



The Order of Malta's News in Hungary



Translation of the quarterly Máltai Hírek

2008 summary



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**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)

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Cover photos:

Top left: the late Grand Master Fra' Andrew Bertie;

Top right: the newly elected Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing;

Bottom left: Hungarians participating in the International Summer Camp;

Bottom right: Media event, announcing the 20th anniversary of MMSz.

Dear Reader,



It is once again a pleasure and an honor to present to you – for the third time now – the English version of the Order of Malta's News in Hungary – an abbreviated compilation of the four quarterly Hungarian newsletters published in 2008 jointly by the Order's Hungarian Association and MMSz, our volunteer-based charity and humanitarian organization.

2008 was certainly a year of transition as we paid tribute to our beloved Grandmaster, Frá Andrew Bertie, and eagerly welcomed the leadership of our new Grandmaster, Frá Matthew Festing. In this edition, you will find the Hungarian perspective, the way we viewed the events associated with the change of guard.

In addition to sharing with you the series of main events, in which the Hungarian Association participated throughout the year, we also include a flavor of the activities organized by MMSz in 2008. I say „flavor” because the number of activities organized by

MMSz far exceeds the space (and probably your span of attention) available in this publication. Frankly, it is virtually impossible to convey in mere words (or even through pictures) the vast array of activities MMSz organizes. It is certainly impossible to pass on to our readers, the sincere love and spirituality with which these activities are performed. You simply have to see and feel it. I can only recommend that you follow the example of our Grand Master, who visited a few MMSz institutions on his recent official visit to Hungary.

This edition also contains a short history of the Order's headquarter building, which houses the Order's embassy, the Hungarian Association's offices and meeting rooms, as well as our chapel (where Mass is celebrated every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.). Once again, I encourage you to pay us a visit on your next trip to Budapest. I promise you, you will not regret it!

The Editor

Contents

President's Letter	3
Calendar of Events – The Order of Malta in Hungary	4–7
Life in the Order – The Hungarian Association's Headquarter Building in Budapest	8
Calendar of Events – MMSz	9–11
Call for Action	12

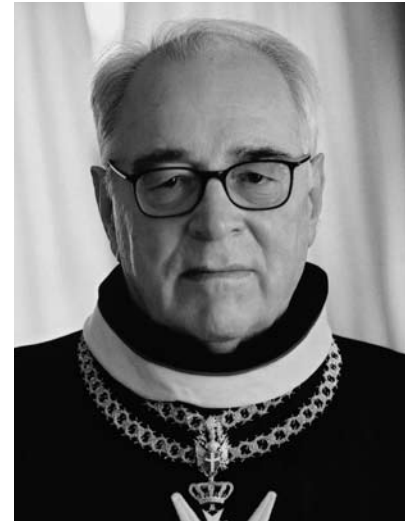
Dear Members of the Order, dear Friends,

Fra' Andrew Bertie, the 78th ruling Grand Master after serving and governing the Order for 20 years died on the 7th of February 2008. His leadership enjoyed the respect and love of the Church and the Order. He was an outstanding person. His faith, his service to the Church, his humanity, modesty, self-sacrifice and good humor distinguished him among the leaders of our age. The Church and the Order of Malta, its members and friends paid their respects with great sorrow and sadly paid tribute to the beloved Grand Master.

Now a new era has begun in the history of the Order with the election of the new Grand Master. The Council Complete of State of the Order elected the 58 year old Englishman, Fra' Matthew Festing, a Professed Knight, as the 79th ruling Grand Master in the Order on March 11, 2008, at the Magistral Villa on Aventine Hill. This extraordinary event offers the opportunity to review the electoral process. According to the Constitution and the Code of the Order, after the death of the Grand Master, the Grand Commander, in this case, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre, governs the Order as Lieutenant ad interim. Subsequent to the announcement of the death of the Grand Master, the Lieutenant ad interim, with due consultation with the Sovereign Council, must summon the Council Complete of State in between 15 and 90 days to elect the new Grand Master. At the election on March 11, 2008, the following knights were eligible to vote: the Lieutenant ad interim, 9 members of the Sovereign Council, the Prelate of the Order Mons. Angelo Acerbi, 5

Priors, 9 Professed Bailiffs Knights, 2 Professed Knights delegated by each Priory, a Professed Knight and a Knight of Obedience in gremio religionis, 5 Regents of the Subpriories and 15 representatives of the national Associations – altogether 49 electors. Only the members of the Order's First Class, meaning professed knights, can be nominees for office of the Grand Master. From this group three knights were proposed for the first ballot. Nominees can be those knights who are 50 or younger and who took vows at least 10 years prior. Knights older than 50 have to be members of the Order for at least 10 years and have taken solemn vows at least 3 years earlier. The Council Complete of State elects the Grand Master for life.

According to the rules, 15 electors are chosen at preliminary meetings to represent the 47 Associations. This occurred under the direction of Prince Erich Lobkowitz, the dean of the presidents on March 8, 2008, the day following the State Funeral. This meeting was restricted to Presidents of Associations. The President of the Hungarian Association was among the 15 chosen electors. The electors held a final coordination meeting one day prior to the election. The 49 members of the Council Complete of State – dressed in their official church robes – met in festive surroundings at the Aventine Magistral Villa. The election is by secret ballot, requiring a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority at the first ballot and a 50% +1 vote subsequently. After a successful vote the elected candidate had to confirm or reject his acceptance. The voting became official after the Holy Father



was informed and after the swearing in of the newly elected Grand Master. The Council Complete of State was in closed session for the election according to the rules for election.

Fra' Matthew Festing was elected with a majority to become the newly elected Grand Master. During the closed session, a messenger delivered the results of the election to the Holy Father. Pio Laghi, the Cardinal Patron of the Order, returned to the Magistral Villa with the approbation of the Holy Father and the new Grand Master swore his oath before Cardinal Pio Laghi and the electoral body.

The new Grand Master expressed his desire and obligation to be a faithful servant of the Church and the Order in his acceptance speech. He affirmed his resolve to continue the great work carried out by his predecessor. The electoral process ended with a reception that gave the electors, including the President of the Hungarian Association an opportunity to express good wishes to the Grand Master and to ask for God's blessing for his work as he faces the challenges ahead.

György O'sváth

Calendar of Events – The Order of Malta in Hungary

■ The **Johanniter Order** (our Order's protestant cousins) organized their traditional New Year's reception on January 3rd. At an intimate and friendly gathering, Miklós Banffy, the Johanniter Kommandator greeted the one hundred participants that included knights, dames and family members. In his speech that reviewed the past year, the Kommandator asked for further strengthening of ecumenism and more effective activity by all members in view of the difficult situation in Hungary.

■ In what has become a tradition, the **Retreat in Venice** took place January 4 – 7 with 15 members participating. As this gathering is intended primarily for our dispersed members of the Hungarian Association, participating members also came from Austria. Msgr. Pál Bolberitz was the retreat master, a task he has taken unselfishly and with great enthusiasm for several years. The topic chosen for the retreat was "The social manifestation of the Church toward all people and toward the Catholic faithful".

■ The **Sovereign Order of Malta** held a strategy conference for chancellors and treasurers on January 26–28 in Rome. Chancellor Erzsébet Podmaniczky and Treasurer Prof. Lajos Okolicsányi represented the Hungarian Association. The Prelate of the Order Monsignor Angelo Acerbi opened the day-and-a-half conference with a prayer (he also said the closing prayer on Sunday). The conference was led by Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery. A total of 93 participants attended (including members of the Grand Magistry). The main subjects of

the conference were: 1. The Order in the world today; 2. A range of internal and external questions; 3. Summary report by the Grand Hospitaller; 4. Protection of our insignia, fight against illegitimate orders; 5. Communication; 6. Financial matters; 7. Future important programs.

■ Council Meeting at the Association's headquarters March 28th

The President's report, as always, detailed the Association's recent religious and charitable activities. Of particular importance among the various presentations was the Hospitaller's report on the meeting of the Central and Eastern Europe Conference held in late November – early December, 2007 (Hungarian presenters included His Eminence Cardinal Dr. Péter Erdő, H.E. Ambassador Erich Kussbach and Hospitaller Imre Ugron).

■ Retreat and Investiture

The Hungarian Association held its annual retreat in Eger during the last weekend in March. More than 60 mem-

bers and related family members took part. Retired Archbishop of Eger Dr. István Seregély's presentations focusing on the theme "To follow Christ is the only way" showed how this personal and deeply felt daily contact with Christ is needed, particularly within the community of the Church, where we have the benefit of its support. On Sunday there was an opportunity to meet with Csaba Ternyák, Archbishop of Eger, for a consultative conference about the activities in the diocese of Eger. After the retreat, President György O'svath invested four new candidates into the Order at a Holy Mass in the Church of the Blessed Mother in Budavár celebrated by Rev. Zoltán Pásztor and concelebrated with Lorenzó Pásztor and Rev. Pavol Drab. The new members of the Hungarian Association are: Judit Semsey DeHD, István Vízy CGD, Péter Dzuppa-Szemere CGM and Miklós Pacsay Tommassich CGM.

■ Pilgrimage to Lourdes

This year's pilgrimage to Lourdes took place in wonderful spring weather from



Hungarian pilgrims in Lourdes

May 1 to 6. The Hungarian contingent was made up of 89 participants, among which were 26 Association members and 4 candidates. Members of the MMSz and the malades they escorted, altogether 22 participants, made the pilgrimage with us. An additional 12 members of the Order of St. Stephen joined us for the first time. Our chaplains Rev. Imre Kozma and Rev. Zoltán Pásztor provided spiritual direction. Spiritual assistance for the sick also came from Rev. Miklós Telenkó, a Greek Catholic priest, as he shared the difficulties and problems of the sick as a malade in a wheelchair. By his example he showed how to always be in the service of the sick. Highlights included outdoor stations of the cross on the first day; Holy Mass at the grotto at 3am; special honors in the selection of three Hungarian flag bearers used during Holy Masses of the Order and having a reading at Mass in the Pius X Basilica said in Hungarian; additionally, Tamás Kállay was chosen to carry the crucifix for the candlelight procession.

■ Pilgrimage to Csíksomlyó (May)

This year we once again attended the Székelyregional Csíksomlyó pilgrimage at Pentecost. The pilgrims were led by Vice President Ubul Tamás Kállay. High Mass was celebrated by H.E. Jenő Schönberger, Bishop of Szatmár, before more than half a million pilgrims assembled on the hilltop. Groups of members of the Order coming from different regions agreed to meet before the church of Our Lady. United together they prayed to Our Lady for her help and protection.

As in earlier years, on the Sunday following the festivities, we made a special visit to a few outstanding Székely and Transylvanian sites. This time we visited settlements near Homoród,

and the Unitarian fortified church at Székelyderzs. We also viewed the fine 16th century Renaissance-style Danile Castle in Vargyas and the new Reformed Church designed by Imre Makovecz. In the evening we attended an unforgettable Holy Mass, where together with the returning pilgrims we gave thanks for the graces received during the pilgrimage.

On Monday we visited the children's home founded by Fr. Csaba Bőjte O.F.M. in Szováta. This establishment is one of several, educating close to one and a half thousand orphans spread out over 40 settlements. We met the children in the chapel where they produced a touching, beautiful performance, followed by cookies prepared by them and tea served in their dining room. During the visit the directors introduced a couple of foster families to us who, with great love and dedication, each are raising 12 boys or girls. An instant collection was taken up among those present and we happily supported the activities of this establishment.

■ Francis Bakách-Besseney represented the Hungarian Association at the memorial Mass said for **Father Stephen Mustos CH.C.H.Sch.P.** (Piarist teacher) in St. Stephen of Hungary Church in New York, as well as at the festive Mass organized by the American members of the Order on the occasion of the perpetual vows made by Fra Timothy Dunlop, the Order's fourth American-born Knight of Justice

■ The **American Delegation's Council Meeting** was held in Staten Island (New York) on April 11, 2008. The Treasurer's report highlighted the fact that the annual fundraiser had brought in \$4,500 more in donations than in the previous year (total

\$22,620). Géza von Habsburg agreed to continue with the difficult task of spearheading the 2008-2009 fundraising campaign. Agreement was found concerning the distribution of funds, including a few new programs. Judith and Tamás DeSzily submitted a written report on their visit to the MMSz (Hungarian Maltese Charity Service) "Páty" senior home, one of such programs.

Ferenc Bakách-Besseney, Vice President of the Hungarian Association, reported on the trip of H.E. Ferenc Cserháti, the Association's chaplain and Bishop of all Hungarians living abroad, which took place between April 1st and April 21st. At the occasion of the Bishop's visit to New York, conferees Ferenc Bakách-Besseney, István Sándor, Catherine Jeszenszky and Claire Felsőbüki Nagy, attended a high Mass celebrated by the Bishop in the Church of St. Stephen of Hungary and the associated gala lunch.

■ On Saturday, June 21, the Association's North American Delegation held its annual Saint John's Day **Assembly and Council Meeting** in Washington, in the school of the Georgetown Convent of the Visitation. After the meetings Fr. Gellért Ailer celebrated Mass in the convent's chapel for not only the Knights and Dames of the Order, but also for 35 attending guests. Among these were Fra' James-Michael Stroebel as well as members of the Johanniter Order. A reception immediately followed the Mass.

■ On June 24th, the day of St. John the Baptist, the **Hungarian Delegation** held its annual **Assembly Meeting**. Béla Ugron, Delegate, summarized the past year's events. Tibor Buzády, Secretary, reported on the charitable activities which he directed. Gál Nyáry



Preparing for St. John's Mass and induction in the Buda Castle

then led the election of the Delegation's leadership, as their three-year term had expired. The newly elected members are: Béla Ugron, Delegate; Ágoston Czigler, Secretary; Dr. László Sárdy, Hospitaller, Emöke Petres, and Pál Csapódi, Council members. After the election, the members of the Delegation and their guests proceeded to the Church of Our Blessed Lady in the castle precinct where **two new members were inducted**: Dr. Ferenc Szutrély and Tamás Kállay Jr. during a solemn Mass. The two new members were congratulated by all at a festive reception that followed at the Association's headquarter building.

■ This year's annual meeting between **the Ambassador of the Holy See** (to Hungary) and the leadership of the Hungarian Association took place on June 25th at the Nunciature. Present at the meeting were H.E. the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Juliusz Janusz, as well as György O'svath, Association President, Ubul Tamás Kállay, Vice President, and Prof. Dr. Erich Kussbach, S.M.O.M. Ambassador to Hungary. The main subject of the consultation were the events of the past year within the Order, the Hungarian Association and the MMSz. High on the agenda was the death of the Grand Master and the election of his successor, the retreats and pilgrimages and the other devotional activities of the

Association, as well as a report on the newest and most important undertakings of the MMSz. During the review of the nation's present social, cultural, political and economic situation, importance was given to the present Hungarian Government's policy toward the Church. President György O'svath reported on the difficulties the Order faces in Hungary, mentioning for example that the Managing Director of the MMSz, Miklós Vecsei, had resigned his position as a Government Commissioner because of growing political obstructions. The meeting, as always, took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

■ On the evening of June 26th **H.E. Ambassador Erich Kussbach** held his traditional festive reception in the Parade Hall of the Army Museum in the Castle Precinct, a well-trodden and excellent choice. In addition to numerous members of the Church hierarchy and a number of representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, numerous members of the Order attended, including the Association President.

■ President György O'svath awarded the Silver grade of the Association's Apur Vilmos Medal to **Dame Éva Szörényi** on the occasion of her 75th birthday in recognition of her dedicated work throughout her career on behalf of Hungarians living outside Hungary.

■ On July 26-August 2, the 25th annual **Order of Malta camp for handicapped youth** was held at the Austrian Stams Abbey. A total of 30 Hungarians, 20 from Hungary and 10 from Transylvania of the Romanian Association, took part – 13 of the 30 were young handicapped. Financial support came from Magyar Villamos Művek (MVM) Trade Zrt. and the Hungarian Associations's "German-

speaking" Delegation. The outing was organized and led by Felicia Pályi, a member of the Maltese Charity Service (MMSz) and head of its youth group in Budapest. Once again, Father János Varga was the group's spiritual leader, and its accompanying physician was Linda Tölcsvári.

The Grand Master Matthew Festing made a private visit during the camp's second half. Hungarian Association members Zsuzsa Máriássy, Imre Ugron, János Wettstein and László Baittrók attended and assisted the Hungarian campers. More than 450 representatives from 18 countries took part in the camp, and together with the volunteers and organizers it all added up to more than 500 campers. The 2009 camp will be held on August 15-22 in Segovia, Spain.

■ The Johanniter Order's Meeting, August 15-17, 2008

Forty-five members of the Hungarian Johanniter Order met in Szombathely to discuss their common goals of helping the down-trodden and the indigent. The Hungarian knights made their obeisances before Count Schwerin von Schwanefeld, president of the Protestant Alliance, and personal representative of Prince Oscar of Prussia, Grand Master of the Brandenburg Province. The Dutch Province was represented by Corinne de Ranitz and Jonkheer Paul de Ranitz. The Hungarian Association was represented by Tamás Kállay, delegated by the Association President, and by Imre Ugron and Pál Csapódi, all knights in Obedience.

At the Order's general meeting, Commandator Miklós Bánffy in his remarks summarized the membership's considerable strategic, devotional and charitable directives. The Johanniter

Charity Service's most recent accomplishment is the re-building of the young people's camp ground at Ternye, which in its refurbished and handicapped-friendly main building and adjacent facilities can accommodate as many as 100 guests.

■ President's Colloquium and Reception

On the afternoon of August 19 Association President György O'sváth held his annual Saint Stephen's Day colloquium, which was attended by more than 40 members, who listened with interest to the well-structured and interesting report of the last few months' events. The event ended with an active Q&A session. At the proceedings' end President O'sváth conferred the Silver grade of the Apor Vilmos medal on Sister Irmgard Matt, Waltrud Berger and Leodegar V. Kneisseler for their most generous support of the work of the Hungarian Association on behalf of the indigent and ailing.

In the evening began the Saint Stephen's Day reception, which was honored by the attendance of His Eminence Cardinal



The Association President speaking at our August 19th reception

Péter Erdő, Primate of Hungary, of the Apostolic Nuncio, and of numerous leading political figures and members of the Church hierarchy. Many members, as well as friends, of the Order were also present.

■ Saint Stephen's Holy Mass and Procession, August 20

A 50-member delegation represented the Association and some 200 members represented the Maltese Charity Service (MMSz), at the solemn Mass celebrated by Cardinal Péter Erdő in Saint Stephen's Basilica and at the Holy Relic procession. The supplication prayers at the Mass were again read by members of the Hungarian Association and of the MMSz. Thanks to the Cardinal's innovations, the faithful sang the Lord's Prayer and the rosary during the procession, the unity of the voices much helped by a well-planned sound system, and many spectators in the streets joined in the singing. Following the Mass and the procession, Cardinal Erdő held a reception in the Marble Hall beneath the Basilica, where at President O'sváth's request, Ubul Tamás Kállay, Vice President, and Dr. Erzsébet Podmaniczky Pusztai, Chancellor, represented the Order.

■ The Hungarian Association held its eighth **annual pilgrimage to Kassa (Kosice)**, Slovakia, on November 14-16, 2008, together with members of the Johanniter and Saint Steven Orders. On Saturday, November 15, confrere Márton Szluha and Fayl Gilbert, member of the European Science Academy, held a memorable presentation at the Pastoral Home. On Sunday the closing ceremony ended with a Holy Mass at the Dome.

■ The American Association inducted about 100 new members in New

York on November 14, 2008. During the Gala Dinner that followed, Gian Luca Chiavari, the Order's Receiver of the Common Treasurer, Peter Quail, President of the Canadian Association and Baron Francis Backacs-Besseney, Vice-President of the Hungarian Association, were among the distinguished guests. Confrere Besseney gave a report of the activities of the Hungarian Association.

■ The Hungarian Association's **Council meeting** was held on November 14, 2008, at its headquarters in Budapest. In the closed session, personal and financial matters were discussed. The Council accepted the proposed candidates Luca Kornis, Peter Kornis, András Pallos and András György Radvánszky for admission to the Order. The Council also accepted Katalin Kornis, Ilona Rudnay, Balázs Tahy and Maciej Wasilewsky as candidates to begin serving their probation period. The Council also affirmed Edit Chemez's wish to take the vow of Obedience. Financial reports of the Hungarian Association, the Budavár Foundation, the Foundation of the Hungarian Order of Malta, and the Treasurer together with the proposed 2009 budget were approved by the Council. The Council made the decision that future investitures of new members will be held on Saint John's Day, June 24.

■ The **retreat for members in Obedience** was held on November 20-23 at Fehérvárcsurgó, which offers a fitting location for a spiritual experience. Dr. Pal Bolberitz led the retreat. He elaborated on the letters of Saint Paul as part of the Year of Saint Paul. On Sunday, at the closing Holy Mass, confrere Dr. Zsolt Semjén C.G.M. made his solemn vow of Obedience.

The Order's Headquarter Building in Budapest

Grand Master Ludovico Chigi della Rovere Albani's visit to Hungary in 1931 strengthened the Hungarian Knights' and Dames' willingness to make sacrifices for the Order's sake. It was at this time, that a meticulous search and a long series of negotiations began, culminating in the purchase of the house in the Buda Castle at Fortuna utca 10, where the Hungarian Association officially placed its offices and library. Since the loss in 1636 of the Order's house and church in Sopron, this was the first piece of real estate, which was owned by the Order of Malta in Hungary.

Members of the Order were forced to flee Hungary first, due the German occupation and second, due to the Soviet occupation. All of their properties were lost. It was only the change in regime in 1990, which brought back the hope, that

the Hungarian Association could return to its home. In 1993 the house on Fortuna street, severely damaged from war bombings, was returned to the Association after a prolonged process. The I district (castle) local government supported the process throughout. The returned house required serious renovations, which lasted until 1998 under confrere Béla Ugron's supervision. Finally, the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy as well as its Hungarian Association found its rightful home in its own historic building.

The renovation work did not stop here. In 1999 the Order's chapel was completed on the first floor of the main office building. The chapel was consecrated on September 8 on the day of Our Lady of Philermo by His Excellency Primate Cardinal László Paskai, Archbishop of Eger. It was at this event that the



The Chapel in the Order's Building

Cardinal named confrere Professor Dr. Pál Bolberitz, Chaplain conventual ad honorem, director of the new chapel. (Professor Bolberitz celebrates Holy Mass every Thursday since then, strengthening the faith of Hungarian Knights and Dames. The main office building, in its current beautifully renovated state, is home to community activity. It also awaits further planned developments



The facade of the Order's headquarter building in the Buda Castle

Calendar of Events – MMSz

♥ The MMSz offered several handicraft training sessions in Nyiregyhaza as part of the **Hangyaboly** indoor playground program. The organizers announced a Christmas drawing contest for children, where every participating child received a present. The most successful applicants received a commemorative plaque as well. In Debrecen 400 children, living under poor conditions, were invited to a Christmas celebration, on the “Ünnepek Ünnepén” (Feast of Feasts), receiving gifts.

♥ The MMSz, together with the Daytime Radio Station and the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce conducted a **Christmas food drive** called “**Adni öröm**” (the Joy of Giving) in 95 locations. Our volunteers contributed 17.100 hours, at a value of 8,550,000 HUF or USD 42,500. As a result of the drive 16,000 food baskets were distributed among the needy, in time for Christmas. In Budapest, members of the Hungarian Knights of Malta worked alongside the MMSz volunteers on this drive.

♥ The MMSz successfully applied and received funding for a homeless shelter in **Sátoraljauhely** in northeast Hungary, to accommodate 35 homeless people every night. Starting in December the shelter will be open during the day-time too, allowing the city's homeless to have a warm shelter during the winter months.

♥ The “**Béres Alapítvány**” (Béres Foundation) donated again this year to the MMSz 10,000 vials of its immune system fortifying product, which was distributed to those who needed it most, in 7 of our regional organizations.



MMSz's year-long charity campaign, collecting 1 and 2 forint coins

♥ In **Miskolc**, the young Maltese volunteers with the help of the students of the Fényi Gyula Jesuit Highschool organized a multicultural camp for 60-65 children of Csango, Transylvanian, and Ukrainian origin, in Csikhéviz, Transylvania. The children had a chance to learn about other cultures, had a chance to practice the beautiful Hungarian language, learn more about Hungarian culture and traditions.

♥ On January 18th MMSz's newest establishment, “**A Megbecsülés Háza**” (House of Esteem) was opened in Pécs and dedicated to provide night shelter for 20 homeless people. The building was donated by the Diocese and with the help of volunteer contractors and generous donations, we were able to complete the renovations and make it ready for occupancy within 2 month. We intend to operate this shelter, as it's name implies, in the spirit of esteem and respect for a human being in need and will try to help him/her to restart a new life. The building was blessed by His Eminence bishop

Mihály Mayer and father Imre Kozma, followed by an informal reception, a happy gathering of all the participants in the project.

♥ The floods of August 2005 caused serious damage, twice within a week, in **Székelyudvarhely**, Transylvania and it's surrounding area. The school buildings in two villages, Kobátfalva and Simánfalva were seriously damaged. The news of the catastrophe moved all of Hungary: individuals, companies, artists offered their help, as did Hungarians from 37 countries from all around the world.

The Hungarian MMSz and the Duna TV organized a fund drive called “The Day of Collaboration” and decided to use the funds collected to help rebuild the 2 schools in **Kobátfalva** and **Simánfalva**. The restoration and enlargement of the school in **Simánfalva** has been completed and was handed over on February 24th. In **Kobátfalva** the restoration is progressing, some of it i.e. the replacement of the roof is completed. REHAU

and 12 other Hungarian companies made generous donations to this project, the general contractor Confector Kft. has worked for MMSz successfully on several projects before.

♥ Advanced training for Leaders of the MMSz establishments took place on February 27th in MMSz Headquarters in Budapest. Experts from both the license issuing agencies as well from the inspecting and controlling authorities were invited to participate. The spiritual message was delivered by Father Imre Kozma.

♥ Nokia Donation

On February 1, 2008, Timo Kahelin, executive director of Nokia in Komárom (city in NW Hungary), presented a gift of 1 million Forint (about \$5,000) to the local chapter of MMSz. The money will be used for MMSz vehicles which transport the sick and disabled.

♥ The first daycare center run by the MMSz was opened **Nagykanizsa** in February. Charity workers will care for of about 14 babies and small children.

♥ **Nationwide used clothing drive in cooperation with Recklitt Benckiser Company, producers of Vanish products**

Used clothes could be dropped off at 50 convenient locations where they are collected and taken to a cleaning and laundry establishment of the Vanish company. The company employs homeless men and women and the clothes are cleaned free or charge. Thus, the MMSz distribution centers receive clean used clothing. In addition, the company donated 10 Forints to the MMSz for each purchase of Vanish product during the above campaign.

Father Imre Kozma visited a **home for autistics in Mindszentpuszta**. (a small village in NW Hungary). Since homes such as this one are run by charitable foundations, their upkeep presents great difficulties and the MMSz must depend on a wide network of donors.

♥ **Laundry and cleaning service employing the homeless** opened in Budapest, Mosoly Street on April 4th. A grant of approximately 26 million Forint enabled the renovation of the building and also guaranteed the wages if its employees for one year. At the present time, its 10 workers are assured two years' employment and additional training. The more than 20 tons of clothing collected during the used clothing drive is being cleaned there. The laundry will also take on outside work and it is hoped that it will turn into a profit-making enterprise.

♥ **Maltese Day at Wurzburg, Germany**

The annual meeting of Maltese knights was held in Wurzburg on April 19, 2008. The chief organizer of the event

was Wolfgang Wagner, coordinator of international cooperation among various national associations. Also present were Dr.C.v.Brandenstein-Zeppelin, president, and M. Lulsdoff from the MHD headquarters, Imre Ugron, hospitalier for MMSz, Judit Muskovszky, international coordinator, as well as 20 German and Hungarian members. Past year's activities were reviewed and discussed and plans were made for the coming year. The Hungarian Delegation emphasized the need for hospital equipment, sterilization and cleaning products, non-perishable foodstuffs, etc. At the close of the conference, it was suggested that next year's meeting be held in Budapest.

♥ The local **Maltese chapter in Szombathely** held a gala evening for the benefit of the Hungarian language elementary school in Pozba, Slovakia. The school children performed folk songs and dances and recited poems.

♥ During the first four months of the year, the following new **MMSz sponsored social services** commenced activities: day care center for the mentally disabled at Keszthely and Marcali, a transit home for homeless families in Esztergom, and a day care center in Szeged. Additional charitable services are being planned for other cities. There is considerable interest by local governments in a project called "Befogged fall", that is the use of vacant villages or houses by homeless families.

♥ **MMSz 2008 Annual Delegates Meeting**

The meeting of the MMSz national delegates was held May 31, 2008. In his homily during the Holy Mass on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Father Kozma called special attention to



Emergency drills organized by MMSz in Sukoro

the special devotion both the Order of Malta and the MMSz have to the Blessed Virgin of Philem. The President of the Hungarian Association, György O'svath gave an engaging account of the details of the election of the new Grand Master. President O'svath, thanked the MMSz for all its work to date and expressed his hope for a continuing close cooperation between the Association and the MMSz. Thereafter followed the presentation and approval of the budget and the report of the auditors.

In one way the delegates meeting served as a meeting of rejuvenation. The delegates elected the following officers to serve for the next four years: Father Imre Kozma – President; Sándor Tombor – Vice President; Bishop László Bíró – Spiritual Director. Members of the Ethics Committee: Lajos Bezovics, Dr. Peter Cholnoky, Dr. János Herjeczky, and Dr. Ibolya Nagy. The elections for regional directors were made at region delegates meetings and the group leaders were chosen at their local meetings.

♥ The Szekesfehervar Chapter of the MMSz initiated a **new program** in May entitled "Meghallgatlak" (I listen to you). Under this program social workers receive people struggling with various problems and endeavor to find ways to give them useful advice in solving their problems.

♥ A **daycare center** for handicapped children and adults was dedicated in Marcali, a city in the south western Lake Balaton region. The center cares for those who are limited in their movement, in sight, hearing and for those with autism. Father Kozma spoke about the heavy burden and cross that families who care for and raise the handicapped have to bear. This is work in which the MMSz wishes to help.

♥ "Day of Providence" Conference in Baja

In his conference speech, Miklos Vecsei Vice President and Business Director of the MMSz proposed that the future of the homeless should not be envisioned to be within an institution rather a much better solution is to place them in an independent sublet. This endeavor is already successfully in progress in Baja. In seven out of thirteen cases, the homeless have so rectified their situation and fortune. During the conference the MMSz House of Providence in Keszthely was dedicated. It has a day-care center for the handicapped operated by the MMSz. The local government gave the Keszthely MMSz a right for use of this building in Pokorny utca for a 30 year period. Father Kozma also used this occasion to ceremoniously invest new members of the Keszthely Chapter at a Holy Mass that he celebrated.

♥ A temporary home under the operation of the MMSz was established in a portion of the old Catholic school building in Siofok-Kilitben on the southern shore of Lake Balaton. 25 needy families were able to find refuge in this facility.

♥ Businessman Sándor Demján set himself a goal to start something new he called the **Polish model**. He asked Father Kozma's expertise and personal involvement in its development. For this philanthropic work he was recognized with an award by the city of Krakow. His program uses the Polish firm U Siemachy to engage needy, idle children with individual care aimed at bringing out their hidden skills and talents and provides them with warm meals. Father Kozma discussed the possibilities of extending this successful program into Hungary with the firm's director.

♥ For the second year, the North-Hungarian Region of the MMSz organized a **Youth Camp** for 70 children July 31st to August 6, 2008, in Tisza Peterfalva in Subcarpathia with the support of 25 adults. Organization for this event had taken a year. During this time funds were raised to cover the camp expenses, coordination undertaken with partner organizations, selection made for the camp site and necessary accommodations reserved. Through personal contacts we sought individuals who live outside Hungary but consider Hungarian language as a connecting link to our motherland. This work led to the week long "Magyar to Magyar" gathering of young people and their volunteer escorts from the regions of Szekely, those in the highlands, Subcarpathia, the Csango and others in the North-Hungarian Region. As Dr. Imre Kis, the Regional Director opened the camp he sounded this themes: "Even if physical borders separate us, our historical, intellectual and spiritual inheritance is the same and these no external power can break. The reason we came together is so that we can strengthen this knowledge in each other and to establish bonds of friendship."

♥ The Order's **Central and Eastern Europe Relief Organizations** held a conference near Cologne, Germany, August 14-15, 2008, at which 10 countries, including Hungary, took part. The subject of the conference, for those participating in this new organization, was the problems concerning the aging of Europeans. The unique Maltese calling and service urges member relief organizations to help the aged in the spirit of the Order. In this connection an international campaign is planned next year in which the MMSz is expected to take part.

To help support the Hungarian handicapped youth wishing to participate
in the International Summer Camp in Spain this year,

please send your contributions to

Magyar Máltai Lovagok Alapítvány

Foundation of the Hungarian Knights of Malta

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