

Australian HOSPITALLER

The Annual Review of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta



ENGAGING THE YOUNG VOLUNTEER

KOREA

Korean Delegation's first report

PILGRIMAGE

Walking in the footsteps of St Paul

COATS CAMPAIGN

The Order's 900 year old mission in action



Lieutenant of the Grand Master

Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto was elected on 29 April 2017 by the Council Complete of State for one year.



WELCOME

Australian HOSPITALLER 2017

Welcome to the Australian Hospitaller magazine, the Annual Review of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta, for the year 2017.

This edition takes a look at the challenge facing our Order both in Australia and the Order's national associations around the world; that of engaging and recruiting young volunteers to the Order of Malta's mission to the needs of the poor, the sick, the elderly, the handicapped, the outcast and the refugee. Our article on Homelessness highlights the plight of the growing number of rough sleepers in Australia. In some of our cities, walking by these poor souls without your heart going out to them can be extremely hard and the many unanswered stories about their current situation and their plight are just as difficult to comprehend.

The Australian Association mourned the loss of a number of members in 2017 and in this edition we have selected three obituaries: the Association's only Knight of Justice Frà Richard Divall AO OBE CMM; celebrated portrait painter Confrere Paul Fitzgerald AM KMG; and former Australian Association Master of Ceremonies Confrere Thomas (Tom) Hazell AO KHS KMG CMM. Each contributed greatly throughout their years as members of the Association.

We've also sought to bring you new and interesting information on the Order of Malta, such as the use of processional swords and vocations to the first class - that of Knights of Justice.

For the first time our new delegation in Korea has contributed a report and we also bring you reports from throughout the Australian Association, as well as our delegations in Hong Kong, Thailand and New Zealand.

I hope you enjoy reading this year's edition.

Scott Samson
Editor

Meet our Contributors



Seán Parnell OAM KMG

I was fortunate enough to join the Northern Territory Catholic Education Office on their annual pilgrimage. This year's chosen journey was entitled "In the Footsteps of St Paul" and covered St Paul's journey throughout Asia Minor (Turkey) and Greece. I have enjoyed recalling the progress of our pilgrimage.

● Read more on page 64.



Mark Switkowski KMG

Like so many not-for-profit organisations, the Order of Malta is not immune to the challenges of volunteer retention, especially younger volunteers. Confrere Scott Samson KMG and I were fortunate enough to meet with two younger members from the French and British Associations and learn from their Associations' experiences. We have recorded our European friends' eight recommendations here.

● Read more on page 18.



Frà Richard Divall AO OBE

As a professed Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, I want to share with members of our Association the context of God's specific call to 'each one of us to play a definite role that He has foreseen from all eternity'. I encourage all our members to 'discern' their ongoing roles, activities and vocations within the Order.

● Read more on page 28.



Scott Samson KMG

The history of our Order fascinates me and as Editor of the Australian Hospitaller I enjoy the challenges laid down by our Members to find answers to their questions on the traditions and history of the Sovereign Order of Malta. In this edition we have looked into the history of carrying swords in the Order's liturgical processions.

● Read more on page 11.



FEEDBACK

We want to know what you think. After all, the more we know about what members want to see in their annual publication, the more we can provide you with branch reports, interesting articles and research on the events and history of the Order of Malta.

Send your feedback to info@smom.org.au

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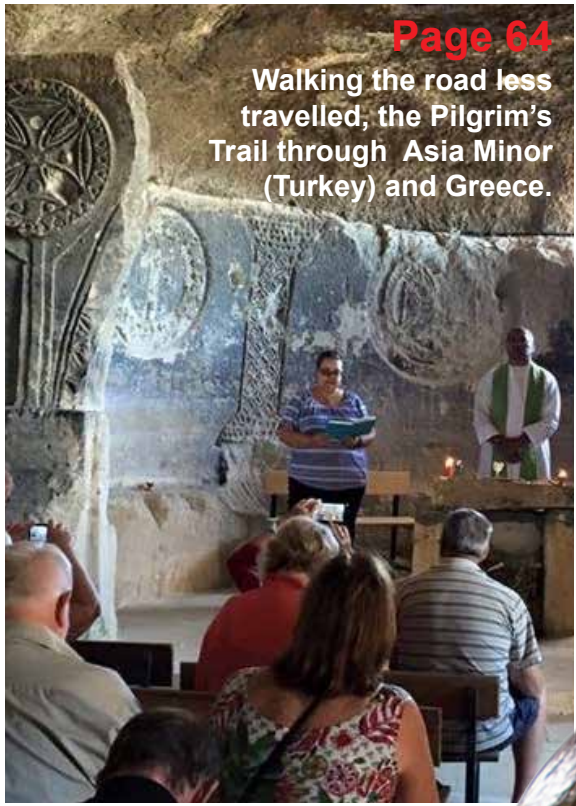
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ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

In this year's President's Report His Excellency Confrere Dr Ian Marshall AM AE KC*SG KGCMG(Ob) highlights the work and achievements of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta at home and abroad, including the establishment of a new group in Korea.



In recent years the Australian Association of the Order has been involved in a complicated and time consuming process of constitutional reform, firstly of our own national Statutes and more recently of the Order globally.

A Transitional Council has been appointed to oversee the ordinary activities of our activities pending the outcome of the global reform process; a monumental exercise in its own right in which Australia will play its part.

Hence the new concept of “regional hospitallers”, regional office bearers rather than State based within State borders. It also gives recognition to the smaller groups in Western Australia and the Northern Territory; and elsewhere.

It is designed to encourage more co-operation between members nationally and especially internationally.

It is understandable if we have been distracted from fully devoting our energies to our core activities of *obsequium pauperum*, Service to Our Lords the Poor and the Sick, and *tuitio fidei*, Defence of the Faith.

The Grand Chancellor has urged us to concentrate during this reform process on “how we can do things better in the future” - that is to use this opportunity to plan carefully for the future.

It is essential we take this opportunity to focus primarily on what we are supposed to be doing such as our national Coats for the Homeless project and whatever else we do to serve the poor and the sick.

With the distraction of revision of the Statutes, plebiscites and then reform of the Order itself, policy development in certain areas has lapsed such as a modern communications strategy; involvement of volunteers; an active national youth program; and Bioethics

It is the task of the new Regional Hospitallers to actively promote the normal activities of the members: Lourdes Mass; fundraising; local coats programs, inter-

regional and intra-regional pilgrimages and retreats.

Our chaplains have never been more involved in the life of the Order. They allocate precious time from their usual responsibilities to attend to our spiritual needs for which we must all be very grateful.

I record our thanks to the members of the former Executive Council for their past contributions and thank the members of the new Transitional Council for accepting their new responsibilities.

Our appreciation must be recorded for the activities of our overseas members in New Zealand, Hong Kong and Thailand and most recently Korea.

They are currently under the umbrella of the Australian Association during their progress towards independence in their own countries. Various reports on their highly commendable activities appear elsewhere.

One of the great events in the life of the Order is the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in the first weekend in May and each year now we see an impressive number of pilgrims under the Australian banner join with the Irish to assist with the Irish malades.

Increasing numbers of malades attend the annual Lourdes Masses in Australia held for those who can't physically attend Lourdes.

Membership continues to build. We have a record number of members and we now have two families with third generation members.

Our fundraising has never been more successful. The Coats for the Homeless project goes from strength to strength with coats now being distributed well outside the capital cities. 6,000 coats were distributed to keep the homeless warm and dry this year.

Local charitable works projects also continue to expand. A notable one is the Advocacy Centre run by our members

in the Northern Territory. Palliative care continues to be a key activity in Victoria.

The Ambassadors have never been so active and the regional presence and membership of the Order grows - in Hong Kong, Thailand and Cambodia, Timor-Leste and now South Korea.

Our Ambassadors quietly explore avenues for development of the Order in the Asia Pacific area.

Individual members with local expertise willingly offer to assess opportunities for the Order in India, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and Taiwan.

It is some sort of recognition of the vibrancy and dynamism of the Order in our part of the world that the Asia Pacific Conference is now an established annual event.

It is the only annual international event on the Order's calendar, routinely attended by both the Grand Chancellor and the Grand Hospitaller.

All of this is achieved by the commitment of many of our members and the investment of their personal time, knowledge and enthusiasm for which we all must be grateful.

I know from personal experience of the sacrifice our families make in supporting our activities in the Order.

There is an understated but nevertheless uniform spirit of optimism and a common desire for a brighter future.

Together, let's move enthusiastically into 2018 to further fulfil our common dedication to the twin mission of our Order - *Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum!*

SUBPRIORY PROCURATOR

The Knights and Dames in Obedience form the second of the three classes of the Order of Malta. Unlike the members of the first class (the Knights of Justice) who make vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, the Knights and Dames of the second class make a promise of obedience. *Confrere Professor David Kissane KMG(Ob)*, as Procurator, reports on the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception.



At Australia's recent National Assembly in Brisbane in June 2017, it was wonderful to have eight members of our Sub Priory take their Promises of Obedience before others in the Australian Association.

This witness provided by Consoeur Deirdre Page DMG(Ob) and Confreres Dr Michael Campion KMG(Ob), Damian Fogarty KMG(Ob), Stephen Gatt KMG(Ob), Anthony Gerada, KMG(Ob), Richard Hall, KMG(Ob) Daniel Kwok KMG(Ob) and Dr Ian Leitch RFD KMG(Ob) proved that the work of the Holy Spirit is alive and well in the Australian Association.

We also have further members undertaking their year of preparation in the persons of Confreres David Blackwell OAM KMG (VIC), James Caesar-Thwaytes KMG (ACT), Justin Harkiewicz KMG (Hong Kong), and Gregory Pang Shien Khing KMG (Singapore).

Additionally, Consoeur Marianne Daly DMG(Ob) from the Subpriory of Our Lady of Philermos (Western USA) is working for a time in Christchurch, New Zealand, and will join in activities with our Subpriory while here.

I received a letter from The Grand Chancellor, His Excellency Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, on behalf of the Lieutenant of the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council, approving the renewal of my appointment as Procurator for a further year until the Reform of the Order is completed.

Because we are not allowed at this stage to elect a Council for the Subpriory, on the advice of the Grand Chancellor, I have formed a representative committee to guide our development and activities, comprising Consoeurs Jennifer Dunlop DMG(Ob) (ACT) and Mary Galea DMG(Ob) (VIC) and Confreres Anthony Gerada (QLD), Stephen Gatt (NSW) and Dr Ian Leitch (SA) to assist me in the day-to-day affairs of the Subpriory.

I will ask this committee to examine with me the opportunities and barriers to joining the Subpriory, and work with them to increase the sense of community that comes with membership of the Subpriory.

I am delighted to also report that members of our Subpriory are also actively serving in the Reform Processes of the Order, with Confrere Ian Marshall serving on the Reform Working Group for Associations, Confrere Simon Grenfell on the Working Group for Governance, Confrere Dr Ian Leitch on the Working Group for Youth, Confrere Tony Heath KMG(Ob) on the Working Group for the Third Class, Consoeur Jennifer Dunlop on the Working Group for Dames and I have been appointed to the Working Group for the Second Class.

The gift of Obedience emerged from the last reform of the Order in 1997 and the Working Group for the Second Class is examining the nature of the vocation which it brings and the barriers that exist for other members of the Order engaging with this call to deeper holiness.

Building a sense of community is a key process to draw members together to deepen the spiritual stability of our Order, with Subpriories supporting this, and indeed, in the Asia Pacific region, our Subpriory accepting this responsibility for our geographic region.

The Subpriory is currently considering a number of proposals relating to the Year of Preparation that is required before a member can be admitted into the Second Class.

One of the biggest questions asked has been whether there is more that could be done with the Year of Preparation? My sense was that some of our recent members formed a very cohesive group that mutually supported one another through this year.

Is the creation of such a community of postulants important to enrich the journey? And what of the role of chaplains

in support of such preparation? I would welcome feedback from any members of the Subpriory that have thought about these matters and have constructive advice to offer.

In July, the NSW Branch of the Australian Association held its annual day of reflection and Confrere Paul Grew very generously arranged a couple of extra days of retreat for members of the Subpriory (Thursday-Friday) at the Canisius Centre in Sydney. Some 14 or more members booked in to attend. The retreat was led by Fr Geoffrey Plant, Parish Priest of the Lane Cove Parish in Sydney.

This year prayers have been needed for the Physician-Assisted Suicide debates that are again active in our State Parliaments. In Victoria, as of November the Parliament has debated and passed a Bill. Euthanasia will now become law, with legislators claiming that their new legislation creates the safest euthanasia system in the world.

These claims appeared little more than a clever marketing strategy to me, and several of the recommendations risk harming the vulnerable and normalising medical killing in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Confrere the Hon Sir James Gobbo AC CVO KGCSG KGCMG(Ob) GCMM for his dedication and years of service as Regent of our Subpriory. As the Subpriory's first Regent and one of the early members of the Second Class in Australia, Sir James has contributed greatly to the spiritual development of members and in providing encouragement to those considering taking the Promise of Obedience.

Our Subpriory also lost its keystone this year, with the passing into eternal life of Frà Richard Divall AO OBE CMM. As our only professed Knight, Frà Richard will be sorely missed. His enthusiasm for the works of the Order and the success of the Subpriory were all pervasive. I pray that Frà Richard now rests in peace.

THE GRAND MAGISTRY

The Council Complete of State, the body responsible for electing the Grand Master or Lieutenant of the Grand Master (with the same powers as the Grand Master, but in office for one year), took place on 29 April. The 2017 Council Complete of State, met in the Magistral Villa – the extraterritorial headquarters of the Order of Malta in Rome.

Council Complete of State elects a Lieutenant of the Grand Master ~29 April 2017~

Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto was elected Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta on 29 April 2017. The electing body, the Council Complete of State, met in the Magistral Villa in Rome, one of the Order of Malta's two institutional seats.

The newly elected Lieutenant of the Grand Master swore his Oath before the Pope's Special Delegate to the Sovereign Order of Malta, Archbishop Angelo Becciu, and the members of the Council Complete of State in the Church of Santa Maria in Aventino.

Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto succeeds Frà Matthew Festing, 79th Grand Master, who resigned on 28 January 2017.

Pope Francis was informed by letter of the election result and all the Order of Malta's Grand Priors, Subpriors and National Associations around the world were subsequently informed, as were the representatives of the 106 countries with which the Order maintains diplomatic relations.

The new Lieutenant of the Grand Master, elected for a one-year mandate, affirmed his commitment to work closely with the Order's Sovereign Council in advancing the diplomatic, social and humanitarian activities and to nourish the spiritual life and the commitment of its 13,500 members as well as that of its more than 100,000 volunteers and employees.

Profile of Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto

Frà Giacomo was born 1944 in Rome. He graduated in Humanities from the University of Rome, specialising in Christian Archeology and History of Art. He took up academic posts at the Pontifical Urbaniana Institute, teaching classical Greek. He was also Chief Librarian and Archivist for the Institute's important collections and has published a range of



essays and articles on aspects of medieval art history.

He became a member of the Sovereign Order in 1985 and took his Solemn Vows in 1993. From 1994-1999 he was Grand Prior of Lombardy and Venice and from 1999 to 2004, a member of the Sovereign Council. At the Chapter General of 2004 he was elected Grand Commander of the Order and on the death of the 78th Grand Master, Frà Andrew Bertie, he became the Lieutenant *ad interim*. From 2008 Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre has held the post of Grand Prior of Rome.

The first official engagement of the new Lieutenant of the Grand Master was the 59th Order of Malta International Pilgrimage to Lourdes, which took place from 5 to 9 May. Every year, over 7,000 members and volunteers from all over the world take part in the pilgrimage, assisting around 1,500 sick and disabled pilgrims. The pilgrimage to Lourdes represents one

of the most significant moments in the spiritual life of the Order's members and volunteers.

Constitutional Reform

One of the most important tasks of Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto during his one year mandate, will be to work on the reform process of the Constitution and Code of the Order.

The Constitutional Charter was promulgated in June 1961 and was amended in 1997.

In particular, the proposed Constitutional reform will address potential institutional weaknesses. The recent crisis has shown some weaknesses in the checks and balances in governance: the reform will take this into consideration. The reform will also focus on strengthening the Order's spiritual life and to increase the number of its Professed members. Consultations have already begun and all members of the Order have been invited to offer their suggestions.

Lieutenant of the Grand Master

According to the Order's Constitution, the Lieutenant of the Grand Master remains in charge for one year with the same powers as a Grand Master. The Lieutenant of the Grand Master must reconvene the Council Complete of State before the end of his mandate.

The Lieutenant of the Grand Master is the sovereign and religious head of the Order, and must fully dedicate himself to the development of the works of the Order and to set an example of living by Christian principles to its members. He is vested with supreme authorities. Together with the Sovereign Council, he issues the legislative measures not covered by the Constitution, promulgates government acts and ratifies international agreements. The Lieutenant of the Grand Master resides at the Order's seat of government, the Magistral Palace in Rome.



A message from His Excellency The Lieutenant of the Grand Master

Dear members of the Order, it is an honour for me to address you as Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

I feel blessed to have been elected for one year as the sovereign head and religious superior of the Order of Malta, an institution that, – even during the most challenging times in its long history – has never failed to honour its Catholic faith and its core mission to help the sick and those in need.

My dedication to promoting the spiritual dimension of our 900-year-old Order will be relentless and profound.

One of my main tasks will be to work to refine our Constitution. Consultations to address institutional issues have already started.

The Order of Malta has grown beyond all expectations in the last decades, in particular under the last two Grand Masters and we are grateful to them for this.

But this growth also comes with much greater responsibility.

And therefore we need to amend some of our rules and regulations and strengthen the governance aligning them with current needs, and with the role and dimension of the Order.

All these reforms will take place without any change to the charisma and ideals of the Order.

I take this opportunity to affirm, too, my strong commitment and total dedication to advancing and developing the important actions that the Order of Malta carries out – through our many associations, relief and volunteer corps and embassies – in 120 countries, some coping with the effect on local populations of violence, poverty and natural disasters.

We live in era of unrest and uncertainty. Humanitarian emergencies – causing displacement and an ever-increasing number of refugees – are tragically proliferating around us.

The demands of those in dire need of



Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, elected Lieutenant of the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, swore the oath of office in the Church of Santa Maria in Aventino, before the Council Complete of State (the elective body of the Order of Malta consisting of 56 voters including: the Lieutenant ad interim (1); Members of the Sovereign Council (9); Prelate (1); Grand Priors and Procurators of Grand Priories (6); Professed Bailiffs (7); Professed Knights representing the Grand Priories (10); Professed Knight elected by the Knights in gremio religionis (1); Knight in Obedience elected by the Knights in gremio religionis (1); Regents of the Subpriories (5); Presidents of the national Associations (15)) and Archbishop Angelo Becciu, the Pope's Special Delegate.

After the oath, the Grand Commander, Fra' Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein conferred the collar of Grand Master to the Lieutenant after which the Grand Chancellor Albrecht Boeselager declared the Council Complete of State dissolved.

A solemn Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Becciu and the flag of Grand Master was raised at the top of the Magistral Villa at the end of the ceremony.

The Lieutenant of the Grand Master will remain in office one year at the end of which a new Council Complete of State will be convened.

food and medical assistance, and social and spiritual support, are increasing and it is our duty to help them.

With deep gratitude, I thank the Order's members, volunteers, doctors, nurses and rescuers.

All around the world, with unremitting passion and dedication, you testify to our

hospitaller mission.

I ask the interception of our Lady of Philermo and the help of your prayers and your commitment to sustain me during my mandate.

May the Lord watch over you and our beloved Order.



A PIECE OF HISTORY

The damascened parade armour made in the Milanese armoury workshops for the Grand Master Aloff de Wignacourt (1601 - 1622). Grand Master de Wignacourt was a well respected leader of the Order and history records he was loved by the Maltese people. He was a man of princely tastes and his suit of armour is one of the most expensive in existence. During his rule, the Bibliotheca (National Library) was firmly established, but his name will always be connected with the aqueduct he built to bring water to Valletta whose population had increased considerably by this time. Grand Master de Wignacourt died of apoplexy while he was out shooting. Grand Master's armour is on display at the Palace Armoury, Valletta.



DID YOU KNOW...



Image courtesy of Bertrand Malvaux, 2 rue Drébillon, 44000 Nantes, France

The bearing sword of the Irish Association and a ceremonial verge carried before Frà Matthew Festing, while the 79th Prince and Grand Master: many arms and weapons museum collections typically feature immense parade or bearing great-swords as if they were actual combat weapons ignoring the fact they are not only blunt edged, but of impractical size and weight as well as poorly balanced for effective use. Unlike ceremonial specimens, none of the fighting weapons exceeded 1.8 kg and the heaviest ceremonial was less than 5 kg.

WHY DO WE CARRY LARGE SWORDS IN THE ORDER'S LITURGICAL PROCESSIONS?

“Wielded by the largest and most impressive soldiers (*Doppelsoldners*, who received double pay), *Schlachterschwerter* were also used to guard banners and castle walls.”

The use of large swords as symbols of power and sovereignty was a practice that originated in the high Middle Ages. By the fifteenth century, enormous 'bearing swords', intended solely for ceremonial and processional use in pageants and state occasions, were carried before monarchs, statesmen and nobles, as well as town dignitaries of many European nation-states as a symbol of their legitimacy and status.

In the fifteenth century the town of Passau, in Lower Bavaria, was the centre for production of the large, two-handed swords

known as a *Zweihänder*. *Zweihänder* swords developed from the *Longswords* of the Late Middle Ages and became the hallmark weapon of German mercenaries from the time of the Emperor Maximilian I (1486-1519) and during the Italian Wars of 1494-1559. The *Goliath Fechtbuch* (1510) shows an intermediate form between long-sword and *Zweihänder*.

It was the sixteenth century, however, that saw the zenith of the *Zweihänder*'s development and by the second half of the sixteenth century the use of enormous two-handed swords as a



Departure of the Doppelsöldner of the Landsknecht (by Gustave Jean Jacquet 1846 - 1909). Doppelsöldner were soldiers in 16th-century Germany who volunteered to fight in the front line, taking on extra risk, in exchange for double payment.

weapon was very much in decline, yet these swords' remained in widespread ceremonial use, as 'bearing swords' carried in procession on occasions of state, as fitting symbols of power and authority.

Ironsmiths of the City of Brunswick, owing to the city's proximity to the rich ores of the Harz Mountains, had been active as a centre of sword manufacturing

since the beginning of the fourteenth century and from around 1570 the first bearing swords of the 'Brunswick' style were manufactured and exported from the City to the Royal and Imperial Courts of Europe.

Most of the swords of this period do not carry makers' marks, yet one or two examples currently in museum collections

include a small lion rampant, the heraldic symbol of the City of Brunswick, struck into their blades. A number of swords within Order of Malta's collection in the Palace Armoury in Valletta also bear this distinctive hallmark.

There is a certain 'family resemblance' across this group of Brunswick swords as a whole, yet it is possible to separate them in to several quite distinct subgroups.

By far the largest of these subgroups contain swords that are dated 1573-4. These pieces have wide, crutch-shaped pommels, curved cross-guards formed with the likeness of a monstrous fish and their ricassos (the unsharpened length of blade just above the cross-guard) are nearly always inscribed with the cipher of their aristocratic owner alongside the relevant date.

Some of the most magnificent bearing swords of the 1560s to the 1580s are those of manufactured in the Duchy of Brunswick during the reign of Julius, Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel (r. 1568-89).

Grandly accentuated proportions and stylistic features unique to the Brunswick duchy could not have failed to impart a sense of awe and deference to the Royal and Imperial clients who placed large orders with the duchy's armourers for their unique products.

These swords, however, differ from those used in battle and carried by members of noble bodyguards in that they bear none of the insignia and markings present on combat weaponry; they bear instead the heraldic and iconographic emblems of the noble lords they were carried before.

They were also substantially larger than conventional two-handed swords, with a wider width of the quillons, together with the use of brass sheet applied uppermost within the guard and boldly embossed with large heraldic emblems and blazons positioned up and down the blade to be correctly viewed while carried aloft in procession.

To understand what we are discussing it is important to first have a working definition. The respected work, 'Swords and Hilt Weapons', offers this description of the weapon:

"The two-handed sword was a specialised and effective infantry weapon, and was recognised as such in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Although large, measuring 150-175 cm overall, it was not as hefty as it looked, weighing something of the order of 2.3-3.6 kg.

In the hands of the Swiss and German infantrymen it was lethal, and its use was considered as special skill, often meriting extra pay."

Fifteenth-century examples usually have an expanded cruciform hilt, sometimes

with side rings on one or both sides of the quillon block. This was the form which remained dominant in Italy during the sixteenth century, but in Germany a more flamboyant form developed.

Two-handed swords typically have a generous ricasso to allow the blade to be safely gripped below the quillons and thus wielded more effectively at close quarters. Triangular or pointed projections, known as flukes, were added at the base of the ricasso to

defend the hand.

In contrast to long-swords, technically, true two-handed swords (*épée à deux mains*) or “two-handers” were actually Renaissance, not Medieval weapons. They are really those specialised forms of the later 1500-1600s, such as the Swiss/German *Dopplehänder* (“double-hander”) or *Bidenhänder* (“both-hander”).

The popular names *Zweihänder* and *Zweyhänder* are actually relatively modern not historical terms. English made swords were sometimes referred to as “slaughter-swords” after the German, *Schlachterschwerter* (“battle swords”).

While used similarly to longwords, and even employed in some duels, they were not identical in handling or performance.

Wielded by the largest and most impressive looking soldiers (*Doppelsoldners*, who received double pay), *Schlachterschwerter* were also used to guard banners and castle walls.

These soldiers are the fore-bearers of today’s ceremonial sword bearers. Along with the bearing swords carried by the Order of Malta in our liturgical processions, ceremonial swords are also carried before the British King or Queen at their coronation ceremony, the Lord Mayor of London and Lord Mayors of many of England’s municipalities.

Similar to the Order of Malta, ceremonial processions of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem also include the regular use of bearing swords.

Bearing swords are an important aspect of our Order’s liturgical life and should be better appreciated and celebrated.

Australian Association Members should also remember to check your State or Territory’s laws as they apply to swords and edged weapons before looking to purchase or borrow a sword to use in your region’s liturgical processions. By way of example, in Victoria it is illegal to carry a sword without a special Police or Governor-in-Council regulatory exemption.

Heraldry of the Order of Malta: arms & emblems



The Order

The Order of Malta’s arms display the eight-pointed Latin cross on a red oval field surrounded by a rosary and surmounted by the princely mantle and crown (as described in Article 6 of the Order’s Constitutional Charter). It is the emblem of the Sovereign Order’s Grand Magistracy and its Institutions: the Grand Priorities, Subpriorities, National Associations and Diplomatic Missions.



The Lieutenant of The Grand Master

The arms of Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto are quartered with those of the Order. At 1 & 4, Gules, a cross Argent (for Saint John); 2 & 3, Azure, on a mount vert a square tower in perspective proper, the ports Sable, surmounted by a Latin cross between two mullets of six Argent. Behind the shield a Maltese cross interlaced with a golden Rosary, from which depends a white Maltese cross.



Emblem

The emblem is the symbol of the Order of Malta’s medical and humanitarian activities worldwide. It is a red shield with a white, eight-pointed cross (as described in Article 242 of the Order’s Code).



The State Flag

The red rectangular flag with the white Latin cross is the State flag of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Called the flag of St John, it has been used since ancient times.

Giacomo Bosio’s “History of the Order “ (1594) records that in 1130 Pope Innocent II had decreed that the “Religion in war should bear a standard with a white cross on a red field.” Following Pope Alexander IV’s Bull of 1259 permitting the Knights in war to wear a red mantle bearing a white cross, the Order began to make systematic use of the Latin cross as its emblem. In 1291, the Order left the Holy Land, the knightly standard was flown over their ships for the next six centuries. Today the State flag flies over the Order’s Magistral Palace in Rome and accompanies the Grand Master and members of the Sovereign Council on official visits.



The Flag of the Order’s Works

The red flag with eight-pointed white cross is the flag of the Order of Malta’s works. The eight-pointed cross has been used in the Order as long as the Latin cross, and stems from the Order’s ancient links with the Republic of Amalfi. Its present form dates back over 400 years; the first clear reference to an eight-pointed cross was its representation on the coins of Grand Master Frà Foulques de Villaret (1305-1319). This is the flag flown by the Order’s Grand Priorities and Subpriorities, its 47 National Associations and over 100 diplomatic missions around the world. It also flies over hospitals, medical centres, as well as wherever the Order of Malta’s ambulance corps, foundations and specialised units operate.

OBITUARIES

Over 2017, the Australian Association mourned the loss of eight Members. We record the live stories of three Members here: **Frà Richard Divall AO OBE CMM**, **Confrere Paul Fitzgerald AM KMG and Confrere Thomas (Tom) Hazell AO KHS KMG CMM.**

FRÀ PROF RICHARD DIVALL AO OBE CMM 1945 - 2017



Richard Sydney Benedict Divall was born on the 9th September 1945 in New South Wales. He was the son of Frederick Ronald and Dorothy Margaret Divall. He was educated at Manly Boys School, the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the University of Melbourne.

Richard won scholarships to study Opera in Paris and in London where he studied under Sir Charles Mackerras. In 1972 he was appointed Music Director of the Victoria State Opera, a position he held for over twenty five years. Later he was the principal Resident Conductor for Opera Australia.

Richard had an innate love of history, and a pride in Australia as his homeland. About the same time as Roger Covell's seminal book *Australia's Music* was published in 1967, Richard started what was to become a lifelong habit of fossicking in libraries, archives, and any kind of private repository, amassing a huge collection of music composed in Australia, particularly during the

nineteenth century, from colonisation to federation, and beyond.

Throughout his lifetime he continued to collect and edit this music. The totality of this editorial work amounts literally to hundreds of compositions. Some have been published by the Marshall-Hall Trust with which he was closely connected, and another forty-five have been published by Monash University, and others by the Lyrebird Press. The remainder of this labour of his musical love will be published posthumously as part of Richard's legacy to Australia.

Through Richard's editorial work we have come to know something of the sounds of Australia in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the works of composers who contributed so much to the cultural development of Australia, including Isaac Nathan, Charles Horsley, Fritz Hart, G.W. Marshall-Hall, and Frederick Septimus Kelly. In this scholarly endeavour, Richard was one of the greatest champions of Australian musical heritage that this country has known.

In addition to Opera and his wide research, Richard's contribution to music continued in a wide variety of other areas. Thus he was for nearly twenty years chief adjudicator and conductor for the Sun Aria Competition. Last year his illness precluded him from performing his usual role but he agreed to attend in his wheelchair and to make a brief appearance on stage. There was a spontaneous overwhelming and unforgettable applause from a packed auditorium at the Arts Centre. This was a grateful community expressing its thanks for his twenty years of service.

Similarly valued was his association with the Australian String Quartet in the Dunkeld Music Festivals sponsored by Allan and Maria Myers.

It is not surprising that Richard's contribution to Music attracted high awards. In the Order of Australia he was honoured by an award at the level of Officer and also an OBE in the previous system. He received honorary doctorates from Monash University, the Australian Catholic University and the University of Sao Paolo.

The one topic in history other than music itself which was to dominate his life was the story of the Hospitallers of St John of Jerusalem. This was the body which was to become known as the Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta.

Richard soon learned that the Hospitallers began their work in Jerusalem in about 1050, well before the Crusades. They were a group of monastic religious who provided care and shelter to pilgrims arriving in the Holy Land suffering from injuries, disease and hunger. These Hospitallers were led by a remarkable man called Fra' Gerard whose work was sponsored by merchants of the Maritime Republic of Amalfi. They were known collectively as the Hospital a word which at that time meant a place of shelter. This Hospital was located near the Church of St John the Baptist and the Hospital soon adopted St John the Baptist as its Patron Saint.

Richard was already collecting books about the Hospitallers of St John in the 1970s and even had some early coins of the Order. He had a copy of the famous *Bulla* of Pope Paschal II issued in 1113 formally establishing the Hospitallers of St John as a religious Order. At that time the Hospitallers were not a military force and were not involved in the Crusades. That was to come later.

By 1980, Richard was extending his study to the Hospitallers' expanding to hospitals providing medical care. In 1982 Sir James Gobbo, as President of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta, invited Richard to give the Oration at the Association's Annual Dinner in Melbourne. It was a superb address, entitled *The Order of Malta and Medicine*.

Thereafter Richard started on the journey of becoming a Catholic. This took over three years during which he had the friendship and guidance of a wise and brilliant scholar, Msgr Frank Harman.

Richard was received into the Catholic faith on Tuesday 7th November 1989 here in this great Cathedral. This happened to be the first Tuesday in November – Melbourne Cup Day. For those who can only read history by reference to a racing calendar, a horse called Terrific won the Cup that year.

Those present at the ceremony at the Cathedral included Dame Joan Hammond, Lady Potter, Lady Gobbo and Sister Fabian of the Sisters of Charity. Sister Fabian was something of a legend in the world of hospitals. Sir James Killen once described her as being the only person he knew who could have run BHP alone with one hand tied behind her back.

There were other formidable ladies who could not be present that day, but who were Richard's supporters and friends. This included Dame Elizabeth Murdoch who was to honour Richard at her 100th Birthday Celebration by seating him at a place of honour beside her.

Moreover, at the Cathedral on that memorable day there were also two males present – the Celebrant, Bishop George Pell (as he then was) and Sir James Gobbo, as the God-Parent. This day changed Richard's life.

He soon became a Knight of Malta and ultimately became a Knight of Justice and took solemn vows and the title of Frà.

These vows imposed new spiritual obligations on him, including daily attendance at Mass which thus led to new links with Newman College within the University of Melbourne. His links with that University had always been strong for he was for many years Fellow and Artist-



Following his profession as a Knight of Justice, Frà Richard Divall was awarded a Coat of Arms by His Most Eminent Highness Frà Matthew Festing, Prince and Grand Master of the Order in 2011.

in-Residence at Queens College where he was much admired as a scholar and friend. When he moved from Queens College to an apartment in Parkville it was thought he might lose contact. On the contrary, he kept up the links with his many friends at Queens. In fact, far from losing contact, he enjoyed a new title, 'Radio Parkville'.

Richard's involvement with the Order of Malta deepened his interest in the musical history of Malta. He travelled to Malta frequently to research in the Maltese archives and he soon won the respect and friendship of many Maltese historians and musicologists. His closest colleague in this regard was Msgr John Azzopardi, who was responsible for the two largest musical archives on the island.

Among numerous other works, Richard edited the unknown church music composed on Malta by Niccolo Isouard, better known for his operatic compositions later in life when he settled in Paris. This formed the basis of Richard's PhD thesis at the College of Divinity Melbourne, completed in 2013. The Maltese Community in Melbourne, the largest in the world outside Malta, honoured Richard for his work, both in Maltese music and in the Order of Malta.

Frà Richard's life in the Order of Malta had an obvious spiritual dimension, but it also had a practical side. Like Frà Gerard, he was very much hands-on in participating in the works of the Order, especially amongst the sick and the poor. So for example, for some seven years Richard was one of several team leaders in Victoria's Coats Program. This was a program for meeting the Homeless people of the city and personally giving

those who were – or potentially were – 'rough sleepers' specially designed new warm waterproof coats. The leaders and volunteers, some fifty of which came from Newman College, followed the St Vincent de Paul Soup Vans which fed the homeless at various stops around the City. Frà Richard cheerfully took up the most arduous round being that serving North Melbourne, Footscray and the Geelong Rd Caravan park.

Frà Richard was enriched by his music and his faith and both of these were sustained by his deep love of history. Binding all this together was a great capacity for friendship – and for loyalty.

In the last years of his life he battled cancer, recovered, and then faced more and different cancers and major spinal surgery. Through this long and arduous period, he remained prayerful and drew strength from his prayers, and grateful for his many messages of further prayers and best wishes.

At Frà Richard's funeral two Telegrams from Rome were read out. The first was from His Most Eminent Highness the Grand Master of the Order of Malta. It read as follows:

'It is with great sadness that I have learned of the passing away of our dear Confrere Frà Richard. He will be missed by all members of our Order. Please accept my heartfelt condolences and my prayers for the happy repose of his soul. Frà Matthew Festing'

The second telegram was from the Grand Chancellor A.I. Frà John Critien and was in similar prayerful terms.

Right through his life, including his time of grave ill health, Frà Richard's wit remained irrepressible. His sometimes quizzical approach was such as to lead a wise priest who knew him well to comment – 'With Richard, it is not a question as to whether he is ready for God, but whether God is quite ready for Richard!!'

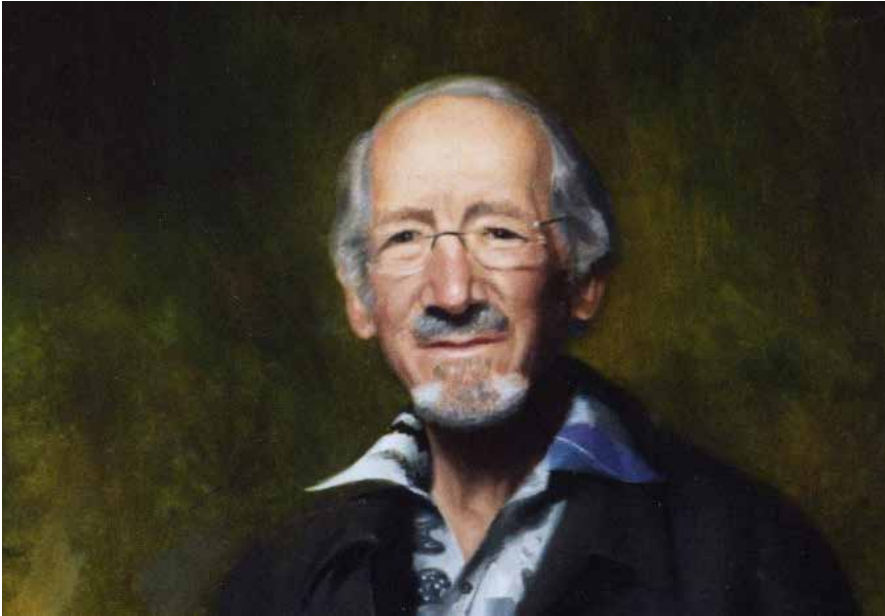
As to this, some guidance from above may have been provided.

Almost at the end of his life, Richard was at Caritas Christi surrounded by friends. A small group of Carmelite Sisters, quite exceptionally, left their nearby Monastery of prayer and contemplation and came to his bedside. They there sang the beautiful and moving hymn "*Salve Regina*". The Sisters had just left his bedside when Frà Richard breathed his last.

Frà Richard, the Maestro, had brilliantly orchestrated the final fall of the curtain.

CONFRERE PAUL FITZGERALD AM KMG

1922 - 2017



Paul Fitzgerald AM KMG was one of Australia's most distinguished portrait painters. During his career, which spanned more than 60 years, Paul painted some of the world's most notable figures including Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, Pope John XXIII, Cardinal James Knox, Archbishop Daniel Mannix, former prime ministers Sir Robert Menzies and Malcolm Fraser, and Sir James Gobbo — depicted in his robes as a Knight of Magistral Grace of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Born in Hawthorn in 1922, Paul was the second son of Frank and Margaret Fitzgerald (nee Poynton) — his father was an art critic and journalist at *The Argus* and *The Age*. Paul was educated at Xavier College and studied portrait painting at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School from 1940-43 and then again from 1946-47 — the interruption was due to three years of service in the Australian Army during World War II.

In 1949, Paul bought 'the cheapest first-class ticket' he could on a liner bound for London. He intended to work as a steward to help cover his fare, but Paul then decided to paint portraits of fellow passengers. In his own words, Paul 'thought that the fellow passengers would certainly be able to afford a portrait and they'd have nothing else to do onboard.' Paul painted two portraits and in the process established many new

friendships that would help launch his career in England.

In his first year there, Paul painted enough portraits to fund trips to France, Italy and Spain—where he would soak up the famous galleries—and then return to London to paint again. Paul spent five years in London painting some of the Commonwealth's most influential people including Lord Gowrie, Australian Governor-General Sir William Slim and his wife, Lady Slim, and Lieutenant-Commander Michael Parker.

Paul had been friends with Michael Parker and his sister Mary in Melbourne, when both families had lived near each other in Kew. In London, Lieutenant Parker was private secretary to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Mary, who had attended Genazzano College, was pursuing an acting and radio career with the BBC in London when Paul arrived there.

Paul often reminisced that 'everybody in England knew Mary Parker. In England she did several films—I've seen her name in lights on Shaftsbury Avenue and then she worked on TV as an announcer. They also brought her out to Australia in 1956 to open the Olympic Games—she was the first woman on television in Australia.' Both Michael and Mary are also among the long list of subjects Paul has painted.

Paul and Mary married in the chapel of Xavier College in 1957 and after 56 years of marriage, they still shone with deep affection for each other. 'She's a wonderful

carer,' said Paul. 'She takes such good care of me, and I have the most wonderful family' including seven children—Fabian, Marisa, Patrick (deceased), Emma, Edward, Maria and Frances, nine grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Paul's life is surrounded by portraits, and behind each picture is a story. Speaking of his portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, Paul said it had been commissioned by 'Bob' Menzies. 'I was painting Bob's portrait and he said he'd never seen a decent portrait of the Queen he liked. I told him I could probably do it.' It was the first of three portraits he painted of the Queen, including the official portrait for her Silver Jubilee year.

Speaking of his portrait of American actress Vivien Leigh, Paul recalled her experience when visiting the Fitzgerald home. 'Her first sitting was at 11 o'clock in the morning and Fabian—he was a little fellow then, about six years old—answered the door for me. He said, "Come in, Miss Vivien Leigh, will you have a cocktail?" She always remembered that and we had a good laugh about it.'

Looking back over his life and career, Paul said he'd been very blessed. And while he could not remember how many portraits of notables he had done, he was 'chuffed the other day when he met somebody who said "we learn about you at University".'

'I've had a wonderful life. I read an article once, and it said, "life is a matter of choices; you can choose to be happy or unhappy", and I chose happy. I always look on the bright side.'

Despite Paul's experience of Parkinson's and 'lapsing health', his good humour and positive attitude was evident during the later part of his life. His Catholic faith has also played an important role in his life: 'Goodness me, the whole of eternity is dependent upon it, and that's a long time. My faith underpins everything I do—we pray the Rosary every night.'

Paul Fitzgerald was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia and was made a Knight of Magistral Grace of the Order of Malta in 1997. He was a finalist for the Archibald Prize for Portraiture in 1958, 1962 and 1972. He founded the Australian Guild of Realist Artists, where he was president for seven years. His work is located in private and public collections nationally and internationally.

CONFRERE THOMAS HAZELL AO KHS KMG CMM

1936 - 2017



Thomas (Tom) Andrew Hazell was a distinguished Member of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta since 1989. Tom passed away on 28 September 2017, aged 81.

The son of Thomas Hazell Snr and Nora Josephine Dooley, Tom was born in the Cathedral parish of East Melbourne and knew St Patrick's Cathedral all his life. Through the wartime years Tom served as an altar boy at St Patrick's and at an early age developed a profound interest in Gothic Revival architecture, the sacred liturgy of the Catholic Church and the work of the architect William Wilkinson Wardell.

Living in the shadows of the Cathedral, Tom was a Parade College student and in 1953 was one of 41 students who completed their Leaving Certificate.

Tom's working life could only be described as a stellar career, including holding the role of Deputy Official Secretary to the Governor of Victoria from 1986 to 1995, which immediately followed his 18 years as a Protocol Officer with the University of Melbourne. According to Tom, there were only two principal stages in his career after graduating from the University of

Melbourne with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons). The first in protocol and the second in protocol. Same, same, yet different.

While at the Office of the Governor of Victoria Tom served with distinction under three Governors; Rear Admiral the Hon Sir Brian Stewart Murray KCMG AO (1982–1985), the Hon Rev Dr Davis McCaughey AC (1986–1992) and the Hon Richard (Dick) McGarvie AC QC (1992–1997).

His extracurricular work efforts include the positions of Vice President of St Paul's Home for the Aged and the Assisi Centre for the Aged of Melbourne. For more than two decades Tom was the Honourable Secretary of the Melbourne Diocesan History Commission. Tom was also a Member of the Board National Trust of Australia (Victoria) in the 1970's and 1980's, and involved himself closely with many of the Trust's activities including as Chairman of the Trust's Classification Permits and Acquisitions Committee and commenced as a Trustee in February 1992 of the of the W.R. Johnston Trust, a role he held until his death. In their own obituary to Tom, the Trust publically acknowledged an enduring debt owed to Tom for his many achievements, recalling him as a highly knowledgeable and courteous friend and colleague.

Tom was involved in numerous

organisations, however it was to local Catholic culture and its history that Tom's life was indelibly linked. A prolific author, written works by Tom on behalf of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Melbourne Diocesan History Commission continue to be found in print and are now available on the internet. His knowledge of Gothic Revival architecture and understanding of the intricacies of heritage laws saw Tom become a driving force in the beautiful restoration of St Mary's Star of the Sea Church, West Melbourne. This was a project that saw Tom pour his heart and soul into and the restoration of the Church is a tribute to his vision, work and patience.

Tom's passion for his Church was not limited to its history. Tom was also a learned liturgist and was often called upon to assist the Archdiocese, his beloved St Mary's Star of the Sea Parish Church, the Order of Malta and the Order of the Holy Sepulchre in overseeing and stage managing complex Masses and installation ceremonies.

An Italophilia, Tom was passionate about Italy and the Italian language, and over his lifetime made a significant contribution to the promotion of Italian language and culture – especially in his role as President of the Dante Alighieri Society (Melbourne) for 27 years. For his devoted passion for Italy and its people, Tom was decorated with the award of *Cavaliere Ufficiale Ordine al merito di Savoia* (Knight Officer of the Order of Merit of Savoy), a dynastic order of the Royal House of Savoy; the former the ruling house of Italy from 1861 to 1946.

In 1989 Tom was invested as a Knight of Magistral Grace of the Order of Malta and in 2004 was decorated with the Commander's Cross of the Order *pro Merito Melitensi* (the Order of Merit of the Sovereign Order of Malta) for his service as National Master of Ceremonies to the Order's Australian Association. Tom was also a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, a Knight Commander of the Order of St Anna (a Russian imperial dynastic order), a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Eagle of Georgia (a Georgian royal dynastic order) and a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael the Wing of Portugal (a Portuguese royal dynastic order).

On Australia Day 1999, Tom was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for services to multiculturalism, the arts, the Catholic Church and to the community.

VOLUNTEER



ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA
Holy Water





Volunteers Needed!!

HOW ARE WE MEETING THE CHALLENGE TO ATTRACT AND ENGAGE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS TO THE ORDER OF MALTA?

There is a lot that can be learned from the experiences of our sister National Associations within the Order of Malta. Recently, Confreres [Mark Switkowski KMG](#) and [Scott Samson KMG](#) led discussions on behalf of the South Eastern Region with two young members from the French and British Associations.

One of the biggest challenges facing the activities of the Sovereign Order of Malta both in Australia and across the Order's worldwide National Associations is continuing to engage with young Catholics who are potential volunteers and future members of our Order. To meet this challenge head-on, younger Members of the South Eastern Region of our Australian Association have drawn on the experiences of two youth focused organisations within the Order in Europe that have successfully engaged young people over a substantial period of time as both volunteers and younger members.

Over the last few years younger members have led discussions with Gonzague d'Harambure, a former leader of the French Association's Paris-based youth movement and Adam Fudakowski, former Chairman of the British Association's Order of Malta Volunteers, to help to clarify the particular challenges our young volunteers and Members face, what might motivate them to volunteer or join the Order and the all important issue of how best to reach young Catholics through traditional and social media, language and networks.

It is hoped that the answers to these

important questions will help harness the rich and diverse skills that young people can bring to the Order's charitable works programs through volunteering and assist the Order, across volunteer-focused management issues to prepare our Order, in particular the Australian Association, to be 'youth ready'.

Gonzague d'Harambure, a young French Association Knight of Honour and Devotion and his family have a long association with the Order of Malta, and following the completion of his university degree in 2010 Gonzague volunteered with the Order's Chabrouh Camps for the Disabled in Lebanon. Gonzague became part of a 10-member international team taking care of disabled people in a psychiatric hospital. One year later Gonzague became Team Leader France for all youth related activities caring for people with a disability. Throughout 2011, Gonzague was responsible for 50 volunteers, coordinating weekend activities, organising the French Association's summer camps for disabled malades and joining the Association's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes to care for disabled malades.

The French Association's Paris-based youth group is made up of members and volunteers aged between 18 and 35 years old and participate in more than 10 separate programs, including serving breakfast (tea, coffee, bread rolls) on weekends from selected churches to Paris' homeless, serving meals from a dedicated canal boat to the homeless, supporting doctors providing medical advice to homeless after hours, taking disabled Parisians on cultural visits each Sunday afternoon, visiting the elderly and retired priests, and participating in the annual international summer camp.

Young members and volunteers also participate in the spiritual activities of the French Association, attending the Chapel in the Louvre, weekly vespers and the Order's annual retreat in preparation for Easter.

To get people involved in the volunteer programs, the Order holds a large function at the start of each year, organised by the Youth President, to present the suite of activities to current and prospective volunteers. Social media plays a very large role in reaching out to family and friends, as each current volunteer is encouraged to spread the word.

Gonzague stresses that the principle behind getting people to sign up is that when new volunteers register there is no compulsion for people to commit to an event more than once. "Nothing is mandatory," says Gonzague. "You can go once and leave it there, or go 2 times a year... you don't have to come every time...

it is a core principle that volunteers will join in activities when they feel like coming... and participating doesn't feel like an obligation."

By comparison Britain's Order of Malta Volunteers (the OMV), explains Adam Fudakowski, actively encourages it volunteers to enter into a 'Volunteering Agreement' – between the OMV and each volunteer. The OMV Volunteers Policy document outlines the arrangement between Volunteers and the OMV, including the provision of induction and training, supervision, support and flexibility, and the health and safety of volunteers, as well as what the OMV expects of its volunteers.

Established in 1974, the OMV was founded with two core aims to give people with disabilities opportunities for experiences away from their day to day lives and to give young people (17 – 29) the experience of caring for people with disabilities, of volunteering and of organising the activities and events to support those with disabilities.

"Today these core aims have given rise to a range of activities run every year", says Adam who was Chairman of the OMV while at university and is now on the OMV's Board of Trustees. The OMV runs a range of different activities and fundraising events, each one committed to providing care and friendly support for the terminally ill and for adults and children with disabilities. The OMV runs approximately

six to seven activities every year which range in size from 20 people to 250.

The OMV's volunteers take on a large proportion of the physical care needs of its disabled guests attending its activities and events. "The OMV provides training and volunteers work in teams", Adam explained. "Every volunteer finds their first outing a steep learning curve, but this challenging element is central to the mission of the OMV and a reason why so many of its volunteers return year after year."

Key to the successes of both the French and British volunteer organisations is their public affirmation as Catholic organisations. Both Gonzague and Adam took pains to highlight that their organisations work hard to ensure that everyone has space to think about and discuss their faith and that both organisations have built up strong chaplaincy teams to support them; their chaplains are also Magistral Chaplains within the Order of Malta.

The French and British experiences are just two that can provide a model for the Order in Australia. To help further develop the Australian Association to be 'youth ready', both Gonzague and Adam left us with a number of recommendations that if implemented will help ferment a growing youth wing within the Order and encourage volunteering in the activities of the Order. (Gonzague and Adam's eight recommendations are outlined on page 22.)





ORDER OF MALTA
VISION 2050

INTRODUCING VISION 2050

www.orderofmaltavision2050.com

Vision 2050 is an international and borderless platform for all young members and volunteers of the Order of Malta.

 Find Vision 2050
on Facebook



IDEAS & SUPPORT

It provides support and financial assistance for the young members and volunteers involved in both the local and international activities of the Order, enabling them to come together, share best practices and collaborate in their activities and discussions.



GLOBAL NETWORK

Vision 2050 also offers younger members and volunteers – the future leadership of the Order – an opportunity to contribute their views on how the Order can adapt and thrive in today's world and in the future.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION



Over 200 young members and volunteers of the Order of Malta, from over 30 different countries, have come together for meetings and webinars, to share best practices, collaborate in their local and international activities, and discuss the future of the Order. These collaborations have been led by young members and volunteers who are very active, both in their own National Associations or Pories and in the Order's international activities.

8

Gonzague & Adam's recommendations to create young, willing volunteers!

1 Being 'youth ready': making roles accessible and speaking 'Generation (Gen) Y'

Our discussions comparing the experiences of young French and British volunteers to our Australian experience, suggest that young Australian Catholics are not particularly different to other volunteers in experiencing the challenge of making time to volunteer and no different in what motivates them to volunteers. Interestingly, their motivations are often different to older volunteers, with more value for most young people focused on skill development, as well as giving something back to the community/pursuing personal interests/being with friends. But there may be particular issues to address in creating young willing volunteers, including reassuring their confidence through offering peer ambassadors and mentors, accessing their influencers (including schools and universities, families and peer groups), adapting the length or regularity of their volunteer role to address their transient time commitments, addressing their access to transport and understanding how young people prefer to communicate – in terms of media and styles.



2 Challenges for the Association's branches: keeping up volunteer momentum

For the Order of Malta, there seem to be some Australian-specific challenges within the size and scale of the Association across eight states and territories, particularly in maintaining confidentiality and sensitivity when volunteering within smaller communities, and maintaining volunteers' momentum between the infrequent state event-based opportunities and between the relative difficulties in creating volunteering opportunities that are nationwide, when compared to many of the Order's European National Associations.

3 Volunteering in the digital age: embracing websites and social networking

Understanding how to effectively use digital communication media to target young volunteer audiences is clearly a huge development area for the Order's volunteer activities; although this is by no means unique to the Australian Association, the current lack of consistently provided web-based information and application processes and the under-use of social networking, such as Facebook, for keeping volunteers updated, is clearly showing as a disconnect with Baby Boomers and Generations X, Y and Z.



4 Targeting recruitment is key

To successfully recruit more young people, volunteers in France and Britain suggested to both the Order's Paris Youth organisation and the OMV that their application processes need to be kept as short as possible. Targeted recruitment is essential to attract young people into the Order's volunteering activities. Digital and non-digital recruitment mixes, using existing peer networks, schools, universities and the families of the Knights and Dames of our Order have been very successful in recruit young volunteers and a web presence was key as a first port of call for promoting and supplying information; personal approaches through peer networks, schools and families were more successful for local, community-focused activities. Using young people as ambassadors, talking about what they get from their roles, helps potential young people to put themselves in volunteers' shoes. Having a personal point of contact within the Order's youth movement was key for maintaining young people's interest once they had made contact.

5 Young volunteers without overly restrictive boundaries

A key learning from both the French and British experiences suggest there may be a disconnect between what young people say they are looking for from volunteering and the level of confidence the organisation's leaders have in what opportunities they feel they can offer that would be a fit for young people. Both Gonzague and Adam were of the opinion that the majority of young volunteers did not place any boundaries around the type of activities they would consider participating in, as long as they felt they were able to contribute, it was a positive volunteering experience and was a practical fit for their abilities and their lifestyle.

6 Creating positive experiences: understanding a volunteer's motivations, roles, tasks and benefits

The French and British experience suggests that to create a positive volunteering experience for young people, the Australian Association needs to understand, not only what is inhibiting young people from volunteering (for example, time, transport, confidence) and what is motivating their volunteers to want to contribute (personal or community-based reasons, or a mixture of both), but also what their volunteers want from their experience. For some volunteers the attraction will be an activity's personal features, such as flexibility, having interesting tasks and opportunities for skills development, being listened to and feeling acknowledged, enjoyment. For others it may be community-orientated features, such as making a difference to their community, being with friends, ensuring opportunities for co-working, and seeing outcomes for themselves and others. Using volunteers' motivations we can distinguish what are the volunteer 'types' (in any and all age groups) who are attracted to working with the Order of Malta. This may help the Order to target promoting volunteering with the Order of Malta and the design of volunteer roles in our activities, as well as ongoing support and development.

7 Learning and development: a key selling point and benefit

The range of personal and vocational skills volunteers gain through their experiences – all key skills for young people in their transition to adulthood and in becoming active citizens – highlights that an organisation like the Order of Malta has something to offer young people. The issue is identifying the skills that can be developed and articulating them effectively to potential young volunteer. Vicarious learning through experiences was the most common way to learn. In Britain, the experience gained through volunteering with disabled people of all ages and being able to learn through peer mentoring was valued by the young volunteers and, where formal training was provided, the key was to make it brief, fun and as practical as possible. The OMV's successful rate of return volunteers has been a tribute to this practice.

8 Measuring success in youth volunteering: developing a relationship with the Order of Malta for life

The feedback received by both the French and the British youth wings were extremely positive. The vast majority felt they would continue to volunteer with the Order after their current role, so they were all on the way to making a habit for life. In France, engagement was often more important than retention in gauging success with many volunteers and their measure of success is not simply with numbers of volunteers, but also diversity in volunteers through to the quality of their interactions and positive exits.



SLEEPING ROUGH

On any given night across Australia, more than 105,000 people are homeless, with 6% sleeping on the streets. The Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta, its Members, volunteers and supporters are working to improve their circumstances, because we believe everyone should have a safe and secure place to call home.



A photograph of a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket, leaning against a brick wall at night. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights, creating a somber and contemplative mood. The man's hand is raised to his forehead, and he is looking off to the side.

H

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and
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Walking the streets of any of Australia's capital cities today and your attention will be immediately captured by the number of rough sleepers you encounter. In some of our cities, walking by these poor souls without your heart going out to them can be extremely hard and the many unanswered questions to their current situation and plight are just as difficult to comprehend.

On 7 June 2016, a City of Melbourne survey counted 247 people (195 men and 35 women, as well as 17 people they were unable to identify without being intrusive) sleeping rough in Melbourne's Central Business District. Three years ago, the City Council had undertaken the same count on the same day and the count was 142. In 2014 this was considered the highest result in the survey's six-year history. This year's survey recorded a 73% increase.

A similar street count undertaken by the City of Sydney found 394 rough sleepers in August of this year. Sydney undertakes its survey twice a year and the August result reported a count lower than the 486 counted earlier in the year (February), but higher than any previous count since February 2010.

The term "homelessness" includes those who are designated as rough sleeping but also those who are located in unsafe and/or insecure accommodation, such as boarding houses, refuges, motels, caravan parks, and family and friends' spare rooms or couches. And, as the increase in rough sleeping is a visible manifestation of the wider problem,

it is not surprising that so too homeless numbers are also increasing.

Unsurprisingly, the rate of homelessness recorded between the previous two national censuses of 2006 and 2011 saw the rate increase across the country by 8%, from 89,728 people designated as homeless to 105,237. In breaking down the figures on a State by State basis Victoria recorded a 20.7% rise in homelessness, NSW 20.4%, while the ACT and Tasmania saw the biggest spike in homelessness, recording 70.6% and 32.9% respectively.

The causes of homelessness are varied and can often be the product of more than one cause, including domestic violence and family breakdown, poor physical and psychological health, alcohol and drug abuse, sexual abuse and childhood trauma, gambling and financial hardship, and a lack of available and affordable housing. And just as these causes can precipitate homelessness, they can also ensure it endures.

The work of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta and their distribution of specially designed winter coats, to be distributed to rough sleepers, has brought the Order's many members and volunteers in direct contact with the men and women who are laying their heads at night on the toughest of street corners, hardest of concrete steps and coldest of public parks.

Members supporting the hands-on distribution of coats to the homeless in Melbourne have heard firsthand the personal stories of hardship from many rough sleepers



stories of hardship from many rough sleepers on their weekly rounds that commence in May and depending on the temperature, conclude in September.

Confrere Brendan Rowswell KMG, who together with his wife Consoeur Sara Rowswell DMG, entered the Order as a Knight and Dame of Magistral Grace at the recent National Assembly in Brisbane, is a passionate advocate of the Coats for the Homeless program. In assisting with the distribution of coats Brendan struck up a friendship with long-term Victorian rough sleeper Connor* during his many coat rounds.

As a rough sleeper in Melbourne, Connor's personal story of prolonged homelessness, of more than 16 months of living on Melbourne's city streets, has its roots in a heady mix of drug taking and parental violence that resulted in his current drug and alcohol addiction.

Connor spoke of his first experimentation with drugs when he was 16. "My brother gave me my first hit of Ecstasy while at a school party, but I quickly moved on to harder substances like heroin. It took me years to get clean and I have been lucky to have been on methadone for two years" Connor told Brendan.

Connor, now in his early 30s and originally from Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula, commenced his life on the streets to escape a violent home life and a father who couldn't emotionally communicate with his drug addicted son.

He showed Brendan the scars from his life

both at home and on the streets.

Living and sleeping rough may be fraught with violence and danger, but for Connor it means freedom. He is on the public housing waiting list, but it could be years before an appropriate vacancy arises. In 2017 alone the waiting list for a house or apartment in Victoria was over 30,000 names long.

Connor has spent the colder nights this winter in overnight accommodation, better known as homeless shelters and has

considered whether he should seek out somewhere more permanent to live.

However, this too has been an issue for Connor who solely relies on a Newstart Allowance income, which for a single person with no dependents is \$528.70 a fortnight.

According to Catholic Social Services Victoria, the fortnightly Newstart Allowance amounts to half of what the Government's own Treasury figures consider poverty-level income for a single person.

The allowance is also approximately 40% of the current minimum wage. Newstart recipients, like Connor, often need to pay up to 90% of their allowance on rent and this is contributing to the increasingly impoverished plight of so many men and women who choose life on the streets as a lifestyle choice so as to save a bit of money.

As Connor told Brendan, "there's not much left over for food and bills if I was to choose to pay rent, is there?" And Connor realises that his own plight is fraught due to his former drug and alcohol addictions and current reliance on methadone, both of which have made getting work impossible. "I want to give up sometimes," Connor told Brendan, "but I also have a sense of self-worth"

Wearing the Order's gift, the specially designed dark grey rain proof and wind breaking coat, has given Connor and others like him on the streets a sense of pride that they not only vsomething new – not a recycled jacket – but an item designed with their specific needs in mind.

*(*Connor is a pseudonym for one of the Coats for the Homeless Program's clients in Melbourne. Permission was sought before the publication of this article.)*





give
warmth &
comfort
this winter

www.orderofmalta.org.au

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Sovereign Military Order of Malta
PO Box 257
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010

I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest or

Please accept a gift towards the

- Coats for the Homeless
- Hygiene Packs for the Homeless
- Timor-Leste Medical Clinic
- Medicines for Timor-Leste
- Camp for the Disabled 2018

REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

I am interested in information about leaving the Order a bequest

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Address

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Please find enclosed a Cheque/Money Order

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Please debt my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency Once only
 Monthly

Card Type Visa
 MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date Cardholder name

Signature

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

O God, Who sent the power of the Gospel like a leaven into the world, rouse up new recruits in your Church in the spirit of the Order of Jerusalem to serve you by charity towards the sick and the poor and to proclaim without flinching your holy name.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

My dear friends of the Order, this may be the last opportunity I have to contribute to our Order's Australian publication, the *Australian Hospitaller* and I have therefore asked my dear friend Confrere Scott Samson, the publication's editor, to be faithful to the words as I have submitted them.

As a professed Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, I feel a sincere duty to share with Members the special charisma and spirituality I have found within the first class of our Order – of those Members who have taken Profession as a Knight of Justice.

In an essay written several years ago, Grand Master Frà Matthew Festing discussed his views on the first class of the Order.

The Grand Master characterised a Knight of Justice as 'a monk in the world— a layman who has dedicated himself to the life of the Order and the service of God and the Church through the Order'.

His reflection has captured the work and mission of a Knight of Justice, however his message also has a sincere relevance to the spiritual life of all members of a Order; our Religion.

The very elements that characterise religious life as a Knight of Justice today were confirmed over 900 years ago with the bull *Piae Postulatio Voluntatis*. It was through the acts and words undertaken by Blessed

“The Ritual of Profession” *Vocations to the First Class*

Frà Richard Divall AO OBE CMM, Australia's only Knight of Justice, asks a question of those Knights amongst our number who are confirmed bachelors and who are familiar with the twin mottoes of our Order – *Obsequium Pauperum* and *Tuitio Fidei* – should ask himself 'Should I try my vocation as a Knight of Justice?' Instead of there being a mere fifty Knights of Justice in the Order of Malta, many of them relatively elderly, there should be, and Frà Richard hopes fervently, will be many more.

Gerard and his companions, in their vows, placed themselves at the service of the poor, that what we understand as the vocation and spirituality of a Knight was established and has continued to the present day.

Like Blessed Gerard and his companions, Knights who choose to enter the first class through Profession make a permanent commitment, expressed by taking vows, to aspire to the perfection of Christian life; the consecration of oneself to a specific task that constitutes the Order's charisma – in this specific case, *obsequium pauperum*; and the formation of an authentic fraternity among those who, animated by the same ideal, have taken on the same obligation.

It is essential to understand that the Order's future depends today on how these elements, belonging to every form of real religious life, are lived within it. More explicitly: without the vocations of the Knights of Justice – who are the only religious in the full sense of the word in our Order – the Order would no longer exist as a religious order. In a more positive sense, it is just as important to understand that the vocation of the Professed pervades the entire Order, and that the ideal expressed by the call to become a Knight of Justice enables all members, whatever their level of commitment in the Order, to understand better their own vocations with the possibility that they too might be called to the first class as a Knight of Justice and be embraced and clothed by the "Ritual of Profession".

The Ritual of Profession testifies to the Spirituality of our Order. The Ritual of Profession in fact says:

"This mantle which we have put on your shoulders is the symbol of the camel-hair garment with which our patron, St John the Baptist, was clothed while in the desert. Therefore, on taking this cloak, you renounce the pomp and vanity of this world; and I command you to wear it at the required times; thus your body being wrapped in this [cloak] it will remind you to follow our Patron Saint John the Baptist and to put all your hope for the remission of your sins in the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Take this cross and this habit in the name of the Holy Trinity... I put on you this cross on the left side of the heart so that you may love it perfectly, and with your right hand defend it, commanding you never to abandon it, because it is the real standard and flag of our Religion."

The original and historic version of the ritual for the reception of the Knight reads:

"This cross was ordered to us white as a sign of purity, which you must wear as much in your heart as externally, without



spot or blemish." When Frà Giovanni Francesco Abela, a native Maltese who occupied the influential office of Vice-Chancellor of the Order, wrote the first book about the history of Malta, he emphasised in his introductory dedication how honoured Malta should feel at having become the seat 'of the most exclusive, and noble blood of Christendom'.

Similarly, the French translation of Bosio's *Historic* published by Jacques d'Allin as *Histoire des Chevaliers de l'Ordre de S. Jean* (Paris, 1659), stated that the Order was 'composed of the most pure and the most valorous Nobility of all the Nations of Christendom'. The Commander Jean Baptiste le Mariner de Cany, in his *Reflexions D'un Chevalier de Malte* (1689), emphasised how nobility of blood was associated with the Order of Malta.

According to Frà Cesare Magalotti, in a letter addressed to the Pope, the Order of Malta was 'the flower of the most select, and the most eminent nobility of all Christendom'.

Sixteenth- and seventeenth-century authors were fascinated by the Order of Malta's history, character and composition and they emphasized the exclusive nature of the nobility that was required to join this organisation. This was describing a time when membership of our Order was offered a unique genealogical cross-section of the European nobility.

Time has changed the Order and my own reception to the ranks of the Professed is proof that a vocation to the first class is open to any Knight of Magistral Grace, of Grace and Devotion or Honour and Devotion.

The Grand Master and the leadership of our Order have called for members to consider the first and second classes, Professed Knights, and Knights and Dames in Obedience. This requires careful reflection and prayerful decision-making, as the Order's then Cardinal Patronus, His Eminence Pio

Cardinal Laghi, wrote in the Order's Journal of Spirituality Number 9 (2008):

"In a religious and Christian sphere, and in the light of the Word of God, 'vocation' indicates the action by which God calls someone, on his loving initiative, and the response of that person in a dialogue of loving and responsible participation. In this sense God is indicated as 'He who calls': He calls us to life, to existence, to perform a role in the history of salvation, 'according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus' (2 Timothy 1:90).

My brother Knight of Justice, Frà Duncan Gallie further expounded in the Journal of Spirituality Number 10 (2009) on encouraging members to 'discern' their ongoing roles, activities and vocations within the Order.

Frà Duncan points to Obedience and Justice as potential choices for knights and dames in the context of God's specific call to 'each one of us to play a definite role that He has foreseen from all eternity'.

This 'call to holiness', which is perhaps the most important theme of the Second Vatican Council, is a universal call. Thus, it is a call to all members of the Order, and answering it requires discernment and prayer. It is my wish that our Australian Knights sincerely consider their vocation within our Order. In the words of Grand Master Festing,

"there are few hurdles to jump – you do not have to live in community; you can pursue your career if you wish; you can live in your own house. All you have to do is to love the Order and be prepared to live your life as a proper Catholic gentleman setting aside a small part of each day for prayer and reflection. Nothing could be easier and it remains a mystery to me that we are not overflowing with vocations!"

NOW OPEN

ORDEM DE MALTA JAPE A LEM MEMORIAL CLINIC

More than a decade after independence, Timor-Leste has made significant progress, but still faces challenges to improve access to comprehensive health care for the Timorese people.

Maternal and infant health is of real concern with Timor-Leste's child mortality rates being ten times those of Australia. Forty-five percent of pregnant women in Timor-Leste cannot access ante-natal health services.

Thanks to an initiative led by the Order of Malta, improved health access is now being delivered from a brand new 'best practice' medical clinic in Dili, the country's capital. The facility was designed by Australian architects specialising in healthcare infrastructure and built in accordance with the guidelines of the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners. It is managed and operated by the Order of Malta.

This project was made possible through the generosity of the Jape Family, based in both Darwin and Dili, who provided the premises at no cost to the Order of Malta. Their significant contribution was made in the memory of the late Mr Jape A Lem, the grandfather of the present generation of the Jape Family.

The clinic was officially opened on 7th November 2017 by H.E. Confrere David Scarf AM KMG, the Order's Ambassador to Timor-Leste, in the presence of over 100 people including

several senior Government Ministers, Vice-Ministers and Heads of Foreign Missions.

"The Order of Malta is very pleased to be able to deliver this vital health project to the people of Timor-Leste," Confrere David Scarf said. "It is the most recent of a number of projects which the Order has had the privilege to undertake in Timor-Leste over recent years including the building of an orphanage in Hera, a birthing clinic in Malabe, a tuberculosis clinic in Venilale, and the establishment of a scholarship program which we call 'Creating Leaders.'

"The clinic will provide free medical care to all Timorese families, with a special emphasis on the provision of medical care for women and children. The focus on maternal and neo-natal care will address a significant gap in the services currently available in Dili. There will also be up-skilling and training programs for the

Timorese staff.

"This is a great start, but we need further funding and more volunteers to ensure that we can serve more people who are in desperate need and expand our range of services. There is much more to be done."

The clinic currently employs seven doctors, three nurses, an ambulance driver as well as trained admin staff. It is guided in its work by a medical advisory committee based in Australia, which comprises five specialist medical practitioners, a nurse, and includes a former Dean of an Australian University School of Medicine.

The new clinic is another milestone for the Order of Malta, the oldest medical mission in the world, having opened its first hospital in Jerusalem in 1048 and its mission to alleviate the suffering of the poor and sick, without judgement, distinction of religion, race or politics.





**ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA**

THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION

2017 IN REVIEW



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

The last 12 months saw a change in Office Bearers, under direction of H.E. the Lieutenant of the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council, in a meeting of the Sovereign Council held on the 13th of June 2017.

OFFICE BEARERS UP TO 13 JUNE, 2017:

President:

Confrere Dr Ian Marshall AM AE KC*SG KGCMG(Ob)

Vice-Presidents:

Confrere Dr Damian Benson KMG(Ob)

Confrere David Hall AM KMG

Confrere the Hon Justice Martin Daubney KMG

Confrere the Hon Gregory Crafter AO KMG

Chancellor:

Confrere Paul Hoy AM KSG KMG

Treasurer:

Confrere David Hall AM KMG

Hospitaller:

Confrere Dr Ian Leitch RFD KMG(Ob)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS UP TO 13 JUNE, 2017:

Confrere Andrew Evans KMG

Confrere Sean Farrell KMG

Confrere Paul Hoy AM KSG KMG

Confrere Robert Kirby KMG

Confrere Peter Little KMG

Confrere Dr Ian Leitch RFD KMG

Consoeur Prof Gabrielle McMullen AM DMG

Consoeur Christine Pingel DMG

H.E. Confrere David Scarf AM KMG

Confrere Frank Zipfinger KMG

Director of Communications:

H.E. Confrere David Scarf AM KMG

OFFICE BEARERS FROM 13 JUNE, 2017:

President:

Confrere Dr Ian Marshall AM AE KC*SG KGCMG(Ob)

Pro-Chancellor:

Confrere Sean Farrell KMG

Pro-Treasurer:

Confrere Paul Reid KMG

North Eastern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Derek Pingel KMG

Central Eastern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Dr Robert Costa KMG

South Eastern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Sauro Antonelli AM KMG

Central Southern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Damian Wyld KMG

Central Northern Regional Hospitaller:

Consoeur Maria Randazzo DMG

Director of Communications:

Confrere Daniel Kwok KMG(Ob)

Alternate Director of Communications

Confrere Anthony Gerada KMG(Ob)

Introducing the Transitional Council Arrangements

On the 14th of June 2017, the Grand Chancellor Confrere HE Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager wrote to the President of the Australian Association, Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall AM AE KC*SG KGCMG(Ob), to inform members of the Australian Association of the decision of H.E. the Lieutenant of the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council, in a meeting of the Sovereign Council held on the 13th of June 2017, to suspend the process of instituting new Statutes of the Australian Association and to suspend the Association's Executive Council.

For the period of suspension of the Executive Council of the Australian Association, the Sovereign Council also resolved to appoint in its place a Transitional Council to govern the Association.

Such suspension means that the operation and powers of present members of the existing Council, in that capacity and as Directors and Members of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta Limited and of the office bearers and Councillors named as members of the Executive Council under the present Statutes of the Australian Association, including the positions of the four Vice-Presidents, Chancellor, Treasurer and Hospitaller, are *pro tempore* suspended and replaced by the Transitional Council.

At the same time, the Sovereign Council decided that the President of the Australian Association, Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall, shall remain in office, under the guidance of Confrere Simon Grenfell who has been made available for advice and consultation.

The Transitional Council will have the same powers of the Executive Council and will govern itself, complying with the Statutes that are currently in force. The Transitional Council will be composed of Regional Hospitallers and other Officers, as approved by the Sovereign Council.

TRANSITIONAL COUNCIL

The Lieutenant of the Grand Master and the Sovereign Council have approved the following appointments to the Transitional Council of the Australian Association:

Pro-Chancellor:

Confrere Sean Farrell KMG

Pro-Treasurer:

Confrere Paul Reid KMG

North Eastern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Derek Pingel KMG

Central Eastern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Dr Robert Costa KMG

South Eastern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Sauro Antonelli AM KMG

Central Southern Regional Hospitaller:

Confrere Damian Wyld KMG

Central Northern Regional Hospitaller:

Consoeur Maria Randazzo DMG

Sovereign Council has also approved the creation of the Office of Director of Communications and the Office of Director of Associates, Volunteers and Youth. The Grand Magistracy has expressed that it sees both these areas as critical to the future development of the Order and the expansion of our charitable works, both at a local and global level:

Director of Communications;

Confrere Daniel Kwok KMG(Ob)

Alternate Director of Communications:

Confrere Anthony Gerada KMG(Ob)

Director of Associates, Volunteers and Youth:

Currently Vacant



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Association President: Confrere Dr Ian Marshall AM AE KC*SG KGCMG(Ob)

For interstate attendees Brisbane provided competition to Venice as the venue for the 2017 General Assembly of the Australian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta with perfect weather and a well-chosen hotel on the banks of the Brisbane river to welcome 136 delegates and their families and friends, attending from States and Territories in Australia and from New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste. Confrere H.E. Simon Grenfell was present from the Order's Management Committee in Rome.

In a striking demonstration of the strength of the Order and the diversity of its works in our region under the Grand Chancellor H.E. Confrere Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, the Assembly was also attended by His Grace Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Chief Chaplain *ad interim* and Archbishop of Brisbane, newly consecrated Bishop Kenneth Howell – a Conventual Chaplain of the Order using the Order of Malta crozier made for the former Archbishop of Hobart, Archbishop Eric D'Arcy and kindly made available by Confrere Tom Hazell - and Fathers Malcolm Fyfe from Darwin, Allan Winter from Adelaide, John O'Connor from Christchurch, New Zealand and Peter L'Estrange SJ AO from Canberra.

Also present and participating were H.E. Msgr Ante Jozic, Head of the Holy See Study Mission in Hong Kong and, as our Assembly's after dinner speaker at the Formal Dinner, H.E. Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, Apostolic Nuncio to Australia.

Hosts for the Assembly were Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall AM AE KC*SG KMG(Ob), the Queensland Branch of the Australian Association represented by Confrere the Hon Justice Martin Daubney KMG, the Organising Committee constituted by Confreres Richard Palk CSM KMG, Anthony Gerada KMG (Ob), Michael Greene KMG, Danny Higgins KMG and Consoeur Christine Pingel DMG, as well as the Hospitality Committee in charge of the greatly appreciated Partners Program Mrs Helen Palk and Mrs Teresa Gerada.

Not least among those whose active support contributed to the success of the 2017 General Assembly was Mrs Judith Marshall, wife of the Australian Association's President Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall and Mrs Rosemary Daubney, wife of the Chair of the Conference Confrere the Hon Martin Daubney KMG.

THE INVESTITURES

The organisation of the Promise in Obedience and Vigil ceremonies on Friday 23 June and the Installation of new Knights and Dames on Saturday 24 June and the Solemn Mass on Sunday 25 June were deeply spiritual reverent and faultlessly executed.

Eight members made the Promise in Obedience on Friday 23 June 2017 and were admitted to the Australian Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception as Knights or Dame in Obedience.

Confreres Dr Michael J Campion, Damien Fogarty, Dr Stephen Gatt, Anthony Gerada, Richard Hall, Daniel Kwok, Dr Ian Leitch, and Consoeur Deirdre Page all made the Promise in Obedience before the Subpriory's Procurator Confrere H.E. Professor David Kissane.

Twenty new members were admitted into the Order as Knights or Dames of Magistral Grace on Saturday 24 June 2017, the Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist:

The following new members were admitted from Australia: Louise Boffa, Joe Cashman, Stephen Chiew, Dalton Fogarty, Elizabeth McCarthy, Kathlyn McCarthy, Christopher McMahon, John Murphy, Tanya Murphy, Brendan Rowswell, Sara Rowswell, Paul Sant, Kathryn Scutt, Dr Mary Tonti-Filippini, Vincent Volpe, Paul Zammit

The following new members were admitted from New Zealand: Belfiore Bologna, Rob Farrell, Bevan Killick, Abina Pope. (regrettably Michael Potts was delayed in transit and will be invested in New Zealand at a date to be fixed)

The investiture ceremonies were most ably directed by Confrere Robert Kirby KMG as the Australian Association's Master of



Ceremonies, assisted by Confrere Michael Greene KMG as well as Confreres Dr Damian Benson KMG(Ob) OMM and Mark Boffa KMG as Masters of Postulants. The Crosses of Magistral Grace were conferred by the President of the Australian Association, Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall assisted by Confrere Paul Hoy KMG.

THE PROGRAM

The Assembly was addressed by Dr Ian Elmer on the Gospel of St Mark, with a reflection on the reading of the Gospels by Rev Peter L'Estrange SJ AO; by Dr Sr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF (ACU) and by Rev Dr Anthony Mellor (Academic Dean of Holy Spirit Seminary).

In the afternoon of Friday 23 June Confrere Dr Ian Leitch RFD KMG(Ob) gave a well received illustrated address on the Lourdes Experience with input from Young Order of Malta (YOOM) volunteer Joe Grogan. Confrere H.E. Prof David Kissane spoke of the Subpriory of the Immaculate Conception and Ms Lisa Simpson spoke by Skype from London on the Global Fund for Forgotten People.

On Saturday morning the Assembly was addressed by Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Chief Chaplain *ad interim*, on contemporary challenges faced by the Church in Australia in the context of Remembering the Forgotten.

This was followed by a symposium moderated by Confrere the Hon Justice Martin Daubney in which Confrere H.E.

Prof David Kissane spoke as a clinician on the euthanasia challenge represented by legislation foreshadowed for introduction in Victoria in the second half of 2017 and Confrere the Hon Greg Crafter AO KMG spoke of the Royal Commission on Abuse of Minors and its likely financial cost to the Catholic Church in Australia.

After the symposium there was a presentation by Confrere H.E. Ambassador Michael Mann AM KMG on the activities of the Order of Malta in Asia.

This was followed by a presentation by H.E. Msgr Ante Jozic on the Church in China and on Sino-Vatican relations.

This was followed by an illustrated presentation by Confrere H.E. Ambassador David Scarf AM KMG on the Order's Clinic in Timor-Leste.

CEREMONIES

The admission to the Promise of Obedience was conducted on the afternoon of Friday 23 June at St Joseph's Church, Kangaroo Point, as was the Postulants Vigil on the same occasion.

The Investiture of Postulants was conducted on the afternoon of Saturday 24 June at St Paschal's Church, Wavell Heights, a church decorated with a large 8-pointed Cross of the Order of Malta set in the centre of the main aisle some years earlier.

The Solemn Mass to conclude the General Assembly was celebrated on Sunday 25 June 2017 by Archbishop Mark Coleridge and concelebrated by Bishop Ken Howell and the

Magistral Chaplains of the Order of Malta in Australia present at the Assembly. The Choir of St Stephens Cathedral was magnificently conducted by Dr Andrew Cichy, the Cathedral's Director of Music, who arranged and directed a centuries-old chorale piece composed for the Order of Malta and not previously performed in Australia.

SUMMATION

This was a grace-filled occasion in which friendship among Members and their families was given a powerful spiritual orientation around the theme: "Remembering the Forgotten".

The success of the Brisbane National Assembly in so many ways was a tribute to the Queensland branch of the Order and its organising committee and the national leadership shown by Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall, supported at the National Assembly by Confrere H.E. Simon Grenfell on behalf of Sovereign Council.

Together Confreres Ian and Simon provided an analysis of the ongoing restructure of the Order of Malta internationally and the consequent reorganisation of the Australian Association; a work in progress which has been committed by Sovereign Council to a Transitional Council.

The admission of so many younger members, especially those from different generations of the same family speaks well for the future of the Order of Malta in Australia.





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

NORTH EASTERN REGION

North Eastern Regional Hospitaller: Confrere Derek Pingel KMG

The North-Eastern Region predominantly servicing the Order's needs throughout Queensland is one of Australia's largest land mass areas with a diverse mix of cities, rural towns and remote communities spread across 1853 km² with a population nearing 5 million people.

The needs of the poor and the sick throughout this region are substantial and varied. Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta number 35 in total and in support there are a good number of volunteers, many of whom provide service as young volunteers.

ORDER MASSES AND MEETINGS

Throughout 2017 we have continued with a commitment to Order specific Masses and member meetings following. These have proven to be an excellent opportunity for discussion, dissemination and coordination of priorities for the activities of our Order. A total of five such events were conducted in 2017.

PARISH VISITS BY THE ORDER

During any given year it is our aim to visit at least two Parishes for a Mass and a "meet and greet" awareness program promoting the Order and its activities. This year our Order conducted a very successful Parish visit to St Gerard Majella Catholic Church at Chermside West where we celebrated Mass and fellowship with a several hundred parishioners. A brief understanding of the Order's activities is explained from the pulpit and after Mass more informally during a morning tea. All Knights and Dames robe for these Masses, and this certainly creates interest and awareness, which in turn stimulates growth in membership.

LOURDES HEALING MASS

Our annual Healing Mass was celebrated in May with approximately 350 parishioners from throughout south-east Queensland. This Mass continues to be one of our Members highlights for the year, where we have the opportunity to mix with and support those afflicted by chronic illness and suffering

in our community. Members of the Order distribute small bottles of Lourdes water, rosary beads and prayer cards.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Several Members made the Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2017, and joining them for their very first experience were two of our young volunteers who provide generous assistance to our local Order. As is always the case, the impact on those who attended was a tremendous spiritual blessing and life changing. Joseph, one of the young volunteers who attended, expressed his experience as "My sister Alice and I cherished sharing the profound, tender yet indomitable, blessings of Lourdes, with our Malades and fellow pilgrims. We returned from our 2017 Lourdes pilgrimage with a new perspective and renewed appreciation, illuminating the sanctity, humility and urgency of the Order's Mission."

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAM

This year our North-Eastern Region Queensland Members have increased their reach with the Coats for the Homeless program, distributing some 1600 coats to just over 30 separate outlets throughout Queensland. It was very pleasing to note that there has been a significant increase in the number of members participating in these works assisting the homeless.

Simon National Carriers has again provided an outstanding service in the transportation of coats throughout the nation in a timely manner and for a heavily discounted rate. David Simon, CEO of Simon National Carriers stated it was his way of contributing to the great works of the Order in assisting those less fortunate than ourselves.

This year's fundraising for coats was hugely successful and the generosity of companies, businesses, parishioners and other organisations has been overwhelming. This initiative continues to strike at the very heart of our Order's charism and continues to gain tremendous support from the broader community.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS PROGRAM FUND RAISING BREAKFAST

Each year our Order initiates and coordinates a fundraising breakfast at which a keynote speaker provides a tremendous insight into their particular field of endeavour. This year our Order invited guest speaker Damien Frawley, Chief Executive Officer of QIC who entertained with financial insights. The breakfast was attended by over 120 people and fundraising in excess of \$13,000 towards the purchase of coats for the homeless.

OTHER MEMBER ACTIVITIES

The past 12 months have been a very testing time for our faith and many of our Members contributed substantial time and money in the fight to defend our faith in the areas of the marriage equality debate, the campaign against euthanasia and the ongoing fight against legalising abortion.

CARE PACKAGE INITIATIVE

Members have agreed and endorsed a program to develop unique and much-needed care packages for the homeless and disadvantaged, a program that will involve Member's participation in the acquisition of product, sorting, packaging and distribution.





CHRONICALLY ILL AT ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL BRISBANE

Our North-Eastern Region has a long-standing involvement with St Vincent's Hospital in Brisbane, formally named Mt Olivet hospital, and this involvement can be attributed particularly as a result of the works of our dearly loved late Consoeur Tess Cramond. Her work in the palliative care field in this region was world class, and the legacy of her commitment and dedication lives on. Our Order continues in the provision of funding to assist those chronically ill and dying with the hope of providing a better quality of life. In addition, members have recently unanimously resolved to initiate the Tess Cramond Memorial Fund to which it will provide ongoing funds for assistance to the patients of this hospital facility.

ADVENT MASS AND DINNER

Each year our Order coordinates a very special Mass and Christmas celebration dinner with Archbishop Mark Coleridge. This year over 80 members and guests gathered to celebrate on this wonderful occasion with the Archbishop and new auxiliary Bishop Ken Howell. Parish Priest of St Paschal's and long term chaplain of our Order Father Gerard

McMorrow hosted this fantastic event. Many thanks must go to him and his staff for their ongoing and outstanding commitment to the Order.

NATIONAL BIENNIAL ASSEMBLY

Much thanks goes to all of those who volunteered their time and talent, dedicating significant effort in organising and coordinating the 2017 Assembly. This was a tremendous team effort and the entire event was well co-ordinated and enjoyed by all present. Congratulations to all members involved, and the result was an outstanding success.

BISHOP KEN HOWELL

One of our long serving and dedicated Magistral Chaplains who has provided years of dedicated service to our Order was blessed to be appointed and ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Brisbane. Bishop Ken continues as a Chaplain to our Order for which we are so very grateful.

2018 will be a year of increased service throughout the region, recognising the opportunity to serve those in need.





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA CENTRAL EASTERN REGION

Central Eastern Regional Hospitaller: Confrere Dr Robert Costa KMG

The past twelve months have been a year of success for the Central East Region. The activities continue to expand with an increasing involvement by the membership.

LOURDES DAY MASS

The Lourdes Day Mass was again celebrated in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 2nd December. The principal celebrant was Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP, our Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*, assisted by our Magistral Chaplains, Mgr Anthony Doherty, Mgr Vincent Redden and Rev Dr Gerald Gleeson. The Mass was well attended by members, malades and the faithful.

All malades present received a personal blessing ministered by one of the celebrants and all received a bottle of Lourdes Water.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS AND COMMUNITY CARE VAN

The Coats for the Homeless has continued to grow with Coats being distributed individually by members, charitable institutions and other religious organisations in suburban Sydney and regional NSW. This year our area of distribution included the Illawarra, Newcastle and Northern and North-western NSW.

The coats are greatly appreciated and we continually receive requests from charitable groups for coats to distribute.

Confrere Malcolm Irving introduced and organised coats to distribute in New Zealand this year and the concept was appreciated by our New Zealand by members.

The Order of Malta Community Care Van has been operating two evenings per week distributing Coats and hygiene packs. The van is supported by a registered nurse from St. Vincent's Hospital and two members, at times, assisted by prospective members or members of the Young Order of Malta (YOOM). The van operates within the Sydney business district visiting areas known to be frequented by the less fortunate and vulnerable members of our society.

A second van has been gratefully donated

by the Sanderson family and will begin operation in the Parramatta Diocese within the next few months. Currently there is a drive to recruit volunteers from the Diocese to staff the van.

GORMAN AND TIERNEY HOUSE

The weekly Barbecue continues at both Gorman and Tierney House with volunteers offering support to help patients on the road to recovery from personal tragedy. The interaction between the residents and Members is beneficial in understanding how people find themselves in such situations and how a friendly ear can help overcome some of the issues the patients are faced with.

Although Gorman House has become a medical unit within the structure of St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, the BBQs were felt to be a vital part of the remedial program that the Order was asked to continue with BBQs.

ORDER OF MALTA PARC (PREVENTION AND RECOVERY CARE)

Order of Malta PARC is a new initiative in conjunction with St Vincent's Hospital to help patients with mental health issues. This "step-up and step-down" support service will be built within a new residential unit near the St Vincent's Darlinghurst Campus. It will promote early intervention to reduce acute admissions and provide rehabilitation care with medical supervision. Confreres Dr Robert Costa, David Hall AM and Robert Kirby were present and handed over a cheque to kick start the establishment of the centre. This was made possible largely by a generous donation by a friend of the Order.

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PALLIATIVE CARE

This prize is presented to nursing students at the University of Notre Dame Australia Sydney Campus and the Australian Catholic University Sydney. In keeping with our Hospitaller Mission, recognition of excellence in studies through prizes and awards enables the most dedicated students to receive acknowledgement and rewards for their



academic achievements and is a wonderful incentive for students to strive for excellence.

The award is presented yearly at the School of Nursing's Awards Night. The prize was originally awarded to the best essay submitted specifically on a topic selected by the Hospitaller Committee.

However, from this year, the prize has been incorporated within the assessment of students undertaking the Palliative Care unit of study.

The best three essays as selected by the staff will be submitted to the Hospitaller Committee for consideration of the award.

ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL PCU

The ongoing relationship support with St Joseph's Hospital Palliative Care Unit continued this year. Discussions and plans are underway for the re-establishment of a garden area attached to the unit.

REMEMBRANCE MASS

The deceased Members of the Order and their families were again remembered at special Mass held in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Hospice that is also the spiritual home of the Central East Members.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Consoeurs and Confreres from NSW joined together with other Members of the Order to undertake the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

2017 BIENNIAL NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION

Many Central East Members attended the biennial National Assembly of the Australian Association in Brisbane in June 2017.

Members were encouraged to "seek renewed insight into the Orders mission to uphold human dignity and care for people in need".

SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES & DEFENCE OF THE FAITH

The spiritual activities of the Central East Region continued this year with the monthly First Friday Vigil at St Mary's Cathedral. The Vigil is celebrated by one of our Magisterial Chaplains each month. Mass is also celebrated prior to the quarterly Central East meetings which are held in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart Hospice in Sydney. Members also commemorated Mass for the Feast of the Order's Patron St John the Baptist and in conjunction with the Maltese Chaplaincy celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Philermo and our Lady of Victories in St Mary's Cathedral.

In keeping with Regulation 3: "To participate yearly at a retreat aimed at deepening the inner spiritual life," the Central East Day of Refection was again held this year and was led by Rev Fr Geoffrey Plant. The day was attended by more than 30 Members and

guests.

Central East Members have also been active in their support for the many different campaigns that have been aired this year in compliance with our Order's Defence of the Faith Mission.

YOUNG ORDER OF MALTA

Members continue to assist the Executive of the Young Order of Malta (YOOM). There is currently a re-organisation within YOOM.

MEMBERSHIP

The Admissions program continues to grow in enhancing Region membership. Postulant preparation sessions were held which culminated with six postulants being invested at the 2017 biennial National Assembly in Brisbane.

CENTRAL EAST REGION'S INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT

The Central East Region has supported the establishment of the Order of Malta Clinic in Dili, Timor-Leste. Members travelled to Dili in November for the official opening of the Clinic.

The Clinic will be a great asset to the provision of healthcare to the people of Timor-Leste and be a greater benefit by up-skilling Timorese healthcare workers.





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

SOUTH EASTERN REGION

South Eastern Regional Hospitaller: Confrere Sauro Antonelli AM KMG

The year has kept us all very busy as the South Eastern Region continues to expand its care for those in need and to involve more of our Members and volunteers in these important endeavours.

MEDICALLY ASSISTED DYING BILL

The Victorian Branch of the Order was actively involved during most of 2017 in seeking to influence Victorian Members of Parliament to reject the draft “Medically Assisted Dying” Bill. Confrere Prof David Kissane was especially prominent in this role bringing his specialist expertise in meetings, one on one and in a variety of forums, with politicians of all sides.

His tireless work needs to be acknowledged and recognised.

While rejection of the draft legislation was ultimately unsuccessful with the Bill receiving approval at the end of November, the efforts by the Order and others resulted in some important amendments to the draft legislation.

Thank you David and all the Victorian Confreres and Consoeurs who took an active role in seeking to halt the passing of this legislation.

LOURDES DAY MASS, 2ND DECEMBER

Unfortunately the 2017 Lourdes Day Mass, scheduled as in the past on the first Saturday of December at St Patrick’s Cathedral, did not go ahead. Melbourne, on that weekend, was expected to face an “unprecedented” storm according to the Bureau of Meteorology which led the Archdiocese’s administration to cancel the Mass the day before.

A big thank you nonetheless to the 16 Confreres and Consoeurs that attended the working bee in the week preceding the Mass to pack 2500 gift packs that were to be distributed to the Mass attendees; and to Confreres David Blackwell OAM and Denis Fitzgerald in particular, for undertaking much of the organisational work associated with the Mass.

In the meantime the schedule of Lourdes Masses which are celebrated in ten aged care

facilities throughout suburban Melbourne, has been prepared for 2018.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAPLAIN

At the Members’ final meeting of the year we were pleased to present the Cross of the Order to our newest Magistral Chaplain, the Very Reverend Joe Caddy, STL EV PP, following approval from the Grand Magistry to his nomination as Chaplain. The Chaplain’s Cross will be formally presented to Fr Joe at the next Assembly of the Order in 2019.

MASS OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

On Sunday, 5th November the Victorian members attended the annual Mass of the Faithful Departed at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew, celebrated by the Most Rev Terry Curtin, Conventual Chaplain ad honorem of the Order. The Mass was well prepared by the Carmelite Sisters with a good attendance of members, fully robed, and members of their families and friends.

In particular we remembered Fra Richard Divall and Confreres Tom Hazell and Paul Fitzgerald who passed to eternal life in 2017.

COATS CAMPAIGN 2017

The winter of 2017 was an especially severe one. It continued into spring so that the demand for Coats has kept up well into September. The 2017 Campaign began with another strong endorsement from our

Members through the donations made to the Coats Appeal in Victoria. It has not been our practice to list individual donations but I have written to each donor personally where the donor’s identity was known.

We followed our practice of always handing out Coats to the Homeless and Poor personally through our Members and through volunteers. The result was a memorable experience for our Members and volunteers.

We modified our practice slightly by having our Members and volunteers always wearing both one of our coats and the tabards of the Order. Confrere Edward Finn who was wearing one of our coats handed over the coat to a grateful beneficiary who wandered off. Later, when it was time to go on to the next stop, Edward discovered to his alarm that he had left his car keys in the gifted Coat, the new owner of which was nowhere to be seen.

After an anxious time, the new owner was discovered and the car keys were recovered! During 2017, we serviced the City on Tuesday and Thursday nights accompanying the St Vincent de Paul vans. We also serviced the North Melbourne stop, again with St Vincent de Paul and on Monday evenings through Confrere Prof David Kissane we serviced the St Kilda stop where the Capuchin Brothers give out the food.

The Mannix College rounds did not begin this year until August because the Cornerstone Centre in Dandenong was closed





until then. The Australian Catholic University law student volunteers also accompanied St Vincent de Paul Vans once each week in a City run and met the homeless and personally handed over coats. This program was supervised by Confrere Geoffrey Horgan KMG assisted by Helen Milovanovic of the Australian Catholic University.

The numerous Members acted as Leaders during 2017. They had the responsibility of servicing our stops and supervising both other Members of the Order and enlisted Volunteers of the Order.

THANKS TO COATS CAMPAIGN LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Consoeur Lilian and Confrere Sauro Antonelli AM
- Confrere Joseph Chiera
- Confrere Gordon Edwards
- Confrere Brendan Ellis
- Confrere Edward Finn
- Confrere Paul Hoy AM
- Confrere Geoffrey Horgan QC
- Confrere Sir James Gobbo AC CVO
- Confrere Prof David Kissane
- Confrere Gerard and Consoeur Margaret O'Donnell
- Consoeur Prof Margaret O'Connor AM

The number of the volunteers from Newman College (38) and from the Australian Catholic University (20) was very

gratifying and we have a good linkage with both groups of students which augurs well for the future.

From early in May our first volunteer outings began. Every one found the experience a rewarding one and some came a number of times. Vacation and Term Exams temporarily suspended the participation of student volunteers in part of June and July but the runs continued through August and most of September.

I thank the Members and other supporters who have been so generous in their response to the Appeal for the Coats.

I thank all the Members of the Order who participated in the Coat Runs, especially Confrere Sir James Gobbo AC CVO and look forward to their continuing participation in 2018. The South Eastern Region will be placing an appeal for volunteers and assistance during the first part of 2018 to get ahead of the need and growing demand for our coats and the numerous other activities of the Order in Victoria.

FAREWELL FRÀ RICHARD DIVALL

It was with great sadness that the members of our Order said farewell to Australia's only Knight of Justice Professed of Solemn Vows. Frà Richard passed away peacefully on the 15th of January. Frà Richard will be sorely missed by all Members of the Australian Association and the Order at large.





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA CENTRAL SOUTHERN REGION

Central Southern Regional Hospitaller: Confrere Damian Wyld KMG

The Central Southern Region experienced a busy year and I wish to congratulate all of the Order family in our Region for their sterling work in the service of those in need.

Our Members continue to play an active role in the world around them, in Adelaide, throughout the regions of South Australia and beyond.

GARDEN OF MERCY, ADELAIDE

For some twenty years members of the Order in our Region have supported the development the community garden on the site of the former Adelaide Gaol in inner Adelaide. The garden was formerly tended by prisoners until the gaol closed in 1988.

Founded in 1841 the Adelaide gaol was one of the last of the colonial prisons and the scene of many hangings prior to the abolition of capital punishment in SA in 1976. Mercy Sister Sister Janet Mead and a dedicated group of helpers redeveloped the garden as part of the works of the Adelaide Day Centre for homeless persons. Over the intervening years the garden has grown and is now a source of fruit and vegetables and flowers

for the luncheon program at its Moore Street premises in the Adelaide CBD. Food hampers are also delivered each week to many families and people in acute need.

The garden is cared for by clients of the Adelaide Day Centre and at present there is a waiting list for volunteers. The Order has for many years provided funds for equipment for the garden. These funds have been supplemented by matching grants from the Macquarie Bank Foundation through the dedicated involvement of Confrere Nicholas Pyne. The latest contribution from the Order was two commercial lawnmowers.

The garden also houses farm animals. Recently a second garden was established in the suburb of Richmond.

The Order's annual film afternoon has been the main source of funds to support the Adelaide Gaol garden.

The garden is officially named the Dame Roma Mitchell Garden, as Dame Roma was a great friend of the Sisters of Mercy in Adelaide, a former Governor of SA and Australia's first woman Supreme Court Judge. Dame Roma was honoured by the Order of Malta in 1997.





LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday 11 February the Central Southern Region held our Lourdes Day Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral in Adelaide.

The Mass recalls the experiences of a peasant girl's religious visions in the French town of Lourdes, where those who believe in miracles have since prayed for physical or spiritual healing.

Approximately six million people, many of them sick and suffering, visit the French town in the foothills of the Pyrenees each year to drink from and bathe in its cool spring.

Roman Catholics believe the water has healing powers and the Church has officially recognised 67 miracle cures from the waters.

For many in Australia, the trip to Lourdes is too great and it is a great honour for our members in the Central Southern Region to bring the miracle of Lourdes to South Australians through our Cathedral Mass. We thank the Most Rev Philip Wilson DD, Archbishop of Adelaide, the Order's chaplains and other concelebrating clergy.

A special blessing invoking good health took place during the liturgy with water brought directly from the Shrine at Lourdes

and a gift bottle of water was distributed to each member of the congregation.

ANNUAL RETREAT

Each year a highlight on the Central Southern Region's spiritual calendar is the annual retreat at the Jesuit Retreat House La Storta at Sevenhill, in the Clare Valley. The retreat provides an opportunity for Members to

strengthen and deepen their faith.

SUPPORTING THE HOMELESS

Members and volunteers continue the Order's association with the Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless Persons providing evening meals to the homeless in Adelaide.

We have also continued to raise funds for the purchase of coats for the homeless. Coats purchased were distributed through three charities dedicated to providing care for the homeless.

This year the Ceduna Generic Homelessness Services was a direct beneficiary of the Order's Coats for the Homeless program in our Region. We extend our appreciation for the recent donation of 12 coats.

Due to the extreme cold in Ceduna recently, our Homeless team donated the jackets to vulnerable people and clients who often sleep rough. Ceduna Generic Homelessness Services distributed the jackets to eight men and four women. The response was amazing and the feedback positive. The majority of comments were "they are very warm and keep us dry".





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA CENTRAL NORTHERN REGION

Central Northern Regional Hospitaller: Consoeur Maria Randazzo DMG

Members in the Central Northern Region) have been extremely active. From 2015 on, an annual robed Mass is celebrated in St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Cathedral, generally in September followed by a half day spiritual retreat.

SERVICE IN ALICE SPRINGS

100 coats for the homeless and 100 blankets are being supplied with the logo of the Order for the three very cold winter months in Alice. Also Rosary bead kits with Prayer cards and our Lady medals are being provided.

For some months now, some Members of the Order have been facilitating ongoing meetings and discussions with Rev Asaeli Raass SVD, Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Alice Springs as regards the scope of the service for the Members in Alice Springs. There are many issues of poverty and marginalisation to be addressed. Last year three Members visited Alice Spring to have a first-hand insight.

This year Members have begun assisting Fr Raass in planning appropriate and effective activities and projects, and we have introduced the concept of capacity building while emphasising that consideration will need to include culturally oriented programs and activities to capture as many people as possible.

Members visited Alice Springs for the second time in September this year and for the time being Members are assisting Fr Raass to draft a specific strategic plan for the Parish in Alice Springs to submit to the Bishop.

CATHOLIC ADVOCACY SERVICE

The Catholic Advocacy Service is an organisational unit within the Catholic Diocese of Darwin established in 2015 by Members, for the more vulnerable and marginalised sectors of our society. It is aimed to promote social justice and to defend the sanctity of life and human dignity. The scope of the service is as follows:

Administrative assistance to old, unwell, poorly educated and illiterate, by helping them to fill in forms that government agencies



require.

Social support and encouragement through referral to a formalised network of governmental and Catholic Agencies, such as Centrelink and CatholicCareNT.

Submissions to the Northern Territory Legislative Assembly on amendments to legislation and/or bill proposals impacting on the poor. Members are working on drafting a background paper to submit to the Northern Territory Government as regards the issue of homelessness in Darwin and in Alice Springs.

UNITY MAGAZINE

Unity Magazine is a quarterly publication of the Catholic Diocese and our Members take turns in submitting articles which are published. The last article on the RU 486 pill was published in June 2017.

DILI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Sixteen sponsored children from impoverished backgrounds are being educated in the Catholic schools 'Externato de San José', 'Colegio de Santo Inacio de Loiola', and the private non-Catholic school 'Escola Portuguesa Ruy Cinnati'. Some of the Members have been supporting Confrere H.E. David Scarf AM KMG with this project. Members of the Order have also drafted and finalised the "Child Protection Policy" for this programme.

SHIPMENT OF MEDICINES AND EQUIPMENT FOR NEW CLINIC IN DILI

A number of our Members have assisted in organising shipments of medicines to Dili, generously donated by the Brisbane Branch.

CHILDREN'S BIBLES

In August, Consoeur Frances Booth, Consoeur Maria Randazzo and Confrere Sean Parnell were privileged to present 21 Children's Bibles to seven of the 13 Northern Territory Catholic Primary Schools. Another donation for the remaining schools will be made in 2018.

FR ANGELO CONFALONIERI SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium, held on 12 July in the Library of Parliament House, Darwin, proved to be a very successful event. The Symposium was jointly hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Darwin and the Consulate of Italy for Queensland and the Northern Territory. The Members of the Order of Malta in the Northern Territory were heavily involved in planning and organising the event.

Detailed planning over more than a year went into the mounting of the Symposium and the high standard of the presentations and the impressive number of attendees, (including the Administrator of the Northern Territory, the Hon John Hardy AO and Mrs Marie Hardy, and the Italian Consul for Queensland and the Northern Territory, Mr Ludovico Camussi) ensured that the event was truly memorable and worthy of the extraordinary personality that the Symposium had set out to focus attention on and to honour.

Of special significance was the witness given to Fr Angelo's sense of Christian Mission, his appreciation of the importance of indigenous language and culture and the



spirit of sacrifice that enabled him to endure all sorts of hardship in his endeavour to live in harmony and fellowship with the aboriginal inhabitants of the Cobourg peninsula.

Fr Angelo Confalonieri (1813-1848) was the pioneering Catholic missionary to the Aboriginal people of the Port Essington area in the 19th century. The several presentations during the symposium highlighted Fr Angelo's contribution to the understanding and documentation of Aboriginal languages, culture and customs, and he has left an important legacy for generations of Northern Territorians.

From the diocese of Trento in Northern Italy, Fr Angelo responded to a call by Bishop Brady of Perth to start a mission to the Aborigines of the Top End of Australia. While attempting to get here, he and the Captain of the ship were the only ones to survive shipwreck near Cape York. He lost everything that he had brought with him from Europe for his ministry. On reaching his destination, he quickly mastered the local language - quite an extraordinary feat - however the nomadic life, the loneliness and the difficulty of adapting to a climate and diet so different from those in Europe undermined his health.

Only two years after his arrival at Port Essington, and at just 35 years of age, the young priest died from malaria on the 9th of June 1848 at the Colonial Settlement, named Victoria, on the Cobourg Peninsula, 350 km east of Darwin. Darwin, of course, at that time did not exist and it is interesting to note that during the short time he lived among the Indigenous people on the Peninsula, he came to be greatly respected by the British Garrison that had been posted there: they came to admire him for his engagement with the Aboriginal people, built a hut for him, did what they could for him in his final illness and erected a vault over his final resting place.

At the Darwin Symposium, after introductions from Mr Ludivico Camussi, the Italian Consul for Queensland and the Northern Territory, and from Rev Malcolm Fyfe, Vicar General of the Diocese of Darwin and Magistral Chaplain to the Central

Northern Region, the following presentations were given:

Archbishop Emeritus Luigi Bressan of Trento, Italy, sent a comprehensive overview on the Diocese of Trento around 1840 and its prevailing missionary spirit that had contributed to Father Angelo Confalonieri's missionary motivation.

Professor Rolando Pizzini, philanthropist, writer and researcher from Trento, Italy, presented details of Fr Angelo Confalonieri's life before his decision to come to Australia and work with the Aborigines.

Dr Stefano Girola of the School of Theology at the Australian Catholic University, Brisbane, expanded on Fr Angelo's mission among Indigenous Australians in the context of local and international Catholicism.

Dr Michael Walsh, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, highlighted the very significant and historic role of Catholic clergy in the documentation of Australian Languages.

Dr Greg Anderson, Anglican Bishop of the Northern Territory, speaking from years of hands on experience during which he learned local indigenous languages himself, gave an excellent summary of contrasting approaches to evangelisation in Arnhem Land mission history.

Dr Danial Kelly of Charles Darwin University spoke of "Colliding ontologies": Father Confalonieri's style of Christianity and the Aboriginal religions of the Arnhem Land region".

Rev Frank Bertagnolli SDB OAM, himself from the Trentino region in Italy, provided a fascinating historical summary and geographical background, relating to Fr Angelo Confalonieri's Mission."

The diocese of Darwin especially acknowledged and thanked Consoeur Maria and Confrere Carlo Randazzo, Italian Vice-Consul for the Northern Territory, for the extraordinary support and practical help they provided in the mounting of the Symposium and in bringing this ambitious undertaking to its successful completion.





ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

TUTTIQ FIDELI
ET OBSEQUIUM
PAUPERUM



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA WESTERN DELEGATION



Western Delegation Chair: Confreere Dr Michael Shanahan KMG

Western Australian Members have continued to represent the Order within our community.

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES IN MEDICINE

Every year, Members of the Order in WA sponsor prizes at the University of Notre Dame's Fremantle School of Medicine. The Awards recognise the School's highest achieving students

The 2016 Academic Year Prize Giving Ceremony was held in March 2017 and Confreere the Hon. Kevin Hammond AO KMG, presented The Order of Malta Prize for Philosophical Studies in Medicine and The Order of Malta Prize for Ethical Studies in Medicine.

Congratulations to Tess Hooper, who received the award for Philosophical Studies and Gary Avita, who received the award for Ethical Studies.

Recognition of excellence in studies through prizes and awards enables the most dedicated students receive acknowledgement and rewards for their academic achievements and is a wonderful incentive for each student to strive for excellence.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS

Our volunteers and Members have again participated in the Australian Association's

national Coats for the Homeless program and commenced with a donation of coats to the St Pat's Community Support Centre's winter appeal.

Our Members were busy throughout winter distributing coats to the homeless at the Shopfront, Maylands and the Holy Spirit of Freedom Community Outreach Ministry.

The Shopfront, an agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, has become a key distribution point for our Winter coats campaign as it works to relieve poverty and suffering throughout the Diocese while offering an environment that offers practical assistance, fellowship and hospitality.

Helping organisations like the Shopfront gives the Western Australian Members of the Order great encouragement that the Coats for the Homeless program continues to make an impact.

300 coats were delivered throughout Perth this year, all providing the equivalent warmth and comfort of a sleeping bag. We will continue to generously support this program, knowing that each coat has been warmly accepted and that each will be well worn.

We were very blessed this year to also have received a small amount of media coverage of our Coats for the Homeless program, with journalist Steve Grant of the Fremantle Herald writing a very good piece on the Order's donation of coats to St Pat's

Community Support Centre.

HEALING MASS

The Mass for the Sick, which again co-sponsored with the Catholic Doctors Association of Western Australia.

The Mass was celebrated for the fourth time in St Mary's Cathedral by His Grace Archbishop Timothy Costello and the Cathedral clergy.

The Mass was very well attended and included the anointing the sick and the distribution of bottles of Lourdes Water to the members of the congregation.

We have seen a growing interest in the Healing Mass and its congregation is very honoured to receive the bottled Lourdes water our members distribute.

As ever, as we see an increase in attendance numbers we are now having to increase the quantity of bottled Lourdes water to make sure that the entire congregation has access to this very important gift.





The Order holds its annual pilgrimage to Lourdes on the first weekend in May and extending over a week or more.

Some 4,500 Dames, Knights, chaplains, doctors and volunteers took part, assisting over 1,500 sick and disabled pilgrims. Many Associations bring with them sick and disabled (referred to as “Malades” in French).

This year the Lourdes pilgrimage – from 5th to 9th May – was the first official commitment of the newly elected Lieutenant of the Grand Master, Frà Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto.

The participation of the Holy Father’s special delegate, Archbishop Angelo Becciu, with their Eminences Cardinals Renato Raffaele Martino, Prosper Grech, Timothy Dolan and Dominik Duka was particularly significant.

Archbishop Angelo Becciu led the Eucharistic Procession on Saturday 6th May and the Solemn Pontifical Mass celebrated on Sunday 7th May in the packed Basilica of St. Pius X.

The Lourdes pilgrimage offers a unique opportunity to fully experience the charism of the Order, through service to the sick and the poor, while joining together with members of the Order from across the globe in an international community of service and faith.

The Australian contingent partner with the Irish delegation to assist with the care the malades.

The order has a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and especially to Our Lady of Lourdes and Members are expected to attend Lourdes at least once in their lifetime.

Members, volunteers, family members and the “malades” (the sick) themselves attend wearing the traditional uniforms and red blankets which hark back to former times including the First World War, when the Order had its own hospital trains attending to the casualties.

In spite of the distance, Members attended from throughout the Australian Association.

With the distances and costs involved,

it is almost impossible to transport our own Australian malades to Lourdes and that is why Australian pilgrims attach themselves as volunteers with the Irish contingent.

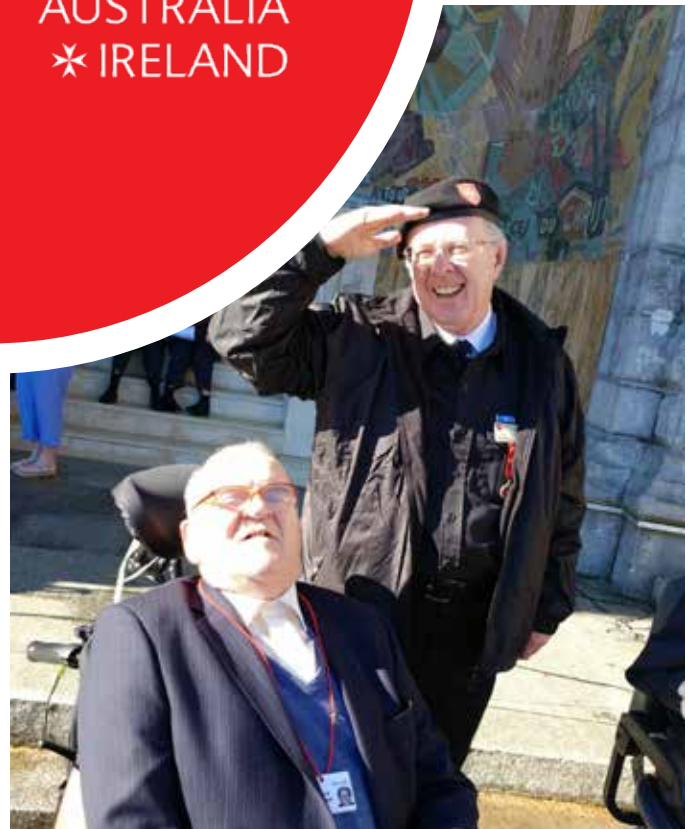
Many find it is almost impossible to describe in words the phenomenon known as “the Lourdes experience”.

Medical neuroscientists have recently become fascinated by it and are now investigating the phenomena in order to understand the effects on patients visiting Lourdes.

There is no sadness, no sorrow, and no long faces – merely an acceptance of their lot by both the sick and their carers.

One commentator described the atmosphere as “cheerful compassion”.

Another said: “The sight of so many Members of our Order, distinguished by their uniforms, including the young and enthusiastic helpers of the various ambulance brigades and auxiliary groups associated with the Order, was a visible demonstration of the strength of the Order of Malta worldwide, and of its vitality. “The torchlight Marian processions, the huge international congregation at a pontifical Mass in the underground Basilica of St Pius X, the blessing of the sick with the Blessed Sacrament are moving events never to be forgotten.”





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION

New Zealand Delegation Chair: Confreere the Hon Peter Gresham ONZM KMG

Members of the Order of Malta residing in New Zealand continue to acknowledge our most important Feast Days, as well as the World Day of the Sick, through sponsorship of meals at the Wellington Soup Kitchen.

The Soup Kitchen is operated by the Sisters of Compassion located in Wellington's Tory Street, where breakfast and dinner are served six days a week. Members assist by serving the meals or clearing away, doing dishes or cleaning up afterwards.

We are privileged to be asked to lead Grace, and to sit with guests as they await their dinner sitting.

Members come away pleased that they have been able to support the Sisters and to live our Mission of caring for the sick and the poor.

We believe our contribution (and that of our Order) meets in some small way one of the Archbishop's priorities for the Archdiocese - reaching out to those who live in poverty and are vulnerable.

We are asked to see the suffering Christ in the homeless, addicted, in refugees, indigenous peoples, the isolated and abandoned elderly, victims of human trafficking, women in situations of exclusion and domestic violence.

In November, Members of the New

Zealand Delegation again were invited to attend the Investiture ceremony for the admission of members of our sister Order, The Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem. This event was also attended by the Chancellor of the Venerable Order of St John in Australia who spoke most favourably of the work, mission and members of the Order of Malta in Australia.

NEW MEMBERS INVESTED

This year has seen significant growth in the Delegation's membership. Following a period of formation, four Knights, a Dame and a Chaplain were invested into the Order at ceremonies in Brisbane and Wellington.

On the 28th October, two Knights of Magistral Grace were invested at the Chapel of the Sisters of Compassion, Island Bay in Wellington, New Zealand.

The Mass was concelebrated by the Archbishop of Wellington His Eminence John Cardinal Dew CSJ, the new Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand, His Excellency the Most Rev Martin Krebs and Rev James Lyons. The Order of Malta's President of the Australian Association, His Excellency Confreere Dr Ian Marshall, was also in attendance.

With the addition of the two newly invested Knights, there are now 11 Members of the Order in New Zealand. This small but





committed group of Members have initiated the Order's Coats for the Homeless project in New Zealand and are supporters of regional activities, including the Order's new Medical Clinic in Dili, Timor-Leste.

Following the Mass we were delighted to learn that our confrere, Alex Abela KMG of Auckland had been awarded the Order of Merit awarded – pro merito melitensi, to acknowledge his huge contribution to the work of the Order in the Asia Pacific region. Alex was a foundation Member of the Order in New Zealand (1988). He has given most generously to work in Thailand's refugee camps as well and teaching there and in schools in Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

COATS DISTRIBUTION IN WELINGTON AND AUCKLAND

Thanks to the efforts of Members in New Zealand, the Coats for the Homeless project has expanded to New Zealand. One hundred rough sleepers now have a layer to keep them warm for the chilly winter months ahead.

We started this year's Coats for the Homeless programme in May and have been able to supply 50 coats through the generosity of donations from parishioners of Wellington's Catholic parishes.

Sister Fina of the Home of Compassion said the guests of the Compassion Soup Kitchen welcomed the coats very much. "Last week we had a young guest appear at the door in only a thin tee shirt. He was sleeping outside in an extremely cold Wellington southerly wind. These warm dry coats are just what some of our guests need".

The Catholic Church in Auckland was gifted high quality coats to distribute to the city's homeless by the Order of Malta.

It started over a lunch time conversation with one of the members of the Order of Malta, who was visiting Auckland from Sydney, with Lindsay Freer from the Catholic Diocese of Auckland.

Our Australian guest was disturbed to hear of the extent of homelessness here and because they have constructed some thousands of coats in Australia, he decided to

send some to us.

The Auckland City mission's latest street count in May found more than 177 people were sleeping rough within a 3km radius of the Sky Tower and rough sleepers usually increase over winter.

The James Liston Hostel in Freemans Bay provides emergency housing to those in need and opens its doors for the homeless to be able to access showers.

The hostel was gifted 24 coats by the Delegation to distribute and we received positive feedback from the hostel's manager Charlotte Ama who said they were all grateful.

Since then, the James Liston Hostel has given the coats out to the rough sleepers when they came in to access the hostel's showers.

Feedback specifically mentions how handy the way the coats are made, including their velcro fastenings and generous pockets to store personal items, especially as the weather in Auckland was quite cold this year.

Coats were also distributed to the City of Gisborne on the East Coast of the North Island. They were distributed to those in need through the Te Kupenga Net Trust, a local group that provides mental health and additional services.

This distribution was organised with the valuable assistance of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Gisborne.

The Delegation has also supplied a gift of coats throughout the Auckland Diocese in collaboration with The Little Sisters of Assumption (LSA) in Papatoetoe and Otara, Catholic Social Services (CSS) and local Catholic Parishes in Otara, and in Manurewa & Papakura and a mobile CSS service in Auckland to both young and old people in need.

The parish priest of St Patrick's Cathedral, Monsignor Bernard Kiely, was delighted to be able to give warm, quality coats to the homeless people of his parish.

The rest of the coats will be distributed around Auckland by St Patrick's Cathedral in Wyndham St and by its parish in Otara.

During the next year we will continue to focus on expansion of membership and

programmes that benefit 'Our Lords the Sick' and 'Our Lords the Poor'.





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA THAILAND DELEGATION

Thailand Delegation Chair: Confreere Virachai Techavijit KMG

On the 13th October, 2016 The King of Thailand, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away and the nation went into deep mourning. His Majesty has been Father of the Nation for 70 years and many generations have grown knowing the King as a kind, compassionate and wise monarch. His loss has left a void in all of us.

Even so, remembering the wise words of the late King and the teaching of the Order of Malta to help the Sick and the Poor, the Members and Friends in deep mourning for our beloved Father the King, continue to assist the sick and the poor throughout the country regardless of race, faith or creed.

On the 21st October, 2016 our first shipment of medical supplies reached Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. The Members sponsored a year's medical supplies to the Sisters who distributed medicines to the Hill

Tribes people and other rural communities who depend so much on assistance on the sisters and the volunteer doctors who visit every four months.

The month of December is a joyous month for all Christians and also the busiest month for the Members and friends.

In December we launched the Wheelchairs and Blankets project.

Fifty wheelchairs were donated to eight provinces in Thailand, together with 650 blankets to rural villagers where the nights can be cold.

All wheelchairs and blankets were handed over to various diocese and community centres by the Members who travelled all over Thailand, to deliver the much needed wheelchairs and blankets in person to those who needed them most.

This year we will once again donate 56

wheelchairs, 10 tricycles and six walking frames to 10 provinces.

The Thai Wheel Factory, where we order our wheelchairs, is run by disabled people, where the designers and workers are also mostly disabled.

Members of the Order also assisted the Diocese of Ratchaburi in December to build a new 40 room dormitory for the Burmese workers who had no accommodation to commence their new employment.

The Diocese was concerned that the new recruits were often encouraged to live out of town, away from the diocese centre which led them to gambling, drugs and turning away from the Church. The Diocese requested the Order's assistance.

Our Members and friends were quick to help assist this project in building a safer place for the new recruits.





A day after the opening of the Centre, 200 Burmese and other migrant workers arrived to a friendlier and safer accommodation to commence their employment under the care of the diocese.

The Order of Malta has for the last thirty years had a tradition of holding Summer Camps for youth disabled. The Singaporean Association extended this tradition to the Asia Pacific region and from the 8th to 11th June, 2017 the inaugural Asia Pacific Summer Camp took place in Singapore Sports School.

We are indebted to the Singaporean Association to commence this tradition in our region.

The Thai members were fortunate to send two gentlemen to represent Thailand. By all accounts it was a huge success and all who attended left with a good feeling that so much was achieved.

The members at home were overjoyed when we heard that the Thai Team won the Christopher Cup croquet competition. We are looking after it and we promise we will return it in Manila next year.

In August, we turned our attention to the worsening flood situation in Sakorn Nakorn. The Diocese of Tharae contacted us for assistance and the members without any hesitation started to raise funds to reach the diocese of Tharae. The relief funds were used to supply food and clean water. Around 17,000 homes were affected.

I am pleased to report that we have 4 aspirants who are being guided by our Magistral Chaplain Rev. Fr Carlo Velardo SDB in spiritual activities.

In October Members of the Order and Friends donated 50,000 Baht to the Mae Hong Son flood victims through the Diocese of Chaing Mai and a further 100,000 Baht to the Camillian Sisters in the Diocese of Rachaburi for medical supplies.

During the one year of National mourning members of the Order volunteered in many capacities to assist the millions who came to pay respect to His Majesty, some serving food and water, others offering words of encouragement to the frail, the disabled and sick who came and waited sometimes 10 hours before they could enter the palace to pay their respects.

On the 26th October, we bid farewell to His Majesty King Bhumibol Aduyadej, a respected and loved monarch who devoted 70 years of service of His people, His Majesty left a void in all of us. We continue His Majesty legacy to work hard and look after those who are less fortunate incorporating the Order's motto, Tuitio Fidei, Obsequium Pauperum in our daily lives.

We are all encouraged by our members of the Order in Thailand who show no sign of slowing down and continue our achievements in helping those who are less fortunate than us.





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA HONG KONG DELEGATION

Hong Kong Delegation Chair: Confrere Denis Chang KMG

The Hong Kong Delegation has intensified its activities and increased its membership on 10 March 2017 with the investiture of five new members comprising four Knights and one Dame of Magistral Grace.

We are grateful to His Eminence Cardinal Tong Hon (Bailiff Grand Cross of Honour & Devotion) for being the principal celebrant of the Investiture Mass as well as to Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall, President of the Australian Association, for coming all the way from Australia to officiate at the Investiture.

Our Chaplain, the Most Reverend Bishop Michael Yeung (Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*) was one of the concelebrants at the Investiture Mass. He was then already Co-Adjutor Bishop, having been appointed back in November 2016 by His Holiness Pope Francis to succeed His Eminence Cardinal John Tong Hon upon the latter's retirement.

We would like to congratulate the Most Rev Michael Yeung on his accession to the office of Bishop of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese on 1st August 2017.

Monsignor Ante Jozic (Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*) has continued to inspire us and to participate in the activities of the Order. He was with members of the Hong Kong delegation (Confrere Denis Chang CBE QC SC KMG, Consoeur Désirée Jepsen and Confrere Joseph Hui) at the 6th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference held in Seoul on 23-25 September 2016 as well as participated in the National Assembly held in Brisbane in June this year. One of our new members Confrere Giovanni Angelini also attended the Brisbane meeting.

We have continued to expand our services in Hong Kong and at Cha Gen Village on the Mainland and to place great importance to the annual Lourdes pilgrimage. During the last visit in early May, 2017, at the invitation of Confrere H.E. Dr Ian Marshall, Confrere Peter Au-Yeung KMG and Confrere Denis Chang were privileged to attend the AGM of the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists held on 8 May, 2017.

Bioethics is, of course, a core activity of the Order. We envisage that Hong Kong members' involvement in this activity will increase in future without detracting from our other activities. We will continue to stress the need to uphold high standards and for sustainability in all our works as well as for spiritual renewal.

HOSPITALLER MEETINGS

We introduced this year regular meetings with the leaders of the different projects and the volunteer leaders. Meetings are bi-monthly and are focused on bringing together the various projects and consider our future steps together.

Furthermore, we hired Amanda Yau to help with our Hospitalier activities. One of Amanda's tasks this year was to update our PR material. Amanda has done a great job in drafting and printing of a new brochure.

CHA GEN VILLAGE

Cha Gen is a village near Maoming in China. About 80 people live here with the after-effects of leprosy. Principally the residents are healed but they all suffer from the consequences of this illness, including amputated limbs, deformed limbs, eye diseases and infections due to the destruction of the nerves. The majority are stigmatised and abandoned by their families. A French Priest from the Order of the Beatitudes, Rev Jean Gabriel Moyen, lives among them and takes care of the and a further eight villages, as well as keeping an eye on villages on Hainan Island with underprivileged residents.

Confrere Alfons Mensdorff-Pouilly KHD and Consoeur Sophie Mensdorff-Pouilly DHD lead this project.

This year, focus was given again to

- Methane Gas Project
- Lunch Box Project
- Medication
- Room Make up Project

METHANE GAS PROJECT

The Hong Kong Delegation fundraised among themselves to help build a Methane



power source through a new pig stable. This stable is about to be completed. Fed by the excrements of 150 pigs, gas will be produced and transported via a sub-ground piping to all the kitchens.

MEDICINES

Ongoing stocktakes are being done throughout the year and funds are being found for it.

Lunch Box Project. With the help of the Global Fund for Forgotten People and facilitated by the Hong Kong Delegation the people in Cha Gan will start to cook and deliver lunch to people who are even poorer than them. This project will help the poorest of the poor, but it will also give a lot of dignity to the people of Cha Gan.

ROOM MAKE UP

Under the leadership of Confrere Alfons and Consoeur Sophie Mensdorff-Pouilly, and Confrere Justin Harkiewicz KMG we started the "Room Make up Program". A few young people went to the village of Cha Gan to clean and repaint two units occupied by lepers during one weekend.

FIRST ASIA PACIFIC CAMP FOR HANDICAPPED IN SINGAPORE

Hong Kong took part in the first Asia Pacific Camp in Singapore in June.

We took along three "guests" with their carers. They were accompanied by three

volunteers as well as Consoeur Teresa Lam DMG and myself.

On Wednesday 7th June we left by plane to Singapore, where we were warmly greeted by the organisers. We were brought to the Singapore Sports School.

Here the group checked into their rooms and met some of the other groups. Apart from Singapore and Hong Kong, participants came from the Philippines, Thailand and Australia.

On Thursday 8th June, after the Welcome and Registration, Archbishop William Goh celebrated the Opening Mass which was immediately followed by the Opening Ceremony. Ms Grace Fu, Singapore's Minister for Culture, Community and Youth officially opened the Camp.

Following lunch, attendees returned to the big hall to play some integration games, which were followed by some Painting and Drawing.

On the next day, Friday 9th June, the morning started with several activities and the Hong Kong Group chose to go to participate in the "I Fly" program, a wind tunnel in Singapore's Sentosa Park where participants could experience skydiving. It was a huge success and a lot of fun! In the afternoon the Hong Kong Group chose indoor games, including bocce and lawn bowling to name a few.

On Saturday 10th June, after a group breakfast the Hong Kong group went to an activity called "Escape Hunt", where participants are trapped in a room and they

need to find the way out through a number of clues.

The group spent about an hour trying to find its way out and managed eventually with a few hints from the staff. After lunch the group went to the beautiful Singapore Botanic Gardens where a group photo was taken and watched a lovely magic show! In the afternoon the Grand Hospitaller, H.E. Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel arrived to spend the last night with the group.

Every night participants enjoyed a Disco and this was considered a lot of fun by all the guests. There were also some entertaining games and the Hong Kong group won the Photo Contest.

There was a lot of dancing, singing and fun with all the guests. The Disco nights were the highlights of the Camp. They gave people a wonderful opportunity to bond and mingle.

Sunday morning the Camp held the Christopher's Cup croquet tournament. This is a tradition in the Order of Malta Camps in Europe, and Singapore wanted to adopt this practice for the Asian camps as well.

Some years ago a volunteer named Christopher was involved in a fatal car accident on his way home from a Camp. Because he loved attending the Order's camps so much, his parents donated a cup for the croquet game. We spent the morning playing croquet on the lawn and Thailand won the Christopher Cup.

After lunch the group returned to the big hall for the Closing Mass and a Lion Dance.

The Hong Kong Group left the next day back to Hong Kong. Happy and exhausted.

The Singapore Association and Consoeur Rose Lu DMG, President of the Singapore Association, outdid themselves in organising an outstanding camp and everybody had the best of times.

The Plan is that the Philippines will host the Camp in 2018 and Hong Kong have committed to host the camp in 2019. All of the Hong Kong delegation are already looking for locations to hold it.





ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA KOREAN DELEGATION

Korean Delegation Chair: Confrere Silvano Yongmaan Park KMG

In September 2016, for the first time in the history of the Church in Korea, 11 Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta were invested during a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-Jung, Archbishop of Seoul and the principal Chaplain ad honorum of the Order of Malta in Korea, at Myeong-Dong Cathedral in Seoul.

Members of the Order from Australia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Malta, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, United Kingdom and the United States participated in the Investiture as a part of the Order's sixth Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

The establishment of Order of Malta in Korea has been strongly supported by the Federal Association in the United States of America and the Australian Association.

Confrere Matthew Lee KMG, of the Federal Association, worked to gain the enthusiastic support of His Eminence Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-Jung and his predecessor, Cardinal Nicholas Jeong.

The turning point came when Confrere Yongmaan Park KMG, a prominent Korean Catholic businessman and philanthropist, accepted Lee's invitation to lead the effort. Confrere Park was installed as the first president of the Order's Korean Delegation in 2015.

Korea has a flourishing Catholic Church with a strong laity. With over 5.5 million Catholics, which is about 11% of the population of South Korea, the Church's growth has been nothing less than phenomenal over the past 40 years and Catholics as a group, specifically the clergy and the religious, are highly respected.

A unique aspect of the Catholic Church in Korea is that it was not established by European missionaries but by the spontaneous efforts of Korean people.

Catholicism was introduced in Korea in the 18th century when some Korean literati learned about the faith through reading and studying, and began to practice it by themselves.

One of them, Yi Seung-hun, went to Beijing to be baptised, and on his return to



Korea he founded a Christian community in 1784.

The Catholic Church in Korea was suppressed from its early days because the government considered it to be opposed to the Neo-Confucianism that was the guiding ideal of the government at that time. About 10,000 of the faithful died martyrs in persecutions that lasted for more than 100 years.

Among them 103 martyrs, including the first Korean priest, Rev. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, were canonised in Seoul in 1984 by Pope John Paul II.

Over the last eighteen months, Order of Malta Korea has been focusing on serving forgotten children, the forgotten disabled and the forgotten poor and homeless, supported by a grant from the Global Fund for Forgotten People. They have already established their work with enterprise and energy.

WOODCRAFT PROJECT, DONGJAK DISTRICT, SEOUL

In the Dongjak district of Seoul, Order of Malta Korea runs workshops for disadvantaged children from the Municipal Children Care Centre in the region.

EXCURSIONS WITH THE DISABLED

In April, members of the Order and volunteers took 20 individuals with physical and mental disabilities to the Garden of Morning Calm in the Gyeonggi Province an hour and a half outside of Seoul.



On 12th June, the Order in Korea held an orientation for eight new aspirants of the Order of Malta. Consoeur Monica Park explained about the responsibilities and duties of aspirants and also spoke about the history of the Order. Rev. Matthew Byun gave a homily on the topic, 'Be happy, merciful ones', explaining that serving the poor is like serving our Lord.

The newly renovated 'House of Catholic Love & Peace' was consecrated and blessed on 7th July. This 'House' is where the members of the Order and volunteers serve our 'forgotten neighbours' by cooking, packing and delivering lunch boxes for about 200 people once or twice every month.

Throughout the year Members of the Order of Malta in Korea and volunteers have carried out hospitaller activity. Members continue their hands-on approach, where members cook, pack and deliver lunch boxes to about 200 forgotten neighbours living in slums in downtown Seoul.

Members find it a meaningful time, serving our forgotten neighbours. We were grateful to be able to serve, and also thankful for God's blessings, which have led more volunteers to turn up and ensure that the poor and the sick were never forgotten.

The Order's yearly retreat was held on 18th July. The retreat started with a lecture and practice of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) - a critical emergency procedure that can save our family, friends and neighbours - and a special lecture by our



Chaplain, Rev Matthew Byun and a Mass.

Members had divine time to deepen the inner spiritual life as well as time to physically train ourselves.

In burning hot weather, which recorded 34°C, 14 members of the Order of Malta Korea and 15 volunteers got together for the Order's regular hospitaller activity for August as it was vital members cooked, packed and delivered the 200 lunch boxes to the poor and the sick in downtown Seoul, suffering in the weather.

Members responded to what Christ meant when he said, "In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me" (Mt 25:40).

One of our volunteers mentioned that "I have participated in many volunteer works in the past, but this is the most delicious lunch box I have ever eaten." Thanks to our chefs, we are able to serve the blessed food to the people in need.

On 25th October, all of the chefs within our cooking team could not participate. We are fortunate to have Aspirant Bernard Kim's assistant who volunteered to take on the role of head chef and produced the finest food including spicy stir-fried chicken and stir-fried mushroom.

In November the Members, aspirants and volunteers took delivery of newly designed long-sleeve shirts and caps. And in December, Members and the volunteers set the new record of preparing and delivering 304 lunch

boxes. Afterwards, everyone got together to share the food for lunch!

On 5th December, Cardinal Yeom Soojung presented Confrere Park, President of the Korean Delegation, with a 'Proud Catholic Businessman Award for 2017'.

Confrere Park, Confrere William Yongil Shin and a few volunteers travelled to Busan to participate in the volunteer activity organised by the Sisters of Mary, where the participants made Kimchi for underprivileged children, youth, and the poor and sick.

The temperature of Seoul was -7°C on 20th December, but the cold could not stop our Members and volunteers from reaching out to our forgotten neighbours. Deliciously cooked warm lunch boxes were delivered to 305 people this day.

The Order of Malta Korea's 2017 end of year party was held on 22nd December with tMembers joined by aspirants, volunteers, friends and family. Also among the participants were musicians who played various genre of music from Korean pop to jazz. A soprano and a tenor highlighted the evening with their heart-touching voices.

Looking back, 2017 has been a special year for the Order of Malta in Korea - the lunch box hospitaller activity was systemised and a group of new aspirants joined the Order. For all this and more, we are thankful to our Lord for his blessings.





H.E. Dominique de Montbel



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

7TH ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Association President:

Confrere Dr Ian Marshall AM AE KC*SG KGCMG(Ob)

The Seventh Asia Pacific conference was held in Singapore from 9th to 12th November 2017, the same venue of the historic first Asia Pacific Conference held in 2010. The Asia Pacific Conference is now a fixed event, in fact the only annual international event in the calendar of the Order and the importance attached to the conference is emphasised by the diversity and seniority of the delegates and the range of topics canvassed.

In 2010, 27 delegates attended over three days. In 2017, 53 delegates attended over an expanded conference of four much busier days. It is obvious the Order continues to make steady progress in our region.

The delegates included their Excellencies the Grand Chancellor H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager and the Grand Hospitaller H.E. Dominique Prince de la Rochefoucauld –Montbel, Confrere Simon Grenfell of the Government Council, HE Eugenio Ajroldi di Robbiate, the Order’s Communications Director and Ms Daniela Bonucci, the Grand Magistry’s Head of the Department of Internal Affairs.

The regional Ambassadors H.E. Confrere Jim Dominguez AM CBE KCSG Ambassador for Development in South East Asia, H.E. Consoeur Dona Odelia Arroyo Ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Confrere Michael Mann AM Ambassador to Cambodia and Thailand and H.E. Confrere David Scarf AM Ambassador to Timor-Leste represented the

Diplomatic Corps as well as H.E. Msgr Anté Jozic, Conventual Chaplain of the Order and Head of the Holy See Study Mission in Hong Kong.

The Presidents of the regional National Associations headed by the Conference Host H.E. Consoeur Rose Lu SooYing, President of the Singapore Association. H.E. Confrere Dr Leopold Lazatin of the Philippines Association and Confrere Dr Ian Marshall of the Australian Association headed the national delegations including representatives of the Order’s subgroups in Hong Kong, Thailand and Korea and for the first time visitors from Taiwan together with Chaplains Rev. Fr Ariston Sison Jr of the Philippines, Rev. Fr Edward Lim of Singapore and Rev. Fr Carlo Velardo of Thailand.

Attending also were Ingo Radtke, Secretary General of Malteser International (the international disaster and humanitarian relief arm of the Order) and Bruno de Marin de Carranrais CIOMAL (the International Committee of the Order of Malta Against Leprosy).

Wide ranging discussion included communications, a topic of high priority in the Grand Magistry and reports on national activities, youth, and regional projects. One important aspect was vigorous discussion on planning for the future, maintaining the regional momentum of the Order, various Members with special regional interests have enthusiastically committed their time





and personal resources to further this development.

The Asia Pacific Conferences have been seen as essentially hospitaller in content but with the persistent underlying theme of the inseparability of *Obsequium Pauperum* and *Tuitio Fidei*, with the overriding emphasis on our service to Our Lords, the poor and the sick being an essential core of our spiritual existence in the Order. Whilst charitable works are worthy in their own right, importantly for us, they are also our means of strengthening our own faith and spirituality, our own personal exercise in *Tuitio Fidei*.

One very strong message arising from the conference is the necessity to concentrate on the involvement of volunteers and youth in the activities of the Order.

The expansion of the Order of Malta's activities in the Asian continent and Australia and the increase in regional cooperation were the key topics of the Order of Malta's 7th Asia Pacific Conference.

Some 50 delegates met in Singapore from 9 to 12 November for this annual event to take

stock of the situation, assess progress, share experiences and reinforce synergies.

In detail, the Order's activities for the more vulnerable groups of the population in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Philippines, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea and Timor-Leste were discussed. A special session was also devoted to the programmes developed by Malteser International in Asia and the Ciomal Foundation in Cambodia, as well as the initiatives of the Global Fund for the Forgotten People.

There was particular applause for two transnational projects. The first is the Order of Malta's new medical centre in Dili, capital of Timor-Leste, one of the poorest south-east Asian countries. Inaugurated a few days before the conference by the Order's Ambassador David Scarf in the presence of the country's leaders, it already stands out for the high level of care offered, especially to those without the means to access the ordinary health service. The second project was prompted by the over 30-year experience

in summer camps for the disabled young organised by the Order's European volunteers. Last August, the Order of Malta's Singapore Association set up the first Asian edition of these international camps.

The Grand Chancellor, H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager and the Grand Hospitaller, H.E. Dominique Prince de la Rochefocault-Montbel chaired the meeting with the President of the Order's Singapore Association, Consoeur Rose Lu Soo Ying DMG.

The next appointment is for mid-November 2018, when the Philippine Association will be the organisers of the 8th Asia Pacific Conference in Manila. In the meantime, the second annual Asia-Pacific Summer Youth Camp for our region's disabled young people is being prepared and will be held from 6th – 8th June 2018 at the Villa Escudero in Tiaong, Quezon, a two hour drive from Manila.



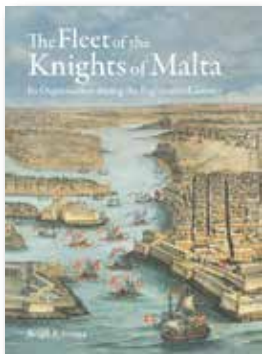


BOOKS

Reviews of recently published books on the history, art, culture and society of the Sovereign Military Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta

The Original Redcoats of the Sea

This exceptional study into the Order's navy in the eighteenth century reveals a good deal of information about the actual vessels – the galleys, the third-rates and the frigates with their uses, advantages, shortcomings, replacements, costs and the actual 'muscle' of the Order's warships – the personnel serving on board who include the Officer-Knights, technical and deck officers, all crewmen, oarsmen, and officials together with the religious and material considerations including discipline, health and the social aspect of the fleet, writes Frà Richard Divall AO OBE CCM.



The Fleet of the Knights of Malta

by Joseph F. Grima
448 pages, \$69.30

The fortunes of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta has ebbed and flowed dramatically over the thousand years of its existence, particularly during its Maltese period, when it was enjoying its highest profile ever on the world stage. Even when international criticism over its very *raison d'être*, its politics and its achievements started gathering momentum, its small, dashing, thieving fleet held the respect of most observers of the maritime scene. Over the years, everything else changed, mostly in the direction of decline, but the ships of the Order remained a model of beautifully-honed

organisational skills throughout the Mediterranean.

We know that, in seamanship, Tuscany under the Medici Grand Dukes copied the Maltese schemes and constitutions, and that when the French under Cardinal Richelieu decided to invest in a powerful navy, they did it with an observant eye on the Malta blueprint. A Frenchman who had undergone his naval training on the ships of the Order had a guaranteed career spread out for him, and many of the great French naval heroes had learnt the tricks of navigation on the vessels of the Knights of Malta.

The fleet of Malta has been doubly fortunate, in so far as it retained its prestige and ascendancy even when most of the other institutions of the Order had started collapsing, and also because it has attracted plenty

of well-informed historical attention.

There has been no dearth of historians who concentrated on researching and publicising its history and its achievements. All have all contributed validly to overviews or specialised publications on the navy of the Order, or on some of its aspects or activities. It is one subject in our history which cannot lament being under-researched.

But one area of interest had not been systematically explored so far: the internal workings of the Order's fleet. The chains of command and hierarchies, the supplies and suppliers, the medical services, salaries and remuneration, legal regulation, ship building and repairing, tactical prowess and manoeuvring, staffing, signalling and communications, the bureaucracy, discipline, training,



spiritual care, promotions and a score of other aspects that enabled the ships to operate on their own and as part of a murderously unforgiving pack, like well-oiled clockwork.

This is the gap that the author, Joseph Grima has filled painstakingly, with much enthusiasm, thoroughness and competence. His weighty book is a consummation of every published, and I believe, of most unpublished sources which could throw light on the subject.

To be fair, some bites had been taken at this particular apple before, but never with such relentless and coordinated dedication. This book beats, in depth and ambition, anything on the organisation of the Order's navy that had been attempted before. His bibliography, especially that of the manuscript archives he trawled, strikes one as nothing short of awesome.

Grima was the right person with the right passion to undertake this massive toil. A proud son of the Maltese town of Qormi, located southwest of Valletta and for 32 years he acted as Secretary of the Malta

Historical Society. He wound up his professional journey in 2006 as Assistant Director of Education. He has published extensively about the history of the Order, but I believe this to be his major and most comprehensive work so far.

I would not want anyone to run away with the idea that this is all about dull civil service and admiralty organisational stuff. Grima's wisdom led him to hone in on action and the human element, the heroics and the failings of the men of the Navy.

The book deals with the dire fates of those seamen who fell into slavery, the savage punishments to maintain discipline or to gratify the sadism of the *agozzini*, and the penalties for blasphemy "defaming God, the saints or our holy faith"; the scourges of early navigation, dysentery and scurvy; the outbreaks of the lethal plague and the paranoid measures the Order had in place to staunch the spreading of contagion; the sinfully lavish banqueting reserved for the officers, and the more guardedly spartan menu of the crews; the musicians on board, to entertain and for signal purposes; and the different

classes of rowers, the human motors when ships started depending on them for speed and manoeuvrability rather than on unreliable winds in the sails. All these are here.

Four types of oarsmen propelled the Order's ships: the slaves – mostly Muslim – who were forced to row because they had fallen in captivity; criminals condemned by the courts to row in the galleys; those who had crashed into debt and had to raise money by breaking their backs on the oars – the *buonavoglia* – and finally those who had freely chosen to be seamen in the pursuit of a trade. Different rules applied to each class, but all scored pretty low in the pecking order. None as disreputable as the *buonavoglia*, a word still in current Maltese as an epithet of contempt, a blackguard. To call anyone *buonavoglia frustato* (whipped) amounted, we are told, to slander actionable in court.

The navy of the Knights is no more, but the Order, as much as its men, helped to profile Malta and the Maltese nation – a community that

believed, as a nation, without the faintest vacillation, that legalised thieving, called corsairing, was the best way forward. But also a nation that, before many others, practised the social dimension of solidarity – free health services, free hospitals, orphanages, limited education, some pension schemes, legal aid and social housing were introduced or put on a stronger footing during the rule of the Knights. It is fitting for historians to record for future generations these pioneer attempts at governance with a social soul.

Grima has here fashioned a notable tessera for the overall mosaic of life under our Order.

Scandals, duels and diplomacy in eighteenth century Malta

Thomas Freller is an author and researcher of great note and his latest book on the Comte de Bavière is one for any library interested in the Order of Malta. This is a captivating book, based on the material of researched in various European archives, finally presents a long-overdue biography of a colourful character - Maximilien Emanuel François Joseph, Comte de Bavière.



The Fabulous life of the Comte de Bavière in Malta

by Thomas Freller
140 pages, \$24.00

The end came unexpectedly and suddenly; the bomb which had been shot from a large-calibre cannon from not too far away exploded close to Maximilien Emanuel François Joseph, Comte de Bavière, and tore his body into “two parts”, as an eye witness reported.

This spectacular end in the Battle of Lauffeld (Lawfeld, in modern Belgium) on 2 July 1747 somewhat echoed one of the most spectacular lives and careers of the eighteenth century.

Novice and negotiator in the service of the Order of Malta, candidate to the post of Grand Prior of Castille, but a bastard son of a prince and married to his niece, a lieutenant general in the French Army and fighting at the forefront of many battles, French envoy, lover of his father’s mistress and protagonist of several scandals and duels, the Comte de Bavière was one of the most notorious and popular figures of his time. Based on material of various European archives, this book finally presents the long-overdue biography of his colourful character.

The Order of Malta played a crucial part in the life of the Comte de Bavière. He aspired to high office in the Order and was twice present on the Order’s island nation-state when Malta was again threatened by Ottoman

attacks.

That a bastard son of the Duke Elector of Bavaria was received into the Order whose regulations insisted on extensive proofs of nobility, highlights the geopolitical events that the Order was constantly being drawn into during the dying days of the Ancien Régime.

Thomas Freller’s second book for 2015 offers a glance behind the facades built by the Order to limit entry and project aristocratic strength. Freller also questions how, in the *Ancien Régime*, the legitimate children of princes were used as precious tools and pawns in Europe’s game of political chess; where their marriages were decisive in forming alliances and sealing treaties.

Freller particularly focuses on the Houses of Wittelsbach and Hapsburg, in which the latter of the two saw its possessions in early modern Europe increase tremendously through marriages and inheritances. Such were the marriages arranged by the Hapsburg Emperors that a proverb was coined *Bella gerant alii tu felix Austria nube* (‘Leave the others to make wars, you, happy Austria, marry’).

The author also poses the question what became of illegitimate children of princes and royals? Many of them, of both sex, were also promoted to a high status and received prestigious positions. And the Order of Malta was seen by many caring princely parents as one means to provide their

illegitimate sons with lucrative and high-ranking positions.

The Order of Malta not only played an important part in the life of Maximilien Emanuel François Joseph, but the attentions of his father, the Duke Elector of Bavaria, were also very often drawn to the island State and the affairs of the Order.

The book interestingly charts the Duke Elector’s attempts to establish a Bavarian Priory of the Order and efforts to sequestrate a wealthy Bavarian monastery with the view of converting it into a prestigious hospital. Freller’s research unearths the plot behind the Duke Elector’s plans; to provide his favourite illegitimate offspring Maximilien Emanuel François Joseph with the prestigious position of Prior. It is interesting to read that the young Comte de Bavière was not alone as an illegitimate son seeking preferment within the Order of Malta. Interestingly an acquaintance of his, the Bali d’Oreans, the natural son of the regent of France the Duc d’Orleans and Mme d’Argenton had also been admitted into the Order and was to be promoted to the position of Grand Prior in 1748, a year after the Comte de Bavière’s death on the battle field of Lauffeld.

This is an intriguing book and keeps the reader’s attention with new information on the Order during the age of the Ancien Régime. It is a book that will be interesting to historians and general readers alike.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL

Many members of the Australian Association have gone on pilgrimage. Recently **Confrere Superintendent Seán Parnell OAM KMG** travelled to Greece and Turkey to walk in the footsteps of the Apostle St Paul.

In July I was fortunate enough to join with the Northern Territory Catholic Education pilgrimage. The chosen journey was entitled “In the Footsteps of St Paul” and covered St Paul’s journey throughout Asia Minor (Turkey) and Greece.

When St Paul first came to Athens it was predominantly a city which worshipped pagan gods. St Paul was taken before the city council at the Areopagus Hill, a rough outcrop of limestone rock from which he preached the Gospel message to the Athenian philosophers (Acts 17:16-21).

We began our pilgrimage with a tour of Christian Athens including the Acropolis and the Areopagus where St Paul delivered his famous sermon about the identity of “the Unknown God” (Acts 17:15-34). Three of our highlights while in Athens was a visit to the Ancient Agora where St Paul preached about Jesus and the resurrection, the Plaka (Old Greece) and an exploration of the historic Parthenon. We were also lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the Kallimármaro Stadium, dating back to 330BC, which was later restored for the staging of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

From Athens we journeyed out to Ancient Corinth where the Apostle Paul lived for almost two years, teaching the people the Word of God and converting many. On arrival we viewed the Erastus inscription – dating from the 1st century AD – which describes a Christian convert, Erastus (Rom 16:23) who was the ‘director of public works’ in Corinth.

While in Corinth we visited the city’s ancient ruins and the site where the Apostle preached the Gospel from the revered Public Rostrum, as well as the Peirene fountain and the 6th century BC Temple of Apollo, before our Chaplain, Rev Asaeli Raass SVD celebrated an outdoor Mass in such a stunning pilgrimage setting.

From Corinth we departed for Cenchræe, the ancient port from where St Paul said farewell to the believers and departed for Ephesus (Acts 18:18), where we travelled north to the remarkable Byzantine Monastery of Hosios Loukas, built in the 11th century on the slopes of Mt Helikon. In 1990 UNESCO included this site on their World Heritage List. On arrival we celebrated our second outdoor Mass with Fr Raass in the grounds of the Monastery and were later taken on a guided



tour of the Churches, crypt and surround areas where we admired the amazing frescoes and mosaics.

Our next stop was the small Greek town of Kalambaka, built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks of Meteora. We spent what felt like days marvelling at this unique phenomenon of nature – a collection of 24 perpendicular rocks where 600 years ago Byzantine monks chose to worship God and build their cave-like Monastic community of Meteora. We took to walking through quite a number of these living monasteries and explored the extraordinary collection of priceless religious frescoes and other treasures that survive under the care and protection of a religious community that continues to live and pray in and around Meteora.

Not far from Meteora is the ancient town of Beroea, now modern Veria, to visit the “Bema” – an impressive monument to St Paul. According to local folklore, the monument is believed to incorporate the steps from the original synagogue in Beroea from which St Paul preached the gospel to the Jews of the region, who welcomed the word of God and began to study the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-12). It was also at this time that a small church was established in Beroea. While in the town we visited a collection of about 20 Byzantine

structures, known as the ‘hidden churches’. These structures were at some point in history camouflaged in the form of barns to hide them from the invading Ottoman Turks for fear they would destroy them.

In following the footsteps of St Paul, our next port of call was literally a port city – the port city of Kavala (ancient Neapolis), once named “Christoupolis” after being the first European city to accept Christianity. It was here that St Paul, St Timothy and St Silas first landed from Troas (Acts 16:11), one of the great moments in the history of Christianity.

From Kavala we journeyed up to Philippi, named after King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. It was here that St Paul won his first European convert, a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira (Acts 16:12-40). While in Philippi we visited the Baptistry of Lydia and held a beautiful outdoor Mass on the breathtaking oasis next to the River Zygaktis, and our group renewed its Baptismal vows. We took the opportunity to pay a visit to the market place (where St Paul and St Silas were brought before the city’s rulers) and the water cistern which tradition identifies as the place where St Paul was imprisoned. We also listened to the story of Paul’s arrest, imprisonment and miraculous release at the city’s ancient theatre.



In departing Philippi, we journeyed east along the ancient route St Paul took via Amphipolis (Acts 17:1) where we viewed the ruins of quite a number of early Christian basilicas.

When we finally arrived in Thessaloniki, Greece's second city, founded in 315 BC, and where St Paul preached during the winters of 49-50AD and wrote the two epistles to the ancient Thessalonians. It was here that he established the first Christian Church in Europe.

Our visit included the ramparts of the city, the triumphal Arch of Galerius, as well as the Rotunda where we saw pieces of the pulpit from which St Paul preached. We were also lucky enough to visit the Roman Agora where St Paul also preached. Nearby we visited St Demetrios' Church dedicated to a Roman soldier who converted to Christianity, and was later martyred. The Church is home to some very valuable mosaics and frescoes, and when we descended in to the Church's crypt we found the remains of some ancient Roman baths and streets.

Following our visit to St Demetrios' we ascended to the 'ano poli' (old town) to the Byzantine Vlatodon Monastery, built over Jason's house (Acts 17:5) where St Paul stayed during his time in Thessaloniki.

From Thessaloniki we returned to the Athenian port of Piraeus and embarked by boat to the Dodecanese island of Patmos, where St John the Beloved wrote the Book of Revelation.

Lying between the islands of Leros and Ikaria is the 'ascetic shaped' Patmos, called the 'Jerusalem of the Aegean' due to the overwhelming atmosphere of the island during the great celebrations of Christianity.

We began our day on Patmos with a walking tour of the main square of the village of Chora. This is the traditional settlement and capital of Patmos, where the narrow streets were designed to ward off pirates over the centuries. Ascend to the Monastery of St John the Beloved, a huge fortress-like building dating from the 11th century, for a visit and celebration of Mass. Our exploration of this living monastery culminated with spending time in the actual Cave of Revelation where God chose to reveal to St John the mysteries of the last book of the Bible - the Apocalypse. The cave is now at the foot of a monastery, which houses priceless icons and manuscripts, sacred relics, vestments embroiled with silver or gold threads and bejeweled with precious stones.

We continued to the active Convent of Evangelismos (Annunciation) built by the hieromonk Nikiphoros who was cured from the plague after praying to St Luke the Evangelist. We visited the Convent of



Zoodochos Pigi and its icons dating from the 16th to the 18th century. We also enjoyed a short scenic tour of the island.

The group chartered a boat to Kusadasi, the doorway to Ephesus, the Churches of Revelation and Gallipoli. We travelled directly to Ephesus on a beautiful Turkish morning, to the most famous of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev 2:1-7) where St Paul spent more than two years in the course of his third missionary journey. It was to the Christian community of Ephesus that St Paul wrote his greatest and most challenging letter (the epistle to the Ephesians) and also succeeded in converting many away from worship of the god Artemis.

Our visit included the ruins where St Paul lived and preached, we saw the prison of St Paul, walked through the ancient marble streets founded in the 10th century BC and through most 'complete' Roman city which provided our group with an excellent window into Imperial Rome. Our tour also took in the Temple of Hadrian, the Library of Celsus and the city's enormous amphitheatre (Acts 19:29-31), before we paid a visit to the ruins of the Christian Basilica where the Third

Ecumenical Council took place in 431AD and where Our Lady was proclaimed "Mother of God".

On our final day we ascended the hill to the House of the Virgin Mary where it is said Mary spent the later years of her life. We celebrated our last group Mass here in one of the chapels before visiting the restored remains of the 6th century Basilica of St John at Celcuk, where a small church was originally built over the tomb of St John the Evangelist.

The Order of Malta and its international reach was also evident in our journey, as our group were lucky enough to have witnessed a truck from Malteser International waiting at the border to enter Turkey on a humanitarian relief mission. We also came across the eight-pointed Maltese cross carved into the walls of a number of the Byzantine-era churches throughout Turkey.

We departed Turkey for home on the eve of the foiled coup attempt against the Government and so missed visiting Istanbul (the ancient Christian capital of the Eastern Roman Empire, Constantinople). However, this has left me with a city and a new pilgrimage for a future date.





**Meeting of the Council
Complete of State, 29 April 2017**
Australia was represented by Confreere Dr Ian
Marshall AM AE KC*SG KGCMG(Ob) and
Confreere Professor David Kissane KMG(Ob)





SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE DI MALTA
POSTE MAGISTRALI



Sebastiano Mainardi: Natività di Gesù. Città del Vaticano, Pinacoteca Vaticana (Musei Vaticani)

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ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

The Order's website in Australia: www.orderofmalta.org.au



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The Order's international website: www.orderofmalta.int

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