

# HAITI: FIVE YEARS AFTER QUAKE, THE COUNTRY STILL NEEDS HELP

Marie-Luise and her newborn child in the mother-child center in Darbonne. Photo: ADH/Schmetz

## MALTESER INTERNATIONAL EXTENDS ASSISTANCE UNTIL 2017

Five years after the terrible earthquake that destroyed large parts of Haiti, the country still needs further assistance despite some visible progress in the fields of social infrastructure. Malteser International will therefore continue to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country at least until 2017.

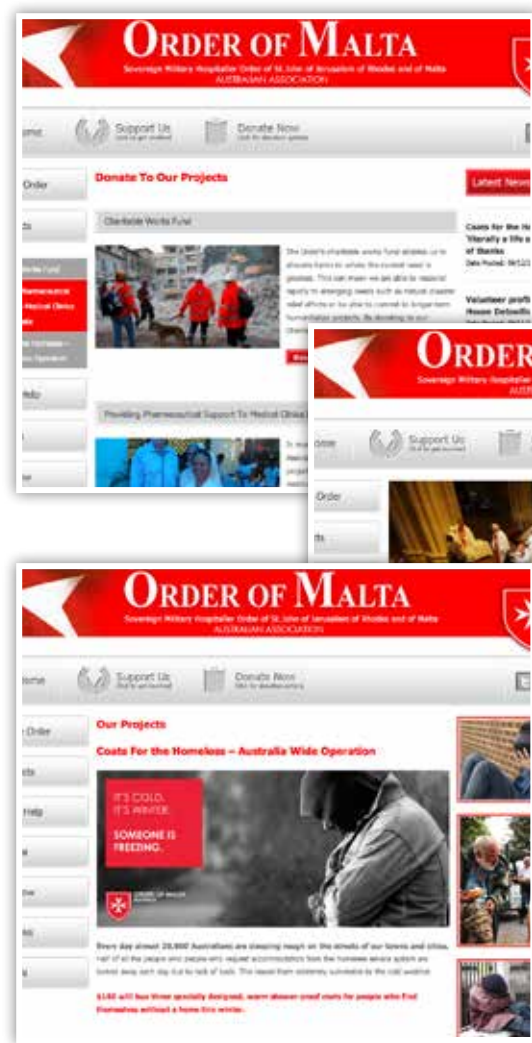
The relief service of the Order of Malta for humanitarian aid has already spent around 10 million euros for emergency aid and reconstruction measures. The living conditions of many people are still very poor. In addition to the earthquake, tropical hurricanes have repeatedly destroyed the crops, so that especially people living in poor areas suffer from limited access to nutrition. Particularly in the rainy season, the ongoing cholera outbreaks continue to weaken the population's health status.

Malteser International concentrates on improving basic health care, food security, water supply and sanitation as well as disaster preparedness in Haiti. In this, the relief service focuses on the cooperation with and the capacity building of local partners in order to make the country independent from external aid in the long term. "Our programs aim at strengthening the Haitian people and further developing their capacities," says Thomas Huefken, Malteser International Program Coordinator in Haiti. "This means that we train local partner organisations not only in project implementation, but also in the areas of administration, logistics and conflict management." In these trainings, volunteers from partner organizations work together with Malteser International staff and thus gain practical skills. "In this way, we ensure that our local partners will become able to continue the projects even without us," says Huefken.

The maternity ward in Darbonne near Léogâne may serve as an example for this approach: It was opened in 2012 and is part of the health center that Malteser International had

rebuilt after the earthquake 2010 in cooperation with the Episcopal Church. After continuous trainings of the medical staff in basic health care and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cholera as well as of the administrative staff, Malteser International could finally hand over the maternity ward as well as the health center to the Episcopal Church which now manages both centers on its own responsibility. "When we opened the maternity ward two years ago, we had around 25 births per month. Currently, about 70 newborns see the light of day each month", says the medical director Dr. Alix Ariste. "The word about the new and good service provided by the maternity ward and the health center has spread." Each month, the medical team treats about 2,000 patients, controls growth and weight of more than 600 children and carries out around 400 vaccinations.

Visit [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) for regular updates regarding our International Humanitarian aid efforts



## WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ACTIVITIES?

- Regular updates of our relief activities around the world and local projects
- Image galleries from our spiritual activities and charitable works
- Details of upcoming events
- Videos of our humanitarian activities around the world.

Visit [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au)



### We have been serving the sick and the poor for over 900 years.

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If you would like to receive a copy of our bequest brochure, please complete and return the form on page 5.



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FEBRUARY 2015  
NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE - SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES / BRANCH FUNDRAISERS / PROJECT UPDATES

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALER

Welcome to the first edition of the Australian Associations newsletter in 2015. As usual within these pages we hope to share with you the activities of the Order since the last newsletter and introduce you to some upcoming initiatives for the year.

Headlining this edition is an update from the Order's international relief agency, who are currently active in West Africa in an effort to fight the spread of the Ebola epidemic. This is just one of many projects that Malteser International are involved in across the globe and we regularly reports on their activities on our website.

This issue also includes some of the initiatives undertaken by the state branches, including the Lourdes Day Mass celebrations in Sydney and Melbourne that took place at the end of 2014 and upcoming celebrations in other states. It also details upcoming fundraising events and updates on local projects undertaken by the branches.

It is also with great pleasure that I can confirm that in 2015 we will be distributing 3,000 of our Coats for the Homeless across the country this coming winter. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project and that enables us to help so many of "our Lords, the sick and the poor".

Finally, as our next newsletter is not scheduled until July, I invite you all to get in the habit of frequently visiting our website, [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) with its weekly updates of our activities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Ian Leitch

Dr. Ian Leitch RFD, MB



## EBOLA: FIGHTING THE EPIDEMIC IN WEST AFRICA

As the worst Ebola outbreak since the discovery of the virus continues to run rampant in West Africa, the international emergency relief agency of the Order of Malta, Malteser International, is joining the efforts to fight the spreading epidemic.

"The epidemic still shows no signs of slowing down," says Marie Benner, Malteser International's public health expert. "Although the international community has stepped up its efforts, the crisis continues to be overwhelming."

Together with its partner agency, Order of Malta France (OMF), Malteser International is channeling funds toward awareness and prevention campaigns in Guinea, one of the countries most affected by the crisis.

"Preventive measures are key to control the outbreak and to keep it from spreading to neighboring regions," Benner says. "All communities must be informed and take measures to protect themselves accordingly, if we are to keep the outbreak from spiraling out of control."

In Liberia, OMF sent 1.6 tons of protective gear such as tents, coats, gloves, and boots, as well as cleaning and disinfection

products, tests and medicines. Another batch of equipment was sent to Pita, Guinea, to be managed by the OMF clinic. These prevention kits allow health professionals to observe the necessary protocols to avoid the risk of contamination.

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that it had considered the epidemic of Ebola hemorrhagic fever as a "public health emergency of global reach." The outbreak has so far killed more than 3,300 people in West Africa – most of them in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. More than 7,000 cases have been confirmed, and the WHO warns that tens of thousands more could be infected within the next few months, if the international community does not intensify its efforts.

There is currently no vaccine to protect people against Ebola. The virus is transmitted by direct contact with blood, secretions, body fluids or organs. After an incubation period of 2-21 days, the patient starts displaying the first symptoms of high fever, body aches, joint pain, vomiting, diarrhea, or hemorrhaging. The average fatality rate is currently around 50%

## LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS BRINGING LOURDES WATER TO THE MALADES IN AUSTRALIA



Melbourne picture courtesy of Kairos Catholic Journal/Casamento Photography



Sydney picture courtesy of Giovanni Portelli Photography

On the first weekend in May, Members of the Order from all over the world make the pilgrimage to Lourdes to accompany 'malades' (the sick) who pray to Mary the Immaculate Conception and bathe in the healing waters.

For those who are unable to make the arduous and expensive trip to France, Members of the Order host Lourdes Day Mass celebrations around the country. A Blessing of good health takes place during the celebration of the Liturgy with water brought from the Shrine of Lourdes. Those receiving the Blessing are also provided with a bottle of Lourdes Water for their personal use.

The annual Mass is open to all, but those who are sick, facing health challenges and wanting good health are particularly encouraged to attend.

### Sydney

On Saturday 29th November, over 500 people attended the Order's annual Lourdes Day Mass in Sydney at St Mary's Cathedral. The Principal Celebrant was the newly installed Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP and included his first public homily since his installation.

Go to [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) to read Archbishop Fisher's homily from the Mass.

### Melbourne

On Saturday 6 December, thousands of people gathered in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne to celebrate the Order's Lourdes Day Mass. Archbishop Denis Hart again led the celebration of the Mass, supported by chaplains from the Order of Malta, priests of the Cathedral and Fr Tony Kerin, Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Service.

Go to [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) to view a full gallery of images for the Mass.

### Upcoming Lourdes Day Mass celebrations in other states:

**SA**  
11th February 2015, 10am at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide

**WA**  
Sunday 3 May 2015, 11am at St Mary's Cathedral, Perth

**QLD**  
date in May 2015 TBC. Please continue to visit [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au)



## POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS RAYMOND LEO BURKE CARDINALIS PATRONUS OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke has been appointed Cardinalis Patronus of the Sovereign Order of Malta by His Holiness Pope Francis. Previously Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, he succeeds Cardinal Paolo Sardi, who was appointed Patron of the Sovereign Order of Malta in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI.

*"I extend a warm welcome to Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke, who is from today the new Cardinalis Patronus of the Order of Malta, and I sincerely thank Pope Francis for his appointment,"* the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, announced. *"This role has hitherto been very capably held by Cardinal Paolo Sardi and I express my deepest gratitude, and that of all the Order's members, for his great commitment and devotion over the past five years. He will remain one of our most eminent and esteemed confrere."*

Cardinal Burke has been a member of the Order of Malta since June 2011.

The Cardinalis Patronus of the Order of Malta is the Pontiff's representative to the Sovereign Order of Malta and has the task of promoting its spiritual interests and that of its 13,500 members, as well as being responsible for relations with the Holy See. The Cardinalis Patronus is a distinctive element of the strong centuries-old links between the Vatican and the Order of Malta.

## NSW BRANCH CONTINUE TO SUPPORT TO ST JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL PALLIATIVE CARE UNIT

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta is very active throughout Australia supporting the services of St Vincents Health Australia in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

Before Christmas, members of the NSW Branch presented St Joseph's a Palliative Care Unit in Auburn with a \$30,301 cheque to purchase medical equipment and aids that are not affordable through normal health budgets.

Dr Andrew Dorigo received the cheque from NSW Branch Chairman, Mr David Hall AM and Members of the Order, Dr Robert Costa, Dr George Boffa, and Dr Sephen Quain. The equipment was requested by the staff that work at the unit and included:



Dr Andrew Dorigo receiving the cheque from Mr David Hall AM and (from left to right) Members of the Order Dr Robert Costa, Dr George Boffa and Dr Stephen Quain

- \* 4 x High/low beds
- \* 2 x Shower Commode Chairs with Accessories
- \* 1 x Hand Held Ultra Sound Device
- \* 1 x Examination bed for Clinic Room
- \* 4 x Footstools to elevate patients legs
- \* 3 x Sofa beds.

The NSW Branch's support of the unit began in 2010 and in addition to the above equipment, has enabled the unit to also purchase portable morphine pumps and enabled the refurbishment of the family and quiet rooms.

## MEMBERS OF THE ORDER PROVIDE GUARD OF HONOUR AT THE INSTALLATION OF BISHOP FISHER AS THE NINTH ARCHBISHOP OF SYDNEY



Picture courtesy of Giovanni Portelli Photography

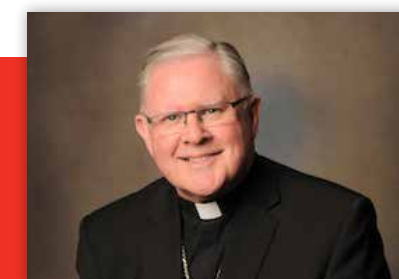
On 12 November, St Mary's Cathedral was filled to capacity for the installation of Bishop Anthony Colin Fisher OP, as the ninth Archbishop of Sydney. The congregation included archbishops, bishops, civic and religious leaders and thousands of well-wishers. Members from the Order of Malta were also in attendance and were privileged to provide a Guard of Honour to the Archbishop who is also a Conventual Chaplain ad Honorem of our Order.

During the ceremony, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, the papal nuncio who has just been appointed the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States, read Pope Francis's words of election in Latin before Archdiocesan Chancellor Monsignor John Usher read out the English translation.

During his homily, Archbishop Fisher outlined his objective for the Archdiocese during his tenure, *"My hope is for a Church in which the Gospel is preached with joy, the wisdom of our tradition minded with fidelity, the sacraments celebrated with dignity and welcome, and the seminaries, convents and youth groups teeming with new life,"* he said, *"a Church in which our parishes, chaplaincies and educational institutions are true centres of the new evangelisation, our laity theologically literate and spiritually formed, our outreach to the needy effective and growing; and God glorified above all."*

Go to [orderofmalta.org.au](http://orderofmalta.org.au) to view more pictures from the Installation Ceremony

In 2015, the Branch has committed to providing the unit with a further \$30,000 donation. If you would like to assist the NSW Branch support St Joseph's Palliative Care Unit, go to page 5 to make a donation.



## INVITATION: FUNDRAISING DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

ALL WELCOME

**Date:**  
Friday 15th May 2015 at 7pm

**Venue:**  
Parliament House, Brisbane

**Dress uniform:**  
Black Tie

**Tickets:**  
\$200 per head – proceeds will go towards the Coats for the Homeless project

**RSVP:**  
Email [michael.greene@ap.jjl.com](mailto:michael.greene@ap.jjl.com)

## PROJECT UPDATE: TIMOR-LESTE PHARMACEUTICALS PROGRAM

One of the Australian Association's ongoing projects is the delivery of pharmaceuticals to small clinics in Timor-Leste which provide primary medical care for significant numbers of Timorese in underprivileged urban and isolated rural areas. These clinics run by local congregations are dependent on shipments such as ours to provide treatment to the patients that visit them.

Members in SA purchase the medicines at discounted or wholesale prices and freight has been generously supported by Jebbens Shipping, ensuring that all donations are optimised.

The first pharmaceutical shipment for 2015, comprising of seven cartons of medicines was dispatched in the first week of January. The Order's Ambassador to Timor-Leste, David Scarf AM and colleagues are transporting the consignment as they travel to Timor-Leste on an official visit.



The frequency of the deliveries to the clinics is largely dictated by the funds available to this project. Our aim in 2015 is to ensure that the clinics have sufficient supplies to ensure that they are able to provide treatment to their patients throughout the year.

### THE COST OF TREATMENT

\* \$21 would pay for 3 courses of Amoxicillin, an antibiotic used to treat a wide range of infections, such as pneumonia, middle ear infections, kidney infections and even life threatening conditions such as peritonitis.

\* \$38 would pay for a year's course of Ibuprofen. In a country where most

of the work is done in the field by manual labour, muscular aches and pains can be chronically debilitating. This inexpensive anti-inflammatory drug would allow the family bread winner to continue working.

\* \$110 would pay for 10 courses of Erythromycin, used to treat whooping cough – a potentially fatal infection.

\* \$500 would supply an entire clinic with a year's supply of Paracetamol to provide pain relief for a multitude of possible ailments.

If you would like to support this project that please go to page 5 to make a donation.

## I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the reply paid envelope provided.

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
- Timor-Leste Pharmaceuticals Project
- St Joseph's Hospital Palliative Care Unit

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

- Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Name

Address

State  Postcode  Telephone

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order

(payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$  or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency  Once only Card Type  Visa

Monthly  MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date  Cardholder name

Signature