



In our July newsletter, we reported on one of our Creating Leaders Scholarship students, Maria, who was part of a team that became finalists in a worldwide physics competition for high school students sponsored by the renowned European Centre for Particle Physics (CERN), located in Geneva, Switzerland.

## CREATING LEADERS STUDENT TO START STUDYING MEDICINE

The Creating Leaders Scholarship Program started in 2014. Maria was one of our first students and she recently completed her education at the Portuguese School of Dili with outstanding results. She is now going on to pursue her dream of studying medicine at a university in Portugal and is a wonderful example of what the children who are part of the Creating Leaders Scholarship can achieve.

Although Maria has now left the scholarship program she is still very much part of the 'Order of Malta' family. Members of the Order of Malta

in Portugal have kindly offered to be a point of contact and support whilst she is studying overseas.

Maria recently wrote the following email of thanks to the Order of Malta:

*"I'm writing you this email to thank the Order of Malta for everything that Malta has done and still doing to me. Without you I'm sure I would have a lot of difficulties."*

*I know words are not enough to thank you. That's why I want to achieve my goals to prove that all the facilities that you have given me will not be in vain."*

### Meet Joanina and Caetano: our latest students to be sponsored through the Creating Leaders Scholarship program

Creating Leaders is an Order of Malta scholarship program in Timor-Leste. Like many developing countries, Timor-Leste has high levels of poverty and low national human development. Education is an important vehicle to employment, independence, social and political empowerment and consequently, national development. However, a cycle of poverty often creates barriers to the children's participation in education.

The Scholarship supports underprivileged children to participate in formal continuing education.

Thanks to the generosity of donors, another two children have been sponsored.

Caetano is one of our youngest students. He lives in Bebonuk with his three siblings and mother who works as a housekeeper and father who works as a gardener.

His favourite subject at school is Mathematics as he enjoys problem solving and his hobbies include playing football and marbles. When he is older he hopes to become a teacher.

Joanina is one of our youngest students. Her father passed away when she was only 2 years old and she lives with her eight siblings and mother who works as a gardener.

Joanina's favourite subject at school is Portuguese (she speaks Tetum at home) and outside of school, she enjoys playing with her dolls and reading. Her favourite part of the Creating Leaders Scholarship is the Christmas celebration she has with her fellow scholarship students.

When Joanina is older she hopes to become a Nun so that she can assist those in need.

Caetano enjoys gathering with the other Creating Leaders students and is very excited about the opening of the Gerard Centre, a building within the Embassy compound where we are establishing a resource centre for the students. He would like it to have a library and resources he can use for study.

**We have many children needing sponsors for Creating Leader's scholarships. Sponsoring a Child costs \$70 a month.**

You can learn more by downloading the Creating Leaders Brochure available at [orderofmalta.org.au](http://orderofmalta.org.au) or by making a donation on page 5.

## MEMBERS PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOLLOWING SEVERE FLOODING IN THAILAND

Member of the Order of Malta, Adrian Borg-Cardona provides a report on the situation in Thailand following the widespread flooding:

On Friday 4th August, 2107 a small group, comprising of two members of the Order, one aspirant and one volunteer met with Msgr. Dr. Vissanu Thanya-Anan, Deputy Secretary General, at the Catholic Bishops Conference of Thailand, Head Office, to formally present the donation of 150,000.00 Thai Baht, (A\$6,000).

Msgr. Vissanu accepted our donation on behalf of all the victims of the floods regardless of faith. The donation will be sent to the Tharae Diocese in Sakorn Nakorn, one of seven provinces badly affected by the floods. The Diocese of Tharae covers 8 provinces, 25,477km<sup>2</sup>, 30 parishes, 51 priests and approximately 51, 275 Catholics, an average of 17% of the Kingdom's population.

The relief funds will be used to supply food and fresh water to the victims. The food kitchen will be at the diocese of Tharae for those who are able to reach the centre, and for those still badly effected by the flooding, food and water will be delivered by boat thanks to the Royal Thai Military and volunteers.

The supply of hygiene equipment will be a priority as there is an estimate of 17,000 houses severely affected by



water and mud. The victims will also need furniture and electric wiring to be repaired.

Lastly, medical care is also a high priority. The hospitals are starting to get back to normal though much damage has been caused. Thailand flooding

Everyone who can help is pitching in regardless of faith, creed, or race. The Order of Malta together with other charities, corporations and individuals are giving a helping hand to elevate the suffering.

The Members and Friends of the Order in Thailand continues of tradition in serving the Sick and the Poor.

Sadly, people in these provinces will continue to struggle for many months. So far 11 people are known to have died due to the floods and many have become sick, lost property, livestock, cars, farm machinery – the list is endless. As most effected are low income earners, the majority are not insured.

**If you would like to assist the relief efforts in Thailand, please email [info@smom.org.au](mailto:info@smom.org.au)**

## LOURDES MASS CELEBRATED AT AGED CARE FACILITIES IN VICTORIA



In Victoria, as well as the annual Lourdes Day Mass held on the first Saturday of December at St Patrick's Cathedral, members of the Order hold Lourdes Masses at various Catholic aged care centres throughout the year.

On Wednesday, 16th August a Lourdes Mass was held at the Assisi Centre in Rosanna which has 150 residents of Italian background. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Terry Curtin, a chaplain of the Order. The Mass was attended by over 100 residents and all attendees received a gift pack comprising a small bottle of Lourdes water, rosary beads and prayer cards.

At the conclusion of Mass Bishop Curtin blessed Piazza San Francesco, a small piazza which was fitted out by the Assisi Centre's Womens Committee and which will serve as a gathering place for the residents and their families.

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## THE INAUGURAL ASIA PACIFIC SUMMER CAMP 2017

For the last 30 years the Order of Malta has a tradition of holding summer camps or young disabled people aged between 18 to 30.

The Singapore Association, extended this tradition to the Asia Pacific region and from the 8th to 11th June 2017, the Inaugural Asia Pacific Summer Camp took place at the Singapore Sports School.

The Singaporean Association funded the accommodation, transport and food expenses within Singapore for the 50 disabled delegates and 60 plus carers and volunteers, which included 24 hours nurses, doctors and a 24 hour ambulance on standby.

Each Association paid for the air tickets and insurance and the registration fees of their delegates. Participants came from Australia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

The theme of the camp was "Seize Every Moment", to stress the richness that every second of life can offer. There were shared moments of joy and entertainment, of reflection and prayer, but also a lively cultural exchange between youths of different nationalities. These are the basic traits of the Order of Malta's summer camps, both the international ones held every year in a European country and the numerous national ones.

Activities at the camp included scuba diving, bowling, archery, dragon boat racing and treasure

hunts, as well as social activities, such as a visit to the Botanic Gardens with a magic show, a cultural evening where guests were asked to wear their national costume and bring their national food and a disco.

The Games concluded with an award ceremony which includes the presentation of the Christopher Cup.

The Christopher Cup is awarded at all Summer Camps of the Order of Malta worldwide. The tradition started after a camp in 1994, where five Austrians youths met with a car accident on their way home after serving as helpers at the Order of Malta Summer Camp in Switzerland. All five volunteers -Ingrid Reithofer, Paul Kaltenegger, Christopher Breisky, Markus Knezevic and Thibault de Montjoye – lost their lives.

The parents of Christopher Breisky donated his beloved croquet set to the Order's Summer Camp – it was his favourite game. Since then, the Christopher Cup Challenge is held every year in memory of the five Austrians volunteers who served so joyfully at the camp. Thus, the tradition began and continues at all games.

The Christopher Cup, at the 2017 Asia Pacific Camp was won by the Thai participants. The cup will be held in Thailand until next year, where it will be returned to Manila, Philippines, the location of the next Asia Pacific Camp.



Dragon Boats Racing



Christopher Cup winners



Closing ceremony



## REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN: THE 2017 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta held its Biennial National Assembly from 23 to 25 June in Brisbane, Queensland. One hundred and thirty-six members of the Order from around Australia, together with visitors from New Zealand and Hong Kong, attended the Assembly.

Remembering the Forgotten was the theme of the conference which was addressed by His Grace Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Chief Chaplain ad interim of the Order in Australia and scholars from the Australian Catholic University. Other presentations included briefings on the works of the Order in Timor-Leste and Asia and on the Sub-Priory of the Immaculate

Conception. Eight members of the Order took their Promise of Obedience during a Vigil Service and sixteen new Members from Australia and four from New Zealand were invested as Knights or Dames of the Order at an Investiture Mass held on the Feast of St John.

A combination of stimulating speakers, solemn and uplifting Church Services and a number of social functions, which facilitated great fellowship, resulted in a positive, informative, fruitful and successful Assembly.

Visit [www.orderofmalta.org.au](http://www.orderofmalta.org.au) to watch a highlights video from the 2017 Assembly

### UPCOMING LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS

Save the date

#### \* Sydney

**Date:** Saturday, 2 Dec 2017  
**Time:** 10am  
**Location:** St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

#### \* Melbourne

**Date:** Saturday, 2 Dec 2017  
**Time:** 10am  
**Location:** St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne

This Mass is for the sick and the fragile in our community. A blessing of the sick will follow the Homily with water brought from the spring at the shrine of Lourdes.

This Mass is one way with which the Order fulfils its Mission to defend the faith and serve the Lord's poor and sick.



## COATS FOR THE HOMELESS 2018

This winter, 6,000 of our specially designed winter Coats were distributed across Australia.

We are currently in the planning stages of our 2018 Campaign. The Coats are ordered in December to arrive in time for winter – therefore funds available at the end of 2017 dictate how many Coats we order for the coming winter.

Please consider a donation in support of this campaign.

**\$100 will buy three specially designed winter coats for people who find themselves without a home next winter.**

## PROVIDING FOOD TO FORGOTTEN NEIGHBOURS IN SEOUL SLUMS



The newly renovated 'House of Catholic Love & Peace' was consecrated and blessed on July 7th. This 'House' is where the members of the Order of Malta Korea and volunteers cook, pack and deliver lunch boxes to about 200 forgotten neighbours living in slums in downtown Seoul.

Follow the charitable works of our Members in Korea on Facebook, @OrderofMaltaKorea



## YOUNG ORDER OF MALTA APPEAL DELIVERS MEDICINE TO TIMOR-LESTE

The Order's Australian President Dr Ian Marshall invited Young Order of Malta Volunteers Queensland (YOMV Qld) members Christopher Schaffer, Joseph and Alice Grogan to develop an appeal seeking donations of simple household medicines like Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, vitamins and cough medicine to support a small medical clinic in Timor-Leste.

"Sister (Irma) Cristina Macrino from the Congregation of Sisters of Reparation coordinates a clinic in a very poor village near the town of Maliana on the edge of the Timor-Leste/Indonesia border. Sister Cristina does a wonderful job there under very difficult conditions where they continually need medications." Explained the Order's Ambassador to Timor-Leste H.E David Scarf AM.

YOMV Qld initiated a Lenten Appeal galvanising support from friends in the Cathedral of St Stephen's Young Adults Ministry and neighbouring parishes. This humble appeal raised over \$7,000 in donated medicines, small cash donations and transportation assistance.

David Scarf and the benevolent Randazzo family generously facilitated shipment and

transportation of all donations from Brisbane, through Darwin, to Sr Cristina's clinic in Timor-Leste.



Sr Cristina expresses her gratitude for the Order's kind support. "The mission deeply appreciates... this great gift of medication that we have already begun to use in these last days. A group of patients on one of the usual consultation days were impressed by the medication boxes and soon wanted to thank all."

YOMV Qld plans to develop this appeal further into an annual model, please email [info@smom.org.au](mailto:info@smom.org.au) if you would like to be involved.

Alternatively, you can donate in support of this project on page 5

## IT'S ALMOST READY BUT WE STILL NEED HELP!



The Order of Malta Clinic in Dili, will provide free primary medical services to those who are unable to afford treatment and will focus on antenatal and neonatal health, and the health of children up to age 5. While Timor-Leste has made large strides in the quality of its healthcare since independence, it still has an infant mortality rate more than ten times that of Australia. For a country on our doorstep, it is a terrible statistic.



The clinic is scheduled to open in November and well over US\$450,000 has been spent on the project thus far. The premises have been built, the fit-out is complete and much of the medical equipment has been purchased. We have appointed a Paediatrician, Nurse and Clinic Manager and the recruitment of the remaining staff is well underway. However, the opening is currently being held back by lack of funds on hand to finalise the set-up costs and get us through our first few months of operation.

This facility will be by far the best in Timor-Leste and once the clinic is established, it will generate revenue from private clients to offset expenses. However this revenue is not an option until the Clinic is operational.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to help get us through the Clinic opening and initial months of operation. Donations can be made on page 5.



## MEMBERS DONATE CHILDREN'S BIBLES TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN THE NT

On Wednesday, 31st August 2017, Consoeur Frances Booth, Consoeur Maria Randazzo and Confrère Sean Parnell, Members of the Order of Malta NT Group (OM NT Group), were privileged to donate twenty one Children's Bibles to seven of the thirteen NT Catholic Primary Schools. Another donation for the remaining schools will be made in 2018.

Laura Avery, Leader of Catholic Identity for the NT Catholic Education Office, welcomed the donation and will make the bibles available at various school assemblies over the next few months.

The donation is one of the activities undertaken by the NT OM Group

for 2017 pursuant to the twofold Charism of the Order – 'Obsequium Pauperum' and 'Tuitio Fidei' - by looking, respectively, at means by which expression of poverty – in this case 'spiritual poverty' – could be addressed and the defence of faith promoted, as many families of children attending Catholic and even public schools cannot afford that privilege of accessing the sacred written sources of our Christian faith.

Further, through this donation, the OM NT Group is able to play a small role in furthering the goals of 'the NT Catholic Strategic Pastoral Plan 'Towards 2017'.

## COMMITMENT TO ASSIST THE CHRONICALLY ILL AT ST VINCENTS HOSPITAL BRISBANE

The Queensland branch of the Order has a long-standing involvement with St Vincent's hospital in Brisbane, formally named Mt Olivet hospital. Members regularly sit with, console and listen to patients in their time of great need and have donated towards the restocking of the drinks cart, which is a favourite amongst many patients.

This involvement can be attributed to the works of the Order's dearly loved late Consoeur Tess Cramond. Her work in the palliative care field in this region was world class, and the legacy of her commitment and dedication lives on. Our Order continues in the provision of funding to assist those chronically ill and dying with the hope of providing a better quality of life.

Members have recently unanimously resolved to initiate the Tess Cramond Memorial Fund to which it will provide ongoing funds for assistance to the patients of this hospital facility.

## 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
- Creating Leaders Scholarships
- Order of Malta Medical Clinic, Dili
- Medicines for Timor Leste

**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  Monthly Card Type  Visa  MasterCard  
Credit Card Number   
Expiry Date   Cardholder name   
Signature