



The Flag of the Order of Malta Floats at the Notre-Dame-du-Cap Shrine

On June 23rd 2019, a special ceremony was held at the Notre-Dame-du-Cap Shrine. In the presence of several Knights and Dames, dignitaries and the general public, the flag of the Order of Malta was blessed by His Excellency Mgr Raymond Poisson, our National Chaplain, and then hoisted permanently to the mast to indicate the presence of volunteer brigades serving the thousands of pilgrims.



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

IN THIS ISSUE

Message from
the President

2

My Pilgrimage
to Lourdes

3

A Visit at the Notre-Dame
du Cap Shrine

4

Being a Good Neighbour

5

Obituary for
Anne-Marie Trahan

6

The Order of Malta
on Social Media

7

News from Toronto

8

News from Ottawa

9

News from
the Western Region

10



**National Pilgrimage
to Lourdes,
May 2020
(official dates to be announced)**

Message from the President

This is a wonderful time of year. We are in a cycle of renewal and fresh beginnings. The universal Church has proclaimed the risen Lord and takes joy in the hope of the resurrection. Spring has fulfilled our transformation from dreary, cold days of winter into the promise of beautiful flowers, green grass and warm temperatures; our Association starts a new fiscal year and a renewed focus on how best to serve our Lord's the sick and the poor.

Every year this all brings us to the celebration Feast of our patron. How fitting it is that St. John the Baptist was chosen as our patron. Before conception, he was chosen to be a vessel for our Lord, to drive ahead and to prepare the way of our Lord.

In a similar way, for over 900 years, the members of the Order of Malta have been chosen to drive ahead by providing tangible witness to our faith through our example in prayer and action. We too prepare a way for the world to see Christ in our unselfish ways of helping those in need.

I was privileged to attend our Feast Day celebrations at Notre-Dame du Cap with the Montreal and Quebec regions. I am embarrassed to say this was my first visit to the sanctuary that is the only national shrine to Our Lady. What a magnificent story of this pilgrimage site nestled in the beauty of the St. Lawrence River and her wooded shore. The visitors to the shrine that day were treated not only to the visual of knights and dames processing into the church, led by our brigade volunteers looking crisp in their white shirts and black trousers, but also to a wonderful welcoming of the Order and a very meaningful homily by our chief chaplain, Bishop Raymond Poisson.

The day was also important as it signified the passing of the torch for the brigade activities from Montreal to Quebec and everyone in the church processed outside following the mass to witness the blessing of our flag and its subsequent raising on the flag pole near the Order's first aid section. Another new beginning that will enhance our 54 years of presence at the sanctuary. A very proud moment. If you haven't been, I encourage you to attend.

As our summer becomes filled with holidays and family time, let us not forget those in need. Let the verses of 'Mathew 25' be your guide always. Pray for our sick, especially our wonderful Anne-Marie Trahan. Remember our young volunteers along with the malades that will attend the international summer camp for the disabled.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of our dearly departed Anne-Marie Trahan.

May God bless you and your families - Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

In Domino.

Roman J. Cieciewicz, KMOB
President



Entry of the brigades at Notre-Dame du Cap Shrine

My Pilgrimage to Lourdes

May 1 – 7, 2019

Bishop Raymond Poisson, Chief Chaplain of the Order of Malta in Canada, asked me to stand in for him during the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes from May 1st to May 7th 2019. For the third time in my life, I went to this Marian Shrine in Southern France.

My impressions? Despite all the good advice I received before I left, I found reaching Lourdes from Quebec City somewhat complicated. In fact, more complicated than going to Jerusalem! Six different transports were needed to get me there; six were needed to bring me back.

I was the only Quebecker among the Canadian delegation, which was largely composed of Anglophones. Since I tend to be rather shy, it took me at least a quarter of an hour to make myself known and surround myself with good friends. Special thanks to Pauline and Mark Dunphy who greeted me warmly and who guided me during my stay.

The entire Canadian delegation stayed under one roof at hotel called “La Croix des Bretons”, a recently refurbished hotel, not too far from the Shrine. It is very convivial with a small chapel where every morning, led my Mathieu Dupont and myself, we prayed lauds. Mass was celebrated there twice.

Beyond these quite secondary elements, I remain in awe of this genuine tide of members of the Order of Malta invading the Lourdes Shrine. We were 9 000 members along with 1 400 malades from 45 different countries. In all my life, I never saw such a gathering in a single spot. What stays in my memory? First of all, the exceptional logistical organisation of this pilgrimage. Everything ran smoothly. No panic, an army of volunteers looked after the wellbeing of the malades, down to the minuteness of details.

During the Sunday celebrations when thousands of people were gathered in the underground basilica, it was very moving to see a bevy of young children, five to six year old (some of whom appeared to be from Switzerland) distributing water to the malades.

They looked like cherubs fluttering in all directions, wearing the insignia of the SMOM and moving around with huge smiles on their faces.

On a minor note, I became a Samaritan for a handicapped Dutchman who had left his hotel in his wheelchair but could not negotiate a hill on his return trip. I also helped out an American bishop who had found refuge in the basilica following a heavy downpour after the Benediction to the malades. Thank you François (Caron) for suggesting I bring my umbrella... and to dress like an onion!

What I retain, and it is undoubtedly the most important, is the “obsequium pauperum” (the preoccupation for the poor) that was manifest during this visit to Lourdes. I was constantly reminded of these words of wisdom from I forget what author: “The level of civilisation can be measured by the care we give to the weakest.”

+ Father Gérard Blais, s.m., Marianist, Quebec City
Conventual Chaplain *ad honorem*



Father Gérard Blais, with Mark and Pauline Dunphy

A Visit at the Notre-Dame du Cap Shrine



The volunteer brigades at the Notre-Dame du Cap Shrine were created in 1965. This initiative was made possible thanks to the participation of Oblate Fathers Jacques Rinfret, o.m.i., director of pilgrimages (son of the Right Honourable Édouard Thibaud-Rinfret, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and First President of the Canadian Association of the Order of Malta from 1950 to 1957), André Lefebvre, Chaplain of the “Association des secouristes du Sanctuaire Notre-Dame du Cap”, Annette Noël, Human resources Director and Albert Tessier, Vice-President. In its early days, this brigade of volunteers, whose mission was to help the pilgrims, consisted of 17 men and women.

Following a difficult period, the responsibility of the volunteer brigades at the Sanctuary was transferred to the Quebec City Region in January 2019.

After several months of intense work followed by a major "refurbishment", the brigades, which are celebrating their 54th anniversary this year, were kept operational to continue the same tasks and responsibilities as originally planned, namely the support and assistance to pilgrims.

To mark the continuation of the work of the brigades, a Mass was celebrated on June 23rd at the shrine of Notre-Dame du Cap under the presidency of Bishop Raymond Poisson, National Chaplain of the Order, in the presence of the Oblate community, the chaplain of the Montreal region as well as members of the Quebec and Montreal regions. Also present were the President of the Canadian Association Mr. Roman J. Ciecwierz, the Vice-President of the Montreal region, Mr. Robert Boily, the Vice-President of the Quebec region, Mr. François Caron and the Director of the Sanctuary, Mr. Luc Létourneau.

Being a Good Neighbour

Everyone has neighbours and we treat them with special favour. If I do a favour for the person next door, my own moment of need is usually soon enough to inspire reciprocity. Christ did not teach pragmatism but encourages us to think beyond ourselves to help others.

Malteser International is the worldwide humanitarian relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta. For over 60 years, we have provided relief and recovery during and following conflicts and disasters. Our vision is A life in health and dignity for all.

In 2018, 214,000 people received food, water, clothing, toiletries, and/or emergency shelter. 2 million patients were treated in medical facilities supported by us all over the world. 355,000 people had access to clean drinking water thanks to our projects.

How do these outcomes relate to my neighbour? That question was answered by Jesus Himself in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). When asked ‘and who is my neighbour?’, Jesus responded with a story about a Samaritan who took pity on a stranger, left half-dead by a roadside. The Samaritan was another traveller; but he did not avoid acting because it was not his home.

We don’t know the beaten man’s identity, but he probably wasn’t a fellow Samaritan. And it is particularly important to recognize that the Samaritan did not help the sick and robbed man with his leftovers. The Samaritan cleaned the other traveller’s wounds with his wine and oil; he bandaged him and put the man on his own donkey; he brought him to an inn and personally took care of him.

Margaret Thatcher, a quickly overlooked theologian, once remarked, “No one would remember the Good Samaritan if he’d only had good intentions; he had money as well.” The Samaritan paid two denarii to the inn keeper up front and guaranteed any additional expenses for the patient’s care.

So too, our care towards our neighbours extends to people from other lands and creeds, who need more than our prayers alone can provide. Your financial support for the works of the Order of Malta is a practical way to give thanks for our blessings from above and to be a good neighbour on earth. Thank you for your generosity, which ensures that real service to the Lord’s the sick and the poor remains a reality.

Valentine Lovekin



Obituary for Anne-Marie Trahan



The Honourable Anne-Marie Trahan, Q.C. 1946 - 2019

Anne-Marie Trahan was born in Montreal on July 27, 1946. She obtained her law degree in 1967 from the University of Montreal and was admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1968. She began her career at Lavery de Billy, in Montreal. In 1979, she became a lawyer at the International Trade Law Branch of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs in Vienna, Austria. In 1981, she was appointed Commissioner at the Canadian Transport Commission and became, in 1985, president of the Water Transportation Committee. From 1986 to 1994, Anne-Marie Trahan was associate deputy minister, Civil Law and Legislative Services, at the Department of Justice. She was a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec from July 5, 1994 to July 30, 2010. She was the first woman to chair the International Association of Young Lawyers (AIJA). She chaired the European Law Circle of the Jean-Monnet Chair at the University of Montreal. She was a member of the Governing Board of UNIDROIT (the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law) from 1988 to 2008. (ref: Droit-inc.com)

The Bar of Quebec awarded her the Christine-Tourigny Merit in May 2019. This is an award given each year to a lawyer to reward her commitment to the legal profession, her social commitment and her special contribution to the advancement of women in this field.

She was admitted in the Order of Malta on October 19, 2000 and received the Pro Merito Melitense Cross in 2017. She served many years as Vice President of the Montreal Region and was the first female Chancellor of the Canadian Association. She had a keen interest for the Blessed Gerard's Academic Scholarship Program, which allows each year two students from the School of Nursing of the University of Montreal to spend a month in an hospital of the Order of Malta .

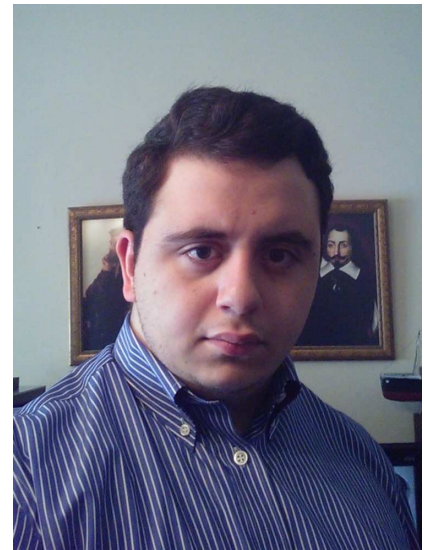
Anne-Marie was also a great traveler who loved music, and especially opera.

She died at her home, in Outremont, during the night of July 12, 2019.

The Order of Malta on Social Media



Twitter Page of the Order of Malta

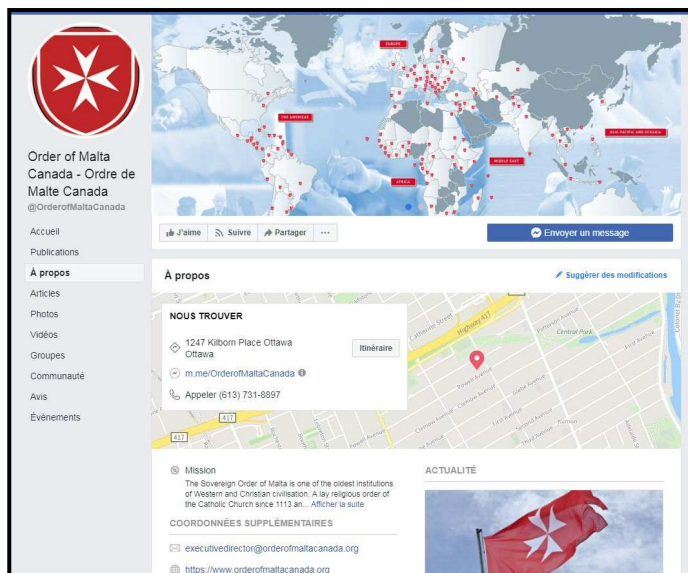


Louis-Philippe Arslan-Charité

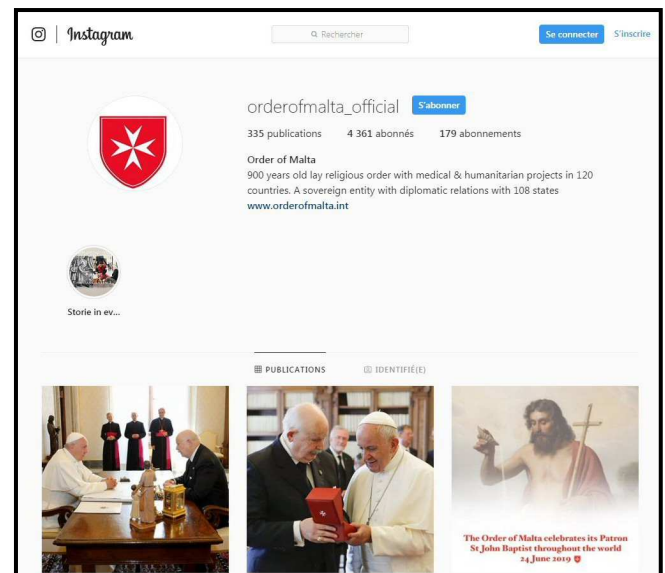
The Canadian Association is now on Social Media !

Some of you have already noticed our presence on social media, be it through Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, these channels of communication allow us to demonstrate the Order's activities to a wider audience. A big thank you goes to Louis-Philippe Arslan-Charité, a volunteer from the Montreal region, for helping set up these channels and keeping them populated with content. For those who are using social media I encourage you to follow them. For those not so technologically inclined you can refer any friends and family who want to know more about the Order to these channels.

Mike Obrist
Director of Communications



Facebook Page of the Canadian Association



Instagram Page of the Order of Malta

News from Toronto

In Summary

This year, the members and friends of the Toronto Region were active in helping our Lords the poor through the Hunger Patrol as well as our Lords the sick through regional participation in the Order's annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Local members and friends of the Order also participated in local retreats aimed at spiritual enrichment. Most notable were our Masses and events for All Souls, Advent and Lent. The Region is looking forward to the upcoming Mass and Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in June and the Order's private retreat at the Martyrs Shrine in October.

Aspirant Orientation Session

This year's weekend workshop, hosted by our Regional Membership Committee Chair Fabio Varlese, was attended by a collection of 2019 and 2020 aspirants as well as members, our Chaplain Fr. David and His Excellency the President Roman Cieciewicz. Our local Chaplain, Father David Katulski led an inspiring review and reflection on the spirituality of the Order of Malta. Dr Robert Boyko explained the History of the Order, our President updated participants on global initiatives and Mr Karol Pawlina provided a detailed explanation of the aspirant documentation required by Rome and the timing for submission. We are looking forward to welcoming our 2019 aspirants as Members at the investiture in Ottawa in September of this year.

Hunger Patrol – Potential for Expansion

Under the direction of our confrere Dr Christian Elia, this program continues to be an incredible success. The weekly distribution of hot homemade soup, sandwiches and clothing has drawn-in some of our local members, aspirants and volunteers to serve Toronto's forgotten.

In addition to providing more than 3,000 bowls of soup this year, the program has been attracting donations from members and business, parishes and the Ontario Foundation of the Order of Malta. Plans are currently under way to expand the program to support more homeless people and provide more opportunity for members and aspirants to serve our lords the sick and the poor.



Dr Rory Fisher



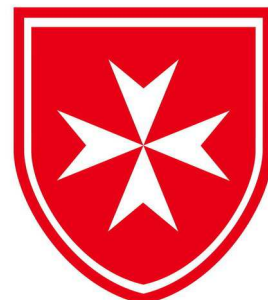
Bruce Adams

Notable Awards

Local members and friends, along with our National President, took time during our Lenten Retreat this year to acknowledge the significant contributions of one of our key members, Dr Rory Fisher, who received the Merito Melitense and President's Medal for his outstanding service in recruitment and his life-long dedication to bioethics and geriatrics. Mr Bruce Adams also received a certificate and President's Medal for his work in transforming the Order's website and implementing back office supports such as online registration and payments for events.

News from Ottawa

In addition to their spiritual duties in their respective parishes, the 22 active members in Ottawa participated in bi-monthly masses and shared news of the Order with a member of the Hungarian group who was passing through Ottawa and the widow of a Polish member, as well as with our future member, Pierre Chartier. Despite being on sabbatical leave, our chaplain prepared two mini-retreats for us in Advent and in Lent. Thanks to the supervision of Fra' Mathieu Dupont, on Good Friday morning, we had our annual event at the Shepherds of Good Hope where we prepared vegetables for three days, and then served the noon meal to the homeless; the respite for the hostel staff is much appreciated. Our final activity was the mass for our Patron on June 24th.



We will all be assisting our Executive Director during the summer in preparing for the September Investiture.

Mark Dunphy



The Shepherds of Good Hope Shelter, in Downtown Ottawa

News from the Western Region

Our Eye Clinic is the main activity of the Western Region of the Canadian Association. Usually it is held twice a year, but this year, because of other commitments on the part of the key people (Dr. David Neima, Warren Whitford and Toni Viani of the Department of Dispensing Opticianry, Faculty of Science & Technology at Douglas College in New Westminster) it has been held on March 10th, 2019 at the Door is Open (see more on it below). Students from Douglas College (under the supervision of Toni Viani) assisted the medical team.

The medical team reported that the afternoon was very productive and worthwhile for them. They cared for patients with many eye diseases, including acute glaucoma, diabetes and cataracts.

Most of our patients were helped with glasses, including 11 who were legally blind without the glasses! Those with more serious problems were given appointments for appropriate follow up, while one was sent directly to the emergency for immediate care, which prevented total blindness.



Above: Enrico Dobrzensky in his new job

Several people from the Western Region assisted the medical team with welcoming and directing patients. Some were new members who had never attended an eye clinic before.

One of the new members commented: “I spoke to people waiting inside and they told me how happy they were. I have spent many years as a police officer interacting with people “on the street”. They don’t have much but they have dignity. I returned to the premises a week later with many coats and brand new clothes to help. It was an eye opener. Thank you”

On the left: Dr. David Neima and a patient (patient faces have been blurred)

(continued on next page)



News from the Western Region



Above: Gabrielle Komorowska, Regina Teodoro and Stephanie Neima welcoming new patients at the Eye Clinic

“The Door is Open” is a drop-in centre for adults in the Downtown Eastside. And it is one of 26 soup kitchens in that area. It offers companionship, recreational activities, meals, tea, and snacks daily. It serves almost every day of the week to at least 250 people every day and once a week, it serves breakfast.

In the last few years, the Western Region has supported the Door is Open with gifts of non-perishable food and clothing. The Western Region has been organizing a monthly food collection at Sts. Peter and Paul, as well as seasonal clothing and new socks. We are thankful to Adrian French who has been the main person transporting the collected items to the Door is Open.

On August 18th, the Western Region is organizing a bus for the handicapped to the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Mission, BC. Our main role is to provide a bus to transport the elderly and handicapped pilgrims and to man a first aid tent which, in the past, has proven very useful. Fortunately, some of our members have medical training and were able to deal with emergency situations.

On March 17th, the members of the Western Region of the Canadian Association, and some prospective members attended a mass and a Lenten retreat given by Father John Horgan. As usual, Father Horgan’s homily was most engaging spiritually and intellectually. The members then had a lively discussion.

In the spirit of keeping in touch with the other members in our region, and helping those that need assistance, we have been very active in this regard.

Gabrielle Komorowska

On the right: Dr. David Neima and Enrico Dobrzensky



Knight of the National Order of Quebec



On June 20th 2019, Robert Boily (left), Vice President of the Montreal region and Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Canadian Armed Forces, was appointed Knight of the National Order of Quebec by Premier François Legault (right) for his career spanning more than 40 years in scientific research. The official ceremony was held at the Parliament House, in Quebec City.

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: executivedirector@orderofmaltacanada.org
www.orderofmaltacanada.org

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