

None of You Can Be My Disciple Unless He Gives Up All His Possessions (Luke 14, 25-33)

By H.E. Msgr. Raymond Poisson, Principal Chaplain

Epístula

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"The poor and the sick, the essence of the Order's mission, are the real field where Christ is calling me in order to love Him and to transform me into a Christian!"

I have always been a bit puzzled by Jesus' observation with respect to the relation he wants established between each of us and Him: "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple" (v.26). It is certain that to prefer Christ above one's own mother, father, brothers and sisters or friends does not mean that we are not to love them also. However, this exhortation from Jesus must be taken seriously. What does it really mean?

In order to understand, we must search the motivations and intentions of the "large crowds [...] travelling with Him" (v.25). They had been fed through the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes; the sick, the lame, the blind, the lepers, the handicapped suffering from every conceivable disease, physical as well as mental, all were healed and re-established in their dignity. So, what motivated these large crowds was not a world to be transformed, a personal conversion for a drastic change in their life, but a simple, disappointing very personal interest, a benefit that will fade away quickly when confronted with the first obstacles, the first persecutions against Christ.

That is what Jesus rejects. When our attachment to Christ — firstly but not exclusively — guides our life, the same family, fraternal and community relations are transformed. My love for my husband, my wife, my father, my children and my friends is transformed by the light of my loving fidelity to Christ; He who was the first to give his life for his friends. Through my personal relationship with Him, He invites me to dare make the same commitment of self. Therein lies the grandeur, the solidity, the depth of God's loving project for the world.

We often say among ourselves that our Lords are the sick and the poor. Here as nowhere else in our interpersonal relationships, our bond with Christ gives us strength, courage and love. It was Brother Gerard's inspiration and of all those who followed him. Without the relation with Christ, service to the poor and the sick may well be accommodated, but it is basically a citizen's duty, a manifestation of solidarity, a humanitarian occupation; whereas my relation with Christ transforms my service to the poor and the sick into a love story, a gratuitous gift in a shared journey towards a better world.

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This is the meaning of the second part of the excerpt from the Gospel when Jesus invites us to verify if we have everything needed to build a tower through completion before laying the foundations (verses 28-30): "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish."

As a member of the Order of Malta, I am happy, of course, to find myself among others, praying and celebrating with them, with respect and with a sense of history. However, the poor and the sick, the essence of the Order's mission, are the real field where Christ is calling me in order to love Him and to transform me into a *Christian!* Go, and do a good job.

31st International Order of Malta Summer Camp

By Lea Janossy



It was a grey Saturday morning at 6 AM in Amsterdam, and we had been waiting for half an hour for the second half of the Canadian delegation to walk through the Arrivals door at Schipol airport. The door swings open, and with a shout our guests hurl themselves at us, overflowing with excitement. It seems that the jet lag and the sleepless night on the plane did not put even a small dent in the eagerness of Marianna and Sean to finally have arrived in Amsterdam. We met our link, and were smoothly directed to the bus transfer taking us to the camp. On arrival we were able to take a long nap before the activities of Saturday afternoon got into full swing. The camp this year was located at the Harskamp military base, and all the teams were stationed in barracks around a large camp area. This was especially important for all those guests in wheelchairs since they were no queues for elevators, as in recent years.

On Sunday, the day began with a rousing opening Mass followed by a exciting opening ceremony, where a guest and a helper from each country's delegation brought their flag up to add it to the row of flagpoles, amid thunderous applause. This was followed by an International Borrel, where each country displayed tidbits from their culture, mostly in the form of their own specialty food and drinks. After stocking up on French cheese, Italian olives, and Dutch desert, we headed to the event that was the highlight of the camp for Sean particularly. The disco at night. For some guests, it is the arts and crafts stations that are the highlight of the camp, for others it is the extreme sports they are able to take part of, and for others it is

"This is the Order of Malta ... this is the international camp. The idea is to break boundaries in the guest's perception of what is possible".



the nightly discos. It is really a breathtaking event to watch a throbbing mass of wheelchairs weave in and out of each other on the dance floor. This is an event that normally cannot be experienced by our guests in their regular lives, but in the Malta Camp, due to the high level of acceptance and support flowing from guests and helpers alike everyone feels comfortable on the dance floor. This leads to the highest ecstasy for certain guests.

The excursions organized by the Dutch this year were unparalleled. Guests could choose from a wide variety of activities such as museum visits, safaris, zoo visits, scuba diving, water parks, and, drumroll please, skydiving! In the one indoor installation, visitors could experience free-fall due to the strong air current pushing them up.

This is the Order of Malta ... this is the international camp. The idea to break boundaries in the guest's perception of what is possible for them both physically and mentally is what makes the International Camp such a special place. Sean decided to give scuba diving a try, while Marianna chose to go visit a reputed Van Gogh museum. They both enjoyed it immensely. Another day was spent exploring beautiful Amsterdam, followed by a visit to the Open Lucht Museum, which is an incredible attraction where a traditional Dutch village setting has been recreated to preserve rural Dutch traditions and culture. We got a hand at the shooting range, as well as trying out traditional bicycles back from when the front wheel was much bigger than the back one. It was quite a challenging ride! Another day was spent alternating between activities at the camp, where we challenged the Lithuanians and the Belgians to a team of paintball, set up in one of the tennis courts of the military camp.



After a couple days (and nights!) of nonstop activities, it was a relief for the silent night to roll around on Wednesday. Every year the silent night is one of the clear highlights of the camp, as the camp is brought together in prayer. It was incredibly beautiful this year, as everyone was given a candle, and a candlelight procession wound its way around. The rosary was recited in many different languages, and was followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The chants of the Lebanese delegation praying in Arabic intermingled with the sweet hymns of the French, offering a true moment of meditation on the incredible grace of God for all.



The last day, King's Day, was set up to mimic King's Day in Holland, a day where everyone dresses up in orange, and partakes in street festivities. Amidst the festivities, including a carousel, face painting, and various other attractions, a big vintage sport car rolled to a halt amongst the crowd. Four men in leather jackets hopped out, and proceeded to perform 60s rock from on top of the car. At the height of the concert, they asked a team member to join them on stage (on top



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of the car), and Sean's was the first hand that shot up. Up he hopped, and performed his hit single, accompanied by the entire band, to the roaring crowd.

Marianna's claim to fame was the Talent Show one of the nights, where she got to perform a song from Les Miserables, in front of the entire camp. She was a resounding success.

Due to the gracious support of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta, Marianna and Sean were able to spend an incredible week in a place from their dreams. The whole time they were fluctuating from exuberance to sorrow at the prospect of going home. All members of the Canadian delegation, guests and helpers alike, returned home with the conviction to bring some of the opportunity and joy experienced back to our local communities.

We hope to continue this newly branded tradition of bringing a Canadian delegation to the Malta Camps by bringing a Canadian contingent to the 32nd annual International Camp for Disabled Youth of the Order of Malta 2015, taking place in France.

*N*ational pilgrimage of the Canadian Association

By André A. Morin, KMOB

This year, members and friends of the Order of Malta went to Quebec City, August 15-17, as a destination for our national pilgrimage. This activity was motivated by



Faith for those who cannot take part in the international pilgrimage to Lourdes.



For this first Canadian pilgrimage, the Board chose the City of Quebec because Our Lady's parish in that city was celebrating its 350th anniversary. In addition, Msgr. de Montmorency de Laval, first Bishop of New France, and Mother Marie de l'Incarnation were canonized this year. In order to acknowledge these events appropriately, the Archdiocese of Quebec instituted a Holy Year with the erection of a Holy Door in the Cathedral-Basilica. Quebec City is also important to the Canadian Association because, during the French period, several knights of the Order were active there, notably Charles Huault de Montmagny, first Governor of New France.

This pilgrimage gathered some thirty participants from Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto and Moncton who crossed the Holy Door. It was an occasion to associate ourselves closely to Our Lord Jesus Christ, He who is "the door for the lambs".

The Quebec City pilgrimage was a landmark moment for the pilgrims in terms of prayers and fraternity. It began under the auspices of the Virgin Mary by the celebration of the Mass of the Assumption of Mary, which inaugurated our pilgrimage. On Saturday, after a visit and prayers at the Ursulines convent, we walked through the Holy Door and attended the Eucharist in the historic church of Our Lady of Victories. In the afternoon, our Confrère, Dr. Robert Pichette gave us a remarkable presentation on the presence of the Order in New France. We were able to see the celebrated stone bearing the Cross of the Order preserved within the Château Frontenac.

Sunday mass was held in the chapel of the Citadel where we prayed reverently over the tombs of General and Madame Vanier, two illustrious Canadian members of the Order. Finally, we ended the pilgrimage with a fraternal and convivial meal in the Officers' Mess at the Citadel.

I wish to thank our Chaplains, Bishop Poisson, Father Spatafora, Msgr. McCormack and Father Blais for their active participation. I also want to thank Mr. and Mrs. Légaré, Mr. Christian Samoisette and Mr. François Caron for their assistance in organising this pilgrimage. I fervently hope that it will be repeated in order to assist our members who wish to deepen their Faith.

The Order of Malta - Canadian beginnings

By John J.F. Kennedy

The former town Sillery, Quebec is now a borough of Quebec City, called Sainte-Foy-Sillery-Cap-Rouge (as of 1 January 2002). This town was named after Noël Brûlart de Sillery (1577-1640), a Knight of Malta ⁽¹⁾.

Noël Brûlart de Sillery was born on 25 December (which accounts for his first name), the son of Pierre de Brûlart de Berni and Marie Cauchon de Sillery ⁽²⁾. Noël Brûlart de Sillery became a Knight of St. John at about 19 years of age (and was a page to Grand Master Martin Garzes), serving on four caravans (or expeditions) aboard the Order's galleys in the Mediterranean from 1596 until 1607, before returning to France. About 1611, he was promoted Commander of Troyes and sometime later Commander of Villedieu, two prosperous commanderies, in the Grand Priory of France (roughly the north of modern France). Brûlart de Sillery also served as Ambassador of the Order to the Court of the King of France from about 1614 until 1622.

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He came from a wealthy and politically influential family (his older brother Nicolas was the Chancellor of France) and was highly esteemed in court circles, where he had been both the First Esquire (1611) to King Henry IV and later a Knight of Honour (1614), with the privilege of living at the Louvre. He served on an embassy to Spanish court, negotiating the marriage of the Infanta of Spain, Anne of Austria to the Dauphin, future Louis XIII of France. Brûlart also hosted a Spanish delegation to Paris led by the Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo, don Bernardo de Sandoval y Rojas in his mansion in 1615, discussing the recently published second part of *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. As Cervantes, who served with the Holy League against the Turkish fleet at Lepanto in 1571 (where he lost his right hand), Brûlart had opposed the Turks when Pasha Cicala attacked Gozo in 1597 on one of his earliest caravans.

But, while in Rome on another of his embassies in 1622, he made a deal on behalf of France regarding the Valteline (an important valley in Lombardy in northern Italy that bordered the Grisons of southern Switzerland and was a crucial passageway between Italy and Germany). France had vested interests in north Italy since the mid-fifteenth century and was sensitive to armies, especially Spanish and Imperial ones, crossing so close to its borders. The French Crown thought Brûlart de Sillery's terms too generous toward Spanish interests. While Cardinal Denis Simon de Marquemont, Archbishop of Lyons, defended Brûlart's reasons, Brûlart was nonetheless replaced by Maximilien de Béthune (later duc de Sully) in future negotiations (3).

Whatever the result of the Valteline deal was, Brûlart resigned from the Order's embassy. This event seemed to signal a significant transformation of Brûlart de Sillery's life: away from public life and toward religion. By 1625, he sought the company of Saint Vincent de Paul and Charles de Condren of the French branch of the Oratory, both very significant figures in the French Counter-Reformation. He was soon studying the writings of St. François de Sales, the great and holy Bishop of Annecy. Brûlart quickly developed a special devotion to this warm, humane saint. By 1632, Brûlart sold his expensive *hôtel* in Paris to Cardinal de Richelieu (who had only joined the King's Council in 1624) and in 1634 became a priest.

Brûlart distributed much of his considerable wealth to various religious communities in France (e.g. to the Lazarists or Vincentians in Troyes and Paris, the Visitation Priests and the Carmelites). But, Brûlart's generosity extended also to Canada, where near Quebec City he promoted a Mission for First Nation converts to Catholicism in 1638. Named after St. Joseph, this First Nations community was

operated by Jesuits, to whom Brûlart contributed about 12 thousand pounds. The St. Joseph Mission initially, housed Algonquin Christians, who lived there most of the year, except during the hunting season.



French settlers interested in the fur trade often consulted the residents of the St. Joseph Mission. The French settlers were eager to learn the Algonquin language and culture. But, during these seemingly innocuous conversations, these First Nation Christians unfortunately contracted European diseases, to which they had no natural immunity. As a result, many died. By 1680, the

Algonquin Christian reserve was largely empty, but the lovely town of Sillery, which

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grew up as a center of the lumber industry on the Saint Lawrence on this site took the name of this honorable and generous Knight of Malta.

Not many place in Canada have the honour of being named after a Knight of Malta, let alone such a pious and generous one. So, one can perhaps understand my excitement, when I discovered a photograph of a beautiful medal with a handsome portrait bust of Noël Brûlart de Sillery on the obverse and his beautiful Coat of Arms on the reverse while doing research on the Ambassadors of the Knights of Malta to the crown of France (4).

In the Gospel attributed to Matthew, Jesus says, "it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 19: 23-26). But, for Brûlart de Sillery, the rich man, who distributed his wealth to spiritually enrich others, I prefer to think he passed through the eye of that needle quite comfortably.

(1) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sillery,-Quebec-City>; (2) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noel_Brulart_de_Sillery; (3) *Dictionaire Biographique Française*, eds. M. Prevost et R. d'Amat, Vol 7 (1956), Paris, pp. 494-5; (4) Mark Jones, *A Catalogue of French Medals in the British Museum, Vol. Two, 1600-1672*, London, British Museum, 1988, pp. 284-235.

Canadian Association news

On August 16th, members from Vancouver manned the First Aid tent at the archdiocesan pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Mission, B.C. Although the weather was overcast on Saturday, but no rain, there were the usual crowds. Because it is native Indian land at Heritage Park the celebrant entered wearing the most fabulous feathered headdress but of course had to take it off to celebrate Mass!

(photo and summary by Frank McCullough)



from left to right: Christina Ceraldi, Min Kim, Terry McCullough, Enrico Dobrzensky, Frank McCullough, Genilde Kinsky, Aline and Dominic Dobrzensky, and in front Stephanie McCullough and Adrian French.





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Recently, our Confrère, **Doctor Robert Pichette**, was awarded an honorary doctorate in Public Administration by the Université de Moncton for his exceptional contribution to the political and administrative life of New Brunswick as well as for his intellectual and cultural contribution to the Acadian community. Doctor Pichette has authored a great many books, including one, published in 2013, on the history of the Canadian Association. He contributes significantly to our Association through his writings and the translation of our documents in both official languages in use by the Association. The Board and I congratulate him for this distinction and we thank him for his excellent work on our behalf. (*André A. Morin*)

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I have the pleasure to inform you that the Board has hired Mrs. Nicole Mondou as **Executive Director**. Mrs. Mondou, who specializes in commercial and fiscal law, will work at the National Secretariat on Mondays and Tuesdays. She will assist the Board as well as the International Association of Catholic Bioethicists in fulfilling their complementary mandates. I am happy to heartily welcome Mrs. Mondou on your behalf. (*André A. Morin*)

President's message

By André A. Morin, KMOB

It has been two months since our latest Investiture and Annual General Meeting when you expressed your confidence in me by giving me a second mandate. I thank you and wish to assure you that I will make every effort, along with the Members of the Board, to build a united Association, strong and renewed, attentive to the membership, ready to assist the poor and the sick.

The new Board is composed of the following Members:

H.E. Dr. André A. Morin, President
Mr. Roman Ciecwierz, National Vice-President
The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Chancellor
Dr. Bill Sullivan, Hospitaler
Mr. Luc Bigras, Treasurer
Mr. Alex de Cosson, Vice-President, Pacific
Dr. Richard Lévesque, Vice-President, Atlantic
Mr. Valentine Lovekin, Vice-President, Toronto
The Honourable Anne-Marie Trahan, Vice-President, Montreal
Mr. Patrick Rechner, Master of Ceremonies
Mr. Bruce Adams, Counsellor
Mr. Éric van Blaeren, Counsellor
Mr. Luc Paquette, Counsellor
Dr. Rory Fisher, Counsellor
H.E. the Rt. Rev. Raymond Poisson, Auxiliary Bishop of the diocese of Saint-Jérôme, Principal Chaplain of the Association.

"We are not a contemplative Order, we are people in the field and we meet Christ every time we look after our brothers and sisters, after the poor and the sick."

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The extraordinary dedication of the outgoing administration must be specifically highlighted. I thank most sincerely Mr. Joe Stephen, former Chancellor, Dr. Luigi Castagna, former Hospitaler, Mr. Henry Kloppenberg, Counsellor, His Excellency Frank Crothers, Counsellor, and Dr. Jean-Marie Guillé, Counsellor, for their full involvement and generosity towards the Association. I wish to highlight in particular the work accomplished by our former Principal Chaplain, Father Andrea Spatafora, through his work and advice.

The next three years will bring their own challenges. Recruitment will remain a priority. Work on behalf of the poor and the sick will continue since it is at the heart of our charism. A member of the Order is pre-eminently a Christian who wishes to live his spirituality in action. We are not a contemplative Order, we are people in the field and we meet Christ every time we look after our brothers and sisters, after the poor and the sick. In order that our actions be efficient, it is important to know our Faith and how to improve it; the doctrine of the Church and the teachings of the Popes. Pope Francis has a decided interest in the poor and the sick and he continues to adapt the Church to the current world. He invites us to meet those wounded by life and those who live on the margins. The lessons taught by Pope Francis is in continuity with the writings of Popes Benedict XVI and Saint John Paul II. Our Chaplains, under the leadership of the Principal Chaplain, will continue to accompany our members in order for us to further our knowledge of the teachings of the Church and the spirituality that is proper to our Order.

During the next three years we will continue to develop our network of auxiliaries. In order to achieve this, the Board adopted, last September, a policy relative to the administration of the auxiliaries. The Board will meet in January in order to review our strategic priorities and you will be kept informed of the results of our reflections.

I also appeal to your generosity on behalf of the Association. Thanks to your annual oblation, you allow the Association to act efficiently on behalf of the poor and the sick. Without your financial assistance, it is impossible to fulfil our mission, be it in foreign lands through Malteser International, in Syria and Lebanon where we have already sent \$5,500.

Furthermore, in Canada, your generosity will allow initiatives on behalf of local endeavours in favour of the poor and the sick. I also bring to your attention the fact that your Association contributed to the North American Committee for Evangelization in detention centres through the distribution of Bibles to prisoners.





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Together, we will have to work, during the next three years, to make our Association, and the Order, a community in which we will live the Joy of the Gospel.

The Holy Father Francis has summed up very well the essence of our action in his Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii gaudium*. This document invites us to reflect upon the challenges we face within the dominant culture as it is transmitted in the Western world. We must never forget that members and friends of the Order assist the poor and the dying by supporting them, by visits and through assistance to the victims of exclusion and to the poor in our society. "No one must say that they cannot be close to the poor because their own life style demands more attention to other areas. This is an excuse commonly heard in academic, business or professional, and even in ecclesial circles. While it is quite true that the essential vocation and mission of the lay faithful is to strive [so] that earthly realities and all human activity may be transformed by the Gospel, none of us can think we are exempt from concern for the poor and for social justice¹." (¹ Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, para 201).

Finally, we must give particular attention to vocations within the Order. The Order of Malta cannot continue to exist without its Religious. Let us be on the lookout for persons who would dedicate their life to the Order as consecrated Religious in the service to the poor and the sick. This preoccupation is of particular significance since the Church will celebrate, in 2015, those who consecrate their life to the Church.

For the Church, the year 2015 will be the Year of Consecrated Life. I invite you to pray and to support our Religious. I am thinking specifically of Fra' John A. MacPherson, Fra' John Dunlap and Mr. Mathieu Dupont, novice of Justice. Let us also support our Chaplains who assist our members and our auxiliaries in bettering their knowledge of our Order's spirituality.

Together, we will have to work, during the next three years, to make our Association, and the Order, a community in which we will live the Joy of the Gospel.

I wish every one of you a Happy Christmas and I offer my sincere wishes for good health and prosperity for you and yours during the next year.



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