

MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITABLE PROJECTS

Thank you to everyone who supported these events.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL SANDGATE, QLD "SLEEP-OUT FOR THE HOMELESS"

In September forty students from Sacred Heart School Sandgate, in Years 5, 6 and 7 participated in a "Sleep-out for the Homeless night" at the school.

The annual fundraiser, which started only 2 years ago, is not simply a 'sleepover' for the students. They hear first-hand accounts from youth in the local area who 'sleep rough' every night, receive a very simple dinner of



soup and bread, and participate in a number of activities that assist them to create meaning from their experience.

The sleepout raised \$400, which they have donated to the "Coats for the Homeless" project. This donation will provide twelve homeless people with our specially designed winter coats.

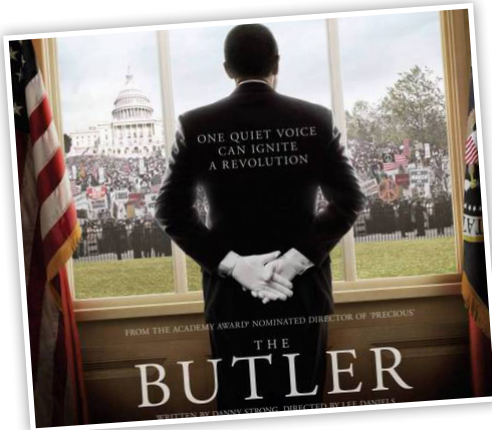
The black tie fundraiser screened 'The Hunger Games: Catching Fire' and raised \$1,000 for HOME which will be used to purchase outdoor equipment and furniture for residents, enabling them to spend more time outside together as a community.

HOME is 100% self funded and features 20 self-contained residential apartments that provide residents with access to 24 hour pastoral care, delivered by qualified employees, volunteers, and live-in caretakers. It needs a further \$160,000+ per year to cover running costs.

More pictures from the Movie Night can be seen online at www.orderofmalta.org.au

MEMBERS IN THE ACT RAISE FUNDS FOR HOME AT MOVIE NIGHT

On 27th November 2013 Members of the Order resident in ACT hosted a Charity Film Night to raise funds to support HOME at Queanbeyan; a supportive, loving home for 19 men and women with mental illness who cannot live independently or who are at risk of homelessness.



SA MOVIE NIGHT THE BUTLER

576 Members and guests were in attendance at the Regal Theatre on Kensington Road, Kensington Park for the annual Film Event. The film – "The Butler" – was very well received by those present and, along with the ever popular raffle draw, raised **\$9,188.77** with proceeds going towards the Adelaide Day Centre for Homeless People and the Salesian Medical Clinic at Venillale, Timor Leste.

COULD YOU HELP RAISE MONEY FOR COATS FOR THE HOMELESS?

In the month of July we are asking Members and Supporters across the country to host a Coats for the Homeless Coffee Morning where any donations made on the day go towards the Order's Coats for the Homeless project.

If you can get together with friends, family and colleagues in July and raise money for Coats for the Homeless by hosting a Coffee Morning, email info@smom.org.au or call 02 9331 8477 to receive an information pack.

Alternatively make a donation at www.coatsforthehomeless.org or complete and return the donation coupon on page 5.



PROJECT UPDATE PHARMACEUTICALS DELIVERY TO TIMOR-LESTE

We are pleased to confirm that we will shortly be making another Pharmaceuticals delivery to Timor-Leste. This project provides basic medicines to eight clinics in Timor-Leste that provide primary medical care at no cost to Timorese in underprivileged, urban and isolated rural areas.

Donations to this projects are optimised with Members of the Order co-ordinating their efforts to not only purchase the medicines at discounted wholesale prices, but also sourcing

warehousing and transport services at no costs.

Currently we are averaging two shipments a year to these clinics. However to enable the clinics to provide year-round treatment we need to provide four deliveries a year. To achieve this we need to raise a further \$30,000 in 2014.

If you are able to assist this life saving project, please help us by making a donation using the coupon on page 5.

PHARMACEUTICALS PROVIDED IN THE SHIPMENTS:

- * Antibiotics for the treatment of common childhood infections, tonsillitis, pneumonia bronchitis, whooping cough.
- * Multivitamin tablets - chronic malnutrition is common in Timor-Leste and supplements are vital in prevention of further health issues. Anaemia is also common in pregnancy
- * Asthma treatments - the shipment contains both Salbutamol to treat acute attacks and other puffers to preventer asthma
- * Treatments for injuries - cuts, burns and wounds to not only provide pain relief but prevent sepsis.
- * Treatments for a range of medical conditions - anaphylaxis, high blood pressure, cardiac failure, parasites, worms, dermatitis, gastroenteritis and fungal infections.



**COVER THE NEED.
SHARE THE WARMTH.
BUY A COAT.**

www.coatsforthehomeless.org



**ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA**

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOSPITALLER

Welcome to the first edition of the Australian Associations newsletter in 2014 which is also my first edition as National Hospitalier. As usual within these pages we hope to share with you the activities of the Order since the last newsletter and introduce you to some upcoming initiatives for the year.

Headlining this edition is an update from the Order's international relief agency, which is currently active in the Philippines following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. We have also included details of their efforts to assist the millions of displaced people as a result of the crisis in Syria and an update on the Australian Association's ongoing humanitarian activities in Timor-Leste.

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 upcoming celebrations in other states. We also have some reports of local fundraising events and details of the next lecture in the NSW Branch lecture series.

It is also with great pleasure that I can confirm that in 2014 we will be distributing 2,500 of our Coats for the Homeless across the country this coming winter. Thank you to everyone who has supported this project and that enables us to help so many of "our Lords, the sick and the poor".

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.

Best wishes

Ian Leitch

Dr. Ian Leitch RFD, MB



REBUILDING LIVES AFTER TYPHOON HAIYAN

In early November 2013 Typhoon Haiyan, devastated portions of Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines. It is the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, the strongest storm recorded at landfall and the strongest typhoon ever recorded in terms of wind speed.

In response, the Order of Malta's emergency relief agency, Malteser International, and the Philippine Association have delivered aid to thousands of Typhoon Haiyan survivors on the islands of Samar and Bantayan.

In the first four weeks, affected families were provided with 4,500 packages of food, household items and hygiene kits. On Samar, the organisation distributed 800 tarpaulins for emergency shelters.

Malteser International has also facilitated emergency medical missions to the villages of San Antonio and Amandayehan. "While health services were reinstated fairly quickly in urban areas following the typhoon, poor rural communities in areas of difficult access have not received the medical attention they require," tells Dr. Mel Capistrano, Malteser International emergency relief expert.

"Community health infrastructures, such as village health stations and rural health clinics, were totally destroyed. Likewise, health care staff who would usually work in these areas were personally affected and were difficult to

mobilize." Malteser International has providing the villages on Samar and Bantayan with 10 large tents for emergency medical treatment, child-friendly spaces and psychological support.

In addition to emergency relief, which includes the distribution of food, medical care and drinking water supply, long-term recovery efforts are already under way, including making the water supply and sanitary facilities resistant against future storms. For Samar Island, an additional focus will be placed on schools and restoring the residents' livelihood through seed distribution.

On Bohol Island, Malteser International is helping families rebuild their homes by providing vouchers for construction materials and technical assistance. There, more than 50,000 homes had already been destroyed by an earthquake on Oct. 15, three weeks before Typhoon Haiyan. The storm led to flooding and caused additional damages.

Members of the Australian Association have personally donated over \$38,000 to the relief efforts in the Philippines.

If you would like to help the survivors of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines with a donation you can do so on page 5.



SYRIA CRISIS: HELP FOR REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE



The humanitarian situation in Syria and in the region is deteriorating day by day. According to the United Nations, nearly half of the Syrian population - 9.3 million people - including 6.5 million internally displaced people in Syria and 2.2 million refugees in neighboring countries, have been affected by the civil war in Syria and are in dire need of humanitarian aid. Their homes, their loved ones, and their future have been taken away from them. In addition, the sudden onset of winter has hit the Syrian refugees and displaced people particularly hard.

The Order of Malta's emergency relief agency, Malteser International, has been providing emergency relief in Syria, Turkey and Lebanon since July of 2012. They have distributed

emergency kits, food packages, baby food and supplies, hygiene products, ovens, blankets and winter clothing to nearly 40,000 people in the region.

Malteser International support a health clinic and two social centers in Lebanon with drugs and medical supplies, so they can offer free health care to Syrian refugees. Their new 28-bed mobile clinic on the Syrian-Turkish border provides medical treatment and psycho-social support for war-injured refugees, and our mobile medical team reaches out to the sick and wounded in northern Syria. Their health center inside a refugee camp near the town of Kilis covers medical care for its more than 4,000 residents.

Malteser International also helps keep a school for Syrian refugee children in Turkey running by covering staff costs, supplying school materials and providing the children with a healthy snack.

Continue to visit
www.orderofmalta.org.au for
the latest news regarding our
humanitarian activities in Syria.

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AID FOR SYRIANS AT A GLANCE:

- * Emergency aid for 37,000 Syrians
- * 4,644 emergency and hygiene kits
- * 3,904 emergency food packages
- * 2,500 baby food packages
- * 1,350 kits with school materials
- * 5,400 kits with winter clothing
- * 2,000 blankets
- * 1,400 heating ovens
- * 40,000 kg of coal for cooking and heating
- * 100,000 litres of heating oil

LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS

On Saturday 7 December Lourdes Day Mass celebrations were held in Melbourne and Sydney.



In Sydney the Lourdes Day Mass was concelebrated in St Mary's Cathedral by Bishop Peter Comonsoli, Monsignors Tony Doherty and Vince Redden as Magistral Chaplains and Fr Paul Hilder, Dean of St Mary's Cathedral. Individual blessings for good health were received by over 500 people with each being handed a bottle of

Lourdes Water by a robed NSW Branch Member. Forty three members robed and processed accompanied by a number of YOOM Volunteers and Members of the Venerable Order of St John.



Image supplied by: Casamento Photography

In Melbourne there was standing room only as Archbishop Denis Hart celebrated the Lourdes Day Mass, supported by chaplains from the Order of Malta. Members of the Order and volunteers from Melbourne Catholic schools also provided welcome support on the day. Gift packs that included a small bottle of Lourdes water and a rosary were in great demand.

HELPING CATHOLICS DEFEND THEIR BELIEFS THE NSW BRANCH OF THE ORDER OF MALTA LECTURE SERIES

ALL WELCOME

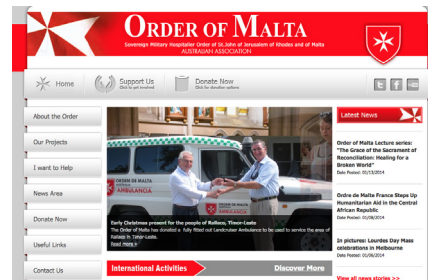
At a time when many people seek to question the continuing role and relevance of the Catholic Faith, the NSW Branch of the Order of Malta lecture series, the patron of which is His Eminence George Cardinal Pell AC, aims to equip ordinary Australian Catholics with the knowledge and arguments to defend our beliefs.



On the 27th November, Anna Krohn, lectured on 'The Hour of Woman is Approaching... Is the Church Ahead

or Behind that Moment?'

The topic not only sparked interest in the Australian Catholic media but also generated enquiries from overseas.



Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au to listen to an interview with Anna about her lecture or to listen to Dr Tracey Rowland's lecture on The Three Theological Virtues: Why do faith, hope and love matter in the 21st Century.

UPCOMING LOURDES DAY MASS CELEBRATIONS IN OTHER STATES:

QLD:

Date:

3rd May 2014 (TBC) at 10am

Location:

St Paschal's Church,
Wavell Heights

SA:

Date: 11th Feb 2014 at 10am

Location: St Francis Xavier
Cathedral, Adelaide

**More pictures from the
celebrations in Melbourne and
Sydney can be viewed online at**
www.orderofmalta.org.au

**Next
Lecture:**

Owen Vyner
will lecture on
*"The Grace of the Sacrament
of Reconciliation: Healing for
a Broken World"*

Date: Wednesday 26th
February 2014

Time: 6.15pm arrival for
6.30pm start

Venue: The Crypt, St Mary's
Cathedral, St Mary's Road,
Sydney, NSW 2000

**RSVP: Email info@smom.org.au
or telephone 02 9331 8455**

EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR THE PEOPLE OF RAILACO, TIMOR-LESTE

In November the Order of Malta donated a fully fitted out Landcruiser Ambulance to be used to service the area of Railaco in Timor-Leste.

The ambulance was donated to Brother Frank Hennessy, Head of the Edmund Rice Community in Timor-Leste, for use in their clinics in the mountainous areas of Railaco. A small handover ceremony took place in the gardens of the Convent of the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres in Dili. Present at the ceremony were Brother Frank, Brothers Peter Coe and David Standen, Sister

Bibianne Prado, SPC Regional Superior of the Congregation. Members of the Order included His Excellency David Scarf AM and Collin Yap and friend of the Order Edwin Yap.

The ambulance was originally and generously donated to the Order of Malta by Aspen Medical who unfortunately ceased operation in Timor earlier this year. The Christian Brothers will run and maintain the ambulance and make it available to other clinics and communities in the district including those of the Jesuits and the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres.

Bro. David Standen remarked, "Your early Christmas present for us will be wonderfully received by the people of Railaco Kraic, Railaco Leten, Samalete, Deleco and Teraco. It is good that we

can work together for the benefit of the people in Timor Leste, especially those in the hills where facilities are lacking."



**If you would like to support
our ongoing rehabilitation of
the Timor-Leste Ambulance
Service, you can donate to this
project on page 5.**

PROJECT UPDATE DOMINICAN ORPHANAGE IN HERA



In the October 2013 newsletter we provided an update on the constructions of the new Orphanage in Hera which is being funded by the Order of Malta. The construction is running to schedule and we hope to

report on the completed orphanage in the July 2014 newsletter. Recent pictures from the construction site can be seen at www.orderofmalta.org.au.

While making a progress visit to the construction site, our Hospitaller noticed that the orphanages only vehicle was off the road after it had a spring damaged in a large wash-away pothole, frequent in Timor-Leste. The ute, which is used to transport life's necessities to the orphanage had been out of use for 10 months.

Thanks to Maughan Thiem Auto Sales, Ford Dealers, a new spring has been provided at wholesale price and Toll Marine Logistics have generously transported it to Dili for free.

**Are you able to support the education
of the boys at the Dominican
Orphanage in Hera?**

The Orphanage is currently struggling to cover the travel costs for the boys who are old enough to attend High School or University in Dili. Currently there are five boys attending University and seven boys attending Senior High School in the capital.

**Transport costs:
\$10 a week/per student
x 12 boys = \$120 per week**

**If you are able to assist with these
transport costs, please go to page
5 to make a donation.**

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:

- ☐ Typhoon Haiyan Appeal
- ☐ Coats for the Homeless
- ☐ Ambulance Rehabilitation in Timor-Leste
- ☐ Timor-Leste Pharmaceuticals project
- ☐ Transport costs at Dominican Orphanage, Hera

**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