



ORDER OF MALTA

BOSTON AREA

Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

Area Chair Report Damien DeVasto,



Dear Confrere,

The past year has flown by, and it has been my privilege to witness the wonderful Works our members have undertaken in 2013. Once again the talents of our Order have come together to perform extraordinary service. In this newsletter, we highlight a few of these ministries and update you on the events of the past months. Throughout these pages you will read about:

Annual Liturgy and Dinner. Our gratitude to Cardinal Seán for celebrating Mass and Msgr. James Moroney for hosting us at St. John's Seminary in Brighton and delivering an enlightening keynote address;

Prison Ministry and the creation of *The Serving Brother* newsletter. This is a meaningful publication, started by a Boston Area member, Steve Caron, that brings the Word of Christ to a population often forgotten;

The Annual Investiture Ceremonies at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. The Boston Area was well represented.

As we close out one year and begin another, I look forward to our working together, advancing the Order of Malta's extraordinary mission of witnessing the faith and bringing Christ's love to those in greatest need.

Warmest Regards,

Damien DeVasto

Members, Clergy and Grant Recipients Attend Annual Mass and Dinner

Nearly one hundred Dames, Knights, Auxiliary, Clergy and guests attended our Annual Liturgy and Dinner on October 23 at St. John's Seminary Chapel in Brighton. Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM Cap, was the Celebrant. Our host, Msgr. James Moroney, was our keynote speaker. He gave an insightful talk entitled, "Preaching an Engaging Proclamation: or, How to Get Rid of the Boring Homily."

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Bishop Fitzpatrick Award to Joe and Sheila Feitelberg. "Joe and Sheila are very generous in serving the community in so many different ways and have a long association with the Order of Malta," said Cardinal Seán in his blog written after the event.

We also presented grants to a number of organizations. These are groups and programs that are carrying out important works, embodying the love and care of Christ. In supporting them, we further our mission.

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Cardinal Seán celebrates Mass in St. John's Chapel.

"The Malta gatherings always help me see the extent of true camaraderie and the essence of spirituality that exist within the group, however much time has elapsed since our last meeting." — Mariette Young, DM





Annual Meeting *(continued from page 1)*

The grants our Area awarded are listed below. (If you would like more information about these worthy organizations, please go to the web site listed next to each name.)

- St. John Seminary, sjs.edu
- Blessed John Seminary, blessedjohnxxiii.edu
- Lawrence Catholic Academy, lawrencecatholicacademy.net
- The Sisters of St. Joseph, Bethany Care, bethanyhealthcare.org
- Malta New Hampshire Prison Ministry, orderofmaltaamerican.org/prison/news
- St. Mary, Waltham, After-School Program, stmarywaltham.org/education.php

Dame Mariette Young, who attended the event, said she was delighted with every aspect of it, from the caring attention of the seminarians to the program. "It was wonderful to hear about the projects funded, and St. John's Chapel brought so much majesty to the Mass," she said. "The Malta gatherings always help me see the extent of true camaraderie and the essence of spirituality that exist within the group, however much time has elapsed since our last meeting."



Highlights of the Annual Dinner Presentations

Top Left: The beautiful chapel at St. John's, which was renovated through the support of Malta members John and Margarite McNeice and the late Jack Shaughnessy.

Middle Left: Msgr. Moroney is animated as he gives his presentation on "How to Get Rid of Boring Homilies."

Bottom Left: Lynne and Joe Finn greet Cardinal Seán as Claudina Quinn waits her turn.

Top Right: Norberta Reilly listens to Msgr.'s engaging presentation.

Bottom Right: Fr. Paul O'Brien, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Lawrence, thanks Malta Boston for the grant to Lawrence Academy and describes the organization's work.





Members and Guests Connect at the Annual Dinner

Top Left: Carolyn O'Leary and Jack Joyce with Bishop Deeley.

Middle Left: Joe and Vicky Regan with Cardinal Seán.

Bottom Left: Marcie Riley (l.) and Suzanne Downing with Cardinal Seán.

Top Right: Lou D'Auria, Frank Pasciuto, Joe Milano and Jim Littleton.

Second Right: Janice Judge-Fox, Bob Nephew (m.) and Dan Veitkus (r.) catch up.

Third Right: Craig Gibson greets Dr. Gen Tanaka and Guest.

Bottom Right: David Solimine (l.) and Harvey Rowe (r.) with Cardinal Seán.





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The Serving Brother Connects Prisoners to the Catholic Community

Service is central to our mission within the Order of Malta. But how do we know the way in which we are called to serve? That answer came to Steve Caron at Mass one day at St. Augustine Parish in Andover as Fr. Bill Cleary, asking his parishioners to serve those in need, proclaimed Matthew 25:

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” —Matthew 25, 35–36

“I thought, we’re going to get zero response for prison ministry,” Steve said. “And I don’t like getting zeros.” He made the commitment to find a way to help.

That was the summer of 2006, and Steve was about to be invited to join the Order of Malta. When the time came to pick a service area, the choice was clear: Prison Ministry. “The timing was perfect,” Steve said. “Prison Ministry had just been chosen as a National Work by the American Association.”

Joe Feitelberg was Boston Area Chair at the time. “I knew we needed a proactive prison ministry in the Boston Area, and I asked Steve to join me on a visit to MCI Concord,” he said. Steve and Joe attended Mass at the prison, celebrated by Fr. George Williams, who was the prison Chaplain, and were moved by the event. “It was a transforming and positive experience,” Joe said.

That’s when Steve got the idea for a newsletter, and *The Serving Brother* was started. He teamed up with Fr. George, who became the editor. They work together to set broad themes, then approach bishops and ask them to write articles designed to provide prisoners with information about the Ministry of Jesus and His Church. “I think of *The Serving Brother* as a spiritual picnic basket,” Steve said. “We are trying to provide our readers with the fundamental teachings of Jesus, to help them appreciate how they fit in as vital members of the Church and to help them to understand its overall structure.”

Steve said the presence of the newsletter is particularly important in prisons where Catholicism is not supported, either by a warden or



“In fact, the ideal is to encourage our Serving Sisters and Brothers to turn their incarceration into an authentic religious experience....”—Steve Caron, KM

the local community. “We have received letters from people in those situations, who tell us that receiving *The Serving Brother* is one of the best things that has ever happened to them.”

The newsletter is published four times a year. It has a highly professional look, produced in full color, on good quality paper. “The Order of Malta’s founder, Blessed Gerard, had strict rules about how to treat the people that they served,” Steve said. “When they cared for the ill, they provided individual beds, good quality sheets, plates and glassware. The idea is that we assume Christ might come through the door any moment, and we have to offer Christ the very best that we can.”

Fr. George, who is working on his doctoral dissertation in criminal justice through Northeastern University and is now the Catholic Chaplain at San Quentin Prison in California, said the high quality production serves another purpose. “We live in a society where people who are imprisoned are defined by their crimes and not as people,” he said. “What does it say to men and women thrown away by society when we give them junk? Having the best quality production sends the message that they are valuable as human beings. This doesn’t mean we don’t recognize the crimes they have committed or that we don’t empathize with victims.

It’s just a way of honoring them as human beings. Most people don’t get to see that side of people who are incarcerated.”

While the idea of *The Serving Brother* began with Steve’s personal commitment to Prison Ministry, he is quick to point out that making the newsletter a reality took the efforts of many people. “Sue Downing, DM, became Area Chair after Joe. Her decision to finance the first two editions out of the Area budget was critical,” Steve said. “Tom Garesche, KM, and friends personally financed the third edition, giving the newsletter a chance to shine. Of course, Bob Fredericks, now effectively the Order’s Chairman of Prison Ministry in the USA, promoted the project to the National Work, providing the budget to serve hungry souls across the country.”

What began with one Knight’s call to service has grown to a multi-national publication. Thirty thousand copies of *The Serving Brother* are sent to prisons throughout the United States, Canada, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. “In the end, we are simply providing a conduit for talented people with good ideas to share with our readers,” Steve said. “In fact, the ideal is to encourage our Serving Sisters and Brothers to turn their incarceration into an authentic religious experience—one that will build the solid foundation needed to carry them right through until the time when they get to see the very face of God.”

The
Serving
Brother

The Serving Brother takes its name from the early history of the Order of Malta when the Knights were a military force. A group of helpers, known as Serving Brothers, assisted the Knights when they were called to fight and also served the chaplains in tending to the sick.



Sheila and Joe Feitelberg Receive Bishop John Fitzpatrick Award

Sheila and Joe Feitelberg are the 2013 recipients of the Bishop John Fitzpatrick Award. Suzanne Downing presented the award at the Annual Dinner held at St. John's Seminary in Brighton on October 23.

The Bishop John Fitzpatrick Award, which was established in 2005, recognizes extraordinary service by members of the Order of Malta in the Boston Area. Named for the third Bishop of the Diocese of Boston, the award acknowledges members whose service parallels the extraordinary service that Bishop Fitzpatrick provided for our Church.

Sheila and Joe have been Malta members since 1994 and became a Dame and Knight of Obedience while on the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2009. They have performed numerous charitable works in Boston and Fall River, including serving in soup kitchens and raising funds for Catholic Schools. Joe was Area Chair for Boston from 2006–2009 and chaired the recent Strategic Planning Committee for the American Association. Sheila has served on the Board of Councilors of the American Association since 2009 and was re-elected this past November. Both Sheila and Joe were very involved in planning the 2001 Annual Membership Conference at Boston College, which



Left to right: Area Chair Damien DeVasto, Cardinal Seán and Fitzpatrick Award Recipients Sheila and Joe Feitelberg.

brought almost 200 people to Boston for four days of conferences, lectures, and presentations.

Past recipients of the Fitzpatrick Award include:

- Lynn Finn
- John Kaneb
- John McCarthy
- John McManmon Jr.
- James O'Connor
- Claudina Quinn
- David Solimine

“On behalf of the Order, I want to say how grateful we are for all Sheila and Joe have done, and continue to do, for our mission,” said Damien. “Adding to the pleasure of the evening was the presence of so many members of the Feitelberg family. We are delighted they came to share in this presentation and joined us in celebrating Sheila and Joe.”

Calendar of Events

The 2014 schedule includes these significant events:

Saturday, April 5
Lenten Morning of Prayer and Reflection
St. John Seminary

Wednesday, May 28
Dinner for Retired Clergy

Friday, June 20
St. John the Baptist Mass – Cape Cod

June (Dates TBD)
St. John the Baptist Mass – New Hampshire and Worcester

Fall (Date TBD)
Annual Area Mass and Gathering

November 13–15
2014 Investiture and Boston Dinner in NYC

December (Date TBD)
Advent Mass and Dinner

Please use this calendar as an outline for your planning. Updates and invitations will be sent to you for these enjoyable and enriching gatherings.

Boston Area Well Represented at Annual Investiture

The American Association gathered on Friday, November 15, for the Annual Investiture Ceremonies at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. A significant item on the business agenda was the acceptance of the American Association's Strategic plan for the next two years. Our own Joe Feitelberg chaired the Strategic Planning Committee. Boston Area Highlights included:

- Marilyn Colman was invested as a Dame, and Msgr. James Moroney entered as a Deputy Chaplain;
- Bishop Deeley, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Boston, who was not able to attend last year's ceremonies because of his elevation to Bishop, was installed as a Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*;
- Sheila Feitelberg was reelected to the American Association's Board;
- Boston Area members gathered the night before for dinner at the Lotus Club. We were delighted to welcome members from the Rhode Island and Chicago Areas, who

Newly invested Dame Marilyn Colman and Msgr. James Moroney, Deputy Chaplain, KM.



shared the evening with us. The event was organized by Jack MacKinnon and emceed by Damien along with Tom Reedy of the Chicago Area;

- Bishop Deeley celebrated Mass and was the keynote speaker at Saturday morning's final event. He discussed the pastoral attitude of the Church today and related it to the vision put forth by Pope Francis. He referred to activities in Boston, such as parish reorganization and the successful effort to stop physician assisted suicide. His remarks were so well received by the audience that some asked for a copy of Boston's "playbook."

Prayer Line and Bereavement Support

As members of the Order of Malta, we are part of a special community. We support one another in life, through challenges and illness. We are also present to honor members who have passed, by providing funeral honors.

Prayer Line Requests

Members of the Boston Area Order of Malta and their families are invited to submit the names of loved ones and friends to our Prayer Line. Your prayer requests will be e-mailed to Knights, Dames, Chaplains and Auxiliary in the Boston Area who have offered to pray for your intentions.

Joining the Prayer Line

Members of the Boston Area Order of Malta are invited to join the Prayer Line to offer prayers for the intentions of our members and their families.

To submit a prayer request or join the Prayer Line, contact the Prayer Line Coordinator, Suzanne Downing, DM, at 508-224-9597 or suewdowning@verizon.net.

Bereavement Support

Families of deceased Knights and Dames may request funeral honors through our Bereavement Committee. The Bereavement Committee will arrange for Knights and Dames to be present at the funeral, providing an honor guard, assisting in the use of robes and the pall of the Order, and attending to other appropriate details. If possible, at least 48 hours notice should be provided.

Serving the Bereaved

The Bereavement Committee also needs volunteers who may be asked on short notice to participate in Funeral Masses.

To request services or volunteer to serve the bereaved, contact the Bereavement Committee Coordinator, Edward Delaney, KM, at 617-759-2584 or ejdelaney@comcast.net.

WEBSITE VERSION OF THE WINTER ISSUE OF THE MALTA BOSTON NEWSLETTER

You can read a flip book version of this issue online at Maltaboston.org.
Click on the link http://issuu.com/samray/docs/malta_boston-winter_2014

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Giving Back and Strengthening Faith at Cor Unum

A Family in Service



Bob Conway

Bob Conway has been volunteering at Cor Unum throughout his Year of Preparation. A patent attorney by profession, Bob said his work at Cor Unum is a way of giving back to others not so fortunate. "This experience makes me feel that I am helping," he said. "It connects me to a different side of life. One of the people I served was a 2-year-old girl having a meal with her family. She was so cute, and I felt for her situation."

His own daughter, Annie, who recently graduated from college, has been joining Bob at Cor Unum. "I told her what I was doing and asked if she would like to come along. It's been a good opportunity for us to spend time together and to strengthen our spirituality."

If you would like to join Bob, Annie and the others who volunteer at Cor Unum, see the information that follows for dates and contact.

Join Us at Cor Unum

Continuing our commitment to live our mission by helping those in need, Malta volunteers will be serving at the Cor Unum Meal Center throughout 2014.

Please join us on one or more of these dates:

Sunday, April 13

Sunday, May 11

Sunday, June 15

Sunday, September 21

Sunday, October 19

Sunday, November 16.

We usually meet at 4:00 p.m. at Cor Unum in Lawrence and complete serving dinner and cleaning up by 7:00 p.m. To join us, contact Craig Gibson at cbgibson@comcast.net.

Bishop Robert Deeley Appointed Bishop of Portland Maine

While it is a loss for the Archdiocese of Boston, we are delighted that Pope Francis has appointed our Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, Bishop Robert Deeley, as the 12th Bishop of Portland Maine. We know Bishop Deeley will do remarkable work in Maine and are happy that he will still be part of the Order of Malta Boston Area. Please include Bishop Deeley in your prayers as he takes on this new responsibility in service to the Church.

In Our Next Issue...

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the **Malta Boston Newsletter**. Our next publication will be our **2013 Annual Report**, which will summarize our activities for the year. And please visit our website, maltaboston.org.

ORDER OF MALTA BOSTON AREA