



## Meeting in Rome of the Working Group on the Structure and Governance of the Order of Malta

In 2017, His Excellency André A. Morin, in his role as president of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta, was asked to Chair Working Group 8, The Structure of Government and Governance. The international Working Group, composed of leaders of the Order throughout the world, met by teleconference many times and held two meetings, the first in the fall of 2017 in Montreal, and the second in Rome in early December.

Mr. Morin was also asked by the Steering Committee to be the facilitator to assist Her Excellency Margaret Melady on the group on central government during the Strategic Planning Session in Rome that took place in February.

Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez was the Coordinator of the Reform.

Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto, Lieutenant of the Grand Master, was present.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President

2

Message from the Chief Chaplain

4

Annual Retreat of the Montreal Region

5

Summary of Malteser International's Activities

6

Visit to the Notre-Dame – de-Lorette Mission

7

Highlights of the 2017 Investiture Weekend

9

In the Next Issue

11



**National Pilgrimage to Lourdes  
from May 4 to May 8, 2018**

*Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*

**Vigil and Investiture  
in Ottawa  
on September 14 and 15, 2018**

# Message from the President

## Strategic Seminar – February 8-11, 2018, Rome

By now I am certain that most of you know that our dear Order is undergoing a process of change. The unusual events of last year have highlighted the need to adjust the constitution of the Order to more properly reflect current times. The Holy Father requested that the Order strengthen the spirituality and moral life of the Order. Further, it is critical that the Order revise the requirements for the position of Grand Master in order to expand the potential pool of candidates. From this seemingly simple base, the leadership of the Order broadened the scope of change to include a review of most of the components of membership and governance.

The 10 working groups were formed in July 2017 and were comprised of representative mix of all members and levels of leadership, approximately 150 strong in all. They completed their intensive work by the end of 2017 and submitted their summaries of recommendations to the Grand Magistry. A Strategic Seminar was called for further discussion and to seek input from a gathering of over 160 members comprised of Professed Knights, Presidents of National Associations, members of Sovereign and Government Council, and some working group representatives. Also present were the Lieutenant of the Grand Master, the Prelate and the Pope's special delegate. Certainly, it is not possible for me to detail the many discussion points in this update, however, I will do my best to present the spirit and direction along with the highlights of possible reform.

The opening remarks of H.E. Fra Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto provided a good background to the need for reform while H.E. Archbishop Angelo Becciu (the Pope's special delegate) provided the inspiration to assist us in creating the path for renewal.

**Background Considerations:** since the last revisions to the Constitution and Code of the Order (1957-1961), predating Vatican II, the Sovereign Order of Malta has grown significantly. Membership has grown from approximately 3,000 members to over 13,000.

Humanitarian efforts, diplomatic and multilateral relations have more than tripled. The development of knights and dames in Obedience has grown significantly and with the fall of the iron curtain volunteer and youth activities in Europe have grown to unprecedented levels. Of course, all of this growth and development has made significant strides in the 'new world' as the North American membership now represents 25 percent of worldwide membership. The number of National Associations has gone from 15 to 47 today, with three delegations waiting to meet the requirements to be elevated to Association status. The number of professed knights has also improved almost fourfold. Understanding these basics makes it clear that trying to operate under rules that were established more than 50 years ago can lead to many challenging situations. The underlying question then becomes; "What do we need to change to properly execute the mission of the Order?"

**Religious and spiritual life:** Monsigneur Becciu presented the theological considerations with the theme of renewing the religious life of the Order while adapting to our changing life and society. He introduced the concept of "Creative Faithfulness", creative in adaptation and faithfulness to the charisms, the source of our existence. He made it very clear that our form must continuously adapt with the ability to perpetuate itself, while vigorously protecting our values. He called us to be brave innovators in the ways that our original mission and values will be expressed, and in ways that will provide transparent witness to the love of God.... To make people wonder about us, 'why are we so unselfish in service to the sick and the poor?'

For the purposes of the seminar the recommendations of the working groups were further refined into five main topics that resulted from the group work; governance, nobiliary and eligibility, membership, formation and chaplains, and local organizations. All of these were considered under the attributes of transparency, accountability, compliance and safeguarding.

# Message from the President

## Strategic Seminar – February 8-11, 2018, Rome (continued)

The compilation of all work will now go to the leadership of the Order and to Sovereign Council, who will create the action plan and priorities necessary to execute the needed reforms. Certainly, the first and most important priority will be the review of what consecrated life within the Order means, how the profession of vows relates within the context of canon law and the Order's traditions, and the revision of eligibility requirements for the Grand Master, the high charges and for members of Sovereign Council. Further, making the Chapter General and Council Complete of State more representative given the vast growth of National Associations worldwide is an important reform. Some of the messages throughout the three days were very clear while others were less so. It was clear to me that of high importance to the gathering was the election of our Grand Master for life, the maintenance of our religious nature, opening more senior positions to Dames, broadening the authority of the Receiver of the Common Treasury, financial accountability and budget control, adjusting to allow input from young members, growing youth activities, respecting the tradition of nobility but not allowing it to be a limiting barrier to senior roles and especially for the position of Grand Master, focusing on formation at all levels, strengthening the role of chaplains, and creating guidelines for religious formation amongst the professed that include opportunities for living in community.

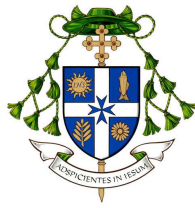
A Council Complete of State has been called for May 2-3, 2018 to either elect a Grand Master according to the current constitution or to elect a Lieutenant for one more year as we transition through the constitutional reforms. I am humbled to have been elected by the Presidents to be one of the only 15 votes available to Presidents of National Associations. Please be patient with the flow of information. Many of the topics are very complicated and will need review and advice by canon lawyers.

I would also ask that you not allow 'fake news' coming from very prejudiced media reporting to taint your judgement of the direction of our Order or the process. There are many moving parts and as you might imagine some forms of personal bias, so it is important for us to pray for those who have received the mission of leading our Order and all who strive to cooperate in the reforms to which we have been called. First and foremost though let us not get distracted from our mission to serve the sick and the poor.

Roman J. Ciecwierz, KMOB  
President  
Canadian Association







## Message from the Chief Chaplain

Dear Members of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta,

The past millennium was one of a protracted knowledge of the world, of its ability to tame the forces of the universe and of the development of its technology. These skills were meant to alleviate human sufferings. However, this control of the universe did not result in a real freeing of humanity.

The formidable progress of which we are both creators and beneficiaries did not eradicate the troubles of the world, not only in faraway lands but also at home, in our own society credited with being developed and civilised.

Let us admit it: the winners are also more than ever the losers. We are such a small number of the inhabitants of the planet, chiefly in North America and in Europe; that the majority of the globe's population pays far too high a price for the well being that we enjoy.

A permanent moral appraisal of our choices is synonymous with access to real freedom when confronted with the promise of salvation. Yet again, each and every one of us must hear the Good News as proclaimed by Jesus Christ: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." (Luke 4, 18-19). Lent is that privileged time of the year to make this assessment of our choices in order to integrate our daily lives with Jesus' mission.

Through the anointing of baptism and confirmation, we become participants in this mission, that of Christ as Messiah. Our Good News mission is inseparable from our way of life. How could we be taken seriously in the building of God's Kingdom if we were to persist in adopting every automatism of our world of consumerism and exploitation?

The chasm between words and deeds is the criticism most often made of the Christians. The Order of Malta is precisely an association of the baptized committed to helping those persons who are rendered the weakest through sickness and poverty. Let there be no mistake: our mission as witnesses to the Good News forces us to follow Christ to the limit of love. The price to pay is: surrender the will to own... owning assets; dominating the other, dominating everybody else... rather, we must serve...

There then is a Lent tailored to bringing truth in our way of following Christ, each of us in our professional life but also in our life as members of the Order of Malta. Many found Jesus' demands too difficult to follow: "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" (John 6, 60). That is how the Discourse on the Bread from Heaven concludes in John's Gospel. Therefore, let us recall the answer repeated several times by Jesus: "For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1, 37). May your conversion be true and Happy Easter.

+ Raymond Poisson, Bishop of Joliette  
Chief Chaplain of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta



# Annual Retreat of the Montreal Region



The annual retreat of the Order of Malta, Montreal Region, took place November 18 and 19, 2017 at the request of the Chancellor and Vice-President of the Montreal Region, the Honourable Anne-Marie Trahan, in order to highlight in a special way the first World's Day of the Poor.

Traditionally, the annual retreat was during the weekend of the Feast of Christ, King of the World. The dates were changed this year so that the retreat would coincide with the World's Day of the Poor. Ever since the beginning of the Order, members of the Order have steadfastly paid particular attention to the poor, thus being faithful to the characteristic charism of the Order.

At the invitation of the Apostle Saint John, and as the Holy Father reminds us: “‘[...] let us not love in word or speech, but in deed and in truth’. These words of the Apostle John voice an imperative that no Christian may disregard.” This retreat is an answer to His Excellency the Grand Hospitaller who hopes that we devote specific activities on behalf of Our Lords the Poor.

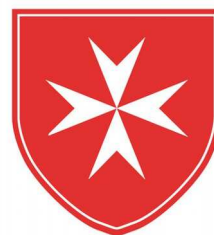
We attended our retreat at Val Notre-Dame abbey, where our preacher, Father Abbot Dom André Barbeau, developed the theme: “How to take part in a new Evangelization”. The abbey church of the Cistercians of the strict obedience is situated in the splendid region of Lanaudière. It is a work of art that allies harmoniously wood and slate. The monastery's architecture beckons by its simplicity geared to the monastic ideal oriented towards prayer and contemplation.

Other activities of the retreat were held at the bishop's residence in Joliette, where our Chief Chaplain, Bishop Raymond Poisson, welcomed us generously in his bishopric.

We were invited to pray and interact to mark the first World's Day of the Poor. Bishop Poisson presided the Sunday Mass in Saint Charles Borromeo Joliette's cathedral. This church has a great deal of patrimonial character because of its historical and architectural values. Built in 1887, it holds many treasures, notably several painting by Ozias Leduc, one of the most important Canadian artists of the first half of the XXth century.

In addition to the members from the Montreal Region, new members from the Quebec Region as well as members from the Ottawa Region were present. The retreat is a good example of confraternal exchanges between regional boundaries, a precious moment for a confraternal get-together, and a refreshing pause for members and friends of the Order of Malta.

Liliane Keeler



# Summary of Malteser International's Activities

2017 was characterized by several major natural disasters in the Americas and the subsequent response by the Americas team. This included emergency relief in Texas, supporting the Federal Association's relief activities at the Houston evacuation centers and Houston neighborhoods with \$32,000. Providing 1,000 hungry families with nutritious meals and supplying basic necessities, as well as helping 750 families in Rockport-Fulton to put food on the table and regain their dignity along the way by distributing \$100 cash cards from a local grocery store. Providing financial assistance for repairs and the purchase of supplies at the Salt Lake Church Relief Center, a former church that now serves as a relief and warm meal distribution center and is run by a group of devoted local volunteers from the community.

Rebuilding the lives of Aransas County's large Vietnamese population in Rockport by providing financial assistance for the reconstruction of St. Peter Catholic Church, the heart and spiritual soul for 350 people in the tightly knit community. We are also improving the livelihoods of entire families by helping them to rebuild their community's shrimping industry. Distribution of gift cards to 350 families and support to procure IT equipment for the church's evening school. Distribution of 1,000 household kits in Beaumont for up to 5,000 people which include critical cleaning supplies, food, paper goods, and toiletries.

Distribution of cash cards in the amount of \$20,000 to desperate families to purchase food and hygiene essentials through Catholic Charities.

United States Virgin Islands: Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful hurricane, the strongest observed in the Atlantic since Wilma in 2005 in terms of maximum sustained winds. The storm caused catastrophic damage in Barbuda, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands as a Category 5 hurricane and has caused at least 134 deaths. We supported the Schneider Hospital providing funds to replace medical equipment and coordinate medical personnel through the University of Miami to deploy and work at the hospital.

The Mexican Association of the Order of Malta has been caring for the wounded and sick after two devastating earthquakes hit Mexico in September. Less than two weeks after an earthquake struck Oaxaca on September 7th killing over 100 people, a magnitude 7.1 earthquake rocked Mexico City on September 23rd. In total, more than 400 people lost their lives, hundreds more were injured and thousands were homeless. Malteser International has been providing assistance to the Mexican Association of the Order of Malta to rebuild the boarding school Don Bosco that was heavily damaged by the earthquakes, ensuring that children can continue their education in a safe environment. The elderly center in Mexico City is also receiving rebuilding help to continue the program for the elderly including food distribution. Supporting the distribution of hygiene and cleaning kits, food items, medicine, milk, blankets and tarps to 5,000 needy families in Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Morelos.

More than a week after Hurricane Maria, people were desperate for essentials such as food and water in Puerto Rico. Malteser International Americas is coordinating relief efforts with the Puerto Rican Delegation of the Order of Malta distributing bottled water and hygiene and kitchen kits to 1,000 poor and disadvantaged families – primarily women and children, the elderly, and the handicapped. Humacao relief post running every day and the Guaynabo relief post operating three days a week, serving around 700 meals a day in these two communities. Activities will shift focus from emergency relief to recovery within 2018.





# Visit to the Notre-Dame-de-Lorette Mission

On February 15th 2017, the members of the Quebec region of the Canadian Association of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta held a Eucharistic celebration at the historical church of *Notre-Dame-de-Lorette de Wendake* (Quebec City), in honour of the promulgation of the bull *PIAE POSTULATIO VOLUNTATIS* from Pope Pascal II, who officially created the Order of Malta in 1113. The celebrant was Father Gérard Blais, Marianist and Chaplain for the Quebec region. The concelebrant was Father Mario Côté, priest of the parish of St. Ambroise de la Jeune Lorette and missionary for the Wendat nation.



After being almost exterminated by the Iroquois between 1649 and 1650, the Christian Hurons (Wendat) took refuge first on St. Joseph Island. Then, they persuaded the missionaries to bring them to Quebec City so that they could be under the protection of the French governor. Father Raguenau and the Jesuit missionaries decided to lead the 300 surviving Hurons to Quebec City during the summer of 1650. In the first 8 months, they camped near the Hôtel-Dieu hospital where the Jesuits and the nuns supported their needs. At the end of March 1651, the Jesuits relocated them at the Île d'Orléans. In 1654, 300 more Hurons managed to reach Quebec City where they were taken care of by Father René Ménard who helped them reach the Île d'Orléans. That community stayed on Île d'Orléans until 1656, the year when 70 Hurons were killed during a raid on the island by the Iroquois.

Finding the place unsafe, they moved back to Quebec City where they lived from 1656 to 1668. In 1668, they left Quebec City for the Côte Saint-Michel, and then for l'Ancienne-Lorette to finally settle down definitively at la Jeune-Lorette in 1697.

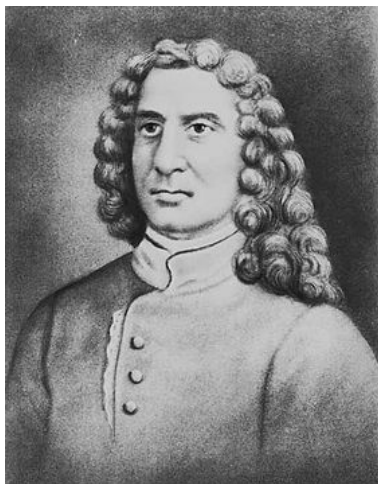


The current church of *Notre-Dame-de-Lorette de Wendake* was built around 1730 based on the model of Santa Casa de Loreto, in Italy, and under the supervision of a Jesuit missionary, Father Pierre-Daniel Richer. We can see today a small sanctuary dedicated to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, who was sanctified in October 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. The church of *Notre-Dame-de-Lorette* was classified Historic Monument in 1957 by the *Commission des monuments historiques de la Province de Québec* and was recognized, in 1981, national historic site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.

One of the firsts Knights of the Order of Malta in Nouvelle-France was Charles Huault de Montmagny, who was also the first official Governor of Nouvelle-France from 1636 to 1648. As such, he was also the first to receive from the First Nations the name "Onontio" which means "Great Montain". His stay in Canada has left the memory of a devoted man, benevolent, great Christian and attentive to the needs of his congeners. During his tenure, he tried to preserve peace in Nouvelle-France and he was a great friend and protector of the First Nations, and especially of the Hurons-Wendat.

# Visit to the Notre-Dame-de-Lorette Mission

## (continued)



Charles Huault de Montmagny  
Knight of the Order of Malta  
Governor of Nouvelle-France  
from 1636 to 1648

The celebration of the anniversary of the Order of Malta at the historic chapel of Notre-Dame-de-Lorette thus aimed at renewing historical links but also at discovering all the cultural richness of the Wendat people while opening the door to reciprocal fraternal exchanges.



Before the ceremony, our Chaplain was invited to wear sumptuous liturgical clothes in deer skin, all handmade in the traditional style of our Wendat friends. After the greetings and presentations, the liturgy began with the sweetgrass ritual, a purification ceremony with incense and an eagle feather. After the homily, we listened to the song titled “Jesous Ahatontia”, written in Huron language by Father Jean de Brébeuf in 1641. That song is considered as the oldest Christmas carol in Canada. The Sanctus was sung in Gregorian and the liturgy with the singing of “Notre-Dame du Canada”, a hymn composed by Father Ernest Desjardins s.j. on a music of Father P. Chassang.

In conclusion, it was a beautiful ceremony that allowed us to celebrate with dignity the anniversary of the Order of Malta while allowing us to renew historical links with our brothers and sisters of the First Nations.

François Caron  
Regional Vice President  
Quebec City





# Highlights of the 2017 Investiture Weekend

The 2017 Investiture Weekend welcomed a record number of new members – sixteen.

They are: Mr. Andrew Bennett, Mr. Francesco Bizzotto, Mr. Robert A. Fung, Mr. Gautier M. L. Genevet, Mr. Denis Harvey, Mr. Nathan Hyde, Mr. Thomas Janossy, Mrs. Hilary McCormack, Mr. Noel McFerran, Mr. Kevin Morris, Mrs. Trang Dai Nguyen, Mr. Benoît Plourde, Dr. Anthony V. Perruccio, Mr. Karol Pawlina, Mr. Michael Shaw, and Mr. Warren Whitford.

A number of VIPs attended as well, including: The Grand Chancellor His Excellency Albrecht von Boeselager; His Eminence Gérald Cyprien, Cardinal Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec and Primate of Canada, who was invested as a Bailiff Grand Cross of Honor and Devotion; and His Excellency, Right Reverend Terrence Prendergast, Archbishop of Ottawa.

## Comings and Goings

The annual general meeting also saw many governance changes such as:

The retirement of six board members: President André Albert Morin, Treasurer Luc Bigras; Dr. Alexander de Cosson, Western Vice-President; Éric van Blaeren; Dr. Rory Fisher; and The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella

The election of a new president, Roman J. Ciecwierz

The election of six new board members: Angelo Zanchetta, Joseph Cordiano, Dr. Fabio Varlese, François Caron, Mark Dunphy, and Gabrielle Komorowska

The retention of the following board members: Bruce Adams, Bill Sullivan, Patrick Rechner, Luc Paquette, HE Raymond Poisson, Mathieu Dupont, Andrew Gough, Valentine Lovekin and Anne-Marie Trahan.

## Reports in Brief

The President, H.E. André A. Morin, spoke of his pride in the growth and health of the Canadian Association and thanked his colleagues on the board for their support, initiative and professionalism. The reports of the regional vice-presidents to the AGM portrayed an increasingly active membership throughout Canada. The Chancellor, The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, spoke of his pride in the organisation of the Association and thanked the volunteers who put the weekend together so successfully. The Hospitaller, Dr. Bill Sullivan, discussed the many corporal and spiritual activities of the volunteers and the Treasurer, Luc Bigras, noted the sound fiscal health of the Association. The Director of Communications, Bruce Adams described ongoing and planned communications activities. The Chair of the Recruitment and Formation Committee, Major Patrick Rechner reported on not only a record number of new members but also the healthy number of potential members.

## Gala Dinner

The Annual Investiture Gala held at the Rideau Club was attended by a record number of members and special guests.







## **In the next issue:**



### **Report from the 2018 Pilgrimage in Lourdes**

Published by the Canadian Association of the  
Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 6K9  
Tel: 613 731-8897 | Fax.: 613 731-1312  
Email: [smomca@bellnet.ca](mailto:smomca@bellnet.ca)  
[www.orderofmaltacanada.org](http://www.orderofmaltacanada.org)

President: H.E. Roman J. Ciecwierz  
Chief Chaplain: H.E. Bishop Raymond Poisson