghans.

Thank you to our generous scholarship founders. Their selfless gifts will ensure the Lourdes Pilgrimage for malades for many years to come.

FitzGerald-Callaghan Lourdes Endowment Trust Supporters



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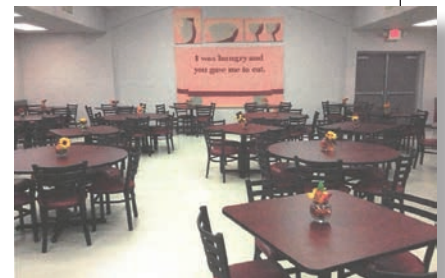
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Knights and Dames of Malta have been sustaining the Order and its works in this manner for centuries, and it remains an important way of perpetuating the tradition, and more importantly, the noble work of the Order.

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May They Rest in Peace

*These Members have passed away since the publication
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H. Minton Francis	July 7
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Reverend Monsignor Thomas H. Smith	August 31
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Milton Nottingham	October 21
Annette R. Slowinski	October 28
Mary McGeady	November 4
John Warren McGarry	November 11
Elaine Patterson	November 29
Francis J. Murray, M.D.	December 18

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William Aloysius Geoghegan	January 17
Thomas Mancini	January 21
William Schoeffield	March 3
James E. P. Turner	March 30
Jack Demetree	April 14
His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.	April 17
Gary Shertenlieb	May 6



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