



Australian HOSPITALLER 2012

The Annual Review of the Australian Association of Sovereign Military
Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta





His Most Eminent Highness Frà Matthew Festing, 79th Prince and Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta.



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Mission of the Order of Malta

Because of its centuries-old experience and its members' active involvement in the major trends in society, the Order has been able to adapt its resources and methods rapidly, keeping constantly up to date, to be in a position to tackle the new and ever-growing needs for medical aid, emergency relief and humanitarian mission.



The origins of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta - better known as the Order of Malta - go back to the eleventh century.

When the crusaders arrived in Jerusalem in AD 1099, the Hospitallers were administering the Hospital of St John the Baptist, which had been established around 1048 to care for pilgrims coming to the Holy Land and for the indigenous Christian, Jewish and Muslim population. Made a religious Order by a Bull issued by Pope Pascal II in 1113, the Order had to defend the sick and Christian territory. Today, its mission is an exclusively humanitarian one, as its military role ended with the loss of its territory in 1798.

In accordance with the Constitutional Charter, the purpose of the Sovereign Order of Malta is

the promotion of... the Christian virtues of charity and brotherhood. The Order carries out its charitable works for the sick, the needy and refugees without distinction of religion, race, origin or age.

The Order fulfils its institutional tasks especially by carrying out hospitaller works, including health and social assistance, as well

as aiding victims of exceptional disasters and war...

The Order has a permanent presence in most countries in the world, both developed and developing. This presence has been built up over nine centuries of colourful history, in which it took part in the great exchanges between Europe and the Mediterranean basin and the rest of the world, gradually extending its scope to cover most of the geographical areas in which its charitable mission could usefully be conducted.

Because of its centuries-old experience and its members' active involvement in the major trends in society, the Order has been able to adapt its resources and methods rapidly, keeping constantly up to date, to be in a position to tackle the new and ever-growing needs for medical aid, emergency relief and humanitarian mission.

Today, the Order is a major global, professional organisation in terms of the humanitarian aid, medical care and emergency medicine it provides, in its management of hospitals, specialised homes for dependent elderly people, socio-medical care centres, the collection and transporting of medicines and the training of workers and ambulance staff.

Arms and Emblems of the Order

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 Priories, Sub-Priories, National Associations and Diplomatic Missions.



The Grand Master

The arms of Grand Master Frà Matthew Festing are quartered with those of the Order. At 1 and 4 gules (red) a cross argent; at 2 and 3 azure an eagle displayed ermine between three castles argent. The arms are surrounded by the Collar, symbol of the Grand Master, within a princely mantle and surmounted by a closed crown.



The 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).



President's Report

Our Order is a large and close family with Members whose bonds of friendship and support traverse the world and whose dedication to the Defence of the Faith and Service to the Poor and Sick is more necessary now than ever.

A.J. McD. Macken AM President

The Australian Association has experienced a fulfilling and productive year in 2012, including growth in our membership to almost 300 strong aided by nascent groups established in Thailand and Hong Kong. Our Association has also had full programs of activities reported throughout this Hospitaller by the Vice Presidents of the States, a few of which are highlighted below.

Grand Master's Historic Visit to Australia

Fulfilling the long-held desire of his late predecessor, Frà Andrew Bertie (1988 – 2008), His Most Eminent Highness Grand Master Frà Matthew Festing accompanied by two High Charges of the Order visited Australia for nine days in May. The Grand Master's visit included stops in Perth, Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

During the tour the Grand Master was keen to meet as many members of the Australian Association as possible, inspect representative activities and take in a number of our characteristically Australian landmarks.

The opportunity to meet with the young men and women of Newman College, Melbourne, Campion College, Sydney and members of New South Wales' youth movement YOOM were particular highlights for the Grand Master.

At each leg of the Grand Master's journey across Australia works undertaken and supported by the Australian Association were presented and each visit held special memory for those in attendance, including the Friends and Advocates in Perth's Personal Advocacy Service, those in palliative care at Caritas Christi Hospice, Melbourne and drug and alcohol rehabilitation patients at Gorman House, Sydney. While in Australia the Grand Master, who is Head of a Sovereign State recognized in International Law, met with a number of parliamentary representatives in Canberra and Sydney, as well as the Governor-General of Australia Quentin Bryce, the Governor of Western Australia Malcolm McCusker and the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria Marilyn Warren.

The Grand Master also called on the Apostolic Nuncio in Australia, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazarotto and the Archbishops of Perth and Melbourne. With Cardinal Pell in Rome for the term of the Grand Master's tour, Bishop Porteous of Sydney celebrated Mass on Pentecost Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral in the presence of the Grand Master and many members of the Order.

The tour culminated in a dinner held in the Grand Master's honour and attended by HRH the Duke of Gloucester, who is Grand Prior of the Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, as well as senior members of the Venerable Order and members of the Australian Association.

The Grand Master's tour of Australia would not have been made possible but for the hard work, support and generous benefaction of a number of members of the Australian Association. There is not enough space to name all members involved, however I will name a few without whose generous support the success of the visit would not have been possible. I extend a warm thank you to Confrere Denis and Consoeur Ann Cullity and Confrere Dr Michael and Consoeur Anna Shanahan in Western Australia, Confrere Sir James Gobbo in Victoria, Consoeur Jennifer Dunlop in the A.C.T. and Confreres David Hall and HE David Scarf together with Mrs Vanessa Scarf and Greg and Ann Sanderson in New South Wales.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2012

The well-organised pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2012 was led by the Hospitaller Dr Ian Marshall assisted by Olivia Meese of YOOM and attracted 28 participants; 12 from Hong Kong and two from South Africa joining 14 from Australia. The Chaplain to the pilgrimage was Rev. Dr. Peter L'Estrange SJ and the Irish Association as always made all welcome and entrusted us in assisting in the care of their *malades*.

Leaders Forum

This year's John Paul II Australian Leaders Conference was held in Sydney on August 10-12 and featured addresses by the Archbishop of Brisbane Mark Coleridge, Confrere Greg Craven and the Bishop of Parramatta Anthony Fisher OP. This year's keynote address was by Prof Robert (Robbie) George who spoke on the Five Pillars of Decent and Dynamic Societies.

Speakers billed as Entrepreneurs in Faith included Confrere Byron and Consoeur Francine Pirola and a member of New South Wales' youth movement, YOOM, Olivia Meese.

This was a highly successful meeting of Australian Catholics and friends of the Church crossing all social, political, cultural and religious divides.

Thank you to Confreres James Power and Karl Morris in providing organisational assistance to the John Paul II Australian Leaders Conference and to Cardinal Pell for his spiritual support provided to the Conference as head of the Church in Sydney.

Third Asia Pacific Regional Conference

The month of October saw the visit of the Grand Hospitaller of the Order, HE Albrecht von Boeselager, to the Third Asia Pacific Regional Conference which was held in Sydney on October 13-14. The Conference was attended by 12 national groups of the Order as well as aligned organizations; including the Singapore and Philippines Associations, the French and Portuguese Associations, CIOMAL, Malteser International, members in Thailand, Hong Kong and China, South Korea and Timor Leste.

Also in attendance were three Australian-born Ambassadors of the Order, Confreres HE Jim Dominguez, HE Michael Mann and HE David Scarf, as well as a representative of the Government Council, Confrere Simon Grenfell.

This year's Conference speaker came from the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne, Consoeur Prof Tracey Rowland, who presented her analysis on contemporary secularism which has since been requested by the Grand Magistracy.

The Conference concluded with dinner and this year's occasional address was delivered by General Peter Cosgrove who gave a soldier's view of the future of the Asia Pacific Region, particularly focusing on PNG. The General's address was well received by all in attendance.

Heartfelt Thanks

On behalf of the Australian Association, I record our thanks to HMEH the Prince and Grand Master and the High Charge of the Order for their inspirational leadership in 2012, especially the three High Charges who visited Australia over the course of the year.

I express the thanks of the Association to our Hospitaller Confrere Dr Ian Marshall who organised and led the Lourdes Pilgrimage in May and followed this up as host, together with Confrere David Hall, to the Third Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Sydney in October.



It would be difficult to measure what the Association owes to the National Officers, the Chancellor Confrere Brian Wilson, the Treasurer Confrere Paul Grew, the Hospitaller Confrere Dr Ian Marshall, the Director of Communications Confrere HE David Scarf and our Master of Ceremonies Confrere Tom Hazell. I acknowledge with appreciation the role of all members of our Executive Council in leading the Association, in particular the Vice-Presidents who Chair our State bodies, Confrere Sir James Gobbo (Victoria), Confrere Martin Daubney (Queensland), Confrere David Hall (New South Wales) and Confrere Greg Crafter (South Australia). The off-shore membership groups in Hong Kong, Bangkok and South Korea are rapidly moving to establish a sound basis for further growth through regular meetings, collective prayer and hospitaller works. The growth of each of these groups and the work they do has been singled out by the Grand Hospitaller, HE Albrecht von Boeselager, at the Third Asia Pacific Regional Conference.

This is also the place to put on record the extraordinary achievements in 2012 as in previous years of the three Australian-born Ambassadors Confreres HE Jim Dominguez, HE Michael Mann and HE David Scarf. Their energy and wise counsel direct and underpin the Order's works and growth in our geographic region. Not least is the role of the members of our Order whose support for their National Association, zeal and prayer powers the growth of the Order in Australia, as well as overseas. The innovation and creative

zeal of our members to improve our works and the assistance of their spouses, families and friends provide immense motivation and invaluable support for what our Order seeks to do.

We are particularly grateful for those Members disabled by illness or age for their continuing service and guidance to the Order and grace-filled endurance of their difficulties and sufferings and we are very conscious of their continuing role in the Order.

Finally, last but not least is what we owe to the Conventual Chaplains *ad honorem* and Magistral Chaplains who guide us on our spiritual journey.

It is apparent from visits to Australia by High Charges of the Order, our participation in Pilgrimages to Lourdes and from attendances at Regional Conferences that our Order is a large and close family with Members whose bonds of friendship and support traverse the world and whose dedication to the Defence of the Faith and Service to the Poor and Sick is more necessary now than ever.

With confraternal good wishes,

A.J. McD. Macken AM
President
Australian Association,

Congratulations

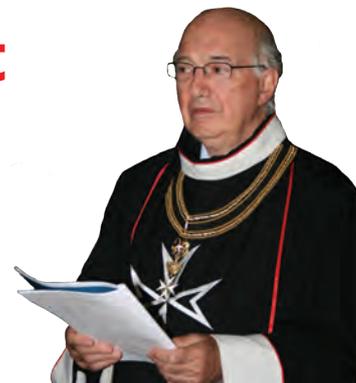
Congratulations to our Hospitaller, Dr Ian Marshall AE (with his wife Judith pictured right) on whom His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has conferred the honour of a papal knighthood by creating him a Knight Commander with Star in the Equestrian Order of St Gregory the Great. Dr Marshall's role of Hospitaller is responsible for Order's charitable and humanitarian works in Australia and its near neighbours. This includes significant medical relief operations in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. Dr. Marshall has also on his own account, and as part of the Order been active in the the provision of palliative care services in Brisbane.



Sub-Priory Regent's Report

During 2012 the Members of the Sub-Priory benefited from a steady stream of Reflections and papers prepared by our Principal Chaplain, Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins SJ, AC and by our Professed Knight Frà Richard Divall AO OBE.

The Hon. Sir James Gobbo AC CVO Regent



This Australian Sub-Priory of the Immaculate Conception formed in 2008 is one of only six Sub-Priories of the Order of Malta in the world. The other Sub-Priories are in Germany, Ireland, Spain, San Francisco and New York.

The Members in Obedience in the Sub-Priory are as follows:

- Dr Damian Benson
- Dr George Boffa OAM
- Adrian Borg-Cardona
- Kevin Croagh AO
- Frà Prof Richard Divall AO OBE
- James (Jim) Dominguez AM CBE KCSG
- Dr Jennifer Dunlop
- R. Gordon Edwards
- Prof Mary Galea
- Leonie Gallagher
- Ambrose Galvin
- Sir James Gobbo AC CVO
- Simon Grenfell
- Paul Grew OAM
- Anthony (Tony) J. McD. Macken AM
- Dr Ian Marshall AE
- Lady Murray
- Dr Nicholas Tonti-Filippini

The main event of the Sub-Priory during 2012 was the Annual Retreat which took place in February 2012 under the leadership of our Principal Chaplain, Rev Prof Gerald O'Collins SJ AC.

When promulgating in 2011 the new *Regulations and Commentary on Membership in the Order of Malta*, HMEH The Prince and Grand Master exhorted all members of the Order including members in Obedience to study the contents of the new publication "carefully and in depth". The Grand Master went on to write:

The Regulations and Commentary must be an object of reflection not only during standard meetings of the Order's various bodies but also during spiritual retreat: this special assignment is the duty of the Chaplains.

Accordingly the Principal Chaplain of the Sub-Priory, Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins SJ AC, gave particular attention to the Commentary in preparations for the Annual Retreat of the Sub-Priory in early February 2012. This Retreat followed the customary practice in Victoria of inviting all members and their families to participate in the third day of the Retreat.

During 2012 the Members of the Sub-Priory benefited from a steady stream of reflections and papers prepared by our Principal Chaplain, Rev Professor Gerald O'Collins SJ AC and by our Professed Knight Frà Richard Divall AO OBE. These included the following:

- Paper on the 50th Anniversary of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council;
- Easter Message 2012;
- The Genius and Gift of Music at Easter;
- Meditation on Advent;
- Paper on the Presence of Christ
- Some Homilies by Fr Peter Steele SJ AM;

In addition the Holy Father's Lenten Message was distributed in response to the request of the Prince and Grand Master. Also distributed were Journals of Spirituality, in particular the *Order of Malta and New Evangelisation* and the *Order of Malta and the Year of Faith*.

Dr Ian Marshall joined the ranks of the Members in Obedience when he took his Promise of Obedience during the Mass which concluded the Annual Retreat at the Carmelite Monastery on 4 February 2012.

The Hon. Sir James Gobbo AC CVO
Regent
Sub-Priory of the Immaculate Conception

In Memoriam

The Order regrets the passing of the following honoured Members in 2012:

Bernard Clarke
Victoria

Dr John Crowley
New Zealand

Francis Patrick Donovan

Alexander Lynch
Victoria

Peter Ferris
New South Wales

Hospitaller's Report

Without the tireless support, constant drive and enthusiasm of our Branch Chairmen, Regional Co-ordinators, and active members at large our Order simply could not function in a country as large as Australia, let alone engage in activities in our close Asia Pacific Region.

Dr Ian Marshall AE Hospitaller



At the outset, I record my thanks to all the members who have supported the many and diverse activities of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta. Australian members should be proud of their efforts and successes in 2012.

Our activities are essentially driven by the members themselves, sometimes as individuals, sometimes in small groups, but most often through the projects of the various Australian States and Territories.

When we compare the Order in Australia of some three hundred members with our nation's population of approximately twenty-one million and our Association against the number of national associations in other countries, like Brazil with three associations and the United States also with three associations, and with three thousand members, it becomes patently clear that without the tireless support, constant drive and enthusiasm of our Branch Chairmen, Regional Coordinators, and active members at large our Order simply could not function in a country as large as Australia, let alone engage in activities in our close Asia Pacific Region. I acknowledge and thank them for their dedicated support. Our Branches are literally the "engine rooms" of the Order in Australia.

Lack of space constrains me from publicly thanking individually the large number of members who have willingly immersed themselves in our many projects.

I wish here to highlight just a few of our major national and international activities in 2012. A more comprehensive report on our international activities can be found separately in this Hospitaller.

Coats for the Homeless

The major national project of the Order is the provision of warm coats to the homeless in winter.

Several years ago the homeless themselves were consulted to see

what they wanted. The result was a warm, quilted, hooded, shower resistant, black, inconspicuous garment that was functional and portable.

In 2012, some 2500 coats were distributed in five States and, for the first time, in New Zealand, to the cold and needy. The project offers donors, members and general public alike, the opportunity to participate in the personal distribution of them; as much or as little as they choose.

I have to publicly acknowledge the efforts of our Fund raising Office for reaching out beyond our own members to the wider public, not only to lighten the financial burden on our own members, but also to increase the awareness of the Order in the wider community.

The "Coats for the Homeless" program is now an on-going annual project.

Disaster Relief

Australian members remember with gratitude the immediate and generous response to our own disasters with the Queensland Floods and the Victorian bush fires; hence responded quickly to the pleas for help from our sister Cuban Association. Hurricane "Sandy" wrought havoc and seriously devastated their facilities and seriously dislocated their services to the poor and needy; of whom there are many in Cuba.

Dr Ian Marshall AE
Hospitaller
Australian Association

Did You Know?

On Thursday, 29 March 2012, the Legislative Council of the New South Wales Parliament (pictured right) formally agreed a motion acknowledging the remarkable achievements and contributions of the Order of Malta to the poor and sick, regardless of race or religion.

The motion warmly recognized the Order's ongoing work world-wide and particularly "the many significant contributions being made in Timor-Leste", Australia's closest neighbor by the Australian Association.





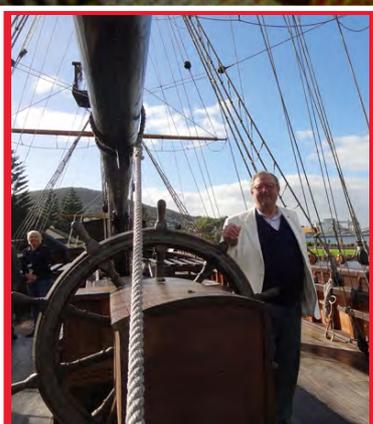
An Ambulance donated by the Australian Association with members of the Timor-Leste Ambulance Service.



Attendees at the Third Asia Pacific Conference, held in October, gathered prior to attending a thanksgiving Mass in Sydney.



Members of the Timor-Leste Ambulance Service take part in the national curriculum for ambulance studies delivered by the Order.



The Grand Master at the helm of a replica of the brig, the Amity, formerly commanded by his ancestor Lieut Colson Festing.



Pharmaceuticals organised by South Australian Confreere Dr Bob Britten Jones delivered to four Carmelite run clinics in Timor-Leste.



Order of Malta members at a Day Mass in Melbourne.



Confreere Derek Pingel distributing Coats for the Homeless in Brisbane, Queensland.



The annual Lourdes Healing Mass, in May organised by the Queensland branch of the Order of the Order held at St Paschal's Church, Brisbane.



A fundraising stand at Holy Name Parish, Wahroonga, NSW, for the Coats for the Homeless 2012 campaign.



Grand Master, HMEH Frà Matthew Festing with Members and Bishop Porteous on Pentecost Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.



Confreere Peter Wood delivers the Delegation's gift of 50 coats to the Sisters of Compassion in Wellington, New Zealand.



Consoeur Prof Margaret O'Connor presenting a donation from the Victorian members film night to Peter Gurr of Eastern Palliative Care.



A.C.T. members together with the Apostolic Nuncio and members of the Diplomatic Corps on St John's Day Mass, Canberra.



Order of Malta Volunteer Tim Gorton with a grateful recipient of a Coats for the Homeless coat in Melbourne, Victoria.



Malta Volunteers and during the annual Lourdes at St Patrick's Cathedral, e.

Australian Capital Territory

Report

The group of confreres and consœurs in the A.C.T. are dedicated to promoting the growth of the Order of Malta in our nation's capital.

Dr Jennifer Dunlop Co-ordinator and Chair



The group of confreres and consœurs in the A.C.T. are dedicated to promoting the growth of the Order of Malta in our nation's capital. Each member is consistently involved in all the activities of the Order, especially our regular First Friday Mass celebrated at the Carmel, or at the Archbishop's House prior to Archbishop Mark Coleridge, our Conventual Chaplain ad honorem, being transferred to Brisbane. We also demonstrate a strong presence at the Cathedral for sung Vespers and Benediction, Palm Sunday processions with members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, and for our Patronal Feast of the birth of St John.

In June 2012 we were once again blessed to have as our principal celebrant, the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, who is also a chaplain of our Order. Being the focus of diplomatic relations of the nation, we enjoy frequent interactions with Ambassadors who respect the works of the Order of Malta around the world.

The High Commissioner of Malta, HE Francis Tabone welcomed our Knights and Dames to the Malta National Day, a world cinema screening of the 2007 Maltese film "Heroes of the Sky", and an informal spring gathering in the residence of the High Commission. Select local members are also invited to represent the Australian Association each year at the Apostolic Nunciature to honour the anniversary of the Papal Investiture. This enables a highly visible international profile for the Order to be sustained – a unique advantage for members resident in the Canberra region.

The highlight of 2012 was the first visit of our Prince and Grand Master HMEH Frà Matthew Festing to Australia, and his visit to the nation's capital on 24- 25 May.

He was able to visit the Governor-General; high profile politicians in Parliament House; the Royal Military College Duntroon with the Changi Chapel - where he was welcomed by Bishop Max Davies of the Military Ordinariate.

The Grand Master also visited the Australian War Memorial with particular reference to his father's distinguished service for the British Army in Malaya; the National Portrait Gallery where he saw the only portrait there displaying a religious affiliation – that of our former National President, current Regent of the Sub-Priory

and Victorian Vice President, Confrere Sir James Gobbo AC CVO, painted in 1974 by Confrere Paul Fitzgerald. The Grand Master also visited the National Gallery of Art, where he viewed an almost contemporaneously painted landscape of "King George's Sound in the Colony of the Swan River in 1834" where his forebear Admiral Colson Festing sailed in his brig, the Amity.

The Apostolic Nuncio, a chaplain of our Order, graciously hosted the Grand Master and his Equerry for their two day visit to Canberra, and invited the High Charges, diplomats of the Order and select Ambassadors to dinner at the Nunciature.

All year local Members continued their involvement as Acolytes and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in local churches and hospitals, and participated in local parish ministries, sang liturgy at the Cathedral, local and interstate retreats, volunteer work in the A.C.T. Palliative Care Society, the Hospice and Aged Care units, Foster Care, First Aid services, and seminars on matters of faith, ethics and theology.

We held our first large fund-raising Charity film screening evening and raised several thousand dollars for the Coats for the Homeless program so that we can distribute them in this chilly city for those without sufficient shelter. Once again we gathered at the local Carmelite monastery for a Day of Reflection in November. We are now pleased to welcome to the A.C.T. our Magistral Chaplain the Rev Dr Peter L'Estrange SJ, newly returned from Georgetown University, Washington. We also welcome the enthusiastic participation of our aspirant, Craig Berelle, who gave so much assistance with the visit of our Grand Master to the Australian War Memorial in May. The A.C.T. confreres and consœurs are a cohesive group of very active, dedicated workers in the vineyard of Our Lord, for the support of Our Lords the Sick and in Defence of the Faith.

Dr Jennifer Dunlop
Co-ordinator and Chair
Australian Capital Territory

New South Wales Report

At the White Knights Cocktail Party in November the Branch presented to Gorman House a cheque that brought the total Branch fundraising donations to Gorman House over the past 5 years to the planned milestone of \$1 million.

David Hall Vice-President and State Chair



This year was a very successful year for the NSW Branch. 2012's highlights were in particular the honour and privilege of hosting:

- The inaugural visit of a Grand Master of the Order, Fr^a Matthew Festing to NSW accompanied by the Grand Chancellor and the Receiver of the Common Treasure, and
- A formal dinner in honour of the Grand Master and of the Prior of the Venerable Order HRH Prince Richard of Gloucester;
- A number of subsidiary functions and events to show off the National Capital, Sydney, the Harbour, Campion College and the Northern Beaches for the rest and refreshment of our distinguished Visitors as well as inspection of our Hospitaller works;
- The Third Asia Pacific Regional Conference attended by the Grand Hospitaller and representatives of the Order's works in Thailand, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Australia, Singapore and the Philippines.

These were outstandingly successful events. The NSW Branch Executive Committee records its appreciation to each of our Knights, Dames, Donats, Postulants, Aspirants members, Bailiffs Grand Cross of Honour and Devotion, Conventual and Magistral Chaplains and Volunteers who so generously contributed to and ensured their marvellous success.

Defence of the Faith

The NSW Branch active Defence of the Faith working group, lead by Confrere Peter van de Velde is working with the Archdiocese to enable our Branch to progress His Eminence's request that the Order be active where the Clergy cannot be. In addition the planning for a public Defence of the Faith 2013 lecture series is well advanced.

Membership Regulations and Commentary

The *Membership in the Order of Malta Regulations and Commentary*, Rome 2011 were issued at the Sydney 2011 Assembly and their adoption was addressed during the Grand Master's visit, the subsequent Visitation Report and by the Grand Master's December 2012 letter.

Since the 2011 Assembly the NSW Branch Executive Committee have implemented these Regulations, which has, *inter alia*, resulted in the procedures followed for the admission to the Order of members, and their commitment, to be significantly changed. Included amongst the changes is the excellent production of "Drinking from the Waters of Faith" designed to assist candidates in their Preparatory Year as well as assisting members in their Defence of the Faith commitment.

Gorman House, Darlinghurst

The Gorman House/NSW Branch Partnership is progressing well in its excellent new independent premises in St Vincent's new O'Brien Building. At the White Knights Cocktail Party in November the Branch presented to Gorman House a cheque that brought the total Branch fundraising donations to Gorman House over the past 5 years to the planned milestone of \$1 million. The NSW Branch financial and volunteer commitments (managed by our generous friend Mr Roger McGrath) enable this critical residential drug and alcohol detoxification centre to continue a 7 day-a-week facility. Our volunteers conduct their barbecues 3 times a week and also attend their Christmas lunch with appropriate presents for all residents.

St Joseph's Hospital Palliative Care Unit

The NSW Branch ongoing relationship with this important Western Suburbs non-denominational Palliative Care Unit continues with the Branch working on projects to improve the facilities and operations of this Unit.

Lourdes Day Mass

On 1st December, 2012 the NSW Branch hosted its fourth Annual Lourdes Day Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. The principal celebrant was Bishop Anthony Fisher OP, Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*, with Magistral Chaplains Msgr Vince Redden EV, Fr. Danny Meagher and Fr James McCarthy concelebrating

All *malades* were offered and received a personal blessing, ministered by each of the celebrants, and all attendees were presented with Lourdes Water kindly bottled by our volunteers.

We thank Bishop Fisher, the Concelebrants and all at St Mary's Cathedral for making this Mass such a memorable occasion. We also thank His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC whose late call to Rome did not enable him to be the principal celebrant. The Mass was followed by morning tea in Cathedral House.

Award for Excellence in Palliative Care

The University of Notre Dame, Australia, inaugural award is sponsored by the NSW Branch to reward a student in the School of Nursing, Sydney, who has demonstrated outstanding knowledge and interest in the area of Palliative Care. This year's prize was awarded to the author of an excellent Palliative Care paper.

YOOM Mentoring

NSW Branch members volunteered as mentors to the first arranged Young Order of Malta Mentoring event being for the specialties of Business, Law and Medicine. The evening was attended by about 40 young and 7 branch members attended as mentors.

Spiritual Activities

Established Branch spiritual activities continued as monthly First Friday Choral Vigils at St Mary's Cathedral, Holy Mass before each of our quarterly Branch members meetings, Holy Mass on the Feast Days of both of our Order's Patrons, Holy Mass in Memory of Deceased Members and their families and the Lourdes Day Mass. The NSW Branch Day of Reflection was excellently led by our Magistral Chaplain Msgr Vince Redden EV and attended by 30 members and guests.

Other Branch activities during 2012 included:

- A very successful White Knights cocktail fundraising function for the Branch's charitable works.
- Clothing the homeless of Sydney with specially designed and manufactured all-weather coats for sleeping rough;
- Assisting the executives of the Young Order of Malta who we thank for their support of our Branch activities;
- Advancing our Admissions Programme to increase Branch membership.

David Hall
Vice-President and State Chair
New South Wales

Queensland Report

The Lourdes Healing Mass, held at St Paschal's Church on 12 May, 2012, was a wonderful event attended by more than 350 people. A highlight of this Mass is the liturgy for the sick, when the priests lay hands on the *malades*.

The Hon Justice Martin Daubney Vice-President and State Chair



2012 was a particularly busy and fulfilling year for the members of the Queensland Branch, as can be seen from the following calendar:

- 15 February, 2012 – Branch Mass and meeting
- 7 March, 2012 – Coats for the Homeless Breakfast with His Eminence Cardinal Pell
- 23 March, 2012 – Branch Mass (followed by Bioethics Seminar)
- 22 April, 2012 – Reflection Day (including Branch Mass)
- 12 May, 2012 – Lourdes Healing Mass
- 17 June, 2012 – Solemn Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral concelebrated by Archbishop Coleridge, Very Rev Ken Howell and Rev Morgan Batt
- 21 July, 2012 – Festive Dinner for Archbishop Coleridge
- 28 August, 2012 – Branch Mass and meeting
- 23 September, 2012 – Mass at Holy Spirit Seminary, followed by lunch with the staff and seminarians
- 28 October, 2012 – Mass and Reflection at St Vincent's Hospital (incorporating Mt Olivet Palliative Care Centre)
- 25 November, 2012 - attendance of the Branch members (robed) at Cleveland Parish for parish visitation and Sunday Mass
- 11 December, 2012 – Branch Mass (followed by Branch meeting and Festive Season hospitality)

A number of topics deserve special mention:

Coats for the Homeless

The Queensland Branch provided national administration of the Coats for the Homeless Project in 2012. Thanks to the generosity of St Paschal's Parish, we were able to provide a storage facility from which the co-ordinators, Confrere Judge Michael Rackemann and Confrere Derek Pingel, could ship coats to all points in Australia and beyond.

On a local level, the Branch was blessed with a generous donation from the Queensland Master Builders Foundation which was specifically targeted to the Coats for the Homeless campaign. With this, and the generosity of many supporters, the Branch distributed nearly 900 coats in the South-East Queensland area. This was achieved through the establishment of a distribution network involving existing homeless outreach services, parishes, and other community organisations.

In March 2012, the Branch hosted a very successful fundraising breakfast at the Brisbane Club. 150 guests heard an inspirational address by our special guest, His Eminence George Cardinal Pell.

Appointments

In May, 2012, members attended the installation of Most Rev Mark Coleridge as Archbishop of Brisbane.

The Archbishop's first "official" function with the Branch was our attendance at the Solemn Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral on 17 June 2012. On this occasion, the Queensland members, and the wider Queensland community, were delighted to witness the investiture of the Australian Hospitaller, Confrere Dr Ian Marshall, as a Knight

Commander (with Star) in the Order of St Gregory the Great. The conferral of the honour of a papal knighthood on our long-time Queensland chair and current Australian Hospitaller was celebrated as a fitting recognition of Confrere Ian's lifetime of service in the Church.

In July, the Branch welcomed Archbishop Coleridge with a formal dinner in his honour.

Lourdes Healing Mass

The Lourdes Healing Mass, held at St Paschal's Church on 12 May, 2012, was a wonderful event attended by more than 350 people. A highlight of this Mass is the liturgy for the sick, when the priests lay hands on the *malades*. At the conclusion of Mass, Branch members present *malades* with gift packs containing bottles of Lourdes water, rosary beads, prayer booklets and information about the Order. In Queensland, the Lourdes Healing Mass is held in early May for two reasons: the weather is more benign for *malades* at that time of year in Brisbane, and the timing coincides with the Order's Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This was only the third year in which the Lourdes Healing Mass has been celebrated in Queensland, but it has fast become established as a fixture in the life of the local Church.

Other activities

In 2012, the Queensland Branch assisted a number of catechesis and Christian education programmes, specifically:

- Financial sponsorship and support for the "Embracing Families 2012" Conference; the sessions sponsored and supported by the Queensland Branch were entitled "Anchoring the Gift of Faith through Family Prayer", "Marriage Spirituality - Living Together With God", and "Children Is God Waving To You";
- Financial sponsorship to the 2012 National RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Conference, held in Brisbane in October 2012.

The Queensland Branch also sponsored, as it has for many years, the Order of Malta Prize awarded in the ACU School of Nursing for Palliative Care studies.

These activities, of course, are in addition to our contributions to the relief and medical care activities in Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, as well as our financial support of local and regional seminaries and the Australian Military Vicariate.

I thank Archbishop Mark Coleridge for his generous support of the works of our Branch, and our Magistral Chaplains, Very Rev Ken Howell and Rev Fr Morgan Batt, for their devoted ministry to our Branch and their spiritual and practical assistance for the work of the Order. I also express our gratitude to Rev Fr Gerard McMorro for his boundless enthusiasm and generous support through his parish, St Paschal's at Wavell Heights.

The Hon Justice Martin Daubney
Vice-President and State Chair
Queensland

South Australian Report

Thanks to the generosity of donors and many members of the Order, Dr Britten-Jones AO and Dr Leitch RFD were able to deliver a pharmaceuticals shipment to Timor-Leste in October.

The Hon Gregory Crafter AO Vice-President and State Chair



South Australian members of the Australian Association of the Order of Malta continue to dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to the mission of our Order, established almost 900 years ago, that of service of Our Lords the Sick and the Poor. This mission continues to be at the heart of the actions of every South Australian Knight and Dame.

Adelaide Day Centre and Hutt Street Centre

In 2012 members continued to provide support to the works and activities of the Sisters of Mercy at the Adelaide Day Centre and the Sisters of Charity at the Hutt Street Centre for the Homeless.

Although our membership is relatively small in number, we are proud we can contribute to the strengthening of necessary services offered to the wider South Australian community who seek out the support offered by these vital two centres.

Over the past year, request for services has witnessed a marked increase at both centres. The personal and financial support made by members is a living witness to our Order's mission.

Members held a film night to raise funds for the Adelaide Day Centre, raising \$4,000 which was used to put together Christmas hampers for Adelaide's underprivileged and contribute towards upgrading the kitchen facilities at the Day Centre's garden project.

Pharmaceuticals delivered Timor-Leste

The valuable work of two members of the South Australian branch, Confreres Dr Bob Britten-Jones AO and Dr Ian Leitch RFD, continued in 2012.

Thanks to the generosity of donors and many members of the Order, Dr Britten-Jones and Dr Leitch were able to deliver a pharmaceuticals shipment to Timor-Leste in October. The shipment provided pharmaceuticals to clinics run by the Carmelites in Maubara, Bebonuk, Maubisse and Motael. These facilities provide primary medical care for a significant number of Timorese in underprivileged urban and isolated rural areas.

Dr Britten-Jones, who was a board member of 'OPAL' (Overseas Pharmaceutical Aid for Life) and Dr Leitch were assisted by Confere Alick Haddad, a pharmacist with long-standing contacts in the industry, who assisted the Order in purchasing suitable pharmaceuticals at wholesale prices and assisted with industry donations to maximise the size and quality of these shipments.

In an article published on their 'special delivery' Dr Leitch was quoted saying "Even though the pharmaceuticals are purchased at wholesale prices, because of their poverty, most Timorese are not able to afford treatment. Our provision of pharmaceuticals at no cost, will allow the local population to receive treatment that would otherwise not be possible".

The actions and leadership of Dr Britten-Jones and Dr Leitch are an inspiration to all South Australian members and we warmly thank Confere Alick Haddad for his continuing assistance, time and charity.

Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund

425 people purchased tickets to attend a fundraiser film night that featured the film "Argo", which just prior to the event received excellent reviews. Half of the funds raised were donated to the Adelaide Day Centre, the other half to the Salesian Missions in Timor-Leste.

Brother Michael Lynch, of Salesian Missions based in Victoria, gratefully received the donation to the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund of \$4,000. Members had previously raised funds for their activities which have been used to assist the works of the Salesian Sisters' Medical Clinic, Venilale and the Don Bosco Orphanage, Lospalos.

Lourdes Day Mass

The Lourdes Day Mass continues to be embraced by Adelaide residents and has become an important event in the South Australian calendar. We were again honoured that Archbishop Philip Wilson, Chief Chaplain of the Australian Association and Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem* of the Order of Malta, was able to celebrate this year's Lourdes Day Mass.

I thank all members of the South Australian branch for their commitment and generosity throughout 2012.

The Hon Gregory Crafter AO

Vice-President and State Chair
South Australia

Victorian Report

The major challenge for 2013 is to expand our work for the poor and homeless in new areas, especially in the outer areas where Mannix College and Monash University are situated. Our new partnership with the ACU will also be valuable.

The Hon. Sir James Gobbo AC CVO Vice-President and State Chair



Our Lords the Sick and the Poor

“...the fullness of participation is achieved when one has direct contact with our Lords the Sick and the Poor. When doing so, it is Christ Himself whom we recognize and worship in them.”

Commentary p.48

The above exhortation, strongly endorsed by our Prince and Grand Master, was a continuing challenge for the Victorian Branch in 2012. It was an ambitious task but one that the Branch addressed well in 2012, thanks to the energy of our Members and Aspirant Members and, above all, to the enthusiasm of our Volunteers. Some 25 new Volunteers were enrolled at Newman College in the University of Melbourne.

From April to September on 3-4 nights each week, our members and volunteers were rostered to travel with St Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army soup vans which visited a number of meeting places often frequented by the homeless. At each stop they met and talked to the very diverse examples of the poor and gave coats to those who were either homeless or at high risk of becoming homeless. The program soon expanded to take in St Mary's House of Welcome and the St Kilda area. Towards the end of the winter the program again expanded to Dandenong thanks to the work of new volunteers from Mannix College and Monash University.

New Projects

The major challenge for 2013 is to expand our work for the poor and homeless in new areas, especially in the outer areas where Mannix College and Monash University are situated. Our new partnership with the ACU will also be valuable.

Grand Master's Visit

The Grand Master's Visit to Melbourne on Wednesday 23 May though short (1 day and 2 nights) was a resounding and memorable success. This was largely due to the generous way in which the Grand Master gave of his time and energy and how he and his party managed to meet so many of our Members and Volunteers. It was good that Members, aspirant Members and Volunteers had several opportunities to meet him. The day began with a visit to our great friends, the Carmelite Sisters, followed by a Lourdes Mass for the sick and the frail at the nearby Caritas Christi Day Centre in which the Order is now involved.

Lunch was followed in the beautiful Newman College Dining Hall where the Grand Master sat with 24 Volunteers in our Coats for the Homeless Project. In the late afternoon, there was a Reception at Government House, a building which the Grand Master described as “magnificent”. Some 160 Members and guests heard the warm welcome by the Lt. Governor Chief Justice Marilyn Warren AC and the Grand Master's response. The Visit concluded with Dinner at the Melbourne Club. This brought to an end a memorable Visit which admirably met its two objectives – to have the Grand Master see some of our work in Victoria and to have him meet our Members and Volunteers.

Spiritual Activities

The first of our major Spiritual Activities was our Annual Retreat on Saturday 4 February 2012 at the Carmelite Monastery in Kew. We were led in this Retreat by the Principal Chaplain of the Sub-Priory, Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ AC. The second occasion was the St John's Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop Denis Hart, Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*, the Homily being delivered by Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ AC. The third major spiritual occasion for the Order was the Philermé Mass at Newman College Chapel where Victorian Members and their families were again joined by leaders and members of the Maltese Community in Melbourne. The fourth was the Mass for the Deceased Members of the Order and their families on Sunday 4 November, again celebrated by Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ AC. In addition, there were Vigil Masses during the year.

Palliative Care

The Order's direct involvement as one of three partners continues in Eastern Palliative Care (EPC), the largest home based Palliative Care agency in Victoria. Ten Members of the Order serve on the Board of EPC or its committees. Another ten Members or spouses are trained volunteers in the Biography Program and other Members and spouses are engaged in fundraising for EPC.

The Order continued its prizes for excellence in Palliative Care at Melbourne University and at Australian Catholic University.

Support Activities

Another successful Film Premiere supported by members and friends resulted in funds being raised for EPC and for the disabled children project in Timor-Leste. This year the Order in Victoria was able to secure another magnificent image for its Christmas Cards, always an image of Our Lady, the infant Jesus and his cousin, our Patron Saint John the Baptist. As a result nearly 3000 Cards were sold for the benefit of the Order's work in Timor-Leste and areas near Australia.

Thanks

I thank all the Members of the Order in Victoria for their strong commitment to the Order's works of charity and its spiritual activities. I also thank our Chaplains, friends and the spouses of Members for being so supportive. Finally I thank Msgr. Terry Curtin, Fr. Gerald O'Collins SJ AC and Fr Brian Boyle and I thank the Carmelite Sisters at Kew for their cheerful hospitality and friendship and above all for their prayerful support, an inspiration for us and for their many friends.

The Hon. Sir James Gobbo AC CVO
Vice-President and State Chair
Victoria

West Australian Report

Our small group of Knights and Dames have been spiritually nourished under the leadership of our chaplain, Mgr Kevin Long, Rector of St Charles Seminary and the visit of our Order's Grand Master, Frà Matthew Feasting uplifted our spirits..

Dr Michael Shanahan Co-ordinator and Chair



West Australian members of the Order of Malta are a small community, however we continue to strive to provide services to the people of Perth, Fremantle and greater Western Australia as well as strengthen our own spirituality within the vision and mission of our Order.

Our small group of Knights and Dames have been spiritually nourished under the leadership of our chaplain, Mgr Kevin Long, Rector of St Charles Seminary and the visit of our Order's Grand Master, Frà Matthew Feasting uplifted our spirits.

Grand Master's Visit

The visit to Western Australia by our Grand Master was warmly welcomed by the members in Western Australia. Plans were provided to the Grand Master and a friendly and relaxed visit to Western Australia was organised.

The highlight of the Grand Master's tour of the West was a visit to Albany, where the Grand Master visited the replica of the former British Navy brig, the Amity which had been commanded by Lieut Colson Festing in 1826. The Amity sailed from Sydney Harbour on 9 November 1826, carrying a landing party under the command of Major Edmund Lockyer, who had orders to form a settlement at King George Sound.

Along with Lieut Festing and Major Lockyer, the Amity carried the ship's quartermaster, a midshipman and a marine batman, as well as the new settlement's captain, surgeon, storekeeper, 18 rank and file soldiers, and 23 convicts, mostly tradesmen. The Amity also had stores for six months, including sheep and pigs.

The Grand Master and those who accompanied our guest to Albany struggled to imagine more than 50 men, together with stores, sheep and pigs, sharing such small vessel in a difficult journey taking over six weeks. The first half battling through heavy weather in Bass Strait and the second enduring the summer heat of the westward run, before the brig reached Princess Royal Harbour on Christmas Day, 1826.

Thank you to Confrere Denis and Consoeur Ann Cullity and my wife Consoeur Anna Shanahan who undertook to organise many details

of the Grand Master's visit to Western Australia which was greatly appreciated by our guest of honour.

Coats for the Homeless

The Coats for the Homeless program continues to be generously supported by the Western Australia members, with members assisting in their distribution to eager and grateful recipients.

Notre Dame Philosophy and Ethics Prize

As was reported on last year, the Western Australia members continue to support the education of Notre Dame medical students in the fields of philosophy and ethics by offering prizes each year for these subjects taught to medical students of Notre Dame University Fremantle

Following the release of results for first semester exams, the Order awarded prizes to students in Philosophy and Ethics. These prizes are provided by the Order in WA to encourage a greater appreciation of the values and motivations which doctors require in their professional lives.

In our current secular world, it is so important that the graduates of the Notre Dame School of Medicine be distinguished by their compassion and support for the dignity and respect for all human life.

I am very grateful to all members of the Order in Western Australia for supporting the activities of our small group. Our isolation from the Eastern seaboard can make it hard to grow our Order in the West, however we continue to strive to live up to our mission to serve Our Lords the Sick and the Poor. .

Dr Michael Shanahan
Co-ordinator and Chair
Western Australia

Thailand Report

In appreciation of Fr Sakaschi's generosity to the Order of Malta, the 2+8 Group presented him with a number of gifts, as well as a donation to help underprivileged children in his new parish at Ko Yai Ayudhaya.

Adrian Borg Cardona 2+8 Group Representative



Members in Thailand, colloquially referred to as the 2+8 Group, started the new year with a number of meetings with the Australian Association of the Order of Malta, Americares, the Order's Embassy in Bangkok and with the Order's the Grand Magistracy in Rome. The main objective of these meetings was to reach a understanding of how the Order's Embassy in Bangkok and 2+8 Group can enter into an agreement with Americare to distribute medicines to the sick and the poor in Thailand.

On the 26th March, 2012, the Members in Thailand bid farewell to their confrere Archbishop Giovanni d'Aniello, Apostolic Nuncio to the Holy See in Thailand. A farewell Mass was held at the garden chapel of St. Louis Hospital which was celebrated by Archbishop d'Aniello and Fr Ignazio. Mass was followed by a dinner at the Bangkok Club where the Apostolic Nuncio was presented with a bronze statue of the Madonna with child as a farewell gift.

On the 3rd May, 2012, the 2+8 Group bid farewell to a great friend of the Order in Thailand, Fr Sakschai who will continue his sacred ministry at Ko Yai Ayudhaya.

In appreciation of Fr Sakaschi's great assistance to the Members of the Order in assisting to arrange the Order's investiture vigil Mass in November, 2011 and his assistance provided to the 2+8 Group on many occasions, the Members invited Fr Sakaschi to celebrate a special vigil Mass with the Order in the Garden Chapel of St. Louis Hospital.

In appreciation of Fr Sakaschi's generosity to the Order of Malta, the 2+8 Group presented him with a number of gifts, as well as a donation to help underprivileged children in his new parish at Ko Yai Ayudhaya.

On the historical visit of the Grand Master, Frà Matthew Festing, to Singapore and Australia in May 2012, Members of the 2+8 Group travelled to Singapore and Sydney to take part in the celebration.

It was without doubt one of the highlights of the year. The Grand Master's presence was a great inspiration to all Members to continue the ministry and mission of the Order to help the sick and the poor.

On the 30th June, 2012, Members of the Order were invited by the Bishops Conference to partake in celebrating the 7th anniversary of the pontifical election of Pope Benedict XVI. The celebration of Mass with the Bishops Conference was a special event for all that attended.

Confrere Thom Sirisant and his wife Pring represented the Thai Members at the 3rd Annual Asia Pacific Conference held in Sydney from the 12th to 14th October 2012. Confrere Dr Michael Mann also attended in his capacity as the Order's Ambassador to Thailand and Cambodia. Along with the Thai delegates, other countries represented at the Asia Pacific Conference included Australia, Singapore, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Korea, Germany and the Grand Magistracy in Rome.

By the end of the year under the chairmanship of Confrere Virachai a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Malta was being organized for May 2013.

Adrian Borg Cardona
2+8 Group Representative
Thailand

New Zealand Report

New Zealand was very pleased to join into the Order's international 'Coats for the Homeless' project. We saw this project as a practical way to assist our Lords the Sick and Our Lords the Poor in Wellington.

Peter Wood Co-ordinator and Delegation Chair



The Delegation in New Zealand was very pleased to join the Order's international 'Coats for the Homeless' project. We saw this project as a practical way to assist our Lords the Sick and Our Lords the Poor in Wellington. We raised sufficient funds in just four weeks to purchase fifty coats and supplied these to the Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre.

The Compassion Centre is operated by the Sisters of Compassion who work with vulnerable people on the margins. The Sisters have said the coats have provided comfort for not just people sleeping rough, but many of the men living in the Night Shelter dormitory have benefitted also, considering they are on the streets from 7.30 am until 5 pm. In 2013, the Delegation will support the Sisters of Compassion soup kitchen by sponsoring and serving meals during major feast days.

Members and aspirants were again invited to attend the annual World Day of the Sick Pilgrimage to the Statue of Our Lady of Lourdes which overlooks Paraparaumu, a coastal town one hour's drive north-west of Wellington. Members assisted pilgrims climb to the summit and down again and as in previous years found to the day spiritually most beneficial.

Every member continues with their personal development of spirituality and care of the sick and the poor

Peter Wood
Co-ordinator and Delegation Chair
New Zealand

Lourdes Report

The presence of twelve pilgrims from Hong Kong marked a major milestone in the history of the Order, not only for the parent Australian Association, but indeed in the global expansion of the Order in the Asia Pacific Region.

Dr Ian Marshall AE Hospitaller



Our Magistral Chaplain, the Very Rev Dr Peter L'Estrange SJ AO, generously travelled from Georgetown University in the United States to act as Spiritual Director to the Australian contingent of twenty-nine which included fourteen from the Australian mainland; eight of these pilgrims from Queensland who then travelled on in the "Footsteps of the Knights" – through the Holy Land, Rhodes, Malta and Rome.

The Grand Master having given his approval to proceed to establish the Order in the Republic of South Africa under the guidance of Australia, we were honoured to have two pilgrims join us once again from Capetown.

The presence of twelve pilgrims from Hong Kong marked a major milestone in the history of the Order, not only for the parent Australian Association, but indeed in the global expansion of the Order in the Asia Pacific Region.

All immersed themselves with great enthusiasm with the Irish, who were grateful, as always, for our help, especially participating in the medical roster.

We equally are grateful to their President, Sir Adrian Fitzgerald BT, to their Hospitaller, Consoeur Peta Taafe and to Ms Winnie May, Director of their Ambulance Service for the privilege of being involved with their delightful *malades*, some of whom are now well known to us.

Ms Olivia Meese, a member of the New South Wales branch's youth movement Young Order of Malta (YOOM), acted as Administrative Assistant and her assistance was invaluable. I know Olivia enjoyed the experience enormously and I also know she will retain life-long memories of her participation as an Australian pilgrim.

In October during the unseasonable European floods, the River Gave broke its banks and inundated the Sanctuary at Lourdes, causing enormous structural damage.

The French Association immediately mobilised a small army of Order volunteers. From the other side of the world, Australian donors were quick to generously respond to the Grand Chancellor's international

appeal for funds for the rehabilitation of a place which holds such a significant place in the psyche of so many of those who have been there.

Interaction

The annual Lourdes Pilgrimage is one of the few occasions, in most years the only occasion, when representatives from thirty-six or so associations meet together and allowing a great opportunity for personal meetings and interaction. Every year members take the opportunity to transact face-to-face Order business or at the very least, to make personal contact and establish personal rapport.

Australian Presence in Lourdes

There is a genuine appreciation of the effort Australians make to get to Lourdes and there is a universal spontaneous response "you travel the furthest of us all." At the Medal Ceremony, Australia received quite generous applause and the Grand Master spent considerable time talking about his pending trip 'downunder.'

The Grand Master also made a spur-of-the-moment decision to separate the Hong Kong group to publically recognise their first attendance at Lourdes and also spent considerable time discussing with them the Asia Pacific region in general and Hong Kong in particular and his personal interest in the region.

Lourdes means different things to different people. To the question, "would you come back again?" most of our pilgrims spontaneously said "yes" It appears there will be a strong representation at Lourdes in 2013 from both Thailand and Hong Kong.

Dr Ian Marshall AE
Hospitaller
Australian Association
Western Australia

Pilgrim's Experience

With the arrival of the Irish my pilgrimage to Lourdes hit its stride. My first task was at lunch when I had the privilege of assisting a cheeky Irishman whose Multiple Sclerosis has rendered him unable to feed himself. I was struck by the humility with which he received my help and the immense patience he showed me, especially as his strong accent, my poor hearing and the noisy dining room made a frustrating combination!

It was impossible to resist the joy which emanated from this group. Whether it was the beautiful view of the river and Basilica from the hospital rooftop or battling against gravity to push the *malades* up-hill and in the rain, the sense of community and camaraderie could not be dampened. Everywhere one witnessed an act of kindness – a beaming smile, a supportive hand, the offer of a blanket. In a world in which physical comfort and freedom from pain is the measure of the 'quality' of a person's life, these signs witnessed in Lourdes were a testament to a universal regard for God's great gift of life, no matter the physical

limitations.

It is true that many pilgrims before us have left Lourdes cured from the ailments with which they arrived, and this is an attraction. yet the true merit of this trip comes from the spiritual graces made available to pilgrims through the spiritual community built at Lourdes through Mass attendance, eucharistic adoration, the anointing of the sick, torchlight Rosary processions and time set aside for confession. I witnessed this firsthand while I pushing the wheelchair of a religious Sister after a Mass in which many received sacramental Anointing. Another *malade* sought her out to share the wonderful news that the Mass we had just attended was the first since the death of his child four years ago! Though tears of joy he told her how profoundly he had just experienced God's grace. Watching the embrace that followed brought tears to my own eyes and I knew at that moment the true value of this annual pilgrimage.

Olivia Meese

The Grand Master in Australia

On the 20th May, Frà Matthew Festing became the first Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to visit Australia. During his 6 day tour, the Grand Master travelled to Western Australia, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales, visiting the works of the Order, volunteers and Members across Australia.



The Grand Master with Confre Sir James Gobbo, Regent of the Sub-Priory, visiting a patient at Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew, Victoria.



The Grand Master with Apostolic Nuncio Giuseppe Lazzarotto and Members at the Apostolic Nunciature in Canberra, A.C.T.



The Grand Master talking with students at Campion College, in Sydney, New South Wales.



The Grand Master visited the National Portrait Gallery and stopped to admire a portrait of Confre Sir James Gobbo AC CVO.



The Grand Master and Confre Tony Macken AM, President of the Australian Association, during Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.



The Grand Master visited the Personal Advocacy Service (PAS) in Morley, W.A. – a unique service supported by the Order of Malta.



The Grand Master addressing dinner guests at the Australian Club during his visit to Sydney, New South Wales.



The Grand Master visited a replica of the brig, the Amity, formerly commanded by his ancestor Lieut Colson Festing in 1826, Albany, W.A.



The Grand Master with Principal Chaplain to the Sub-Priory, Fr Gerald O'Collins SJ AC, Frà Richard Divall and Confre Damian Benson.



His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Frà Matthew Festing, has made an historic first visit to Australia. The Grand Master (centre, alongside Bishop Julian Porteous, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney) joined Members of the Australian Association at Pentecost Sunday Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney, New South Wales. The Grand Master was joined in Australia by the Order's Grand Chancellor, HE Jean-Pierre Mazery, and the Receiver of the Common Treasure, HE Gian Luca Chiavari.



The Grand Master with Confrere Sir James Gobbo and a Burke Hall (Xavier College) student at Caritas Christi Hospice in Kew, Victoria.



The Grand Master inspecting a plaque recording a donation by the Victorian Branch to Caritas Christi Hospice, Kew, Victoria.



The Grand Master with Confrere the Hon Justice Martin Daubney, Vice-President and Chair of the Queensland Branch.



The Grand Master and Australian Association Chancellor, Confrere Brian Wilson during Mass at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney.

International Report

Timor-Leste is one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty and malnutrition are rife. There is a lack of even the most basic medical services. In a developing country progress sometimes appears to be slow. Nevertheless, every single step we take is important.

Dr Ian Marshall AE Hospitaller



The Australian Association was extremely active throughout 2012.

TIMOR LESTE

Timor Leste is the major focus of our international efforts.

TL National ambulance Service

The Australian Association has completed its obligations under the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the DRTL Ministry of Health. Initially these included:

1. Improve the capacity of the ambulance staff through Basic Life Support Training;
2. Exchange programs for administrative and operational staff in Australia;
3. Assist with recruiting a Dili based technical and operational adviser, supervisor; and
4. Purchase of an Ambulance for the TLAS

Phase Two included:

1. Continuing training of ambulance drivers;
2. New training in emergency training for selected, remote nurses; and
3. "Train the Trainers" program

Appropriate Training Manuals have been produced and translated into Tetum and staffing and operational recommendations made to the Minister of Health. Mr Jon Moores, our second AVI (Australian Volunteers International) Adviser has completed his term. He remains in the country and has indicated his willingness to act in an advisory capacity if needed. We must publicly record our appreciation for the tremendous effort and input Jon has made on our behalf; frequently outside his nominated duties and always with a very public Order of Malta presence. He has considerably enhanced our international reputation.

Medicines for Timor

We are grateful to the South Australian group, firstly Confreres Dr Bob Britten-Jones AO and the Hon Greg Crafter AO; more recently Confreres Dr Ian Leitch RFD and Alick Haddad (and his son) who for many years have supplied medications to several missions conducted by the Spanish Carmelites (Hermilites Carmelites), Sisters of Charity, Canossians, Salesians and Mary Knoll Sisters.

This project is considerably enhanced by Confrere HE David Scarf having negotiated access to storage facilities (including refrigeration as required for certain drugs) in both Darwin and Dili. We are grateful to our generous commercial co-operators in both cities.

Carmelite Medical Clinics

The Order is negotiating an Memorandum of Understanding with the DRTL government to oversee the operation of two medical clinics run by the Carmelite Sisters, one in the village of Maubara and the other in Bebonouk in Dili. There are obvious synergies in running both clinics under the same operational umbrella. We have the necessary funding in place.

Those with experience in dealing with the bureaucracy in developing countries, will understand the difficulties often associated with matching promises with action.

Currently, the Order is negotiating to acquire an SMOM ambulance to be attached to these clinics.

Repairs to Carmelite Orphanage at Maubara

In the village of Maubara, the Carmelite Sisters also operate an orphanage where they lovingly care for beautiful, cheerful and angelic

children, many with almost indescribably horrific family backgrounds. During the year the Australian Association undertook, to renovate the orphanage's kitchen and toilet block; both of which were in a dreadful condition, uninhabitable by our standards. A completely new ablutions block has been built by a group of nineteen enthusiastic young volunteers (plus two Team Leaders and a Chaplain) from Warrane College, University of NSW. They personally raised all but \$10,000 of the costs involved.

This project understandably gave an enormous amount of personal satisfaction to those involved. Many of the "tough" volunteers were in tears when they finally drove away from the children and the totally dedicated nuns – *obsequem pauperum* at its very best.

Support for disabled children is an excellent project funded by Confrere Sir James Gobbo and the Victorian Branch and skillfully implemented by Confrere Lieut Col Anthony Heath. It enables disabled children to attend their "normal" school. It is an excellent project.

Teachers College Bacau

The Australian Association is providing support to the Catholic Teachers College for:

1. Salaries of two indigenous teachers: one in computer studies, classroom management & educational psychology; the second in Tetum language and cultural studies, science, language and literacy.
2. Order of Malta Prize for the top graduate in the Graduate Certificate in Religious Education

Christian Brothers Mission

Scholarships provided by the Australian Association enable grade eight students at Raicoloten, to undertake higher education at one of three Salesian Colleges; specially in agricultural training: "Food Security", a euphemism for the prevention of crop failure and starvation is a priority in DRTL.

Proposal for a National Palliative Care Service

At the request of the Vice Minister of Health, the Order prepared a proposal for the establishment of a National Palliative Care Service. The plan has deliberate in built flexibility, with no specific financial nor temporal time frames, allowing the service to grow, as and when, funding, staffing, facilities and training are available.

Overview

Timor Leste is one of the poorest countries in the world. Poverty and malnutrition are rife. There is a lack of even the most basic medical services. In a developing country progress sometimes appears to be slow. Nevertheless, every single step we take is important.

Many members have contributed to the TL projects but public acknowledgement must be accorded to Confreres Lieut Col Anthony Heath and HE David Scarf AM for their tireless drive and initiative. Also, we are grateful to those locals in TL who are taking an interest in our projects; their support is invaluable.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PNG Eye Project and Mt Sion Centre for the Blind; founded in 1995, with the Order's assistance in purchasing an Operating Microscopic and assisting the first team of volunteer Ophthalmologists, Anaesthetists and Nursing Staff. The team is now expanded, has locally trained surgeons in the system; has operated at fifteen villages; performed over seven thousand cataract operations; has performed



innumerable refractions.

The program is now so successful, it attracts AusAID funding; an excellent example of identifying, initiating and nurturing a project to the point of self-sufficiency and sustainable. The Australian Association is currently helping fund the training of a PNG national Optometrist.

THAILAND AND HONG KONG

The steady growth of the Thai and Hong Kong (China) groups in numbers and activities has been commented on elsewhere. Both groups have very quickly absorbed the ethos of the Order and are very carefully evaluating opportunities for sustainable charitable works in their regions. Both have active programs of spiritual activities; *tuitio fidei*. Their enthusiasm augurs well for the development of the Order and support for Catholicism in our region.

THIRD ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE, SYDNEY

The Australian Association had the privilege of hosting the Third Asia Pacific Conference held in Sydney in October .

Space constraints prevent mentioning all those attending personally by name but as an overview, the conference was presided over by HE the Grand Hospitaller and the President of the host Australian Association, with High Officers, Office Bearers and Representatives from Government Council, the three regional National Associations - Philippines, Singapore and Australia; the two developing regional Delegations of Thailand and Hong Kong; new emerging areas of interest, Korea and Timor-Leste; the French and Portuguese Associations; Malteser International; CIOMAL (Order of Malta International Committee Against Leprosy) and the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family; as well as the three Australian domiciled Regional Ambassadors, giving some idea of the international geographical spread and the credentialed authority of the representatives.

It is worth commenting on the evolution of the Asia Pacific Conference. The first in Singapore was essentially an exercise in meeting our fellow confreres and familiarising ourselves with each other's works and aspirations, and assessing opportunities for regional co-operation. There is no doubt this first meeting sparked a sense of regional self awareness. In 2011, in Manila, a greater sense of confidence, co-operation and purpose was obviously emerging.

In 2012, there was a distinctly perceptible change in purpose and confidence in our discussions; partly due to the expanded regional representation; larger membership in Hong Kong, and Thailand; Korea for the first time, France and Portugal; and an awareness of the emerging influence of Catholicism in the Asia Pacific, and the expectation that Australia will assume a leadership role in the region.

There is no doubt this increased confidence and the emerging

sense of regional structure and purpose, was clearly articulated by the Grand Hospitaller. At the same time both complimentary and constructively critical of our present works, at this conference he was prepared to offer some clear direction for our future.

The Grand Hospitaller emphasised the need for more hands-on activities and the need to use volunteers to sustain significant projects. He re-iterated the Grand Master's unequivocal directions that the Order must deliberately engage with the young; which both the Grand Master and the Grand Hospitaller, (as indeed the Grand Magistracy) see as critical for the future survival of the Order of Malta, whether as Members of the First, Second or Third Class.

On several occasions he quoted the epitaph of the Order's first great fundraiser and our Order's founder, Blessed Fra Gerard - someone who wasn't afraid to go out and ask, and get his hands dirty:

"Here lies Gerard,

The humblest man, among the dwellers in the East;
The servant of the poor, a welcoming friend to strangers,
He was lowly in mien, but within him shone a noble heart.
The measure of his goodness may be seen within these walls.
He was provident in many things, painstaking in all he did;
He undertook many tasks of diverse nature;
Stretching out his arms diligently to many lands, He gathered
from everywhere the means to feed his people."

Our thanks to our Magistral Chaplains who celebrated daily Mass, Fr Danny Meagher PP and Msgr Tony Doherty AM who also delivered the keynote spiritual address based on the co-incident 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council

We were privileged to have as our Guest Speaker General Peter Cosgrove AC MC who took his audience into his confidence with a historical as well as current assessment of the political influences and power plays in the Asia Pacific region

Thanks are due to the Australian Members and staff who participated, especially those who bore the brunt of the organisation, none more so than Confrere David Hall, NSW Chairman, and Consoeur Venetia Macken.

The Conference may be safely assumed to be a success as attested by the unanimous and eager decision by all, including the Grand Hospitaller, to hold a fourth conference as soon as practical.

Dr Ian Marshall AE
Hospitaller
Australian Association

Bioethics Report

The colloquium discussed the issue of agent neutrality and cooperation in evil in several areas including: requests for euthanasia or assisted suicide, abortion, prenatal diagnosis and the new blood tests that will also determine gender and a large range of genetic abnormalities, and the management of fertility in a range of circumstances.

Prof Nicholas Tonti-Filippini JP2 Institute Associate Dean & Head of Bioethics



The main event in Bioethics for the Order was the 2012 Annual Bioethics Colloquium held by the Order of Malta sponsored Australian Association of Catholic Bioethicists on the theme “Agent Neutrality and Moral Cooperation”.

The issue of agent neutrality arose in the context of Palliative Care Australia adopting a policy of “studied neutrality” in relation to euthanasia. In a media release dated 29 September 2010, Dr Yvonne Luxford, Chief Executive Officer of Palliative Care Australia said, “Voluntary euthanasia is not part of palliative care and Palliative Care Australia neither supports nor opposes voluntary euthanasia. Caring for the ill is more than a one-issue debate.”

The choice of topic also reflected the pressures on the conscientious practices of Catholic and prolife health professionals. The Victorian abortion law requires doctors to refer for abortion and requires nurses to participate in an abortion if a doctor judges that it is an emergency. Also health professionals who provide assisted reproductive technology (ART) services are required, by the Victorian law, not to discriminate on the basis of marital status or sexual orientation. So a health professional who provides ART would be obliged, if asked, to assist a same sex couple to achieve pregnancy, including if it involved a surrogate. The law conflicts with national and international codes of ethics that recognise the right to conscientiously withdraw from providing, or cooperating with, a service and ensure that conscientious objectors suffer no disadvantage.

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There was a debate on the topic of a Catholic hospital in Phoenix, Arizona that permitted an abortion to be carried out in the circumstances in which a mother suffered from pulmonary arterial hypertension. The Bishop of Phoenix rescinded the Catholic status of the hospital provoking much controversy.

Members of the Order were also involved in making submissions on a number of other issues including euthanasia, same sex marriage, reproductive technology religious freedom and the religious exemptions under the equal opportunity law. The defence of the faith in these ways is usually linked to the service of the poor, especially the protection of the family and the wellbeing of children, of women, of the elderly and people who have a disability.

The second volume of the series *About Bioethics* by Confrere Prof Nicholas Tonti-Filippini entitled *Care of People Who are Sick or Dying* was published in January by Connor Court. In August, the Vice Chancellor of Monash University, Prof Ed Byrne, launched the third volume, entitled *Transplantation, Biobanks and the Human Body*. Anglican Archbishop Peter Jensen did the Sydney launch of Volume III at Parliament House NSW in October.

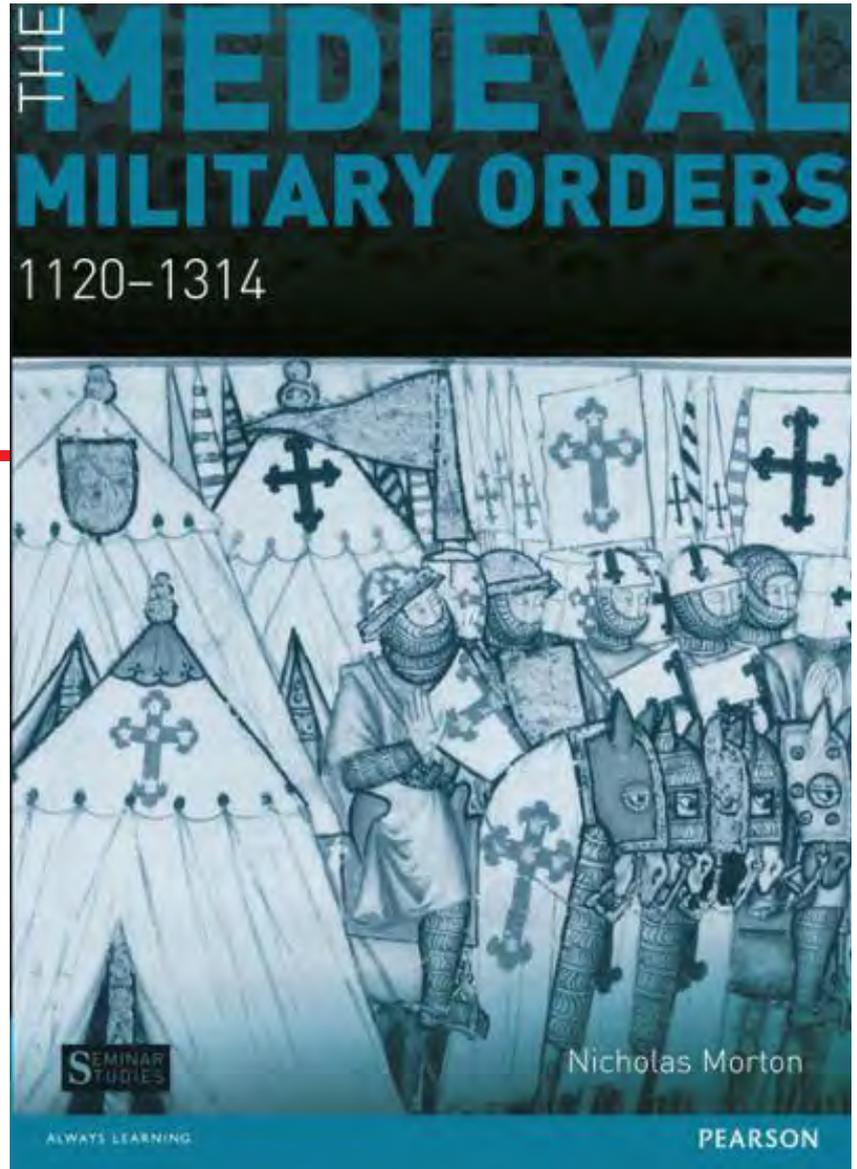
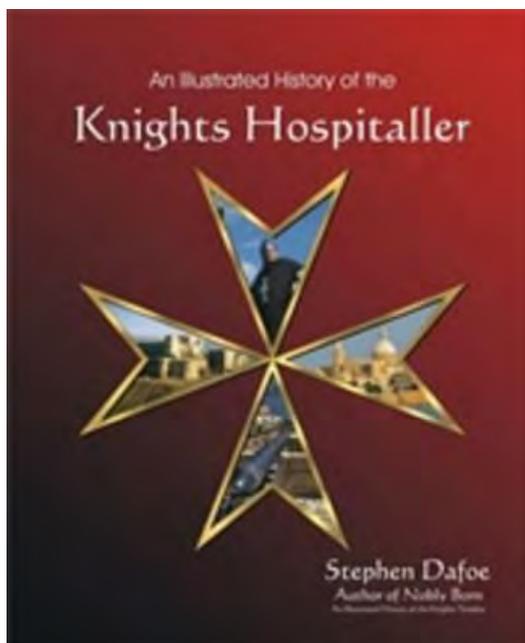
Prof Nicholas Tonti-Filippini

JP2 Institute Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning and Research)
and Head of Bioethics

Book Reviews

Throughout 2012, a number of great studies were published both on our Order and its activities, as well as more general studies on the crusades and the isles once occupied by the Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Here, for Members, I have included a number of titles that may interest many in our Order.

Prof Frà Richard Divall AO OBE.



Rhodes besieged. A new history.

A new study of the two great sieges of Rhodes in 1480 and 1522. Stroud. 206 pages.

An Illustrated History of the Knights Hospitaller

By Stephen Defoe. A well-illustrated but short history of the Order covering the period up to the Battle of Lepanto. Possibly an excellent introduction to the Order's military history. Ian Allan Publishing. 2010. 160 pages.

The Medieval Military Orders 1120-1314.

A fine new study by Nicholas Morton. An overview of the different Military Orders of the Church. Pearson Books. 181 pages.

The Saint and the Sultan.

A study on Saint Francis of Assisi and his journey to Egypt and the Sultan in 1219. A fascinating, but failed mission of peace. By Paul Moses. Doubleday Religion. 302 pages.

The Fortress of Rhodes 1309-1522

This short illustrated study of the fortifications of the Knights on Rhodes. By Konstantin Nossov. Osprey Books. 64 pages.

The Last Corsairs of Malta.

By Thomas Freller. The story of Leonard Eisenschmied and his time on Malta and capture by the Corsairs in 1787-1798. Midsea Books, Malta. 180 pages.

The Crusades and the Near East. Cultural Histories.

Ten articles on crusader architecture, history and Muslim responses to the Crusades. Edited by Conor Kostick. Routledge. 271 pages.

Cantate Domino – Early Choir Books for the Knights of Malta.

By Teresa Zammit Lupi. This is a study of the illuminated choir books of Grand Master L'Isle Adam, made for the Order after 1530 on Malta. Lavishly illustrated. Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti. 184 pages.

Crusades. Volume 11. 2012

Edited by the crusader historian Benjamin Kedar, the book-journal 'Crusades' covers the history of the crusading period from 1099 to 1798 on Malta. Ashgate. 372 pages.

On the Margins of Crusading. The Military Orders, the Papacy and the Christian World.

Excellent study, edited by Helen Nicholson containing eleven papers presented at the Latin East Congress at Avignon in 2008. Ashgate. 209 pages.

Prof Frà Richard Divall AO OBE



Lorenzo di Credi (c. 1459 - 1537), Madonna with the Christ Child and St John the Baptist, Alte Meister Galerie - Der Zwinger, Dresden, Germany.



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

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

The Malteser International website: www.malteser-international.org