



# The Order

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## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Apart from the normal activities, work has begun in earnest to prepare for the 4<sup>th</sup> Lourdes Experience slated for 7 December 2019 at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. This iconic event of the Singapore Association aims to bring the same physical & spiritual healing of Lourdes to the hundreds of malades in Singapore (and surrounding countries) who either cannot endure the over 20 hour journey to Lourdes or cannot afford the time and money to make the trip. We are expecting more than 10,000 people at this event. This costly event is free for all attendees, so fund raising is a necessity. The Gala dinner (see page 2) helped somewhat in meeting our financial needs.

30 January 2019

## 2019 OPENING MASS & DINNER

The Singapore Order celebrated our first Mass on 30th January, 2019, in Mt Alvernia Hospital Chapel at 6pm. It was well attended by 34 members, associates, spouses and companions. The celebrant was our chaplain, Fr Edward Lim. In his homily, Fr Edward reminded us that we are all consecrated to God and as committed Christians, we are to be fertile soil for the seeds planted in us to bear fruits. Fruits that are from deep within us are the only personal offerings that will please God. Fr Edward exhorted all to examine the type of fruits we have been offering to God. After Mass, all adjourned to the conference room for a fellowship dinner. The dinner was kindly hosted by President Rose Lu.



18 January 2019

## CNY ASSISI HOSPICE OUTREACH

Members, companions and friends gathered at the reception desk of Assisi Hospice (AH) on 18 Jan at 5.30 pm to visit the over 80 residents in AH. We were welcomed by Ms Lilian Lee, Manager, Community Engagement and her team. After a photo session, we were split into two groups, each covering one floor and then met up to visit the Dementia ward.

We took turns to visit the residents in their rooms and distributed Chinese New Year goodies, mandarin oranges and ang paws. We also chatted with the families of the residents. After an hour, all of us left the Hospice happy, having done our small part to bring cheer to the residents.



**7 March 2019****16th SMOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The following members were elected to the Singapore Association Executive Council 2019-2021 at the AGM on 7 Mar 2019.

**President**

Dame Rose Lu Soo Ying

**Chancellor**

Knight Anthony Tan Ju Seng

**Hospitaller**

Knight Joseph Chew

**Council Members**

Knight Joseph Yuvaraj Pillay

Knight Andrew Kwok Wai Mun

Knight Barry Desker

Dame Elizabeth Soh Seok Yian

**5 May 2019****THE 2019 GALA DINNER**

The Gala Dinner was held on 5th May, 2019 in the Shangri-La Hotel Island Ballroom. The main objective of the dinner was to raise funds for the Order to organise the upcoming Lourdes Experience in Singapore at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on 7th December, 2019. This will be the 4th time the Order will be organising the Lourdes Event, having done so in 2004, 2008 and 2014. The funds will be used to defray the expenses of organising this event.

Present at the Gala Dinner were about 400 guests, including religious, friends and well-wishers. Our Guest of Honour, Mr George Yeo, Member, Vatican Council for the Economy, was accompanied by Mrs Jennifer Yeo and her mother Mary. Grace before dinner was said by Fr Edward Lim, Spiritual Director of the Singapore Association of the Order. The Master of Ceremony, Dr Stephen Lim introduced and invited Rose Lu, President of the Singapore Order, to give her address. She thanked all supporters and also the organising committee who had worked hard to prepare for this dinner.

A montage of the activities of the Singapore Order was then screened, followed by a short video of the Order's pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2018. The guests were treated to a special performance by Jennifer Yeo's mother, Mary, who gave us three lovely renditions of her songs, accompanied by the Band boys. Mary played the guitar and also sang. Mr Craig Teo then conducted the reverse auction which helped us substantially. Three paintings were also successfully put up for general auction. Fr Edward Lim then thrilled us with two hymns sung a cappella, much to the delight of an audience who paid him rapt attention. The food at the Ballroom was delicious and everyone present had a good time chatting up with old friends and renewing friendships, beside contributing to the good cause of fundraising for the coming Lourdes Experience. We praise God for a successful evening.



13 May 2019

## WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

St John Paul II had instituted World Day of the Sick on 13 May 1992 and thereafter the Feast Day is celebrated annually in commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Singapore Association lived out its vocation of tending to the sick and needy in the morning of 17 February 2019 to mark World Day of the Sick by bringing our special guests from Villa Francis Home (VFH) for the Aged to Gardens by the Bay for an outing followed by rosary praying in St Ignatius Church.



VFH provides inpatient nursing care for the destitute poor and sick, regardless of race or religion, and is an arm of Catholic Welfare Services run by Canossian sisters.

For many of our guests from VFH, it was their first visit to Gardens by the Bay which is Singapore's top tourist attraction. This nature park, spanning 101 hectares with 2 conservatories, houses exotic plants and flowers from all over the world. It was conceptualised in 2005 as the jewel in Singapore's crown as a Garden City and officially opened in 2012.

The tour encompassed the Flower Dome and Rainforest Cloud conservatories. Our guests and their caregivers were hosted to a sumptuous lunch at the Majestic Bay Restaurant within the complex after visiting the Flower Dome. The items on the lunch menu were carefully chosen to ensure ease of consumption as many of our guests had mastication and swallowing issues. Sitting down to have a meal together with our guests with an age range of 67 -95 years gave us the opportunity to know them better. Among them were four retired nuns and a mother of 2 of our Jesuit priests in Singapore.



After visiting the second conservatory, we boarded the bus for St Ignatius Church where the next event, Rosary Recitation, will be held. Upon arrival at the church, they were warmly welcomed by members from the Rosary Ministry, the Priest from the church as well as members and friends of the Order before the start of the rosary prayer session. As the program drew to an end, our guests were each given a rosary, a small bottle of Holy water from Lourdes, a prayer card and a red packet for good health. Many of our guests expressed their heartfelt thanks having been touched by the warmth, care and generosity showered on them.



24 June 2019

## MASS OF THE FEAST DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, PATRON SAINT OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

The Order of Malta celebrated the birth of its patron saint, St John the Baptist on Monday, 24 June, 2019, in the Mt Alvernia Hospital Chapel at 6 pm. About 30 Knights, Dames, Associates, spouses and friends attended. The Mass was celebrated by Rev Fr Edward Lim, our Chaplain. In his homily, Fr Edward challenged us to be the Voice like St John the Baptist, as all of us have inherited this ability to be this Voice. President Rose then led all present to recite the Order's Renewal of Promise. After Mass, the congregation adjourned for dinner and fellowship at the nearby Cafe 820.







Editorial team (L to R): Andrew, Edward, Ernest, Gregory, Donald

## MAGISTRAL ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY

The Magistral Archives have the specific task of preserving and maintaining deeds and documents concerning the Order of Malta's government. Set up halfway through the 19th century when the Magistral Palace became the Grand Master's residence, the documents produced by the newly created offices of the Grand Magistracy and Archive of the Grand Priory of Rome were added to those from the Maltese period and the diplomatic source, inheritance of the embassy to the Holy See. An initial type of inventory, adopted halfway through the 1950's, divided the documents into series identified by a rudimentary alphabetical system, very similar to that originally used in the Library.



The documents of five different institutes are preserved here: the embassy to the Holy See, a peripheral institution whose records start in the early 16th century; the Grand Priory of Rome, whose 16th-century archive has been housed in the Magistral Palace since the end of the 17th century; the Ricetta of Rome, an office dealing with the administration of the Priory's tangible and intangible assets; the central Convent, whose "itinerant" documentation has been following the Knights since 1798; and the Lingua d'Italia, central coordinator of the Italian Priorities, of which only a few examples are preserved.

Instead, the Magistral Library is the Order of Malta's central library and preserves one of the most complete collections of books and articles concerning it. Created in the second half of the 19th century from a nucleus of books donated by some of its members, since then it has been protecting and disseminating its collection of books worldwide.

Besides the Malta Collection (some 5,800 books and articles) and the General Collection (some 4,200 volumes), the Magistral Library preserves 208 manuscripts and numerous autographs, various incunabula – including Obsidionis Rhodiae Urbis descriptio by Guillaume Caoursin (1496) – eight private collections, periodicals, prints, maps and an interesting assortment of photographs.

### 2019 Upcoming Events:

#### Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> August

3<sup>rd</sup> EXCO meeting

Venue: Assisi Hospice lvl 5 mtg room

Time: 6:00 pm

#### Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> July

Mass-Passion of St. John the Baptist

& Fellowship dinner

Venue: Mt. Alvernia Chapel

Time: 6:00 pm

#### Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September

Mass-Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October

Mass-Feast day of Blessed Gerard, Founder

#### Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October

4<sup>th</sup> EXCO meeting

Venue: Assisi Hospice lvl 5 mtg room

Time: 6:00 pm

#### Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> October

SMOM Summer Camp for Youth with disabilities

Venue: Hong Kong

#### Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October

Annual St. Theresa's home outreach

Venue: St. Theresa's home

#### Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> November

SMOM Vigil

#### Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> November

SMOM Investiture of new members

#### Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November

5<sup>th</sup> EXCO meeting

Venue: Assisi Hospice lvl 5 mtg room

Time: 6:00 pm

#### 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>, November

Asia Pacific conference

Venue: Melbourne, Australia

#### Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December

4<sup>th</sup> Lourdes Experience

Venue: Singapore Indoor Stadium

Time: 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm