



The Canadian Association of the Order of Malta welcomes three new members

On September 15th 2018, at the Ottawa Cathedral, three new members were invested in the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta. Mister Paul Golini (Toronto), Mister Armand La Barge (Toronto Region) and Dame Theresa Wang (Vancouver) are photographed with the Chief Chaplain, Mgr Raymond Poisson, President Roman Ciecwierz and his spouse Lisa Lapoint-Ciecwierz.

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**Vigil and Investiture
in Ottawa,
September 13 and 14,
2019**



**National Pilgrimage
to Lourdes,
May 2 to May 7, 2019**

Message from the President

Being post first year of Presidency, I must admit to feeling both happiness and relief. Happiness that I survived without injury and relief thanks to the support and friendship I experienced at the AGM and investiture. Even though I had previously served on the Board for nine years (six as National Vice-President), I thought I was well aware of the job description, but good old 'Murphy' showed me that there is much happening behind the scenes that no one other than the President sees.

During the investiture and the dinner, I had the pleasure of welcoming our new knights and dame, Paul Golini, Armand La Barge, and Theresa Wang. Up to that point their journey has included their sponsor, perhaps a few local members, and the Holy Spirit. Following the investiture, Paul, Armand and Theresa join the rest of us in our journey of service to the sick and the poor.

Just as the Lourdes pilgrimage serves to remind members of the Order of the very basis of our mission, so too does the annual ceremony of investiture serve to remind all of us of the reasons we all chose to commit our lives to our faith, through the works of the Order.

Not long ago a good friend and chaplain of the Order, who always finds the most intriguing perspectives, started a conversation about how our faith turned into action parlays to those around us by saying, "I'm not sure I'd care to be in Moses' sandals as he stood before the people of Israel. Time and again he had to preface his remarks with this simple statement: *'God spoke to me the other day, and he wants you to do the following.'* No doubt many eyes in the crowd rolled, and still later many of the prophets paid with their lives for speaking such words".

Thankfully, God hasn't been so direct with me, and I assume that's been true for you as well. However, grateful though we may be that we don't have to speak formally on God's behalf, we may actually be stuck with a much tougher assignment.

It's true that God has spared us from the task of passing on divine messages that have been dictated to us, but as Christians we face a greater challenge. If we're exempt from speaking on God's behalf in words, it may be worse than we have imagined. I fear that God expects us to speak to our neighbor in our deeds. Monsignor Becciu, in addressing the strategic seminar in Rome earlier this year, stated that our actions should make people wonder about us --- why are we so unselfish in service to the sick and the poor?

The fall appeal, which should have arrived in all of your inboxes by now, was announced to a favourable reception by attending members of the AGM. The ten year vision that is contained in the preamble to the appeal is ambitious, but the Board believes it is achievable.

I was thrilled when a member, who asked to remain anonymous, approached me prior to the Gala Dinner to say he wanted to sponsor the meal costs for the evening. Soon after the appeal document was distributed by email, a few members promptly reacted by showing their generosity. This is certainly the spirit I envisioned and thank all those quick off the mark and I thank the rest of you for your support and monetary contributions to come. The Association can neither grow nor thrive without each and every member and friend.

In Domino.

Roman J. Cieciewicz, KMOB
President



A Synod in Rome Whose Theme is Youth!

Such a theme brings to my mind the meeting between Jesus and the rich young man (Matthew 19, 16-30). Although the parable concerns all of us, only Matthew specifies that the man in question is young. On the other hand, the three other Evangelists who also recall this meeting (Mark 10, 17-31 and Luke 18, 18-30) mention that this man had great possessions. These possessions become both the means by which Jesus asks him to conquer eternal life, and also the principal obstacle: sharing with the poorest or keep everything for himself.



Jesus and the Rich Young Man, Heinrich Hofmann, 1889

What is the special wealth of youth? If we tried to characterize the wealth of youth, what would we say? It is not a question of calculating stock prices! Would we not rather speak of their open future, of their capacity to create and produce, of their energy even of their enthusiasm! But is this not precisely a shortcoming that is ever more present among certain young adults?

Our contemporary world seeks sense and values in a never seen before cultural shock. The global village does not correspond anymore to the parameters of traditional societies with their lot of customs and distinctive pathways. Even Christian faith must seek a balance in a complex cultural and religious mosaic.

What light does the Gospel throw on the subject? Let us return to the meeting between Jesus and the rich young man. He is on a search and Jesus is opened to welcoming him and to accompanying him in his progression. Here is a brilliant pastoral gradualness as Pope Francis so often suggests: welcome the questions he asks, not judging him, bringing him a little further, a little deeper, letting him choose...

To the exigencies of the then popular religion, the young man candidly replies that he obeys them faithfully; to the call for self-sacrifice and the sharing of his wealth with the poor, he recoils! Evangelical radicalism scares him. Jesus has just showed him an actual pastoral field for his actual life.

What if a number of our young persons simply had a profound and sincere longing for a more radical commitment to establishing a more just and more equitable world for each inhabitant on our earth? And what if, by default, their relative physical absence from our churches questioned us, personally, on the quality and intensity of our own commitment as disciples of Jesus, calling us to question the choices to be made, even if it means becoming very different from others? In short, Jesus does not make any concessions: to follow him is to take risks and to make choices in favour of the less favoured, the poor and the sick.

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A Synod in Rome Whose Theme is Youth!

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During my trip to Syria and Lebanon in February 2017, I was very surprised to realize how many young adults, in the name of their faith, in line with well-recognized institutions by our Church, are changing their world disfigured by war and totalitarian politics. It would seem that these challenges awake in them the enthusiasm and the energy specific to youth. It brings to mind the reply of the young man to Jesus: “I have kept all these, what do I still lack?” (Mt 19,20).



Young volunteer of the Order of Malta accompanying seniors during a visit of the Marsyas Castle and its vineyards (Lebanon). October 2018.

What “still lacks”, what “we still lack” is the perpetual quest to risk everything for Jesus. The history of the Order of Malta abounds with young persons who have wholly committed themselves to a suffering and sick Christ, present among the poor and the sick.

Today still, in organisations such as Caritas Lebanon or Caritas Syria, in the Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta for example, young ladies and young men give generously months, years of their life to binding wounds, to offer the security of a warm hospitality.

At the time of my arrival in Lebanon, a young French lady came to give months of her life in the service of humanitarian aid organised by the Order of Malta in refugee camps. This young lady belongs to a family affiliated with the Order of Malta, and it is there she heard Jesus’ call: “...go sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor ... then come, follow me” (Mt 19, 21).

These thoughts I am sharing with you in anticipation of the synod to be held in Rome in October 2018 are meant to make us reflect upon the example of our own commitment and on the opportunities offered by the Canadian Association as well as by the Order of Malta throughout the world so that young adults may meet Christ in the service of the meekest and the sick. It is also meant to see how Christ considers this commitment as a Church mission for the salvation of the world.

The bishops taking part in the synod on this theme will bring their own reflexions and will share their wishes. Pope Francis will greet them and, once the summary is made available, he will launch a call to the mission, notably among young adults. It will be a source of enthusiasm for us to share in actual life with the poor and the sick.

+ Raymond Poisson, Coadjutor Bishop of St. Jérôme and Joliette (Québec)
Chief Chaplain of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta

A Bishop of Québec, Knight of Malta

The second bishop of Quebec, Jean-Baptiste de la Croix de Chevrières de Saint-Vallier (1653-1727) was, in his youth, a Knight of the Order of Malta before entering the seminary and taking Holy Orders. Normally, admission into the Order took place when the candidate reached the age of majority fixed at sixteen. However, a candidate could be admitted “in minority” by papal dispensation upon payment of the seventeenth-century right of way at 7374 pounds, which permitted the wearing of the decoration of the Order.



There were also two other major conditions; having been born in legitimate marriage — a condition that did not apply to royal bastards —, and of armigerous, noble parents. In France, that meant nobility of at least a hundred years in both paternal and maternal lines, namely eight noble grandparents.

The future bishop met all necessary conditions since he belonged to an old Dauphiné family known since the eleventh century and which had produced two prince-bishops of Grenoble. The de la Croix family became a veritable incubator of knights of the Order, including a Bailiff of Manosque in 1784.

Jean-Baptiste, born in Grenoble on November 14th 1653, was the son of Jean de la Croix, sieur de Chevrières, Blanieu, Lieudieu, Beaumont, Monteux, Croses, Faramans and Les Cottares, Baron de Serve and de Clerieu, Count de Saint-Vallier and du Val, Marquis of Ornacieux, President of the Grenoble Parliament (the Court of Appeal), and his wife, Marie de Sayve, only daughter and heiress of Jacques de Sayve, President of the Dijon Parliament.

Several genealogists and historians have mentioned Bishop de Saint-Vallier’s affiliation with the Order of Malta. The first seems to have been Nicolas Viton, self-styled de Saint-Allais, in his *Nobiliaire universel de France* first published in 1815. Saint-Vallier is described as “first a Knight of Malta, then Prior of Saint-Vallier, a Doctor of the Sorbonne, elected to the General Assembly of the Clergy of France in 1875, Chaplain to the King, and lastly Bishop of Quebec; he died at the end of 1727 in the hospital of his episcopal see that he had founded and where he had retired to reside after leaving his episcopal palace ...”.

In another publication published in 1867 additional details are provided. It is stated that he was a Knight of Saint John of Jerusalem admitted “in minority” by a brief of Pope Alexander VII, dated October 13, 1663. Father Louis LeJeune, o.m.i. repeats the same information in his *Dictionnaire général du Canada*, adding that the prelate was also Abbot of Chevrières

Interestingly, Pope Alexander VII — Fabio Chigi — had been the Inquisitor in Malta from 1634 to 1639 and it was he, after he became Pope in 1655, who canonically erected the Apostolic Vicariate of New France in 1658.

Bishop de Saint-Vallier, an austere and pious prelate, had a difficult character that marred his tenure as second bishop of Quebec. He managed to ruffle everybody’s feathers, including King Louis XIV who asked him twice in vain to resign, and his saintly predecessor Bishop François de Montmorency de Laval.

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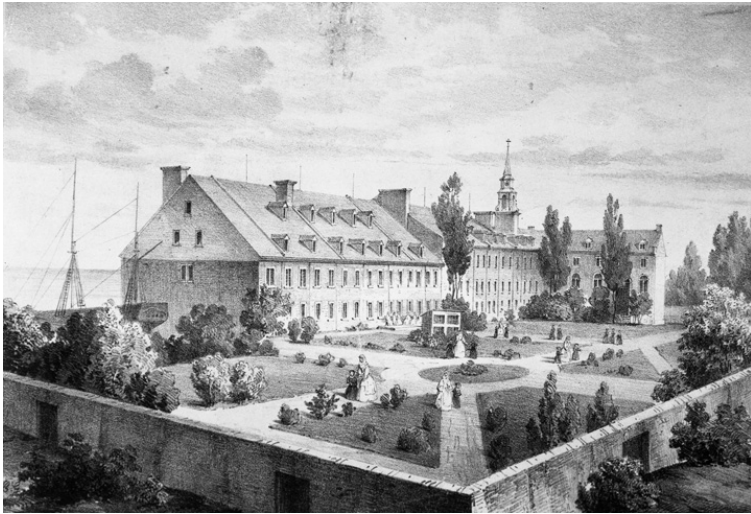
A Bishop of Québec, Knight of Malta

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The Quebec priest historian, abbé Henri-Raymond Casgrain wrote:

The enormous good that he did in his diocese and which cannot be contested without being unjust, was interspersed with arbitrary decisions and bizarre actions that were often very trying to those who lived with him, and that prevented them from appreciating his true worth; however the passage of time has done justice to the second bishop of Quebec.

Bishop de Saint-Vallier's funeral caused an enormous scandal in New France. The bishop had clearly indicated that he wanted to be buried among the poor and the sick of Quebec's Hôpital Général (Quebec General Hospital) that he had founded himself and where he chose to live. He had appointed Claude-Thomas Dupuy (1678-1738), Intendant of New France (the second ranking official in the colony) as his testamentary executor.



The Quebec General Hospital. Engraving of F. Lavignon, around 1855, Archives of Quebec City.

Naturally, the canons of the Quebec cathedral requested the body of the late bishop in order to honour him with a solemn liturgical funeral. Dupuy imagined that the canons were plotting to kidnap the bishop's body. He ordered the nuns to bury the prelate immediately. This was done in haste and at night. The canons in Quebec reacted swiftly placing the chapel and the hospital under interdict and deposing the Mother Superior !

Dupuy had nonetheless taken his role as the bishop's executor seriously. He had even ordered the building of a special funeral hearse and a suitable catafalque where heraldry played a prominent role, as reported by the monastery's anonymous diarist who wrote:

For his part, M. Dupuy had a hearse and a catafalque built to transport the body to the town's gates, where the clergy was to receive it. He procured for us black and white cloth for the hangings in our church, with quantities of candles to illuminate it, and he had the chapel, the hearse and the catafalque heraldically decorated; he spared nothing so that the obsequies should be done with all possible magnificence.

The municipality of Saint-Vallier in Quebec's Bellechasse region bears the bishop's name since a portion of the La Durantaye seigniory was sold, in 1760, to the nuns of the Hôpital Général, founded by bishop de Saint-Vallier himself in 1693. He had served as an intermediary between the nuns and the Morel de la Durantaye family.

In spite of Intendant Dupuy's hasty burial of the prelate, the canons of the cathedral held a solemn memorial liturgy in the late bishop's cathedral on January 5, 1728. Canon Joachim Fornel (1697-1753) delivered the funeral eulogy in which he chastised the late bishop's critics in no uncertain terms:

He was a great bishop because of his piety, and even greater through his zeal, and a very great one because of his charity. Ab auditione mala non timebit¹. That is why his name will be revered from century to century among the ranks of the righteous, at the same time it will also silence every pallid envious and all the enemies of his reputation and glory.

Canon Fornel's shrewd use of the quote from the Psalmist was a clever move to rehabilitate the memory of a prelate — who incidentally had ordained Quebec-born Fornel to the priesthood —, despite his very public flaws. The verse quoted translates in the King James version as: « *The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance* ».

Robert Pichette
Historiographer of the Canadian Association
of the Order of Malta

A Project Well Under Way !

For the last four years, members in the Montreal region have partnered with the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Nursing in an annual scholarship program for undergraduates of the nursing school that sends students to Order of Malta hospitals in Africa.

The funds raised by the Montreal members as well as the annual contribution from the Canadian Association cover transportation and living expenses while the students are in Africa.

In 2016, Valerie Bissonette and Jasmine Lapointe-Grenier were sent to the Centre Hospitalier de l'Ordre de Malte in Dakar, Senegal, for a leprosy project. In 2017 Julie Maurice was sent to the Hospital St-Jean-Baptiste at Bodo-Tiassale, Ivory Coast, for a malaria transmission project. In 2018, Magalie Lelievre and Genevieve Groulx were sent to the same place and worked on projects involving traditional African therapy and mother-to-child HIV transmission.

The next fundraising event will be on November 7th, when Ms. Lelievre and Ms. Groulx will tell us about their experiences, we will also meet the students who will be leaving for Madagascar in 2019.

In addition to fulfilling our mission to help Our Lords poor and the sick, this has been very gratifying for everyone involved. As the project manager since its beginning, I would like to thank everyone who made it possible and hope it will last for a long time.

Christian Samoisette

Geneviève Groulx and Magalie Lelièvre, on March 8th 2018, in front of the Hôpital Saint-Jean-Baptiste of Bodo-Tiassale, en Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast, Africa).



Highlights of the 2018 Investiture

The 2018 Investiture Weekend welcomed three new members, Mr. Paul Golini (Toronto), Mr. Armand La Barge (Toronto), and Ms. Theresa Wang (Vancouver).

A number of VIPs attended: His Grace, Right Reverend Terrence Prendergast, Archbishop of Ottawa; Geoffrey Loughheed, the Chancellor for the Priory of Canada of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John; His Excellency. Geoffrey D. Gamble, Member of the Sovereign Council; and Botho Baron von Bose, Delegate of the Canadian Sub-Commandery of the Johanitter Order. The Lieutenant Governor of Québec, the Honourable J. Michel Doyon, Q.C., was also a special guest and gave a speech at our gala dinner. The Canadian Order received a donation for the Investiture Dinner. The generous donor wishes to remain anonymous in the hope that his generosity encourages others

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Awards

President Roman Ciecwierz was pleased to present Past President André A. Morin with the Grand Cross of Magistral Grace in Obedience. He also presented Bruce Adams, François Caron and Mark Dunphy with *The President's Certificate of Appreciation* for their extensive volunteer work over the years.

Assignments

While Bruce Adams remains regional Vice President for Metropolitan Toronto, he decided to leave his position of Director of Communications. President Ciecwierz welcomed Mike Obrist as the new Director of Communications for the Canadian Association.

Reports in Brief

President Ciecwierz touched on the new strategic direction of the board – building financial stability to better achieve the mission of the Order – taking care of the sick and the poor.

The Chancellor, the Honourable Anne-Mari Trahan thanked her colleagues saying how honoured she was to be the first woman Chancellor in Canada and spoke of her work in stabilizing the national office. The regional vice-presidents gave updates on initiatives and challenges throughout the country.

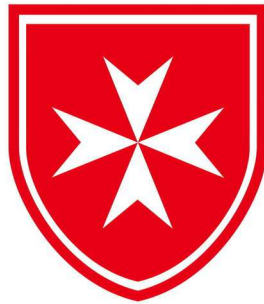
The Hospitaller, Dr. Bill Sullivan, discussed the many corporal and spiritual activities of the volunteers and urged members to look into working with L'Arche Canada to see how we can better help people with various types of disabilities and specifically fill the gaps in care. President Ciecwierz also introduced some of the people leading Order initiatives such as Patrick Portelli – the Prison Ministry, and Fra' Mathieu Dupont – the Order's leader of its new Spirituality Committee. The Treasurer, Angelo Zanchetta, noted the sound fiscal health of the Association and reiterated the President's urging to become more active in fundraising and donating. The retiring Director of Communications, Bruce Adams, described ongoing and planned communications activities and highlighted the website, which has facilitated communications as well as operations of the Order in Canada. The Chair of the Recruitment and Formation Committee, Major (Ret) Patrick Rechner, reported on the encouraging number of aspirants and potential members and he described the recruitment strategies and processes.

President Ciecwierz closed by thanking Gaspare Castagna, the son of member and former National Hospitaller, Luigi Castagna, for his volunteer work and report on the Malta Camp.

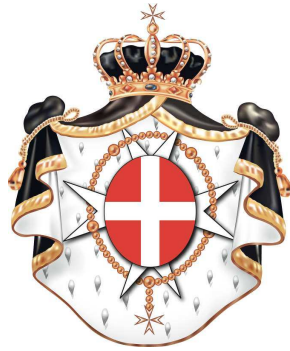
2018 Vigil and Investiture



2018 Vigil and Investiture



PRAYER OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE ORDER OF MALTA



**God Our Father, source of all good, you who give us this great nation
with so much wealth, we pray, teach us to be generous with our time,
our resources and our soul in order to serve you through the poor and the sick.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you who called us to serve you in the Order of Malta,
lead us on the path of compassion so that your sufferings on the Cross
may become the comfort and redemption of those we serve.**

**Following the example of your servant Saint André Bessette,
teach us how to be models of charity,
with tenderness, compassion and flexibility.**

**Following the example of your servant, Saint Marguerite d'Youville,
Lord, show us how our differences compose our unity
so that with the same voice and the same breath,
we can help the poorest in our country to regain their dignity.**

**May our service in and with our sainted Order of Malta
also be a source of salvation for us, so that in your name
we may remain faithful to our heritage.**

**Lord, Holy Spirit, source of wisdom,
guide us with the light of your Evangelical Beatitudes.**

Amen.

**Written by Fra' Mathieu Jacques Dupont
Knight of Justice, Ottawa, (Ontario)**

**Imprimatur: † Raymond Poisson,
Coadjutor Bishop of Saint-Jérôme (Québec)**

September 2018

Memento of the 2018 Pilgrimage to Lourdes



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

Editing and Layout: Robert Boily
Translation: Robert Pichette

1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario, K1H 6K9
Tel: 613 731-8897 | Fax.: 613 731-1312
Email: smomca@bellnet.ca
www.orderofmaltacanada.org

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