


MEDICAL CLINIC, DILI

In the last edition of the newsletter, we reported on the opening of the Order of Malta Medical Clinic in Timor-Leste – our largest and most ambitious project in the Asia Pacific region. The Order's Clinic provides free primary out of hospital medical care and health education to Timorese who are financially disadvantaged.


MEET THE STAFF

The Clinic is staffed by a wonderful team of local doctors and it also attracts distinguished medical professionals from around the world who are inspired by the work undertaken there and the opportunity they have to make a very real and positive impact on the lives of the people who visit for treatment. We interviewed them about their experiences to provide some insight into the work being done at the Clinic.


The full interviews are available at www.orderofmaltaclinic.org.tl but some extracts include:



"Working at the Order of Malta Malta Clinic allowed us to see that even in a poor nation like Timor-Leste it is possible to deliver a first world standard of care, given planning, finance, staff and equipment."
Dr Michael Shanahan, Volunteer Doctor




"As World Health Organization employee working with the Ministry of Health, I become the voice of these patients, advocating their problem to these organizations, who are working hard to combat health issues and disparities in Timor-Leste."
Ms. Imaculada Belo, Volunteer Nutritionist



"The standard of care is very high, and I have been particularly impressed by kindness and consideration shown to every patient."
Dr Tim Hammond, Senior International Consultant



"Working in Order of Malta Clinic has helped me to achieve my professional goal of contributing to the improvement of Timorese health care."
Dr. Haunara Caldas, Senior Doctor



"The Order's Clinic is a remarkable facility, even without comparing it to anything previously available."
Dr Frances Booth AM, Ophthalmologist

a runny nose and a cough and was not feeding well. He was seen by Dr Joaquina, one of our clinic doctors who has particular experience in paediatrics. She examined him carefully and found he had a viral upper respiratory infection. She gave advice and also paracetamol to bring his temperature down and to help relieve his symptoms. She also asked his mother to bring him back to the clinic two days later for review, to ensure he was getting better.

His mother brought him back again as requested but his condition had deteriorated. His fever had gone up, despite the fact that his runny nose and cough had got better. On careful questioning Dr Joaquina elicited that he seemed to be crying more when passing urine. She tested his urine and found that he had evidence of a urinary tract infection. She gave him appropriate antibiotics, further paracetamol to control his pain and fever, and arranged to see him again three days later.

When his mother brought him back to clinic she was delighted. His fever was down, he was feeding well again and was pretty much back to his normal self. Dr Joaquina retested his urine, which was now clear."

Urinary infections are surprisingly common in babies, but often go undetected. This can have serious long-term consequences, as chronic infection can cause significant and lasting kidney damage, and potentially lead to kidney failure in later life.

By being diligent in her care, by asking Alfredo's mother to bring him back to the clinic for review, and by being aware of the potential diagnosis and its management, Dr Joaquina averted the possibility of him getting long term kidney damage, and instead of this has a healthy patient with a very happy mother.

Most importantly, our clinic was able to provide Alfredo the antibiotics he needed. On average, each day the clinic provides 20 courses of antibiotics. A course of antibiotics costs \$7, however this is unaffordable for most of our patients who live on less than \$2 a day.



*Patient's name changed for this article



All smiles here. But that wasn't the case when Alfredo was first presented at our clinic.

MEET THE PATIENT: Baby Alfredo*

Since the Clinic opened thousands of Timorese have benefited from its services. In many cases patients present conditions that can be easily treated, however if the services of the clinic had not been available, these patients may have gone on to experience more serious health conditions. Dr Tim Hammond, provided an example of such a case:

"We first met Alfredo when his mother brought him to the clinic on a Tuesday morning two weeks ago.

He was a previously healthy five month old boy who had recently developed a high fever, with

The work at our Clinic, including the distribution of medication, is possible thanks to the generosity of donors. If you would like to help patients like baby Alfredo, you can make a donation to our Clinic on page 5.

VISIT ORDEROFMALTA.ORG.AU FOR MORE LATEST NEWS:



- * "Ebola outbreak is just the tip of the iceberg" - Malteser International warns of growing humanitarian catastrophe in DR Congo
- * Supporting Medical Students achieve Excellence in Bioethics
- * Anti-Nazi German Noblemen celebrated by the Order of Malta in Christchurch
- * Northern Territory Chief Justice receives the Cross Pro Merito Melitensi
- * Report from the Subpriory Retreat 2018: "LIVING THE BEATITUDES"

Visit www.orderofmalta.org.au



BBQ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We host BBQs for residents at medical facilities at St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney three times a week

If you would like to volunteer, we would love to hear from you

Email: info@smom.org.au
 Call: 02 9331 8477

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IN THIS ISSUE - PROJECT UPDATES UPCOMING EVENTS LATEST NEWS



FRA' GIACOMO DALLA TORRE IS THE 80TH GRAND MASTER OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

A full profile of the Grand Master, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto can be viewed at www.orderofmalta.org.au along with video news reports from the election

Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto has been elected the 80th Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta. The electing body the Council Complete of State, which included representatives from the Asia Pacific region, met in the Magistral Villa, one of the Order of Malta's two institutional seats, in Rome.

Elected head of the Order of Malta on 29 April 2017, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre is now elected for life as Grand Master.

The newly elected Grand Master swore an oath before Archbishop Angelo Becciu (the Pope's Special Delegate to the Sovereign Order of Malta) and the members of the Council Complete of State at the Church of Santa Maria in Aventino, the morning after he was elected.

The new Grand Master is responsible for continuing the reform of the Constitution of the Order of Malta started in 2017, to

adapt it to the development that the Order has experienced in recent decades.

The first official engagement of the Grand Master was to preside over the 60th Order of Malta International Pilgrimage to Lourdes, which took place from 5 to 8 May.

What is the Role of the Grand Master?

According to the Order's Constitution the Grand Master is the sovereign and religious head of the Order. Elected for life, he must fully dedicate himself to the development of the works of the Order and set an example of living by Christian principles to its members. He is vested with supreme authorities. Together with the Sovereign Council, the Grand Master issues the legislative measures not covered by the Constitution, promulgates government acts and ratifies international agreements. The States with which the Order has diplomatic relations recognise the Grand Master with the prerogatives, immunities and honours reserved for Heads of State.



COATS FOR THE HOMELESS

PROJECT UPDATE

Winter has arrived and so have our Coats for the Homeless. Sadly, recent census data has confirmed what homeless services have been telling us – homelessness is on the rise and the most significant increase is cases of older women on the streets.

The facts on homelessness:

- * Tonight 116,427 will be homeless
- * That's a 14 per cent increase in homelessness over 5 years
- * Every day, 250 people are turned away from crisis centres across the country

Our Coats for the Homeless are needed now more than ever. Thank you to everyone who has supported this campaign.

For those who would still like to make a donation you can do so at www.coatsforthehomeless.org or complete and return the donation form on page 5.

More Coats for the Homeless news at www.orderofmalta.org.au

- * Gallery: Over 120 people attend annual Coats for the Homeless fundraising breakfast in Brisbane
- * Coats 2018 Distribution network



Each year, Lourdes dedicates the first weekend in May for the Annual Pilgrimage of the International Order of Malta. Over 7,500 members and volunteers from all over the world take part, including 1,500 sick and disabled pilgrims.

The pilgrimage to Lourdes represents one of the most significant moments in the spiritual life of the Order's members and volunteers, and going to Lourdes at least once is a traditional obligation for members of the Order of Malta. Every pilgrim has found Lourdes to be spiritually uplifting and a highlight in their devotion to Our Lady.

2018 marked the 160th anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance to St Bernadette; as well as the 60th pilgrimage of the Order of Malta to Lourdes. 96 pilgrims from the Asia Pacific region participated under the Australian "banner".

Central to the Pilgrimage is receiving various Sacraments; praying at the Grotto and the many sacred places; and importantly, being hands-on companions to the Malades (the sick and disabled).

The distance from Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand and Australia makes its very difficult for these countries to transport Malades to Lourdes. Therefore, for many

years, the Australian Association have joined forces with The Irish Association to help them with their Malades. This also enables The Irish Association to bring more pilgrims to Lourdes.

Member of the Order of Adelaide and first time Lourdes Pilgrimage attendee, Noel Mifsud, was asked to write an account of his experience to share with those unable to attend. Noel's account is not only beautifully written and engaging, it is inspiring and uplifting.

Below is an extract from Noel's report:

"Walking the Esplanade each evening I listened to the cacophony of voices with languages from across the globe. This Pentecost moment is testimony that love needs no language. God's love transcends borders.

There were no strangers at Lourdes – just different stories. One pilgrim reflected that Lourdes is 'addictive'. Lives are irrevocably changed. Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, God's presence, a deep sacramental moment, is made manifest. As one of our priests shared in his sermon: "They will know we are Christians by our love!"

The full document is available from www.orderofmalta.org.au

Lourdes Healing Mass Celebrations in Adelaide and Brisbane

For Australians unable to visit Lourdes, Lourdes Day Mass celebrations are held annually in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Adelaide where those attending receive a blessing for good health and a bottle of Lourdes water for their personal use.



On 10 February, Members in Adelaide hosted Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Church.



On 5 May, coinciding with the Order's international pilgrimage to Lourdes, was the annual Lourdes Healing Mass at Saint Paschal's at Wavell Heights Brisbane. Over 150 parishioners, friends and visitors attended this deeply spiritual event seeking our Lords healing.

Lourdes Day Mass Celebrations at the cathedrals in Melbourne and Sydney will be held on Saturday 1 December. All are welcome to attend.

In addition to these public events, Members in Victoria also arrange Lourdes Mass celebrations throughout the year at hospices and aged care facilities.

Full reports and images from the pilgrimage and the Lourdes Healing Mass celebrations in Adelaide and Brisbane are available at www.orderofmalta.org.au

PROJECT UPDATE

ASIA PACIFIC DISABLED YOUTH CAMP



Pictured: "Team Thailand" ready for the camp, returning with the Christopher Cup for the 2018 competition.

The second Order of Malta Asia Pacific Disabled Youth Camp was held between 6 - 8 June at the Villa Escudero in Tiaong, Quezon in the Philippines.

'Team Australia' comprised of four participants; Shelly Bantine and Solon Toiava from Punchbowl, Thuy Le from Lakemba and Christien Saklawy from Greenacre. They were joined by their carers and volunteers Kelseah Parnell and Maddy Hardjono.

For all participants it was their first time visiting the Philippines. For Thuy, it was his second Asia Pacific Camp where he was able to reconnect with friends he met last year in Singapore.

Activities at the camp included pool volleyball, arts and crafts, obstacle relays, chess and a popular Philippine game called sungka. It also featured inspirational talks, fellowship and spiritual activities.

Videos and a gallery of images from the camp can be viewed at www.orderofmalta.org.au

The 2019 Asia Pacific Camp will be held in Hong Kong in October. If you know any young disabled people (aged 18 - 30) who would be interested in participating, please email info@smom.org.au

2018 WHEELCHAIR PROJECT

In 2016, Members of the Order of Malta in Thailand initiated a project to provide wheelchairs to the sick and poor in dire poverty. Following the success of the distribution of 50 wheelchairs in December 2016, the members and aspirants of the Order undertook to continue the Wheelchair Project into 2017 and beyond.

In February 2018, 56 wheelchairs were distributed to the sick and poor in towns and remote villages across seven provinces.



The average income of wheelchair recipients is AU\$20 a month from the government, making purchasing a wheelchair unattainable. Consequently, many are confined to their beds all day, as there is no one available to move them.

Whilst the wheelchairs are a wonderful gift to those who receive them, there are still many more who need them. This project is limited only by the funds available.



If you would like to make a donation in support of this project you can do so on page 5.



More detailed reports of the deliveries, further images and updates from the 2016 recipients are available online at www.orderofmalta.org.au



Ambassador Collin Yap, fifth from left, with staff from the Order of Malta Clinic

COLLIN YAP APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE

Collin Yap has been appointed as the Sovereign Order of Malta's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste following the retirement of H.E. David Scarf at the end of last year.

Collin is a Member of the Order of Malta in Australia, based in Singapore and Timor-Leste. He was enlisted into the Sovereign Order of Malta's diplomatic service in February 2016 and served as Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy in Timor-Leste.

For many years he has been actively involved in the works of the Order of Malta, including the construction of the Dominican orphanage in Hera, delivery of donated ambulances to medical clinics, the build and management of the Order's Medical Clinic and the Creating Leaders Scholarship programme.

In June, Collin will formally present his credentials to government officials.

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:

- Coats for the Homeless
- Wheelchair Project
- Order of Malta Medical Clinic, Timor-Leste
- Asia Pacific Disabled Youth Camp

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

- Send me information about leaving the Order a bequest
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

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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