



The Order

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This issue of the Newsletter rounds up a very hectic but satisfying 2019. During this time, we joyfully welcome a new Knight and a new Dame to the Singapore Association. We thank them for their commitment. The massive undertaking of holding the Lourdes Experience (held every 5 years) at the Indoor Stadium and attended by 11,000 is successfully behind us. A new initiative of reaching out to the poor and homeless in Singapore (yes there are!) may yet bear long term fruits in giving us a viable local project to pursue. Last but not least, we are very proud of Knight Joe Pillay who has been awarded Singapore's highest civilian honour conferred by her Excellency President Halimah Yacob.

13th & 14th July 2019

Annual SMOM Retreat FMM Centre

The Singapore Order of Malta organised a day of recollection on 13th and 14th July, 2019 at the FMM Centre attended by 30 members, spouses, associates and companions. It was conducted by our Spiritual Director, Fr Edward Lim. The recollection was centred on the themes of indulgences, death, purgatory, and punishment of sins. The 5 groups held open and interactive discussions and the group leaders presented a summary of the discussions. At the end of the session, each team leader presented a summary of the group's discussion. Time was provisioned in between sessions for reflection and personal prayer. Contemplative group preparation was facilitated by praying a decade of the rosary before each afternoon session. Each day ended with a question and answer session with Fr Edward Lim. Topics on judgement, spiritual and corporal works of mercy, heaven and hell, angels and demons, were clarified. The event concluded with the celebration of Mass by Fr Edward Lim.



8th Aug, 26th Sep, 31st Oct, 28th November 2019

Spiritual Formation Sessions Assisi Hospice Education room

Fr Edward Lim conducted a series of faith formation sessions for our members and companions on the Documents of the Church. They were held on 8th August, 26 September, 31 October and 28th November in Assisi Hospice, Education Room at 7.30 pm. These sessions focussed on the Lumen Gentium.



7th September 2019

SMOM Awareness Event

Church Of St Ignatius' auditorium

The event was held on 7 Sept 2019 at the Church Of St Ignatius' auditorium with the aim of increasing awareness of the works of the Order. President Rose Lu initiated the event by introducing the 900 year old Order and its charism to the audience. Past Chancellor Knight Gabriel Oon then shared on the past works undertaken by the Singapore Association. These included humanitarian work for victims of war in Israel, the 2014 tsunami which devastated Aceh and raised funds in support of the building of the Singapore chapel in Jerusalem among other works. Knight Dalton Fogarty next also shared his high points of the Order as he was inspired by his father and uncle living out their vocation as members of SMOM in the Australian Association. The meeting ended with a question and answer session with President Lu inviting those present to participate in the social mission projects planned.

31st October - 1st November 2019

Visit of Mrs. Lisa Simpson from the Government Council

The visit from an official of the Government Council began with the arrival of Mrs Lisa Simpson. The objective is to foster relationship with National Associations round the world. The officer represents our Grand Master, and the visit will provide a better understanding on the works and progress of the National Association, and in return to give an opportunity for members of the Association to give feedbacks to the Government Council. On 31st October 2019, Mrs Simpson was accompanied by President Rose Lu and members of the Singapore Association to visit Assisi Hospice. We were greeted by Ms Choo Shiu Ling, CEO, Assisi Hospice, who gave a presentation of Assisi Hospice. We were then invited by the FMDM sisters to tea at the nearby FMDM House. After lunch, President Rose Lu accompanied Mrs Simpson in paying a visit to our Papal Nuncio, H.E. Archbishop Marek Zalewski at his office. At 5.30 p.m. she met with some of our members involved in spirituality and formation at the Education Room of the Assisi Hospice. On 1st November 2019, Mrs Simpson was accompanied by President Rose Lu to visit the Singapore Indoor Stadium, the venue of our then upcoming Lourdes Experience in Singapore on 7th December. At 5.30 p.m., Mrs Simpson met members of the Executive Council in the College Room of the NUSS Guild House at Suntec City for a productive meeting followed by dinner. Mrs Simpson thanked the Singapore Association for the hospitality extended to her during her stay and delivered greetings from the Grand Master. In response, President Rose Lu thanked her for her visit and contribution of valuable input.



9th November 2019

Investiture of New members

Church of Sts. Peter & Paul

The Investiture of two new members of the Order, Dame Lynne Yap and Knight Ian de Vaz took place on Saturday 9th November, 2019, at 12 noon in the Church of Sts. Peter & Paul. The Investiture was preceded by the two postulants attending the Vigil the prior night in the same church. The Investiture ceremony was celebrated by our chaplain Fr Edward Lim, and witnessed by members, associates and companions of the Order. The Investiture Mass was con-celebrated by Msgr Mario Codamo and Fr Weyms Sanchez, SJ. The Choir of the Church of St. Joseph (Bukit Timah) led by Daniel Teo contributed the uplifting liturgical music during the Mass. President Rose Lu led the members and associates in reciting the Prayer of the Order of Malta after the Investiture Ceremony. The Mass was attended by members, associates, friends and family members of the postulants. The playing of the Anthem of the Order brought the event to a close. The congregation then adjourned for a celebratory lunch in the Meltcafe Restaurant at the Marina Mandarin Oriental Hotel.

17th November 2019

World day of the Poor

Church of Christ the King

In response to our Grand Hospitaller's exhortation to mark World Day of the Poor on 17 Nov 2019 by organising special activities in service of the poor, the Singapore Association gathered on Saturday, 16 Nov 2019 to participate in the Night Mission outreach programme under the auspices of the Catholic Welfare Services to distribute food and drinks to the homeless living out the Order's charism of serving the marginalised and the poor in the streets. On Sunday, 17 Nov 2019, members of the Singapore Association visited the lonely elderly and had tea with them in Church of Christ the King, Ang Mo Kio. Fun and games with prizes for the 50 elderly attendees were the highlight of the afternoon.

18th November 2019

Memorial Mass

Mt. Alvernia Chapel

The Memorial Mass was held on 18th November 2019 in Mt Alvernia Chapel at 6pm. The Mass was celebrated by our chaplain, Fr Edward Lim. Members, associates and friends attended this eucharistic celebration together with the families of our departed members, Dame Susan Loh, Knight Alphonsus Loh and Knight Alphonsus Tan Chok Kian.

After the Mass, we adjourned for dinner and fellowship at nearby Cafe 820.



21st - 24th November 2019

Order of Malta Asia Pacific Conference

Waurne Ponds Estate, Melbourne

The Order of Malta's 9th Asia Pacific Conference was held in Waurne Ponds Estate, Melbourne from 21 to 24 November 2019. Besides delegates from Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Korea, New Zealand and Australia, the Order's Ambassadors, Prelate, Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller participated in this annual gathering. In three short days, a wide range of subject matter including country reports, works across the globe, Asia Pacific projects, global communications, a model of volunteer work, defence of the Faith, international works of the Order, growing membership, selection and formation of new members, re-energising inactive members, promoting Christian culture in the secular world of the 21st Century and Ambassador's aggregated report were included in the programme of the conference. A session was dedicated to "Obedience". How members in Obedience can make a difference to the future of the Order in the association was discussed. Given the pivotal role that spirituality plays in the mission and vocation of each member of the Order, leave alone the First Class, "Obedience" is crucial in promoting and sustaining the spiritual characteristic of the Order. At the end of the conference, the High Charges expressed their thanks and joy in knowing and witnessing the continuous growth of the Order's works in this region. They look forward to the 10th Asia Pacific Conference which will be hosted by the Hong Kong Association next year.

26th November 2019

Korean Investiture

Myeong-dong Cathedral, Seoul

The Order Of Malta Korea added 5 new members to their delegation bringing their membership from 6 to 11. The Investiture Ceremony was held on 26 November 2019 at the Myeong-dong Cathedral, Seoul and presided by the Archbishop of Seoul, His Eminence Cardinal Andrew Yeom. Con-celebrants included the Prelate of the Order Most Reverend Monsignor Jean Laffitte, Apostolic Nuncio to South Korea and Mongolia, H.E. Most Reverend Monsignor Alfred Xuereb, and Counsellor of the Apostolic Nunciature in South Korea, Reverend Monsignor Mario Codamo. Among others present were the Grand Chancellor H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, the Grand Hospitaller H.E. Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel, members of the diplomatic corps, delegates from the Australian, British and Singapore Associations, clergy, religious, family members and friends. The Investiture was followed by the opening of an exhibition initiated by the President of the Korean Association, Silvano YongMaan Park, where we witnessed the display of 10 wooden crosses made from the century-old wooden Gu-reu-ma (wooden rickshaw). These Gu-reu-ma were used to transport goods in the Dongdaemun markets. The crosses bore the traces of the long years of intense labor and hardship that are retained on the Gu-reu-ma.

The timber from the Gu-reu-ma were skilfully dismantled and restored as crosses to capture the spirit of Jesus Christ who loved and cared for the common men that pulled the Gu-Reu-Ma in pain and agony almost a century ago. Thereafter in the evening, a gala dinner ensued as part of the investiture celebration where the regular volunteers who help in the association were honoured. Their programmes included running a regular soup kitchen by volunteers and baking of bread by the Marian Sisters for the poor, distribution of special design sleeping bags for the homeless, among others. His Eminence Cardinal Andréw Yeom received the Award of the Grand Cross from the Grand Chancellor H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager.

The Singapore delegation was represented by Knight Collin Yap, Dame Lynne Yap, Knight Edward Low and Companion Wendy Tham.

1st December 2019

Knight Joe Pillay awarded Singapore's highest Civilian Honour

We extend our congratulations to Knight Joe Pillay, our National Day 2019 award recipient. Heading the list of awardees, Knight Pillay was awarded Singapore's highest civilian honour - 'The Order of Temasek with Distinction'. He received the award from President Halimah Yacob at a ceremony held in the Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College Central on 1 December 2019. He is only the 11th Singaporean to receive this special award.



He was also lauded for his contribution to Singapore by the Institute of South Asian Studies (SAS) at a gala dinner marking the start of the two-day 4th South Asian Diaspora Convention on Friday 15th November. He received the Special Lifetime Achievement Award.

14th December 2019

St Theresa's Home Outreach Event

St. Theresa's Home

Residents of St Theresa's Home were treated to a magic show and buffet lunch on Saturday 14 Dec 2019. The residents were cheered by the many familiar faces of volunteers participating in this annual event. Knights and Dames were there to keep our elderly friends company and ensured they settled down comfortably before the show began. Claps and laughter were the most evident show of the residents' delight and appreciation. Thereafter, lunch was served, comprising of food that was carefully selected and dined for a select group of residents. Cakes and dessert followed along with the photo session. It was a privilege to bring Christmas cheer to the residents of the home.

17th December 2019

Thanksgiving mass

Mt. Alvernia Chapel

A Thanksgiving Mass was organised by the Order of Malta, Singapore on 19th December, 2019, Mt. Alvernia Chapel at 6 pm. The Mass celebrated by Fr Edward Lim was attended by members, spouses and friends. During the homily Fr Edward reminded everyone of the many corporate and personal blessings bestowed on the Order and its members, and exhorted a meaningful response from each arising from an attitude of gratitude and contrition.

7th December 2019

Lourdes Experience 2019

Singapore Indoor Stadium

After a hiatus of five years, the Singapore Order of Malta organised our 4th Lourdes Experience in Singapore on 7th December, 2019. The previous events were held in 2004, 2008 & 2014. The planning and fund-raising started early and it took slightly over a year to coordinate the organisation of the event.



'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God' was the thematic focus of the Lourdes Experience Event 2019. The event was held at the 11,000 seat Singapore Indoor Stadium. Churches from our Archdiocese took active part by volunteering their wardens and extra ordinary communion ministers. Friends of the Order also rallied to support the Secretariat, Security, Logistics, F&B and Liturgical teams.

One hundred malades on wheelchairs and many 'walking sick' participated in the event under the watchful eyes of the doctors and nurses in the Medical team. Fr Ignatius Yeo kindly provided support for the liturgical aspects including the provision of the altar boys.

The Mass was celebrated by His Grace, Archbishop William Goh and con-celebrated by our Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Zalewski together with many priests. Flag bearers of the Churches in Singapore together with several Catholic organisations formed the entrance procession. When the Stadium doors opened at 12 noon to admit the first participants, a movie on the life of St Bernadette was shown followed by an audio visual presentation of a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The Cathedral Choir of the Risen Christ led by Sir Dr Peter Low played the sacred music and sang the liturgical hymns throughout the Stations of the Cross, the Mass, healing segment as well as the Rosary Procession. Two testimonies by Mrs Jennifer Yeo and jointly by Mr Arnold & Mrs May Alcidi attested to the healing intercessory prayers of our Lady.

The event ended with the Rosary Procession, with the rosary chanted in ten different languages and dialects with some groups appearing in their national costumes. This procession was led by Fr Edward Lim, followed by members of the Order of Malta. The statue of our Lady, carried by four able men preceded the procession. Thanksgiving was given to our Lady for her intercession in ensuring a spiritually uplifting experience and fair weather despite the monsoon season.





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

Saint of SMOM St Hugh (Feast Day 8 October)

Saint Hugh was born about 1168 at Alessandria (Italy). He became a knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. After lengthy service with the Order in the Holy Land, he was elected Master of the Commandery of St John di Prè in Genoa (Italy), where he worked in the infirmary nearby. He was renowned for miraculous powers over the natural elements. He is believed to have died in 1233. St Hugh's name is inscribed in a panel of the outer wall of the Conventual Church in London.

