

The Resurrection and Christian Hope

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Easter is the most important celebration of the liturgical calendar because it commemorates the central mystery of the Christian faith, namely Christ's paschal mystery. Christ passed from this earthly existence through death to resurrect to the divine life. Jesus' body was glorified and transcends the bounds of this earthly life. Jesus underwent his paschal mystery in order to save us from sin and evil, including the ultimate evil, death.

The Easter solemnity is, therefore, also a celebration of our hope of eternal life, of the gift of salvation that is already given to us through faith by baptism.

Consequently, we are a people of hope because we carry within us the

promise of everlasting life, of divine life. For Christians individually, death is not the final act in the human drama; because of Christ it has become a passage to real life. With regard to the whole of human history, Scripture affirms that it is moving toward its fulfilment in the realization of kingdom of God.

It is not, however, always easy to have hope. Although we affirm that our world is saved

by Christ, it still bears the marks of sin and death: violence, war, poverty, disease, natural disasters. Furthermore, in the Western world in particular, there is a seeming rejection of the Gospel, the Church and the intention to fashion society without any reference to religious faith. We are keenly aware of humanity's capacity to destroy the world through war or environmental disasters. How is it possible then to maintain hope in God's victory over evil?

Every year at Easter and every Sunday of the year in a less solemn manner, the Church affirms its faith in the Resurrection and our hope of salvation. The Risen Lord is the Living One present among us. His resurrection is the sign of God's final victory over evil and death. This faith is not an invitation to look at the future naively, to ignore the human potential for evil. The celebration of the paschal mystery does affirm, however, God's greater power which brings life even in apparent death.

Continued page 2

In this issue:

President's Message 2

*A Sketch of the History
of the Order Of Malta* 4



"Always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls us to account for the hope that is in us."

Continued from page 1 The Church is the visible sign and the seed of God's kingdom. By its mission to proclaim the Gospel, the Church brings about the growth of the kingdom. The vocation of all baptized Christians is to participate in Christ's saving work and the mission of the Church. Our works of charity and justice make visible God's kingdom on earth and contribute to its ultimate fulfilment.

All the religious orders and congregations, all the associations of the faithful exist to contribute according to their proper charism to the building up of God's kingdom. The Order of Malta was founded in 1098 to serve Christ in particular through the defence of the faith and the service of the sick. At the time of the founding of the Order, the knights defended the faith in particular through their participation in the crusades and in the service of the Christian territories in the Holy

Land. At the same time, the knights and dames built hospices and cared for the sick.

The knights and dames of the Order of Malta are called to continue serving Christ through the works of the Order. In today's Western society, we are called to witness to the faith in our families, in our work environment by our values and actions. We should "always be prepared to make a defence to anyone who calls us to account for the hope that is in us" (1 Peter 3:15). We also make manifest God's salvation in our care for the sick through the volunteer service and our defence of the Church's teaching on the dignity of all human life.

When we look around our world, it is easy to be discouraged and even to despair. This Easter season, however, reminds us of the infinite power of God's love that conquered evil in the death and resurrection of His Son. As Christ's followers, we are to live in that hope and to invite everyone to it.

resident's message

By André A. Morin, KMOB

The year 2013 deserves to be highlighted for several reasons since we are observing the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta, as well as the 900th anniversary of the recognition of the Order by the Holy See.

The Canadian Association – 60 years

The Canadian Association was founded in incorporated by a Federal Charter on January 27 1953. The founding members of the Association were the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, Colonel Thomas Guerin, Messrs Quintin Gwyn, Robert von Keyserlingk, Daniel de Yturralde, Desmond Clark and Lieutenant Colonel J. Darnley LeMoyne.

At that time, Bailiff Count Emeric Hutten-Czapski, President of the Polish Association, was sent to Canada to oversee the drafting of the first regulations of the Association and to ensure its smooth functioning.

Thus began a long friendship between the Polish and Canadian Associations. The first public activity by the Canadian Association was a gala evening in Montreal for the showing of the film Battle of Malta with the aim of raising funds to help the victims of the Second World War on the Island of Malta. As a result of this gala evening, several thousand dollars were raised and sent to the Archbishop of Malta in Valetta. Sixty years later, the Canadian Association numbers more than a hundred members, Dames, Donats and Knights throughout Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This has been a long travelled road, which illustrates that our mission remains the same; to serve Our Lords the poor, Our Lords the sick and to defend the Faith.

Since our Association's activities take place over a vast territory, and because its members are scattered, I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to share a number of recent developments with you.



At the end of 2012, representatives of the Order's government visited the Canadian Association at the Grand Master's request. This is a normal procedure whereas, at punctual intervals, the Grand Master or his mandated representatives visit national associations. We have received the report of the visit and I take pleasure in sharing the high points with you.

The report underlined that, under the President's leadership with the Board's support, we are determined to raise the Association's membership. A recruiting Committee has been created, to be chaired by our confrere Dr. Rory Fisher. Currently, a training programme for postulants and members is being developed. Our confrere, Mr. Christian Samoissette, is in charge of this programme.

We strongly recommend that all members read the Grand Magistry's comments. We must also develop projects at home since we expect our members to be present and actively involved in our endeavours. We must also involve ourselves in setting up fund raising activities for the Canadian Association and its Foundation.

The report requests that the Board should meet regularly and in person in different regions. Our 2013 schedule of activities anticipates meetings of persons - as opposed to teleconferencing - in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. These meetings will allow our members to meet the Association's administrators. The report recommends that the Board establish a Strategic Plan. Your Board has met and drawn up and distributed a Strategic Plan to the entire membership. The report also requests that all members and chaplains take part in regional activities on a regular basis.

The report suggests that our activities should be of such a nature as to make the Order known in

Canada. With this in mind, two activities are scheduled to highlight the sixtieth anniversary: a free concert in Montreal during the evening of April 12 in Saint-Viateur d'Outremont's church, and a colloquium on bioethics in Toronto during the afternoon of April 25.

The Order of Malta – 900 years

It behoves me to underline the 900th anniversary of the official recognition of our Order by the Holy See.

In 1113, Pope Paschal II, by the bulla *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis*, placed the Jerusalem Hospital founded by Gerard under the authority of the Apostolic See. This protection allowed the Hospital to progress in its mission of service to the poor and the sick. It also allowed the Order to use its resources unfettered by the authority of dioceses or sovereigns.

For this anniversary, the Grand Master invited members of the Order and auxiliaries to Rome for a thanksgiving Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica. The Canadian Association responded enthusiastically to the invitation since a large delegation of members, from several regions of Canada from the Pacific to the Atlantic, accompanied me, the Vice-President and the Chancellor to this great event. Saint Peter's Basilica was filled for the occasion. Following the mass, Pope Benedict XVI, now Pope Emeritus, addressed us.

The following Monday, while we were in Rome, we learned that the Holy Father was relinquishing his Office and would cease his functions on February 28. We await the election of a new Pope and, in prayerful union, we live in Hope during these historic days along with the Church, the Order and, indeed, with the world.

Congratulations to Dr. Rory Fisher, O. Ont.

On behalf of the members of the Canadian Association, the President and the Board of Directors congratulates Dr. Rory Fisher for his recent appointment to the Order of Ontario. This very important award recognizes Dr. Fisher's outstanding contribution to the field of geriatrics and service to the community. We thank you for your dedication and great contribution to the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta.





A Sketch of the History of the Order Of Malta

By André A. Morin, KMOB

To condense 900 years of history in a few pages when the Order celebrates, in 2013, the 900th anniversary of its official recognition by the Holy See, is a very real challenge. On February 15, 1113, Pope Paschal II granted the Church's protection to the Order of Saint John by the bull *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis*, thereby removing it from the authority of princes and barons. This protection would allow the Order to fully realize its mission that is to assist the poor and the sick.

The story begins in 1099 with the taking of Jerusalem by Godfrey of Bouillon. Friars dressed in black took injured Crusaders in their hospital of Saint John. Merchants from Amalfi, in Italy, had founded the hospital. It was situated in the Christian part of Jerusalem on the site of the house where Zachary, the father of John the Baptist had lived, and it was placed under the patronage of Saint John the Baptist. There was a church, a monastery for men and women and a hospice.

Godfrey of Bouillon granted many privileges to the Hospital of Saint John in recognition of the care that had been given to the sick.

Fifteen years after the capture of Jerusalem, the Hospital of Saint John became a Religious Order. The knights laid down their weapons and rejoined the hospital. In 1113, Paschal II approved the statutes of the institution. These empowered the hospital to elect its Grand Masters in a totally independent fashion, free from intervention by lay or religious authorities. It also exempted its members from tithes to the parishes. It did impose upon its members the sacred responsibility of hospitality in addition to the vows of poverty, obedience and chastity.

At the founder's death, in 1120, Raymond du Puy succeeded Gerard. He transformed the original fraternity into a military Order for the defence of the Holy Land. Raymond du Puy developed the rule that was to govern the Order and its members.



The military mission of the Order began in 1137 under Foulques I, King of Jerusalem.

In 1291, with the loss of Saint John of Acre, the Hospitalers and the Templars left the Holy Land. The Order was in Cyprus during sixteen years. In Cyprus, the Order rethought its hospitaler and naval mission. It captured the island of Rhodes where the knights found an icon of the Virgin Mary attributed to Saint Luke; our Lady of Philermo. In Rhodes, the Order built the hospital, a fortress and developed its navy. In the hospital, the knights invented and applied quarantine in order to isolate the sick.

From then on, there would be only one ill person in one bed so as to prevent the spread of diseases. The sheets would be changed three times a week. White bread was served to the sick. The knights used silver dishes in the hospital because they realised that this prevented the spread of germs. The knights bathed the sick. All of these measures were a revolution in Europe.

The Affair of the Templars

In the 14th century, the Templars were judged and executed by Philip IV. This king of France extinguished the Templars chiefly because he needed money. Both King Philip IV and Pope Clement V gave the Templars land holdings to the Hospitalers. Contrary to the Templars, the Hospitalers had maintained a close link with the Holy Land. In this fashion, they preserved their works and, in addition were able to benefit from the holding of the Templars.

In 1522, the knights lost Rhodes to the Muslims. Suleiman vanquished Grand Master Villiers de l'Isle-Adam.

Malta

After the loss of Rhodes, Emperor Charles V offered the island of Malta to the Hospitalers on March 24, 1530. They fortified Malta and founded a hospital. In Malta, the hospital, the Sacred Infirmary included a surgical unit, a school of anatomy and a school of pharmacology. Dissection was practiced in order to better know the human body. Every deceased knight had to undergo an autopsy. This was

unheard of in Europe at that time. The Order's doctors also developed an operation for cataracts.

The Loss of Malta

The knights lost Malta during Napoleon Bonaparte's Egyptian expedition in June 1798. Having lost its territorial base, the Order settled in Rome after a few wanderings.

The Order Today

After the loss of Malta, the Order dedicated itself to its original humanitarian mission through the promotion of charitable activities. With its tradition, the Order remains a Sovereign State at the service of the poor and the sick. Together with the Holy See, the Order is the oldest international institution. The Order of Malta, led by its Grand Master, is a Sovereign State. It has its flag, its stamps and it enters into international agreements to accomplish its mission.

The Order has diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level in more than 80 countries. The Order has delegates at UNESCO and at the European Council as well as the European Union.

The Order in America

The beginnings of the Order of Malta in North America and in Acadia go back to 1588. In 1602, Clermont de Chaste became Lieutenant General of New France. It was he who encouraged the foundation of Port-Royal by du Gua, Sieur de Monts and Champlain.

Isaac de Razilly, knight of the Order and a founding member of the Company of One Hundred Associates, Vice-Roy of New France in 1632, contributed much to the development of New France.

Huault de Montmagny, first to bear the title of Governor General of Canada, was a knight of the Order. He served many years in Quebec and then in the Caribbean where he died.

Noël Brulart de Sillery, admitted in the Order in 1598, never came to New France. Nevertheless, he founded Saint Joseph's mission under the Jesuits. The former City of Sillery is now incorporated into the City of Quebec. About Montmagny, Sillery



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wrote: "Sir, it is impossible for me not to make known everywhere your rare goodness and your incomparable humility. It is an example of your worldly renouncement."

One of Montcalm's lieutenants, Bourlamaque, was a knight of Malta. When New France fell, the knights departed for France. They will return to America during the War of Independence of the United States. The Bailiff de Suffren, Count de Grasse and several other knights of the Order took an active, fighting part in the War of Independence.

Finally, after an absence of more than two hundred years, the Canadian Association was

founded on January 27, 1953. Its first President was the Right Honourable Édouard Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada. For the past sixty years, we have been pursuing the same mission, namely to help and assist the poor and the sick.

In closing, I would like to quote from the 1181 Chapter General:

"Furthermore, in defending and protecting them night and day, the Brothers of the Hospital will have to serve the sick with zeal and devotion, as if they were their Lords."

This is the mission that has been handed to us: we bring support and succour to Our Lords the poor, Our Lords the Sick.



The Right Honourable Édouard Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada and the first President of the Canadian Association, kneeling in the presence of Cardinal Paul Émile Léger. In the background, Count Robert W. Keyserlingk and Mr. Quintin J. Gwyn. Standing next to Cardinal Léger, Canon Emmett G. Carter, Chaplain of Magistral Grace and future Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto.

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