



The Order of Malta's News in Hungary



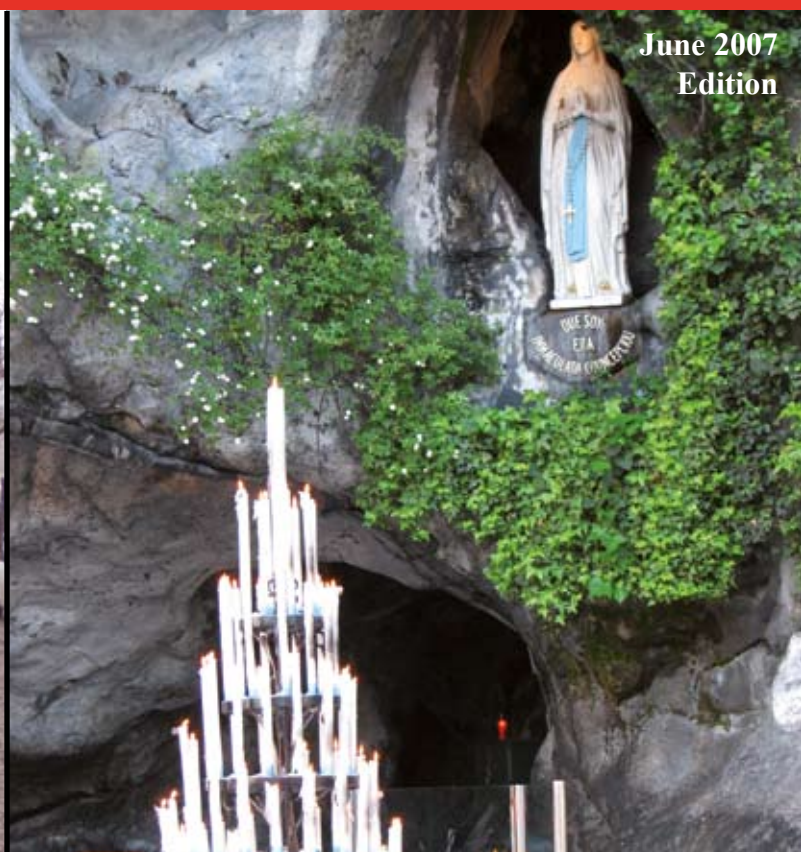
Translation of the quarterly Máltai Hírek

2007 summary

March 2007
Edition



June 2007
Edition



September 2007
Edition



December 2007
Edition



The Order of Malta's News in Hungary

The magazine of the Hungarian
Association of the Sovereign Military
Hospitaller Order of St. John of
Jerusalem of Rhodes and Malta and
its Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat
(MMSz)

Publishers: President of the Hungarian
Association, President of the MMSz;

Editorial Team: Peter Szabadhegyi
(Editor-in-Chief), Gábor Tihanyi,
Erzsébet Henn, András Schumicky;
email: peter@szabadhegy.hu

Addresses:

Magyar Máltai Lovagok Szövetsége (Hungarian Knights of Malta)

Fortuna u. 10, Budapest 1014, Hungary;
website: www.mmlsz.hu
email: mmlsz@t-online.hu
fax: (361)-375-5174

Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat (MMSz)

Szarvas Gábor út 58–60., Budapest
1125, Hungary;
website: www.maltai.hu
email: mmszok@maltai.hu
fax: (361)-391-4728

Printed by D-Plus Kft.

Managing Director: László Németh
Csillaghegyi út 19–21., Budapest 1037,
Hungary;
website: www.d-plus.hu
email: nemeth@d-plus.hu
fax: (361)-453-2772

Translation: members of the
Association's American Delegation

Cover photos:

Top left: MMSz's ambulance service;
Top right: Lourdes;
Bottom left: St. Stephen Basilica on St.
Stephen's Day;
Bottom right: closing ceremony of St.
Elisabeth year in Sárospatak Cathedral.

Dear Reader,



It is once again a pleasure and an honor to present to you the English version of the Order of Malta's News in Hungary – an abbreviated compilation of the four 2007 quarterly Hungarian newsletters published jointly by the Order's Hungarian Association and MMSz, our local volunteer charity and humanitarian organization.

2007 was an eventful year for the Order of Malta in Hungary, marked by several anniversaries, which allowed us to gain inspiration for our current and future activities. The highlight of the year was the truly international commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the birth of one of Hungary's (and Europe's) greatest saints, Saint Elizabeth of the Árpád House of Kings (daughter of King Andrew II.). Many European nations, such as Germany, Belgium, Austria, France, and Luxembourg, continue to pay tribute to Saint Elizabeth as each one of them regard her as one of their own saints. The fact that she donated Marburg Hospital – one of her life's major works – to the Order of Malta (then the Order of Saint John) just prior to her death, clearly demonstrates Saint Elisabeth's close relationship with the Order (see page 7.)

It was an honor for the Hungarian Association to participate in the official commemoration in Vienna of the founding of the Austrian Malteser Hilfsdienst 50 years ago, whose first major task was to help the Hungarian refugees fleeing their country following the 1956 revolution (see page 5). Also, this year's annual commemoration of the anniversary of the historic opening in 1989 of Hungary's western borders, allowing East German citizens to freely meet up with their West German compatriots – the first formal step leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall – provided inspiration for many members of the Order's Hungarian organizations (see Father Kozma's speech to the Hungarian Parliament commemorating the event on page 8).

Finally, allow us to share with you in some details what was dear to our hearts in Hungary in 2007. As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

The Editor

Contents

President's Letter	3
Calendar of Events	
– The Order of Malta in Hungary	4–6
– MMSz	7–8
Life in the Order	
– In the footsteps of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary	9
– On the Anniversary of the Hungarian Border Opening	10–11
Call for Action	12

Dear Members of the Order, dear Friends,

Our Order is often asked how, and in what degree, we participate in public life and in politics. Does the Order, as a Catholic lay order, have any public or political responsibilities and the right to make its standpoint known, or not? These are similar questions to those addressed to the Church and which are answered with assumptions such as "Faith is a personal matter", or to quote Stalin's ironic question: "How many divisions does the Vatican army have?"

In communion with our Church's Christian mission, the Order has a decisive social responsibility and duty: to build up, to guide, to form society in the direction of Christian spiritual values. For this reason the practice of one's faith should not only take place in churches, or within one's four walls, but also in all of society and its institutions and in all manifestations of everyday life. Thus the Church is present in education, in schools, in universities and through religious instruction as well as by means of its social, charitable or community work, and through its missionary or scholarly commitments, to mention only a few of its more important activities.

"Tuitio fidei, obsequium pauperum" the defence of faith and the support of those in poor health, the sick, the elderly, are the watchwords of our Order, and binding obligation to each one of us. There are no excuses for eluding the social responsibilities issuing from these watchwords. To defend one's faith means active participation in the guidance of society towards direction of Christian values, and the support of any

such initiative of our Church, but also of any such independent activities of the Order. The MMSz, our charity and social service, is present in society with more than 250 projects, among them first aid, hospitals, help to refugees, homes for the elderly, soup kitchen, training of nurses, and homeless shelters.

From the aforesaid, it results that the Order considers as its ally, works together with and supports any such social endeavor, establishment, organization, party, or person, which directs its efforts toward bringing about a society with Christian values. It is not the names, or nominal programs which are determining, but the actual attitude or conduct of individuals. Thus such social or political institutions which hinder the Church's or the Order's activities, as for example in education, social work or in the field of public health, which reduce or cease their financial contributions, which question the agreements made with the Church, cannot obtain the Order's support. Letters to the faithful issued by the Bishops in many countries point out such behavior before an election, and ask their congregations to give their votes to those parties and candidates that represent the interests of Christian society. Similarly, our Order is neither neutral, nor for abstaining, but rather for making public its support in the interest of the common good and common representation. Our Order does not practice politics, but in the above-mentioned context clearly states its point of view.

The obvious result of this obligation towards society is that we turn with high



expectations to the public's Christian representatives. This concerns primarily their personal moral lifestyles, their social and political programs and their fidelity to the fundamentals of democracy. "The end justifies the means" is not an acceptable slogan, and as Solyom Laszlo, President of the Republic, has stated, a lawful constitution cannot be established nor maintained by lawless methods. Similarly, the concept of "who is not with me, is against me" is unacceptable.

The Order of Malta has at all times made especially sure that the conduct of its members be beyond reproach, that they might be examples of how model Christian lives and the upholding of moral values can be achieved. It is the Order's sincere belief, that in public life the nation's affairs can only be entrusted to such persons, who with their entire lives, actions and their beliefs based on truth and moral values, offer guarantees of conduct faithful to democracy even in difficult situations. Credibility has become of decisive importance. For this reason the Order will continue to watch over morality in society and its voice will be made heard, so that with common co-operation, true values might prevail.

György Osváth

Calendar of Events – The Order of Malta in Hungary

- The by-now traditional Venice **retreat for “scattered” members** of the Hungarian Association took place January 4-7 with 15 attendees. As in past years, Mons. Paul Bolberitz led the retreat. The chosen topic for the retreat was “The Church’s social manifestation toward humanity and the Catholic faithful in particular” based on two Papal encyclicals.

- At the **Order’s Conference on Strategy** for chancellors and treasurers held on January 26-28 in Rome, the Hungarian Association was represented by Chancellor Erzsébet Podmaniczky-Pusztai and Treasurer Prof. Dr. Lajos Okolicsányi. The conference was led by Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery with 93 members in attendance, including the officials of the Grand Magistry. The main topics of the conference were: 1. The Order in today’s world; 2. The Order’s internal and external affairs; 3. Report by the Chief Hospitaller; 4. Protection of our emblems, fight against the false orders; 5. Communications; 6. Financial matters; 7. Important programs in the near future.

- We are happy to announce that the **Thursday evening programs** at our Association’s headquarters have begun, with the following themes and activities: first Thursday of the month, spiritual growth; second Thursday, familiarization with hospitaller matters; third Thursday, social night; fourth Thursday, discussion of internal Association issues.

- Ten members took part in the three-day **retreat organized for the Association’s**

members in obedience residing in Europe, February 22-25, in the castle of Count Károlyi at Fehérvárcsurgó. Under the direction of Conventual Chaplain Mons. Paul Bolberitz, the retreat had as its theme Pope John Paul II’s “Faith and Reason” encyclical.

- For the fifth year in a row, our **Association’s retreat for ladies** took place March 2-4, organized by Anikó Ugron-Kárpáti, at Sarród in the middle of the Fertőd-Hanság national park. The 16 attendees were led by Father Lorenzo Pásztor, one of our chaplains in Southern Slovakia, in a study of Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, “God Is Love”.

- Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, the Order’s Chief Hospitaller, convened in Paris on March 16-17 the **annual meeting of the hospitallers** of the Order’s European associations, to report and discuss the past year’s activities and coordinate programs for the next 12 months. Mention was made of the Central and Eastern Europe conference planned for November 29–December 2 in Vienna, where the Order’s work in this region will be discussed before an international audience. The preparatory discussions for this conference were held in Budapest during the past year. The MMSz prepared a special report on this subject.

- The **North American Delegation** held its annual **Hungarian-language retreat** on March 23-25 at the Mount Manresa Jesuit retreat house on Staten Island under the direction of Father

Dénes Hesz. The retreat’s themes were the spiritual virtues: faith, hope and love. Ten members and several faithful from surrounding Hungarian communities attended the excellent retreat. During Sunday’s Holy Mass, Association’s Vice President Baron Francis Bakách-Bessenyei presented our confrère Eugene Megyesy with the document attesting his assumption into the Order. Fifteen Hungarian scouts took part in a special two-day retreat organized at the same time by Confrère István Sándor, under the direction of Father Ágoston Badnyinszki.

- Following tradition, the year’s first Association **Council meeting** took place on April 13. The Council made decisions concerning the trial periods of our candidates as well as the forwarding of membership applications for those who have completed their trial period. Following the direction set by Rome, we appointed tutors to help prepare our five new candidates during their trial period. Midway during the meeting a moving ceremony was held, during which our confrère Dr. Gál Nyáry received the Grand Cross, emblem of his long-deserved promotion.

- The retreat master for the **Association’s annual retreat** held on April 13-15 in Esztergom’s Saint Albert Conference Center was the Rev. János Székely, seminary rector. One of the four sessions, with “Hungarian Saints” as their overall theme, centered on Saint Elizabeth, and it being the Year of Elizabeth, this had a special resonance. The other three sessions were devoted to Blessed

Vilmos (William) Apor, Blessed László Bathányi and Blessed Sára (Charlotte) Salkaházy. In the course of the retreat, our President George O'sváth held a Presidential Colloquium. Forty-five members and their families, and a small group of Johanniter knights under the leadership of Commander Miklós Bánffy took part in the retreat for a total of 75 attendees.

- On May 5 seven of our members attended the Holy Mass in the Esztergom Basilica celebrated in memory of **József Cardinal Mindszenty** by His Excellency the Most. Rev. Gyula Márffy, Bishop of Veszprém, and heard H.E.'s inspiring sermon about unity and courage.

- This year the traditional international **pilgrimage to Lourdes** took place on the first weekend in May. Eighteen malades, two physicians, our spiritual leaders and 32 escorts made up our Association's group, joined by several members of MMSz and Hungarian Caritas. During the pilgrimage, our president George O'sváth had occasion to hold meetings with presidents of other associations. Rev. Dr. Pál Bolberitz was our pilgrimage's spiritual leader, assisted by Father Lorenzo Pásztor, who also represented the Knights and Dames of Southern Slovakia.



Father Bolberitz in Lourdes

- On June 16 the **Austrian Malteser Hilfsdienst** celebrated with great pomp the 50th anniversary of its founding. Holy Mass was celebrated at 9:30 a.m. in a crowded Cathedral of Saint Stephen in Vienna. The Order's commemoration began at 11 a.m., at which the Austrian Grand Priory's Procurator delivered the opening address. He was followed by Dr. László Sólyom, President of the Republic of Hungary, Joseph Fischer, President of Austria, as well as by Jean Pierre de Mazery, the Order of Malta's Grand Chancellor. The festivities ended with a ball in the evening. A 25-member delegation represented the Hungarian Association.

- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Erick Kussbach gave a **reception in honor of Saint John's Day** on June 21. Together with numerous high-ranking representatives of political and diplomatic life, a number of Knights and Dames enjoyed the Ambassador's hospitality on this warm summer day.

- The Hungarian Association's North American Delegation held its **annual general meeting**, presided over by Delegate John Jeszenszky, and celebration of the feast of Saint John on Saturday, June 23, at the Visitation Convent in Georgetown, Washington, D.C. John Jeszenszky was re-elected as Delegate for another three-year term and the following members were elected to three-year terms as Council members: Lajos Balla, Eva Gosztonyi, Francis Schell and Margit Serényi.

- The Hungarian Association's Hungarian Delegation held its **annual general meeting** in Budapest on June 23.

- The Order of Malta's 24th **International Summer Camp for Handicapped Youth** was held on August 11-18 in the beautiful Swiss mountains in the fresh air at Champéry. The Hungarian team members were joined by three girls from Slovakia. The Transylvanian Hungarians identified themselves with a separate flag but traveled with us. Father János Varga, also our spiritual guide, led us along the mountain paths. The Olympic games tested the "talents" of the participants. The "Hungarian Evening" was a great success with its dinner entertainment, during which we dazzled the campers with fine wines and regional dishes.

- On the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, His Eminence, Peter Cardinal Erdő, Primate of Hungary, elevated the Chaplain of the Order, **Dr. Ferenc Cserhádi, to the episcopacy**. As Titular Bishop of Centuria and Auxiliary Bishop of Esztergom-Budapest, Dr. Cserhádi will assume the spiritual leadership of Hungarians residing outside the Carpathian Basin.

- The **Hungarian Johanniter Knights** held their **annual meeting** this time in Budapest August 17-19, with more than one hundred members attending. Kommendator Miklós Bánffy presided at the general meeting with more than seventy knights in the ceremonial hall of the Fasori Evangelical School. Association Vice President Ubul Tamás Kállay greeted the confreres at the meeting in the name of the Hungarian Association.

- The **American Delegation's Council** met on August 30, at the residence of Tamás and Judit DeSzily. The newly elected or re-elected officers of the Hungarian Association's American

Delegation are as follows: Vice President: Géza Habsburg; Secretary: Judit DeSzily; Treasurer: Thomas Wyatt; Hospitaller: Jenő Megyesy; Historian: Margit Serényi; Auditors: Paul DeCleva and Emil Somogy-Subich. The Council decided to support the Conference of Hungarian Bishops in raising funds for the construction of a Hungarian chapel in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The estimated cost of this project is \$500,000. The 2007 fund drive has already started. Its coordinator is Géza Habsburg, his assistants Margit Serényi and Judit DeSzily.

- The Hungarian Association's German Delegation held its **annual general meeting** and retreat at Gössweinstein, September 14-16. It was an event held in sparkling weather and picturesque surroundings, with József Stipsicz, a representative of the Swiss Association attending for the first time. Our Association was represented by Vice President Ubul Tamás and Chancellor Erzsébet Podmaniczky. The meditations were led by Fr. Péter Keresztfalvi, O.S.B., from Alsóór, Hungary.

- The **Protestant chivalry orders of Saint John**, which trace their origins to Jerusalem and which keep the name of St. John, i.e., the Balley Brandenburg, the Dutch Johanniterorde, the Swedish Johanniterorden and the Most Venerable Order of St. John, met in Dresden on October 11. Under the aegis of the ALLIANCE established in 1961, they meet to inform each other of their respective activities. Among the four orders, the largest one is the Venerable Order which functions on three continents in all English-speaking countries. The Balley Brandenburg (formerly cov-

ering the area of the Brandenburg territories) is active in Germany, Finland, France, Austria, Switzerland as well as Hungary. On October 13, the officers of the Grand Magisterium under the leadership of His Eminence, the Grandmaster, joined the notabilities of the Order of St. John led by His Royal Highness, Prince Oscar, in order to hear a report of the Coordinating Group on our joint affairs. In the aggregate, the Orders of St. John are performing their hospitaller works in 150 countries with half a million members, volunteers and employees.

- A **pilgrimage to the Holy Land**, concluding the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the Order of Malta, was held under the leadership of the Order. The Holy Land, as we all know, is the birthplace of our Order. The outstanding events of this joint pilgrimage for 1,500 members and guests were the three liturgies celebrated by His Eminence Pio Cardinal Laghi, our cardinal-protector, and Archbishop Angelo Acerbi, prelate of our Order, and many other chaplains of the Order. There were 45 Hungarian participants among them ten knights. We were led by Ubul Tamás Kállay, our vice president. Msgr. Pál Bolberitz, our chaplain, was our spiritual guide.

- The fall session of the Hungarian Association's **council meeting** was held on November 9 at its Budapest headquarters on Fortuna Street. The council considered, on the basis of the documentation submitted by the Membership Committee, four applicants, namely, Péter Kornis, András Pallos, Gregor Roy-Chowdhury and Mrs. Gerald Scheidl (née Luca Kornis), who were approved to start their probation year; another four, Peter Dzuppa-Szemere, Dr.

Tamás Kállay, Jr., Judit Muskovszky-Csapó and Dr. Ferenc Szutrelly, were accepted to be presented for membership in our Order.

Following the Council Meeting, the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the **beatification** of the martyred bishop, **Blessed Vilmos Apor**, conventual chaplain of our Association was held jointly with the parish of our Blessed Lady of Buda Castle. During the moving ceremony, Csaba Apor, nephew of the martyred bishop evoked the memory of "Uncle Vilmos". Our chaplain, Professor József Török, also paid tribute to the perseverance and the role played by Vilmos Apor during the social and political turbulence of his age. Afterwards, His Eminence, Cardinal Péter Erdő, Primate of Hungary and Archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest, concelebrated a solemn Holy Eucharist in the Church of Our Lady with our chaplains and the clergy of the parish. Numerous members of the Orders of Malta, St. John and St. Stephan participated in the liturgy. After Holy Mass more than 150 guests attended a cheerful reception in the parish hall.



Archbishop Cardinal Péter Erdő

- On November 16-18 the Hungarian Association participated with the Knights of St. John and St. Stephen in the closing ceremonies of the commemorative year of the birth of St. Elisabeth of Hungary during pilgrimages to Kassa and Sárospatak. (details on page 7).

Calendar of Events – MMSz

♥ The “Béres” Foundation donated once again 10,000 vials of its product to the MMSz, which was distributed to those who need it in 7 of our various organizational institutions. The so-called “**Béres csepp**” (or Béres drop) is an immune system strengthening liquid used for cancer patients.

♥ The so-called “**House of Esteem**” (Megbecsülés Háza) at Pécs (city in southwestern Hungary) was dedicated on January 18 and given to the MMSz. This establishment provides shelter for 20 homeless persons. The building was donated by the Diocese and with the help of volunteer contractors and various donations, we were able to complete it, ready for occupancy within 2 months. We intend to operate this shelter, as its name implies, in the spirit of esteem and respect of those in need. Bishop Mihály Mayer and Father Imre Kozma participated in the formal opening ceremonies.

♥ The **floods of August 2005** caused serious damage to certain areas of Transylvania, especially in the Székelyudvarhely region. The school buildings in two villages, Kobátfalva and Siménfalva, were seriously damaged. As a result of this catastrophe, Hungary and 3 other nations offered help and assistance to rebuild and restore the devastated area. The Hungarian MMSz, in conjunction with the Duna TV station took it upon themselves to help rebuild these schools. The renovated and enlarged school in Siménfalva was completed by February 24. The one in Kobátfalva is

still under construction with help from the MMSz and 12 other Hungarian institutions.

♥ Further **training** for leaders of various MMSz organizations took place on February 27 at our headquarters. Father Imre Kozma was the spiritual leader.

♥ **72 hours without compromise:** a program to promote interest in charitable work among the young was held in March. Various Christian institutions participated in this effort and presented volunteer opportunities to young adults. 68 volunteers offered their help to the MMSz as a result of this program. All of the volunteers performed their assigned tasks with enthusiasm and empathy.

♥ We continued our 10-year tradition of a **Lenten food drive** in the town of Tokaj, the center of Hungary's famous wine region. We were able to prepare

48 boxes, 6-8 kilograms each, of food stuffs which we delivered to needy families. 16 of our local members participated.

♥ On April 20-21 a “**Special Olympics**” sports competition for the handicapped was organized for the tenth year in Győr. About 500 participants played a variety of sports: ping-pong, basketball, swimming, chess, etc. The youngest was 8 years old and the oldest 60. The MMSz was assisted by 26 companies and organizations in this endeavor.

♥ An **institute for the homeless** was dedicated on April 26 at Ajka. This home provides daytime care for about 70-80 homeless persons where they can wash, rest and receive meals. Father Imre Kozma said the Mass at the dedication ceremony and the Mayor of Ajka, Mr. Béla Schwartz, praised the MMSz for its charitable endeavors.



Father Kozma in Transylvania

♥ While visiting **Fertőd**, Hungarian President Laszlo Sólyom and his wife visited the old age home there, which is administered by the MMSz. They met the director of the institute, Mrs. Eszter Foldvály, and praised the charitable efforts and enthusiasm of the Maltese organization.



Palestinian aid packages

♥ The MMSz held its **annual delegates assembly** on June 3, opening with Holy Mass. Father Imre Kozma's homily called attention to the delegates' commitment to carry out work in the "spirit of the Order of Malta." The delegation members discussed and accepted the 2006 report presented by the MMSz, together with other reports and the planned 2007 tasks and budget. The MMSz operates 164 institutions, of which 24 are new and were approved for state subsidy. Several programs were noted to stand out:

1. Thirteen playgrounds (of these, seven in Budapest) that operate in part through autonomous financial assistance,
2. "Hangyaboly" children's indoor playground available in all seven of the MMSz Regions at 30 locations,
3. Medical equipment rental program,
4. Ambulance service of eighty volunteers (doctors, emergency medical personnel, drivers); receives no state subsidies; operates four days a week for 24 hour periods in Budapest,
5. Homeless and gypsy families community integration in the town of Tarnabod (agricultural work and employment for thirty persons); includes the dissolution of the Mono gypsy camp and the integration of its residents.

Alongside the MMSz employees, several thousand volunteers take part in the works of the MMSz. In 2006 the volunteers contributed 600,000 work hours.

♥ The six month long **Palestine assistance program** was successfully completed by the MMSz in the Bethlehem and Ramallah hospitals. The hospitals were supplied with medicines and medical equipment in the total value of 28 million HUF (about \$150,000).

♥ The MMSz again organized the **annual charity wine auction** during the international wine and champagne festival in Budapest on September 13. The festivities took place in the marble hall of the Military History Museum. Thirty one pledges and forty two bids came under the auctioneers hammer, resulting in an income of 3 million HUF for the MMSz (about \$15,000).

♥ On October 5 Father Imre Kozma was awarded the reigning **Arpads Memorial medal** by the Hungarian Artists Association.

♥ The **national conference** organized for the members and volunteers of the MMSz was successfully conducted on October 5–7 at the Lakitelek High School. The theme of the meeting was "Our sources of energy".

♥ On October 10, the MMSz, working with a St. John Hospital program, provided free **eye examinations** for the homeless that was followed up with a guarantee of eyeglasses as needed.

♥ The town of **Tornabod**, which integrated homeless families in their community,

initiated an eight month training program for them on October 10. Two days later, the MMSz presented the town with a playhouse and on October 20, Father Imre Kozma blessed an altar painting during a festive Mass, entitled "the Ascension", donated to the church of Tornabod by the artist Gyorgy Kornis.

♥ The MMSz took part in the first **Malteser International Communication Conference** held in Cologne and Esheshausen, Germany, on October 18 – 19. At the conference the works and communication capabilities of the Malteser International were introduced.

♥ At the family festival of the Hungarian Embassy in Holland on October 30, Wilhelmina van Wetten-Rensen was designated honorary citizen of Erk and was presented the ceremonial key to the playhouse recently opened in **Tarnabod**, Hungary. The ceremony was witnessed by Father Imre Kozma. Madame Wetten-Resen is the most generous individual supporter of the MMSz in Holland.

♥ On November 4 Father Imre Kozma was awarded the **Mindszenty Memorial Award**, presented at the Parliament in Budapest. The award is named after the former primate of Hungary, Joseph Mindszenty.

In the footsteps of Saint Elizabeth

Saint Elizabeth (1207-1231), daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary was born in Sárospatak in northeastern Hungary. Married at the tender age of 14 to Louis IV, landgraviate of Thuringia, she devoted herself to charity. According to the legend celebrated in paintings by Cavallini in Naples, by L. Vanni in Washington, by Van Eyck in New York, by Hans Hobein the elder in Munich, and by paintings found in Marburg, her husband forbade her to help the poor. One day, as Elizabeth was leaving the castle with a bundle of bread destined for the hungry, her husband demanded she open it. Doing so, he saw a mass of red roses. This miracle converted him.

On King Louis's premature death in 1227, Elizabeth was deprived of the regency by her brother-in-law, Henry Raspe IV. He claimed she was bleeding the family's estate with her alms. Along with her three infants, she was driven from her home. However, her maternal uncle, Bishop Egbert of Bamberg, came to her rescue. He offered her a house adjoining his palace. Subsequently, she regained the regency and her son, Hermann, was declared heir to the landgraviate. Elizabeth renounced all power and chose to live in seclusion in Marburg. Doing penance and ministering to the sick, she died at Marburg on November 17, 1231. Pope Gregory IX canonized her just a few years later in 1235.

From November 16 to 18, 2007, the Order of Malta's Hungarian Association organized the 10th annual pilgrimage to Kassa (Kosice), Slovakia, about 15-20

miles north of the northeastern side of the Hungarian border, roughly 170 miles from Budapest, and to Sarospatak, approximately 30 miles from Kassa. The pilgrimage was led by Ubul Tamas Kallay, Vice-President of the Hungarian Association. He was joined by Miklos Banffy, Kommendator of the Hungarian Johanniter Order, and by Csaba Ferencz, Grandmaster of the Knights of Saint Steven, who along with 59 participants celebrated the 800th anniversary of the birth of Saint Elizabeth.



The Cathedral in Sárospatak

The highlight of the celebration took place on Saturday, November 17, in the Dome of Kassa. Here the Primate of Hungary, the Archbishop of Kassa, and the Archbishop of Eger celebrated Holy Mass, in the spirit of friendship, in both Hungarian and Slovak. The third day of pilgrimage took place in Sárospatak, the

birthplace of Saint Elizabeth. Holy Mass there was dedicated to the spirit of Saint Elizabeth and that of the Order of Malta. This mass was symbolic because the Order of Malta, whose motto is "Tuitio fidei, obsequium pauperum," carries on Saint Elizabeth's benevolent will.



Reception in Kassa, Slovakia, following Holy Mass

On the Anniversary of the Hungarian Border Opening

**(Father Imre Kozma's speech to the Hungarian
Parliament, September 9, 2007)**

The MMSz – which was founded in Germany by the memorable Madam Csilla, Baroness von Boeselager, then with my assistance in Hungary – celebrates every year on August 14 the day East German refugees were welcomed. On one occasion, one of the German Ambassadors gave us a surprising thought. He posed a question to the audience: “Was there ever a nation in history that unselfishly helped a larger country living under better circumstances, while in doing so taking on great risks?”

The leaders of Hungarian politics in 1989, in cooperation with West German politicians, and in some sense confronting East German politicians, considering the rightful wishes of people, made the best decision, when they opened our country's western border to East Germans. Because one must give air to those suffocating. You can suffocate behind a barbed wire marking the border of a country. The person not accepting this condition is on the correct side. Our politicians actively contributed to allowing the separated German nation to start on the road of reunification.

I think fondly about the days, weeks and months when the MMSz in accordance with the expectations of Jesus as written in the gospels and obeying the commandment of charitable service, received the East German refugees and

provided for three months for 48,600 individuals, and with this contributed to the healing of the wounds of separation.

Today, we Hungarians live together with the Germans in a united Europe. Today, the geographically one Europe may even be viewed as one political and economic unit, but the experts in the area will also point out that Europe is not only a geographic, political, and economic formation, but is basically a cultural and spiritual entity. Its present and hopeful future poses numerous tasks and goals for its people.

The famous Russian born, American sociologist, the founder of the Harvard University Department of Sociology, Pitirim Sorokin, identified three social cycles in every culture of the world: the sensual, the religious, and the religious/rational period. The first marks an age in which the material goods rule society and civilization. In the second the all inclusive and ruling spiritual and mystical truth dominates. In the third, the synthesis of the two establishes a world, which measures the value of material goods, it causes them to grow, although it does not lose sight of the fact that religion is not an obstacle to values, but is the spiritual background for success and happiness in this world.

During its history, Europe has moved through each of these periods numerous



times. In the 19th and 20th Centuries, Europe reached such a base sensual cultural level that in the post modern disintegration period, the total moral and spiritual collapse or the total internal renewal are the choices. The founding fathers of the European Union established it in the hope of renewal in terms of a sociological and economic viewpoint. In this system, the role of Christian charitable love is that with its spiritual treasures and social services it helps such an evolution. In a Europe that had lost its faith and moral values, but which seeks faith and values, the role of a Christian charitable service is this spiritual renewal. The proclaiming of the message of love and happiness through its practices provide spiritual sustenance, so that the emptiness is not being filled by the media, advertising, consumerism, selfishness, aggressiveness or



misleading philanthropy, but is being filled by a meaning to life beyond the every day and full of love.

This view and love is embodied in such thoughts and values, which every person will easily understand. This is the consideration for each other, turning with charitable service toward our fellow man, which offers a culture of life to the communion of the European people. A culture of life means that we value the dignity of life that includes the acceptance of children, the caring for the sick, the respect of the elderly, protection of the environment and has priority before momentary profit and temporary benefits.

The current European culture must be replaced with personal love and communion with our fellow man. This means family, friendship, the re-establishing of the dignity and recognition of love, because this human communion is more than interdependence and meek tolerance of each other. Today it is customary to speak about tolerance. Although, if this is only putting up with each other, and if it is only forced, it is not enough for the foundation of a new European civilization. It is important

that we understand a common language, the language of love, even as we speak different languages.

A number of events during the history of Hungary prove that a critical element of communities finding each other is the culture of freedom. This concept includes the rights of the individuals and a democratic society, it is more than “what is not prohibited is allowed” or “man can do whatever he is capable of and afford.” The last ignores that “anyone who can do everything can be made to do anything” and this in practice can lead to individual tragedies and political-economic dictatorship.

The true union of Europe and a civilization of love means that the rights of humans are established and protected. This is not solely a question of political will and legislation. These norms can only become truly acceptable as part of the individual and community view. The new European cultures, peoples, and countries depend upon forgiveness and acceptance among them. From this can develop an honest dialogue between people, groups, communities, nations, and religions, which is not based upon defeating each other, but

upon convincing each other, not looking down at each other, but respecting each other. In 1989 Hungary put aside its earlier politics and immediate interests. No matter how complex and different the world is, the opportunity always exists for man to choose on which side to stand. The decision makers then made the right choice and started on a new road.

We “Maltese”, showing the all powerful love, responded with the only acceptable human behavior, that of being welcoming. Welcoming is synonymous with resurrection. In Jesus Christ, in the messiah God accepted us, welcomed us, and made us the people of his house. Jesus in our world broke down the walls separating people and ended every difference between them. Although the world in His eyes was a failure, nevertheless He and His faithful followers welcome every discriminated, every hungry, thirsty, persecuted, foreigner, sick, lonely. The world decided and proclaimed justice, and in every form proclaims solidarity. Institutions through historic failures and from time-to-time turn away from the concept of solidarity, but people can never do so if they want to see a family, nation and world around them. It is for this reason, that only such authority survives, which does not abandon to fate those people who are struggling with life’s difficulties.

What we did 18 years ago, was nothing extraordinary. God merely grasped a bit of our courage, and what happened – according to international opinion also – was more than human. God truly performed a miracle. Today we are also waiting for a miracle, God’s miracle, which can happen with our human cooperation.



Medical Equipment Rental/Repair

1142 Budapest, Szatmár u. 26.

Telephone: +36-1-252-3135

The Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat (MMSz) runs since its inception a reliable rental/repair operation for those poor families needing wheelchairs, orthopedic appliances, and/or hospital beds for home health care. Since the operation does not receive funding public funding, current financial conditions may endanger the continued highly efficient provision of medical equipment.

This is one of the most popular of MMSz's services.

Your participation in this fundraising drive can make a big difference!

Bank account details:

Magyar Külkereskedelmi Bank

IBAN: HU25 1030 0002 5010 0119 2100 4882

SWIFT: MKKBHUHB



To help support the Hungarian handicapped youth wishing to participate
in the Order's International Summer Camp in Austria this year,
please send your contributions to

Magyar Máltai Lovagok Alapítványa

Foundation of the Hungarian Knights of Malta

OTP Bank: HU88 11705008-20491851-00000000

SWIFT: OTPVHUHB

Fortuna utca 10,
H-1014 Budapest



ORDER OF MALTA
HUNGARY

THANK YOU!