

# What We Pray Demonstrates and Teaches What We Believe

By His Grace Archbishop T. Prendergast, S.J.

In the West, the Mother Tongue of the Church has been Latin since the Church was established in Rome. After the Second Vatican Council, the Church gave permission for the Mass to be translated from the official Latin version into other languages with proper approval; by the mid-seventies Mass was being celebrated in English across Canada.

The Catholic Church, however, continues to produce her most important official documents in Latin and in this way every language group has a common reference text or master copy to use to make sure we are saying and meaning the same things. There is an expression that reminds us that what we pray demonstrates and teaches what we believe: *lex orandi, lex credendi*.

In the year 2000 AD, Pope Blessed John Paul II announced the creation of a new Roman Catholic Missal in the official Latin “master text” – the Third Typical Edition of the Roman Missal. It is only the third time that the Roman Catholic Mass has substantially changed since the 16th century. The English-speaking world is the first language group to translate this Third Edition of the Roman Missal into vernacular language. The English-speaking communities across the world worked

together using the most up to date translation methods.

Experts in Latin, theology, liturgy and translation, as well as many other disciplines, were consulted in order to produce the best version possible which was submitted for approval.

After thirty years of experience with the current translation we saw that we had lost some important content by only loosely paraphrasing the Latin prayers into English. We also noticed how we had compromised the distinctive Roman style of the prayers. As a result, sometimes the translators of the Third Edition had to use words or phrases that sound more formal or “old fashioned” to translate the Latin words and ideas into English because that was the most accurate way to keep the original meaning. But almost all of the translations were able to balance a good, faithful translation with simple and dignified language while retaining the Roman “style” of prayer.

*Continued page 2*

## Epistula

Vol. 9 No. 2 ❖ Nov. 2011



### In this issue:

*International Summer Camp 2011* . . . . . 2

*Order of Malta New Orleans  
Home Rebuilding Program* . . . . . 5

*President's Message* . . . . . 6



# International Summer Camp 2011

By Hanna and Lea Janossy

*"An unforgettable experience, beyond language, cultural, psychological, and physical barriers – an encounter of friends, with no differences."*

A couple months ago, two students from the University of Toronto, Hanna and Lea Janossy, attended the XXVIII International Summer Camp of the Order of Malta. It was an extraordinary week long event, bringing together over 500 youth from 25 countries, to participate in activities not normally accessible to youth with disabilities between ages 18-35. About 200 of the youth were disabled Guests, and each one had a special Helper who lived with them, cared for them, and ultimately forged a strong friendship with them. The aim of the camp is to "offer an unforgettable experience, beyond language, cultural, psychological, and physical barriers – an encounter of friends, with no differences." The motto of the camp was "You are the Light of the World", and although light is comprised of different colors, through the prism of the camp, the very different realities of each life were merged into a beautiful rainbow of acceptance and hope.

The week started off with a ceremony welcoming the different delegations. The level of excitement rippling through the camp could be felt by everyone. Old members had been gladly anticipating returning to the annual camp since the summer before, while new members were intrigued by all the stories about the life-

changing experience which awaited them. It was an opportunity for the Guests – for many the only such moment in their lives – when the painful limitations of the flesh were forgotten, and they were regarded as equals in every way.

Each day had its own theme. For example, one day we had the privilege of helping to guide the entire camp to the Queen of the Sea – Venice! It is no small feat to explore the roads and bridges of Venice with 200 youth in wheelchairs, but the joy and wonder of the day far surpassed all the hardships encountered. Standing in front of the Doge's Palace in Saint Marks's Square, one of the ladies from the Ukraine was telling us, with tears in her eyes, that she has a photo of this exact spot over her bed, and that every night, since as long as she could remember, she had fallen asleep with the coveted image of Venice floating before her eyes.

Every second day was an Excursions day, when there were a myriad of different opportunities which the Guests could choose to attend. Included in these were a trip to a parrot farm, a boat trip out to a beautiful little island further up along the coast, wine-tasting, a fish farm, and even horseback riding. I (Hanna) accompanied the horseback riding group one day, and it was an incredibly touching experience.

---

*Continued from page 1*

In addition, the New Missal includes changes such as those made to the Calendar of Saints reflecting both reorganization and the addition of many new saints to the universal calendar – including the Canadian St. André Bisset!

In Canada, we will also have the opportunity to honour a number of Blesseds who are on the pathway to canonization. Although the Mass itself remains unchanged in terms of its form and structure, the new Mass

presents a more formal or dignified way of addressing Almighty God in our liturgy.

With a renewed emphasis on its distinctive Roman liturgical style that is true to our heritage of almost 2000 years, and with the changes to the Mass such as the addition of new saints, the New Missal will be an opportunity for all of us to encounter the Roman Catholic Mass again from a fresh perspective; it will be like celebrating the Eucharist for the first time again.



At first most of the Guests were terrified of the animals. However, gradually they began to lose their terror, until one brave girl with severe Down's Syndrome volunteered to try it out. She was sobbing from fear as we boosted her onto the horse, supporting her on each side, but after one turn around the field, she returned with a countenance so full of prideful happiness, that all the other Guests were encouraged to experience the adventure for themselves. The struggle to overcome their fear, and the deep joy which triumphed, was beautiful to behold.

The evenings perhaps provided even more beautiful memories than the daytime activities. Each night any remaining physical and cultural boundaries melted away as Guests and Helpers danced alongside each other. At the catch of an expectant eye, I (Lea) wove through the mass of spinning wheelchairs to formally ask Alexander, a wheelchair bound gentleman from the Netherlands, to dance. I reached for his one good hand, and we were off!

His wheelchair was light, and it took just a slight effort to weave him through twisting shapes. He was a practiced dancer, leading me into the intricate figures he had learned in his previous Malta camp. After a couple songs together, a slower song started, and the moment beckoned: Alexander motioned to me that he would like to get out of his wheelchair. Some other helpers moved

alongside us, forming a circle, as we all helped Alexander step out of his wheelchair into the circle of welcoming arms. For him and for me, it was a memory above all other memories, one that would stay ingrained in us both forever.

One of the most incredible moments of the camp was an afternoon when everyone was summoned to the front courtyard for a surprise. As the 500 youth gathered with bated breath, 15 flaming red Ferraris raced up to the door! The organizers had made arrangements with the local Ferrari club to take every one of the disabled Guests for a quick spin. One can imagine the absolute elation with which their faces shone, as one by one, each Guest was lifted from their wheelchair into a gorgeous Ferrari.

However, I (Hanna) believe that the most deeply beautiful few hours of the camp were during Adoration. All physical differences fall away before God, as the soul enters into communion with it's Creator. Although not all the youth were Catholic, everyone understood the sanctity of the moment. It is a feat in itself for 500 people to be completely silent for an entire evening (except for an occasional song and the Rosary).

Several Guests as well as Helpers were moved to tears, so engulfed were they by the tangible feeling of acceptance and love. As one severely disabled Guest (she only

*"All physical differences fall away before God, as the soul enters into communion with it's Creator."*



*An incredible afternoon with the local Ferrari club, where every one of the disabled Guests was taken for a spin. Hanna Janossy (above at right) and her sister Lea (pictured on pg. 4) were the first Canadian representatives at the International Summer Camp of the Order of Malta.*





*“She discovered the meaning of her life that evening, which was to “inspire healthy people to live more meaningful lives; to focus less on their petty disputes and issues, and instead, take the time to express their love for the people around them.”*

had normal motion in one finger and her eyes) haltingly described to me afterwards, she discovered the meaning of her life that evening, which was to “inspire healthy people to live more meaningful lives;



*Lea and Guest – each day had its own theme, including tours, cultural events and leisure time on the beach.*

to focus less on their petty disputes and issues, and instead, take the time to express their love for the people around them”. This same girl had been writing for a Christian magazine for the past year – typing painstakingly with one finger – contributing articles seeking to inspire people to pause in their busy lives daily to give thanks to

God. As I bent forward to catch the barely understandable words coming from her deformed lips, she declared, “I have accepted the way I am; I trust that God has a great plan for me, and I give thanks to my Creator every day for the opportunities He has given me in this beautiful world. Every moment of pain can be turned into a moment of love. Why do so many people live in the darkness instead of the light?”<sup>9</sup> This simple question, coming from a person whom our society would expect to be undergoing severe depression, but who instead radiated deep peace and joy, has struck deep into my heart.

So what makes this camp unique from other camps? I believe that it is the level of which the dignity of each person, whether disabled physically or mentally, is respected and cherished. The powerful sense of acceptance and belonging which the Guests encountered, not to mention the numerous extraordinary activities they were privileged to experience, was a once in a lifetime experience for many of them. The primary purpose of the camp, to inspire and empower both disabled and healthy youth to such an extent that they leave with the determination to build a Culture of Life in their own home communities, was beautifully fulfilled.

*Detailed information about the camp can be found at [www.maltacamp2011.it](http://www.maltacamp2011.it)*

**Serving the Lord** by serving “the least of his brothers” (Mt 25:40), the Order of Malta realizes one of the fundamental precepts of Christian faith. The unity of love of God and love of neighbour (Lk 10:27) has always been practiced by the followers of Christ by serving the sick and the poor, whom Christ himself served and with whom He has identified himself. Since the days of the first hospital in Jerusalem and up to today, Members of the Order of Malta have responded to what Christ meant when He said: “In so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me” (Mt 25:40).

Remembering this identification of Christ with the poor recalls our Order to its “first love”, its original impetus.

Excerpt from *Membership In The Order Of Malta Regulations And Commentary*

# Order of Malta New Orleans Home Rebuilding Program

By Roman J. Ciecwierz, KMOB

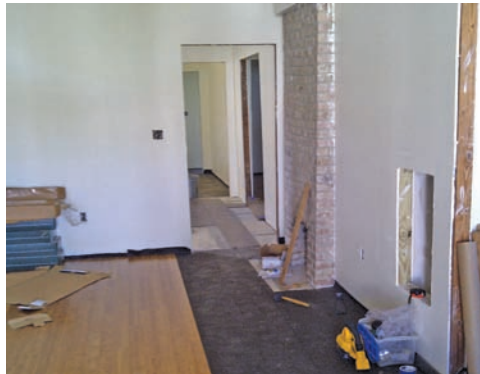
The Order of Malta mobilizes around the world to serve the poor and the sick and is especially known for its disaster relief efforts. We would normally think of places like Southeast Asia, darfur and Haiti. Yet the Order has made a significant impact in the lives of the poor that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans Louisiana.

Since March 2006, the Order has responded, not only with thousands of rebuilding dollars to those who were hit the hardest, but with "Malta Hours" of service. Over 1000 volunteers from all across the US have participated in the Order of Malta New Orleans Home Rebuilding Program. Thanks to a successful partnership with Rebuilding Together, Catholic Charities of New Orleans, and the New Orleans Marriott, Malta volunteers have worked 37 one-week work sessions in Treme, Gentilly, and New Orleans East - and 45 families have moved back in their homes as a result of the great work done by our Order of Malta volunteers.



In the beginning huge groups of our volunteers worked on homes with major damage, which required extensive and expensive repairs. Teams of 40 to 50

volunteers worked all week, and often times the house would still be far from completion. Since 2008, smaller groups of 15 to 20 volunteers have worked in houses that required less construction and more finishing touches. The hope is that at the end of our workweek the homeowner will be able to move back in.



As of April 2011, the Program can now claim to have "international" support, as through an act of faith, I found out about these efforts and thought it would be great to serve the poor right in our backyard. Outside of Lourdes, this experience of working to help those truly in need was incredibly rewarding. Throughout the week, I worked on two homes, one in the Treme district and the other in Hollygrove. The work ranged from painting, to using a jack hammer removing a concrete porch, to laying hard wood flooring.

In both cases the homeowners came by daily to thank us and needless to say they were extremely excited to be so close to moving back in to their own homes after such a long time. As a matter of fact, it was truly heartwarming to have locals and staff of the Marriott thank us daily for being there.

*There are many ways to get involved with works of the Order – all we have to do is want to! Visit [www.orderofmalta-federal.org](http://www.orderofmalta-federal.org) and find out how you can participate.*





## resident's message

By H.E. Peter Quail, KM

As I look back on the previous six years, I would like to thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. I hope my service has been worthy. It has been both an honour and a special privilege, and the journey has been most satisfying in many ways.

Our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, which I have attended for 12 years, has grown from a few members to a major event. We had record breaking 52 members for the 150th anniversary in 2008. Canada is now well represented at Lourdes by Knights and Dames from all regions, from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Our presence at this international gathering has put Canada on the map.

In June of last year, I had the honour of being part of the official delegation from Rome, in a state visit by the Grand Master to Canada, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The delegation met both Federal and Provincial Ministers with a series of activities on a period of three days, culminating with a luncheon given by Her Majesty the Queen to which the Grand Master, Senator Kinsella, the Leader of the Senate and a member of our Order were invited. After which Her Majesty reviewed the fleet of 11 ships from 8 nations, all in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Royal Canadian Navy.

The Venice International Seminar in January 2009, was another special occasion, where representatives from all 47 associations worldwide met to hear and discuss plans for the future of the Order for the next 10 year, led by the Grand Master.

In June 2008, Canada appointed Ambassador Anne Leahy to represent Canada to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John or Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta. Canada joined the ranks of the over 100

countries around the world that have formal ties with the Sovereign Order. This result is the fulfillment of a dream that started nearly 60 years ago, since the Canadian Association's founding, to be recognized by Canada as a sovereign entity.

The work being done across Canada is truly inspiring. The continued presence of our hard working Brigades at Cap de Madeleine and St. Joseph's Oratory under the able direction of our confrere Henri Pelland, continues the "hands on" work that the Order is so well known for. The Brigades have contributed a record number of hours of volunteer work, continues to grow, and for many, are our Order's first-line ambassadors.

In British Columbia, under the guidance of Dr. Alex de Cosson and the McCulloughs', many years of service have been given to the poor and the sick.

In Ontario, the Order is about to embark on the Out of the Cold program in the city of Toronto to feed and house indigents starting in November.

At our October investiture, we said goodbye and thank you to two long-serving board members, Andy Doyle and Lionel Lavalee, and welcomed six new members. We now have Knights and Dames in all regions of Canada including our first Knight from Nunavut.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my wife Patricia for her constant support through the many long hours of flights, meetings and conferences. Without her support, I would not have been able to complete what was asked of me.

I leave you, my successors, this foundation with which to build upon. I pass my office to you and may God bless you and grant you the grace He has given me to further build our Order, with its service to those most in need to our great country. ❖

*Confraternally Yours,  
Peter Quail*

*Published by Canadian Association of the Sovereign  
Military Hospitaller Order of Malta.*

1247 Kilborn, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9  
Tel: 613-731-8897 / Fax: 613-731-1312  
Email: wgs@bellnet.ca

**[www.orderofmaltacanada.org](http://www.orderofmaltacanada.org)**

*President: H.E. Peter Quail, KM  
Chief Chaplain: Fr. Andrea Spatafora  
Executive Director: Wedigo Graf von Schweinitz*

*Design, layout and production  
contributed by Bravada  
Consumer Communications Inc.*

