



LOURDES

Lourdes is located in south-western France and is where the Virgin Mary appeared to peasant girl Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto in 1858. Since that time the Catholic church has recognised 68 miracles linked to Lourdes and many disabled or sick people go there to pray for a cure. Last year it was visited by more than six million visitors.

As the Order is committed to serving "Our Lords the Poor and the Sick", Lourdes holds a special place in the psyche and spirituality of our Members.

LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS IN MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY



Picture by the Catholic Weekly.

Due to the large number of pilgrims unable to make the long journey to France, every year Members of the Order of Malta, with the generous support of the Archbishops and Diocesan staff, arrange Lourdes Day Mass celebrations in their state capitals. Those who attend the Mass receive special blessings and bottles of Lourdes water. Volunteers are also on hand to assist the frail and aged who attend.

On Saturday 1st December over 2,000 people attended Lourdes Day Mass, which was celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne and St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.



In Melbourne, the great Cathedral was standing room only and our Conventual Chaplain ad honorum Dr Denis Hart concelebrated the Mass with the Dean and two of our Magistral Chaplains. Volunteers from Newman College, in their Order of Malta tabards, and from Genazzano and Loreto Mandeville Hall, in their school uniforms, assisted on the day.



Picture by the Catholic Weekly.

In Sydney, the Principal Celebrant was Bishop Anthony Fisher OP and the Concelebrants were Monsignor Vince Redden EV, Father Danny Meagher and Father James McCarthy. Volunteers from the Young Order of Malta (YOOM) and Campion College were also on hand to assist malades who attended the mass.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to see more pictures from the December Lourdes Day Mass celebrations.

UPCOMING LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS IN OTHER CITIES

Adelaide

St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Monday 11th February at 10am

Brisbane:

St Paschal's Church, Wavell Heights, Saturday 4th May at 10 am

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES IN MAY



On the first weekend in May, Members of the Order from all over the world make the pilgrimage to Lourdes to accompany 'malades' (the sick) who pray to Mary the Immaculate Conception and bathe in the healing waters.

This May, an Australian delegation will again be attending and already comprises of 25 Members and volunteers. If you are interested in joining the Australian delegation, please email info@smom.org.au. Alternatively visit our website, www.orderofmalta.org.au to read an inspirational account from one of the Australian participants from the 2012 pilgrimage.

CLEAN UP EFFORT FOLLOWING OCTOBER FLOODS IN LOURDES

In the October European floods, the river Gave broke its banks and inundated beautiful Lourdes, causing enormous structural damage to the Sanctuary.

The Order of Malta is actively supporting the rehabilitation. The French Association immediately provided an emergency relief team of fifty volunteers to assist the immediate clean-up operation and Members of the Order from across the world have donated funds to assist the repair and refurbishment of the Lourdes Sanctuaries

MOVIE NIGHT RAISES FUNDS FOR THE ADELAIDE DAY CENTRE & THE AUSTRALIAN SALESIAN MISSION OVERSEAS AID FUND

The South Australian branch of the Order of Malta ran a film fundraiser in October which raised a total of \$7,857.50.

425 people purchased tickets to attend the fundraiser that featured the film "Argo", which just prior to the event received excellent reviews.

The branch will bring the total funds up to \$8,000 and will distribute the funds equally between the Adelaide Day Centre for homeless persons and The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund.

The Adelaide Day Centre used the money to put together Christmas hampers for needy people and to contribute towards upgrading the kitchen facilities at the garden project.

The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund will use the money to support their humanitarian activities in Timor-Leste.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION HOSTS 2012 ORDER OF MALTA, ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE



Picture by the Catholic Weekly.



ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

GORMAN HOUSE FUNDRAISING REACHES \$1MILLION

On Thursday 15th November, the Order's NSW Branch Chairman, David Hall, was pleased to present Bronwyn Crosby, Deputy Director of St Vincent's Alcohol and Drug Service, with a cheque for \$28,035. This latest donation brings the total funds raised by the NSW branch for the Gorman House Detoxification unit to a magic milestone of \$1 million.



Gorman House is a 20-bed, non-medical residential detoxification unit whose primary function is to provide a safe and supportive environment for people who are withdrawing from drug and alcohol addictions. The short-term detoxification program is provided free of charge and consistently operates at full occupancy. In 2006, when health budget cuts reduced funding for the unit, the NSW branch agreed to work in partnership with

St Vincent's Hospital to ensure this valuable service could continue operating 24/7.

The cheque was presented at the NSW branches White Knights Cocktail function and was attended by 110 people. Proceeds from the evening will be used to assist the Order's mission of helping the poor and the sick, which is very relevant to the Gorman House partnership.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to view more pictures from the White Knights Cocktail, watch an inspirational video about the Detoxification Unit or to read an account from one of our Gorman House volunteers.

The Order's Third Asia Pacific Regional Conference held in Sydney from 12th to 14th October was attended by delegates from Australia, Singapore, Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, Korea, Portugal, Timor-Leste, France, Germany and the Grand Magistracy in Rome. Representatives from the Order's specialised agencies CIOMAL, which cares for those affected by leprosy, and Malteser International, the rapid response arm of the Order for relief of distress caused by natural disasters, also attended.

Conference delegates reported on the charitable projects at present being undertaken by the Order in the Asia Pacific Region and how the Order will organise to address the future needs of the Poor and Sick.

The Order's Grand Hospitaller, HE Baron Albrecht von Boeselager, said of the conference,

"The initiative started by the Australian Association to expand into the Asia/Pacific region is undoubtedly one of the most important in the recent history of the Order. It is most encouraging to experience how the confraternal coherence of the Order in the region is growing and how much this encourages all the participants to ever increase their efforts to carry out the Order's mission."

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to see more pictures from the conference.

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ORDER OF MALTA AUSTRALIA

FEBRUARY 2013 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE - SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES / BRANCH FUNDRAISERS / PROJECT UPDATES

MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALLER



Welcome to the first edition of the Australian Associations newsletter in 2013. This edition will outline the activities of the Order since the last newsletter and introduce you to some upcoming initiatives for the year.

Headlining this edition is the 900th Anniversary of the Papal Bull (Pieae) Pie Postulatio Voluntatis, which placed the patronage of our Order under the Holy See as a lay religious Order. As one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilisation, this pivotal milestone in the Order's history is cause of much pride and celebration.

Also contained is an update on our ongoing national projects – the Coats for the Homeless project and our humanitarian efforts in Timor-Leste. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the tenacity of our project co-ordinators, and their numerous helpers and volunteers, these initiatives continue to expand for the benefit of "our Lords, the sick and the poor".

This issue also reports on some of the initiatives undertaken by the state branches, including the Lourdes Day Mass celebrations in Sydney and Melbourne that took place in December and fundraising events for state based charitable projects.

Finally, as our next newsletter is not scheduled until July, I invite you all to get in the habit of frequently visiting our website, www.orderofmalta.org.au with its weekly updates of current and future activities.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jan Marshall
Dr. Ian Marshall AE KC*SG

THE 900TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDER OF MALTA



On February 15, 2013, the Order will celebrate the 900th anniversary of the issuance of Pie postulatio voluntatis, the papal bull (or bulla sacra). This memorable anniversary celebrates the date the Order's founder, Blessed Gerard, secured for his community of brothers the much-desired ecclesiastical approval for the Hospital of St John (today the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta) from the then-reigning Pope Paschal II.

The Hospital of St. John had already been operating for over 50 years in the service of the pilgrims and the poor in Jerusalem when the papal bull was issued, but the rights granted by it have great historical significance. It transformed what was a community of pious men into an institution within the Church. By virtue of this document, the pope officially recognised the existence of the new organisation as a living, integral, operative and militant part of the Roman Catholic Church. It also granted it papal protection and confirmed its properties in Europe and Asia. This meant that the assets that the Hospital had amassed in order to sustain pilgrims and the poor who visited the hospital were protected. The bull also placed under Gerard's authority various hospices in

France and Italy, therefore expanding the Hospitaller activities.

Most importantly however, it gave the Hospital autonomy, and the foundation of the independence and sovereignty that the Order enjoys to this day. As a result of Pie postulatio voluntatis, for 900 years, the Order has been able to serve the Church, and those in need, as an autonomous and sovereign lay religious order.

Today, the Order has diplomatic relations with 104 countries and missions to major European countries, as well as representation at major world organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union. As the Order of Malta is neutral, impartial and non-political, it can successfully act as a mediator between States. However, the Order remains true to its Hospitaller tradition and is active in over 120 countries where it initiates and sustains projects designed to deliver emergency aid, health care training and education for those in greatest need.



The Order of Malta is proud to be the oldest Order of Chivalry in the world, and the fourth oldest religious order in the Catholic Church.

To mark this memorable anniversary, Members of the Order from across the globe, including a group of 15 representatives from the Australian Association, will gather in Rome for an International Working Conference, culminating in a celebratory Papal Mass in the Vatican.

For all Australian Association news as it happens, including images from the anniversary celebrations, visit our website, www.orderofmalta.org.au



THE ORDER OF MALTA MEDICAL CLINIC IN MAUBARA

The Australian Association is committed to helping the people of Timor-Leste where there is such great opportunity to assist "Our Lords the Poor and the Sick". In a country where there are high rates of illness and death from preventable disease, the Order has the expertise and resources to assist the people of Timor-Leste in developing life-enhancing medical services that will be available to even the most impoverished members of the population.

The latest step in this journey is to manage a medical clinic in the town of Maubara which will service over 650 families, who would normally not have access to medical services.

"I last visited Timor-Leste as a volunteer doctor at a special one day clinic run by the Carmelites. The clinic was over- crowded; it was impossible to see everyone seeking

treatment. Could you imagine having to wait months for a clinic only to be turned away after waiting all day? The Maubara clinic will mean that over 650 families will have access to regular medical care."

Dr Ian Marshall
AE KC*SG, Hospitaller

The Order is planning to acquire an ambulance which will be attached to the clinic and dedicated to the Maubara district. We have also committed to provide \$30,000 a year (for the next three years) towards the running costs. In addition to this we will also co-ordinate visits of volunteer doctors and health professionals from Australia to offer their professional services, including training local Timorese involved in delivering health care. We are currently awaiting finalisation of the necessary agreements with the appropriate authorities.



services, including child and maternal health care, especially monitoring malnutrition. With over half the country's population living below the poverty line, malnutrition is rife. Many families around Maubara live a subsistence existence and accidents on both farm and road, leave many Timorese with chronic disabilities and deformities; frequently accompanied by chronic pain, often constant and severe. If all the clinic did was to provide the locals with basic pain relief medication and multi-vitamins, then these inexpensive treatments alone would provide a dramatic improvement to their quality of life.

COATS FOR THE HOMELESS PROJECT TO GROW IN 2013



Picture by Dione Davidson The West Australian.

Following the success of the 2012 Coats for the Homeless distribution, we are now in the planning stages of the 2013 project. This year the Order is committed to increasing the volume of Coats we manufacture to 2,500 (an increase of 25% on 2012).

Despite the huge success and support received for this project, every year we are saddened that we could easily distribute 5,000 coats, however lack of funds prevents us from doing this.

Every day, almost 20,000 homeless Australians are sleeping rough on the streets of our cities and towns. Half of all the homeless seeking accommodation are turned away leaving them exposed not to the cold and wet.

\$100 will buy three specially designed winter coats for people who find themselves without a home this winter.

If you would like to provide some warmth and comfort this winter, go to page 5 to make a donation.

As little as \$35 a month can help provide the families in Maubara with a better quality of life.

\$35 a month
would pay the clinics utilities
(e.g. water, electricity)

\$100 a month
would maintain the running of
the clinic's ambulance

\$150 a month
would pay for an apothecary

\$250 a month
would pay for a nurse

PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

If you would like to support the Maubara clinic, you can donate by completing the donation form on page 5.



COATS FOR THE HOMELESS Coffee Morning

Last year our Members in Queensland hosted a breakfast morning to raise funds for the Coats for the Homeless project. The event was such a huge success that it was suggested that the idea be taken up nationally.

Therefore in the month of July we are asking our Members and supporters across to hold our first National Coats for the Homeless Coffee Morning.

where any donations on the day are made to the Order's Coats for the Homeless project.

We hope you'll get together with friends, family and colleagues in July and raise funds for this wonderful project.

If you would like to host a Coats for the Homeless Coffee Morning, please register your interest by emailing mrees@smom.org.au or calling 02 9331 8477.

PHARMACEUTICALS DELIVERED TO FOUR CLINICS IN TIMOR-LESTE

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, in October the Order of Malta made a further pharmaceuticals shipment to Timor-Leste. The shipment has provided pharmaceuticals to clinics run by the Carmelites in Maubara, Bebonuk, Maubisse and Motael. These facilities provide primary medical care for a significant number of Timorese in underprivileged urban and isolated rural areas.

This project is led by our members in South Australia. Dr Bob Britten Jones, who was a board member of 'OPAL' (Overseas Pharmaceutical Aid for Life), initiated a project with the assistance



of Dr. Ian Leitch and Mr. Alick Haddad, to purchase and distribute medicines for the clinics at discounted wholesale prices.

The provision of pharmaceuticals at no cost, allows the Timorese from rural areas to receive treatment that would otherwise not be possible.

If you would like to support the Pharmaceuticals project, please go to page 5 to make a donation.



BASIC LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING IN TIMOR-LESTE

In October over 40 participants, including ambulance staff, nurses, midwives, police, teachers and district administrators completed the Order's three day Basic Life Support training in Timor-Leste. The training is delivered as part of the national curriculum for ambulance studies and prepares participants to provide basic ambulance care including managing trauma and illness, CPR and an introduction to disaster management.

The training was delivered in Tetun by the Order of Malta, supported by three paramedics from Ambulance WA. All participants received a course manual and participation certificate.

The course was developed by the Order of Malta in association with the National Health Institute (Ministry of Health's educational department). It is one of three courses that can be delivered in ambulance care in Timor-Leste is the first official, nationally recognised qualification in ambulance care in the country.

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to see pictures from the training course and certificate presentation.

WHY ARE WE SO ACTIVE IN TIMOR-LESTE?



Timor-Leste is one of the world's youngest countries and also one of the poorest (ranking 147th out of 187 countries in the United Nations Human Development Index). It is also our closest neighbour and because of its proximity, "TL" falls under the Australian Association's responsibility.

TL DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE:

- * **Population** - 1,143,667 and is one of the fastest growing in the world
- * **Poverty** - over half of the population lives below the poverty line of less than 1 USD per day
- * **Life expectancy** - 62.9 years (81.9 in Australia)
- * **Maternal mortality rate** - 300 per 1,000 live births (7 in Australia)
- * **Infant mortality rate** - 41.4 per 1,000 live births (4.5 in Australia)
- * **Fertility rate** - 5.32 (1.8 in Australia)
- * **Roman Catholic** - 98%

The Timorese are faced with a myriad of health challenges including high maternal and infant mortality, illness and death from preventable diseases, high prevalence of malnutrition, poor reproductive health and poor access to safe water and sanitation.

I WANT TO HELP

You can make a donation by completing this form and returning it in the **Reply Paid envelope provided.**

☐ I am happy for the Order to allocate my donation to where the need is greatest; **or**

Please accept a gift towards the:

- ☐ Coats for the Homeless programme
- ☐ Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Maubara
- ☐ Timor-Leste Pharmaceuticals project

REMEMBER, GIFTS OF \$2 AND OVER ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

☐ Please remove me from your mailing list

Name

Address

State Postcode Telephone

Please find enclosed a Cheque/ Money Order
(payable to 'The Order of Malta') for \$ or;

Please debit my credit card the amount of \$

Frequency ☐ Once only ☐ Monthly Card Type ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date Cardholder name

Signature